



**OPINION:** Construction builds better campus **A6**

**72:** Rec center dives into Polar Bear Plunge

**SPORTS:** ECU men's basketball hosts Tulane **A8**

# The East Carolinian



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Volume 89, Issue 4

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Thursday, 1.23.14

## Snow delays classes



NICK FAULKNER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Snow began to fall around 8 p.m. on Tuesday night and continued until early Wednesday morning. Campus officials issued an ECUAlert at 6 a.m. on Wednesday.

## Greenville struck by rare wintry mix

**Puja Patel**  
TEC STAFF

On Tuesday morning the National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for much of North Carolina. Snow began falling in Greenville on Tuesday night and continued until Wednesday morning.

At 6 a.m. Wednesday morning, ECU Alerts notified students via text and email that the university will have a delayed opening and classes will begin at 10 a.m. Transit buses left Christenbury bus terminal at 9 a.m.

Junior nutrition major Kametria McNeil said a delay should have been issued last night.

"They knew the forecast. They should have put in the delay yesterday instead of waiting until this morning," said McNeil. The decision is posted on the university website, and an announcement is recorded on the ECU Weather Hotline.

According to the university's Office of Environmental Health and Safety, when there

is a safety concern about severe weather, administration decides whether to continue with classes, postpone classes, or cancel classes altogether. ECU Administration's policy requires them to make a decision by 6 a.m. the day of the severe weather.

Snowfall began around 8 p.m. on Tuesday night and continued to fall until past midnight. Snow accumulation was about an inch in Greenville and on ECU's campus.

Around noon on Wednesday, snow had already started to melt away. However, icy sidewalks still remained.

For many students, the snow caused excitement and joy. It was a nice surprise for many.

Halee Wright, freshman exercise physiology major, was pleasantly surprised by the snowfall.

"I didn't even know it was snowing until about 9 p.m.," said Wright. "I went outside with my friends and saw that everyone was having a big snowball fight on the hill. It was so much fun."

Nick Parker, junior criminal justice major, agreed. Parker is an ECU Transit driver and said the university kept him well informed about the possibility of a delay.

"As a bus driver, transit kept us informed about the delay. I think the university did a great job of working with Transit Services," said Parker. "But I definitely wish I could have stayed in bed."

However, not all students agreed with ECU's approach to the snow. One student believed classes should have been canceled due to the threat of icy conditions.

Sophomore chemistry major Dimitri Royster believed the university should have canceled classes altogether.

"Some of my friends witnessed people slipping and falling on campus," said Royster. "That's dangerous. There were other schools that cancelled and they didn't even get snow."

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

LESS MONEY, MORE PROBLEMS

## Meal plans taxed

**Summer Falgiano**  
TEC STAFF

Pirate meal plans are now being taxed as a result of the North Carolina 2013 Tax Act that went into effect on Jan. 1.

The law states that the sale of prepared food and food served to students by institutions of higher education in North Carolina are subject to a seven percent sales tax.

Meal plans come in two forms, a Purple meal plan and a Gold meal plan for commuting students. Each meal plan comes with an allotted amount of Pirate Bucks and Pirate Meals per semester. Students can use Pirate Meals at certain locations on campus for specified items. Pirate Bucks are the equivalent to cash and can be used at any dining location on campus.

According to Campus Dining's website, "Each unique meal plan will be taxed based on the amount of the plan that is dedicated to the continuous dining and Pirate Meal portion of the plan."

The Purple 15 meal plan costs \$1,350 and comes with \$450 Pirate Bucks. The \$1,350 will be multiplied by the seven percent sales tax to amount an additional \$94.50 cost. This cost is listed as a separate charge on student tuition statements. The sales tax amount is something that has not been listed on tuition statements until this semester, according to Campus Dining's website.

Food choices and prices will remain the same. Because of the

> DINING page A3

## Alumni get opportunity to name new dorm rooms

**Ryan Clancy**  
TEC STAFF

The university is giving alumni the opportunity to name dorm rooms in Gateway East and West, the two residence halls that are replacing Belk Hall.

For alumni many memories are tied to Belk Hall and this opportunity provides alumni the chance to have a piece of their past and invest in the university.

"We really set in on the dorm room because we thought it was a unique way for alumni to connect with their former residence hall," said Zack Hawkins, director of student affairs development. "It can be in memoriam; it can be in remembrance, or people can name it after themselves."

It costs \$5,000 to name a dorm room and the money raised will go towards ECU's residential scholars program.

"One-hundred percent of the money goes right back to improving the lives of the students through the residential scholars program," Hawkins said. "It gives the alumni the opportunity to take part in a pretty unique process."

Hawkins says that the residential scholars program is important to ECU. The money is being invested in the program for expansion.

According to Hawkins, there is a demand to name the rooms.

"We have lots of people that are interested in naming the dorm rooms," Hawkins said.

The process of naming dorm rooms in Gateway East and West will eventually lead to dorm rooms being named in other residence halls as well.

> BELK page A3



NICK FAULKNER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Before Belk Residence Hall is torn down, alumni can buy pieces of the dorm as keepsakes.

### BRIEFS

#### Greenville to have road assessment

Greenville has partnered with Ayden and Winterville to use new technology to better assess the condition streets in Greenville.

Public Works has contracted with Transmap, a pavement management company. Transmap vans will drive specially outfitted vans on each street and will take pictures of roads, which will help plan road repairs.

#### Libraries gain access to Scopus

The Joyner and Laupus Libraries now have subscribed access to Scopus, one of the world's largest abstract and citation databases of research literature and quality web resources.

Scopus will replace the Web of Science, which the libraries do not intend to renew once their current subscription expires on Jun. 30.

#### Odd by Nature available to students

There is a new practicum site option available for ECU students majoring within the Science Department. This site can also be utilized for students who need volunteer hours to apply to veterinary school. The facility is closed on Mondays. Odd by Nature is located at 105B Trade St. in Greenville.

### ONLINE

Check out all other TEC content at:

www.theeastcarolinian.com



ECO-pirates and The East Carolinian would like to remind you to recycle this paper.

# Activist speaks about MLK

Emily Schultz  
TEC STAFF

On Tuesday night, nationally recognized actor and speaker Hill Harper spoke in honor of ECU's Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration in Wright Auditorium.

Harper discussed "Visualizing the Dream," a speech on projecting King's speech "I Have a Dream" in today's world.

Both Harper and King share a passion for change. Harper sees King as, "someone that exemplifies courage, humanity and is a warrior for peace, and for me, that is a challenge to do more."

Service was one of Harper's main talking points of the evening. His lecture aligned directly with the university's motto of servire, which means to serve. Harper said one of his favorite MLK quotes is, "Everyone can be great because anybody can serve."

Encouraging one another is something Harper believes would help resolve issues around the world.

"I believe that unless all of us can figure out ways to uplift each other and uplift ourselves, we can't solve the huge problems in the world today," said Harper.

Director of the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center Melissa Haithcox-Dennis also agrees that service was an essential part of King's vision. She said that the university is hoping to adopt MLK's mentality on serving.

"We're really trying to align ECU's mission of serving with MLK's dream, where we serve and help others and try to make



Hill Harper is a humanitarian, philanthropist, author, speaker and nationally recognized actor.

this world a better place," Haithcox-Dennis said.

Similar to MLK, Harper is an advocate for change. In addition to being a Harvard Law School graduate, Harper is a humanitarian, philanthropist and actor. He is best known for his starring role in the television show

"CSI: NY" in which he played Dr. Sheldon Hawkes. Harper is currently starring on the show "Covert Affairs."

Chancellor Steve Ballard and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr. Virginia Hardy greeted Harper with a small reception in the Spillman building before he

spoke in Wright Auditorium. "We were excited to have Mr. Harper with us as we celebrate the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr... We think it's important that we remember Dr. King so we can bring his dream to fruition," said Hardy.

Having Harper as a guest

speaker was ultimately a student choice. Fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha desired to bring in Harper, a fellow fraternity brother.

"A group of men from Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity really wanted to bring Hill since it's probably about two years in the making, so to have the students choosing a speaker for the annual MLK celebration was really important," said Haithcox-Dennis. Alpha Phi Alpha was the main sponsor of the event, with the university's Division of Student Affairs and the Office of Equity and Diversity also being sponsors. In addition, Harper was welcomed to the university as a role model for students to make an impact in other people's lives.

"He's just a very active participant in helping other people to do well and to have the same opportunities as everyone," said Haithcox-Dennis. "Young people who may come from a more disadvantaged background, socioeconomic status... Hill tries to encourage them to get an education."

Harper is also the author of four New York Times bestsellers, including "Letters to a Young Brother" and "Letters to a Young Sister."

In addition, he created the Manifest Your Destiny Foundation, dedicated to empowering, encouraging and inspiring underrepresented and often disadvantaged youth to succeed. Harper often travels around the nation inspiring young kids to make a difference in the world

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

## CRIME

# Charge made in fatal crash

Amanda Adkins  
TEC STAFF

Mitchell Wilkerson, 18, was charged on Jan. 13 with misdemeanor death by a vehicle crash on May 20. The wreck occurred on May 20 on Arlington Boulevard and killed ECU student, Elizabeth Griffiths.

Wilkerson lost control of his Ford F-F250 pickup during the rain, and his truck hydroplaned into the oncoming lane, where he hit Griffiths' Honda Accord. The cars almost crashed head-on. Wilkerson attempted to help Griffiths, but the crash required rescue personnel to remove her from the car.

The left side of the Honda was smashed in from the headlights past the driver door. Debris from the crash covered all five lanes of the road.

Griffiths was taken to Vidant Medical Center, where she was then pronounced dead. Wilkerson also was taken to the Medical Center, but his injuries were non-life threatening.

Cal Christian, a university accounting professor, had Griffiths for a few days of summer classes, and he was about to read her first paper in his class when he heard the news of her fatal accident.

"Each year in my class, I have students write [...] a paper telling me about themselves, and when I got the email about her accident, hers was the next paper I was about to read, so it really hit me hard," said Cal Christian.

"I was not able to get to know her too well, but from what I learned from her parents and friends, she was

> ACCIDENT page A3

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Bond currently serves as distinguished professor in residence in the Department of Government at American University, Washington, D.C., and he is professor emeritus in the Department of History at the University of Virginia. He is a board member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He is an American social activist, a leader of the American civil rights movement, a politician, a professor, and an author.

**Tuesday, January 28, 7:00 p.m.,**  
**Wright Auditorium**

One complimentary ticket is available to ECU students, faculty, and staff, and are \$10 for the general public. Tickets are available through the Central Ticket Office by calling 252-328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS. For more information, contact Dr. John Tucker at 252-328-1028 or tuckerjo@ecu.edu, or visit www.ecu.edu/voyages.

Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should call 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the event. U.P. 13-312

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**BELK** continued from A1



NICK FAULKNER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Belk Residence Hall's demolition has begun, and dorms Gateway East and West will replace it.

"In the future we'll do it with other dorms, whether it was torn down or not. We'll have opportunities to name rooms in other residence halls," Hawkins said.

Robert Coffey, a senior English major, said having dorm rooms named after people is common in foreign countries.

"Naming rooms is actually a common thing to do in countries other than the United States, so it doesn't seem strange for alumni to name something they saw being built," Coffey said. "It also gets the school extra money, and it's not like you're coercing people to do so."

ECU is also selling memorabilia from Belk Hall. The memorabilia being sold includes bricks from the building, door

numbers, mailbox numbers and suite numbers.

"A lot of it came from when we did the announcement about Belk's demolition, we got a lot of alumni response," said Zack Hawkins. "It was based on what alumni asked for, they really appreciate it."

Hawkins' colleagues from Minnesota State University recommended the idea from a recent, similar project done over at the college.

"I had colleagues at Minnesota State that had recently done the same project and they came up for the idea for the mailbox covers, and alumni asked for it," said Hawkins. "That's sentimental for a lot of people."

The suite numbers and door plates are \$10, the mailbox covers

are \$20 and bricks with commemorative plaques are \$250. Aaron Lucier, director of operations for Campus Living, explained why people might be interested in the memorabilia.

"I know people telling me stories that they met the person that they got married to in the hall," said Lucier. "They might think [the memorabilia] is a good gift."

Hawkins agreed and said so much is being invested into the project for the sake of alumni's memories.

"There's lots of rich memories," said Hawkins. "For those who stayed there, it's a pretty special place on campus. That's why we're doing so much for it."

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

**DINING** continued from A1

2013 Tax Act, taxes will be applied to transactions that are made with credit, cash or Pirate Bucks at the register during the point of sale.

After discussing the new tax law with students around campus, most wished they were better informed of the tax law.

"Students should have received an e-mail or something about this. I didn't know anything about it until right now," said Dylan Celender, junior business major.

Some students were surprised after learning about the tax put on the meal plans.

Dominic Linares, junior engineering major, said, "If we are going to be taxed [at least] an extra \$100 or so, I would at least like to know why. Unless the taxes are being used to improve state schools, then I don't understand why this has been thrown at us."

Linares is not the only student on campus who felt left in the dark. Junior communication major

Nichole Edwards, who uses Pirate Meals daily, did not know about the cost increase.

"I wasn't updated on the changes, and I wish the university did a better job at letting the students know since the change directly affects us," said Edwards.

Campus Dining officials were unavailable for comment on the matter.

This writer can be contacted news@theeastcarolinian.com.

Meal Plan Description	Total Meal Plan and Pirate Bucks Cost Before 7% Sales Tax	Meal Plan Cost	Meal Plan Sales Tax	Meal Plan Pirate Bucks*	Total Meal Plan and Pirate Bucks Cost with 7% Sales Tax
Purple 15	1,800.00	1,350.00	94.50	450.00	1,894.50
Purple 40	1,800.00	1,450.00	101.50	350.00	1,901.50
Purple 70	1,800.00	1,550.00	108.50	250.00	1,908.50
Gold 40**	615.00	315.00	22.05	300.00	637.05
Gold 80**	795.00	595.00	41.65	200.00	836.65
Gold 100**	890.00	690.00	48.30	200.00	938.30
Gold 120**	980.00	780.00	54.60	200.00	1,034.60

GRAPHIC BY CAMPUS DINING

This semester sales tax will appear as a charge on students' tuition statements for the first time.

**ACCIDENT** continued from A2



Elizabeth Griffiths

outgoing, vivacious and unique in her own way."

Griffiths was a graduate of Garner Magnet High School, and she started at the university in fall 2010. She was an accounting major in the College of Business and

was only four days into her summer classes when the crash occurred.

As a Certified Public Accountant in

North Carolina, Christian is required to teach two hours of ethics education each year. During these classes, Christian reads Griffiths' story so her life is remembered by the 3,000 students he teaches each year.

"[In four days] Liz was able to leave an impact on my life that will carry on. In life we have to move on, but we can still remember the past," said Christian.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

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# Plunge Into Purple Calendar of Events

## January

### **Hot Chocolate Giveaway**

January 14 • 8:30-10:00am • Wright Plaza, Brewster, Health Sciences

### **Hot Chocolate Giveaway**

January 15 • 8:30-10:00am • Wright Plaza, Brewster, Health Sciences

### **January Art Exhibition Lecture -**

#### **"The Storybook"**

January 17 • 5:30pm • MSC Room 244

### **Interfraternity Council Chili Cook-Off**

January 17 • 2:00-5:00pm • MSC Brickyard

### **Gathering72**

January 19 • 6:00pm • MSC Room 244

### **MLK Day of Service**

January 20

### **Talking Across Differences:**

#### **Hill Harper Lecture**

January 21 • 7:00pm • Wright Auditorium

### **LWCC Open House**

January 23 • 3:00-5:00pm • LWCC

### **Polar Bear Plunge**

January 23 • 7:00pm • SRC

### **Get a Clue**

January 23 • 6:30pm-8:00pm • SRC

### **Highlight the Night: DJ Dance Party**

January 24 • 10:00pm-2:00am • SRC

### **IFC Recruitment**

January 27-30

### **Hot Chocolate Giveaway**

January 27 • 8:30-10:00am • Wright Plaza, Brewster, Health Sciences

### **Sophomore Resource Fair -**

#### **For Current and Rising Sophomores**

January 27 • 3:00-4:30pm • MSC 221, 244

### **Panhellenic Continuous Open**

#### **Bidding Kickoff**

January 28 • 6:00-7:30pm • MSC Great Rooms

### **Live Band Karaoke**

January 28 • 5:00pm • West End Dining Hall

### **DiversiFY! Henna Tattoos**

January 30 • 6:00pm • MSC Social Room

### **National Society of Leadership and**

#### **Success New Member Recruitment Social**

January 30 • 7:00pm • Rivers 102

## February

### **Big Game on the Big Screen**

February 2 • 6:00pm • Hendrix Theatre

### **Hypnotist Michael C. Anthony**

February 4 • 8:00pm • Hendrix Theatre

### **Live Group Sex Therapy**

February 5 • 7:00pm • Hendrix Theatre

### **POP Thursday Open House**

February 6 • 2:00-4:30pm • The Career Center

### **February Art Exhibition Lecture -**

#### **"Drift Wood"**

February 7 • 5:30pm • MSC Room 244

For more information on events, please go to  
[www.ecu.edu/plungeintopurple](http://www.ecu.edu/plungeintopurple)

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## HELP WANTED

The graphic designer will be responsible for creating design solutions for Student Media that have a high visual impact.

Their design skills will be required for a huge variety of products and activities such as designing advertising for local businesses that will be placed in The East Carolinian, and creating marketing materials to help promote WZMB 91.3 FM, Buccaneer yearbook and Student Media Events. This is a great opportunity for individuals interested in a graphic design career and will like to expand their portfolio. Must have a 2.25 GPA. Call (252) 328-9245 or email [smaa@ecu.edu](mailto:smaa@ecu.edu).

Part time driver/car detailer needed at NC Driving School Winterville, \$10/hr. Send email to [atmoore75@gmail.com](mailto:atmoore75@gmail.com)

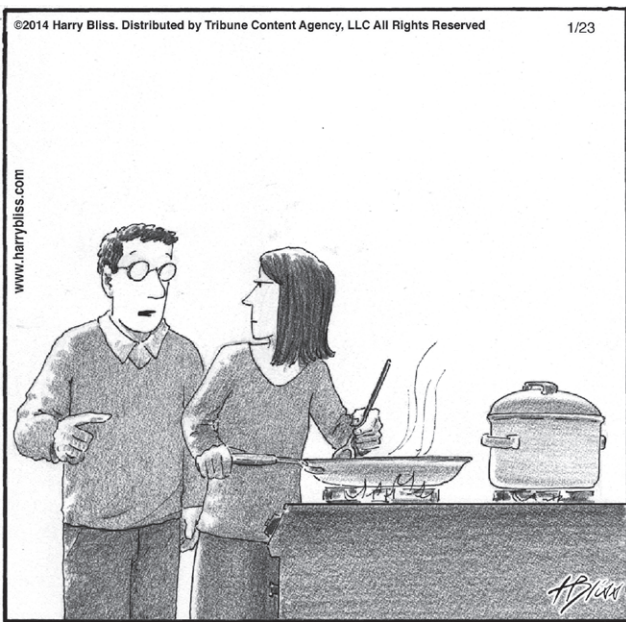
Sales associates needed at Once Upon A Child. Ft/Pt apply in person Monday through Friday from 10am-5pm at 923 Red Banks Road, Greenville.

The East Carolinian is searching for a webmaster. The webmaster's role is to coordinate the planning, maintenance, and accessibility of TheEastCarolinian.com to assure all users a rich online experience. This position will ensure that the look and feel of the website

is consistent across and throughout the organization. The webmaster will also be expected to perform day-to-day administration of the website.

Greenville Recreation & Parks Department is recruiting youth soccer referees for the spring soccer program for ages 3-16. Applicants must possess a good knowledge of soccer rules and have the ability and patience to work with youth. Duties include but are not limited to: officiating games, ensuring safety of field, and ensuring proper care of program/facility. Hours are from 8:00am to 3:30pm on Saturdays and 5:00pm - 9:00pm for some weekday games. Hours are flexible to class schedules. This program will run from March 15 - early May; trainings will begin in late February. Referees will be paid \$12.00 / \$14.00 a game. For more information, please contact the Athletic Office at 329-4550, Monday through Friday, 10 am until 7 pm. To apply, please visit [www.greenvillenc.gov](http://www.greenvillenc.gov). Applications accepted until February 2.

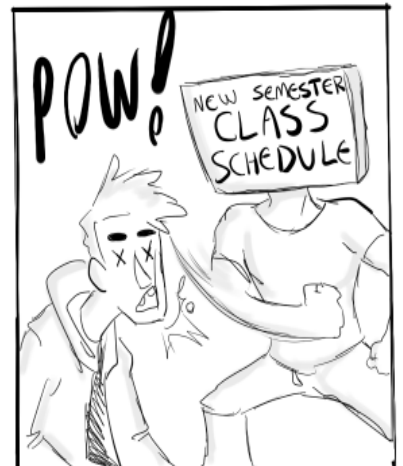
## COMICS



"Honey, I'll take over. The stir-fry has suffered long enough."

## Majoring in Awesome

Brent Koehler  
TEC CARTOONIST



**Cartoonist?**  
Interested in contributing to TEC?  
Contact [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).



## BRAIN TEASERS

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

5		3				7						6	
												1	7
		6						8					
		7		2	1							5	
			6		5				4				
		5					4					3	
					3							2	
7	2												
9			7					5					8

Solution to Tuesday's Puzzle 1/23/14

8	3	4	1	6	2	9	5	7
7	5	6	3	9	8	2	1	4
1	2	9	7	5	4	3	8	6
5	1	2	4	7	3	6	9	8
6	9	3	8	1	5	4	7	2
4	7	8	6	2	9	5	3	1
2	6	5	9	8	7	1	4	3
9	4	7	2	3	1	8	6	5
3	8	1	5	4	6	7	2	9

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [www.sudoku.org.uk](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

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## Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

### ACROSS

- Took in
- Cartoon huntsman
- One of the five Olympic rings
- Harbour, Fla.
- Memo term
- Jeweled headgear
- Electrical unit
- France, in the time of the 6-Down
- Julio's partner in wine
- Sponge
- The Beatles' "Just Seen a Face"
- ERA and others
- Enchant
- Mark
- Power units
- Thought before taking a risk
- Excessively affected
- First name in Chicago politics
- Pathetic
- Good Friday mo., often
- Lullaby setting, and a hint to the starts of 3-, 4-, 9- and 31-Down
- Group
- 4-Across frame
- Golden : Drake's ship
- How aspirin is taken
- Single sock, e.g.
- "We hold truths..."
- Superfan
- Art nouveau, say
- Musical flip
- Sumac of song
- Man of letters?
- Hard to believe
- B'rith
- Down Under school
- Mutual respect
- Second
- "Football Night in America" co-host Patrick
- Envelop
- List maker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
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54	55	56				57			58			
59					60		61	62			63	
64							65				66	
67								68				69

By Jeffrey Wechsler

1/23/14

## Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	D	A	R	V	C	R		M	E	A	N	S		
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O	D	O	R	S	J	A	C	K	A	L	O	P	E		
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C	R	Y	P	T	O	Z	O		L	O	G	I	S	T	
P	E	N	S	E		E	A	R		K	E	L	L	Y	
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1/23/14

- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 32 Castro of Cuba                   | 47 Got there                      |
| 33 Neither cool nor collected       | 48 Semiconscious state            |
| 34 Food truck offering              | 50 Set                            |
| 35 Non-news page                    | 52 Island only 2% owned by Hawaii |
| 36 It may precede meat and potatoes | 53 Barely acquiring, with "out"   |
| 40 Sweepstakes mail-in              | 54 Tampa NFL team                 |
| 45 Sleuthing films canine           | 55 Bamboozle                      |
|                                     | 56 "la Douce"                     |
|                                     | 60 Pipe cleaner                   |
|                                     | 62 "Now it's clear!"              |

## PIRATE RANTS

Tip for new Pirates: I'm a graduating senior and I feel cheated out of my education. Take many and varied classes. Explore! Find your interests! Seize your time here, you won't get it back.

Snow-pocalypse!

The parking enforcement staff is a bunch of nit-picky babies.

Why are A passes given the "opportunity" to park in B2 spots...That's all the way downtown.

Pirates don't forget to log off the computers and out of Blackboard/Onestop after you're done at the library!

Don't hate on online dating. Welcome to year 2014, where you have a world of people to connect with, not just the handful of people you see on a daily basis.

It's insulting when you say how much the real world 'sucks' and how lucky I am to be in school! I've been hearing that BS since middle school and it's no less condescending now than it was then.

Construction went over deadline by only a week or so. I know that's later than planned, but dealing with five extra days for an improved campus isn't the end of the world!

Fantasizing about my student during class is really going to distract me this semester.

All these girls need to quit wearing their hats like Sharkeisha. It doesn't make you look like a badass. It does make you look trashy.

Graduation = Death.

Nothing makes me more mad than when the parking enforcer smiles and dances when printing tickets.

All the white girls on campus dress like Han Solo from star wars. Cut it out.

Since when is it a good thing to be a slut? Ladies, have some self-respect.

Shout out to campus living for assigning me great roommates both last year and this year!

With all media outlets reporting winter warnings until well into tomorrow, why does it take ECU administrators so long to make a decision? Faculty, staff, and students do not want to put our lives or others in danger.

Having two ECU Porn star alumni in the news section of TFM. Proud to be a Pirate.

Who still wears underwear?

A kid in my CHEM class referenced a pound sign as a hash tag. I've given up hope.

Thank you beautiful woman who wear yoga pants, you make getting out of bed worth it. Sincerely fellow pirate.

I understand you're on the football team but you're like third string and need to shut up in class no one cares how much you hate 5 a.m. study hall.

Did anyone else see the girl in her pajamas chasing three dogs across the mall last week? Who let the dogs out?

Here's to 'Royals' screwing up any chance of a relationship between now and Valentine's Day because that's just what I'm good at.

If she thinks Dixieland Delight is a drink not a song, she's too northern for you bro.

# Our View

## Greenville crime causes caution

It's no secret that Greenville may not be the safest city in North Carolina. We've all woken up to ECU alerts of assaults and burglaries— typically about a lone student, walking late at night near a dark side of town. Most, if not all, of these could have been prevented. A lot of us are quick to point fingers and blame Greenville Police or campus security, but we can help reduce these crimes too.

We, the editorial staff, strongly encourage all students to remain cautious, especially at night. It's not worth risking

your safety if you find yourself in any uncomfortable situation. Saferide and ECU police are available for transportation at any time. If you are walking, however, make sure to travel in groups and remain aware of your surroundings. The lit sidewalk may be longer than your shortcut, but thieves are scared of the light.

Safety should be everyone's main priority. As a student body there are numerous ways we can help lower the crime rate. Remember to make wise decisions and report any suspicious activity.

# Construction will pay off

## Will's Way



Will Farrar  
TEC STAFF

Students are pleased to see that the construction that once took over our campus is now completed.

What used to be fenced in dirt trails and construction equipment has finally been replaced with brick walkways and wider sidewalks.

I think that we all can agree and say that the new design that took a little over a semester to complete, was worth the wait. Although we were plagued with a few fence-made detours that made the walk to campus a couple of minutes longer, the new layout appears to be more oriented for large amounts of pedestrians.

Let us all remember the days before construction even started. Students had to deal with cars cutting across campus by Bate and Wright Auditorium via Founders Drive. While the short cut helped cars get from 10<sup>th</sup> street to Fifth quicker, loads of students were forced to participate in a game of frogger to cross the street.

Now students do not have to hesitate to cross the road because traffic is not allowed through anymore. A new brick walkway stretches from Bate to Cotton Residence hall, giving students a safe and wider walkway in one of the busiest parts of campus.

This change was much needed in central campus, mainly to help

fix the reoccurring clogging of pedestrians that happened weekly during peek class times. Often, students were forced to form two-way walking lines to prevent from walking into people coming from the opposite direction.

Now with wider walkways, students have the luxury of being able to walk side by side at any time of the day, and don't have to worry about ducking and dodging the on-coming traffic.

While many students, including myself, have complained and been disappointed with the construction, we need to realize that it is going to benefit our campus in the long run. School officials are always making news of how ECU wants to grow in size, so we must understand that construction is just one of the steps needed in this process.

Along with the new look around central campus, other construction projects are also in the process of being completed. Most students have already heard about the new student center and parking deck that is going to be located behind Mendenhall and the student rec. Also, the school plans to tear down Belk residence hall and replace it with two new dorms. Along with these projects, students are also going to have to deal with hardhat sites and fenced-off restrictions.

While many of us upperclassmen may not stick around to see the final product of some of these projects, freshman and future Pirates will be able to enjoy a new and improved campus that will help attract students as this



NICHOLAS FAULKNER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Pirates can now walk through central campus without worrying about cars.

university continues to grow.

As I would love to sit around and keep complaining, I think it is time to realize that all of this construction is only going to pay off in the long run. Younger students have something to look forward to, while us older students can appreciate the fact

that when we come back and visit, there will be a bigger and better campus to see.

Will is a senior majoring in communication and is the Opinion editor. To contact him, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

# Two political parties can't win

## Take on the Nation



Houston Davis  
TEC COLUMNIST

In the United States, you're either a Democrat or a Republican. Plain and simple, right? We can easily divide up all the millions of people and all of their political opinions and put them either on the left or on the right. If you are pro-life you obviously have to be a Republican and if you are for gay marriage the Democratic Party is where you have to hang out.

That seems pretty unfair to me. How a person feels about a certain social issue can't be the only thing that decides what political party you fall into, right? There are tons of other things to worry about that a person may have conflicting opinions on. For example, I tend to be pretty liberal when it comes to social issues, but I

lean more towards the right when it comes to financial issues. I agree and disagree with the stances of both parties on both sides.

So how are we supposed to decide where we should stand politically when we are not represented completely by either party?

I firmly believe that the two-party system is causing Americans to narrow their thoughts. When I say this I mean that people really are deciding who they are going to vote for or what party they are affiliated with based on one or two beliefs they hold close to them.

What is the problem with this? Plain and simple, it is making the people ignorant and unconscious to other issues and we are letting the government tell us what we should care about. They tell us gay rights are what we should really be focusing on. We should not worry our little heads of foreign affairs, how our tax dollars are being spent, how the inflation is going up but minimum wage isn't, or any of the things that directly affect us.

> POLITICS page A7

# Our staff

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<b>Emily Gardiner</b>	News Editor	<b>Andrew Carter</b>	Photo Editor	<b>Caroline Ready</b>	Agency Manager

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# Don't let snow win the battle



**Jessica Richmond**  
TEC STAFF

Whenever there was a hope of a snow day when I was growing up I would put a spoon under my pillow, wear my pajamas inside out and sleep upside down on my bed. It was an odd tradition that we New Yorkers would do in hopes of getting enough snow to get school cancelled. In North Carolina, however, there is no spoon necessary because the mention of snow is enough to get school cancelled.

The southern states are simply unprepared for this weather, so cancelling or delaying school is a necessity. There isn't a cavalry of plows waiting on the sidelines to clear the roads and road salt isn't kept in every North Carolinian's garage. In fact, every time it snows the grocery store's shelves empty of bread and milk. Essentially it makes no sense to grab for the bread and milk when these are the most perishable items you could find in a grocery store. If there were an actual emergency the bread and milk would not help you survive a storm. Go for the canned foods and the batteries, even poparts would be a smarter move than bread that will be moldy in a week.



CONTRIBUTED BY MCT CAMPUS

Many people had to attend to their cars before being able to drive to their destinations yesterday morning.

When the unprepared are forced to take to the roads I fear not only for their lives, but also for my own. Without plows or road salt, ice is extremely prominent and I saw several students driving with snow and ice still on their windshield. The DMVs in New York might as well give out ice scrapers with each license but in North Carolina the helpful tool is a foreign object to most.

After a burst of cold, there is the inevitable week or two of sniffles and sneezing around campus. It's no wonder this is the case when you see flip-flop and short-clad students trudging through the snow-covered campus. Either people don't check the weather before leaving for class or they think it's a weakness to acknowledge that it's not 70 degrees and sunny. I feel like people that are unaccustomed to the snow should be prepared before they walk out (or drive out) into the freezing weather. Hats, gloves and socks are also some of the smartest investments a winter sufferer can make. Most of your body heat escapes through your head making a hat essential. Instead of layering multiple socks try going for a good pair of boot socks. Too many pairs of socks prevents circulation which can actually leave you colder.

Many students are left on their own when it comes to keeping their house or apartment warm. The real problem that comes to students is how to stay warm without cleaning out your bank account on utilities. Letting your

sink drip at night might sound like a waste but it can actually keep your pipes from freezing. Turning your heat up to 80 isn't as effective as insulating your windows and doors that lead outside. Also, if you're planning on sitting inside for long periods of time shutting doors between rooms can keep it insulated as well.

This isn't just a North Carolina problem; it's a problem affecting areas throughout the country that are now faced with unfamiliar weather. When New Yorkers were faced with Hurricane Sandy they were unprepared for what North Carolinians have been dealing with for decades.

Cold seems to be more common in the South, now more than in years past. Whether you believe its climate change, God's wrath or an apocalyptic ice age, it might be time to buy a winter jacket and an ice scraper. Or at the very least time to turn your pajamas inside out.

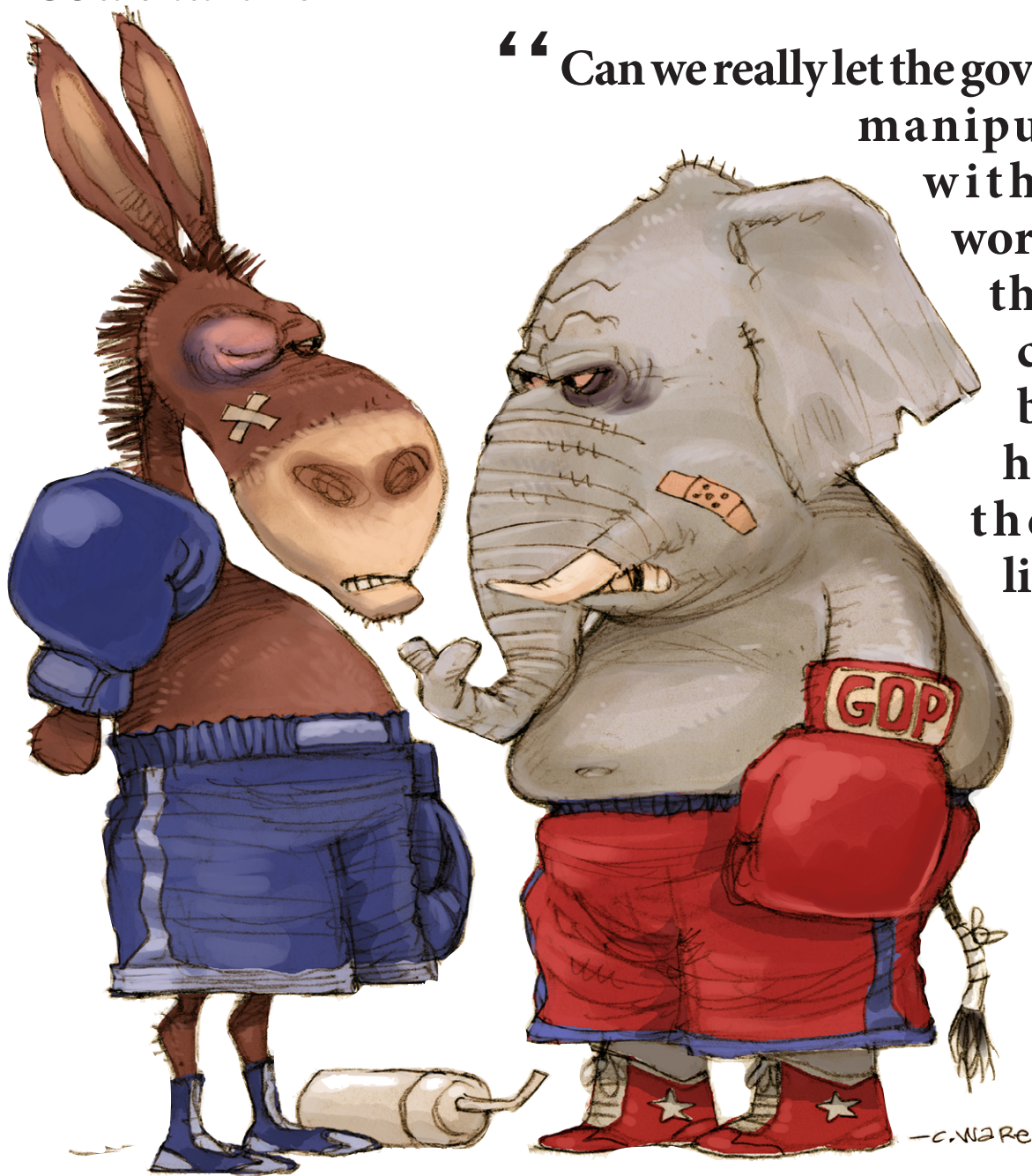
Jessica is a senior majoring in English and is the managing editor. This writer can be contacted at [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).



WEB PHOTO

Stores are usually wiped out of milk and bread once storm news breaks.

## POLITICS continued from A6



WEB PHOTO

The government just gives us something that we can decide is right or wrong and then we gather together with the people who have the same respective opinions and we argue. We sit around and bicker with one another about whether small issues should be legal while the government is busy doing whatever they want on the bigger tasks at hand.

Are we really this dumb? Can we really let the government manipulate us with "busy work" while they take care of business however they feel like it? It is like we are a nosy kid and our parents

are making us go watch television while they discuss our future.

All I'm saying is that the two-party system is broken and not in the best interest of the American citizens. We need to broaden our views and start thinking about things that matter. We need a political system that will let us all gather our specific beliefs on all matters affecting our country. Maybe then we can make some progress together and not one side at a time.

Houston is a senior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

## RANTS CONT.

To be honest, I don't wear underwear with anything except dresses. #takeyourpantiesoff

Am I really the only one concerned that our Pee Dee statue is missing?

To the chick printing 400 pages worth of pamphlets for your sorority in Austin Tuesday morning, you are a dope; there is a special place in technology hell for people like you.

WD-40 would be greatly appreciated on every single seat in Bate!!! Honestly want to turn into HULK when I sit next to a "wiggler" or just knock her out of her chair. Arrrgh!

If I offer you my seat on the bus then please take it. Otherwise I look like an idiot.

Flashback to that day last week when I met that really nice Communication major and asked him to explain what pirate rants were. Then I found out he was the editor in chief of TEC. Whoops....

Don't go poking your head into my hammock when I'm inside. Did I mail you a formal invitation?

To my advisor who refused to help me and advised me to see my other advisor, I would advise you to do a better job. #doublemajorproblems.

To the jerk who will not tip bartenders, we are broke college kids too who have to work and stay up late for you to get drunk! Think about that. And tip the door girls too!

Got to laugh at all the COMM and EDU majors lying out by the pool at 11 a.m.

The Speight computer lab girl is so sexy!

Dear Boys: Ladies aren't going to chase after you, no matter what you're wearing. They are waiting to be courted by true gentlemen.

Ladies, stop chasing after men and focus on your schoolwork!

To the guy that farted in class, yeah, we all heard it.

To the guys handing out 1.3 billion yellow squares of paper in front of Dowdy. Please just stop. Really.

When voting for SGA, the people I didn't know, got voted on by my rating of their cuteness

When you email me at 6 a.m. with the words "good news" in the headline, the email should be about you cancelling class, not you giving us an extra assignment.

I want to sleep with you, you want to sleep with me, so what are you waiting for?

Besties with testes, don't you test these besties.

To the girl who decided it would be fun to lock all the bathroom stalls after midnight so I had to climb underneath and unlock them in order for me to pee: I don't like you very much.

Lieutenant Dan, ice cream.

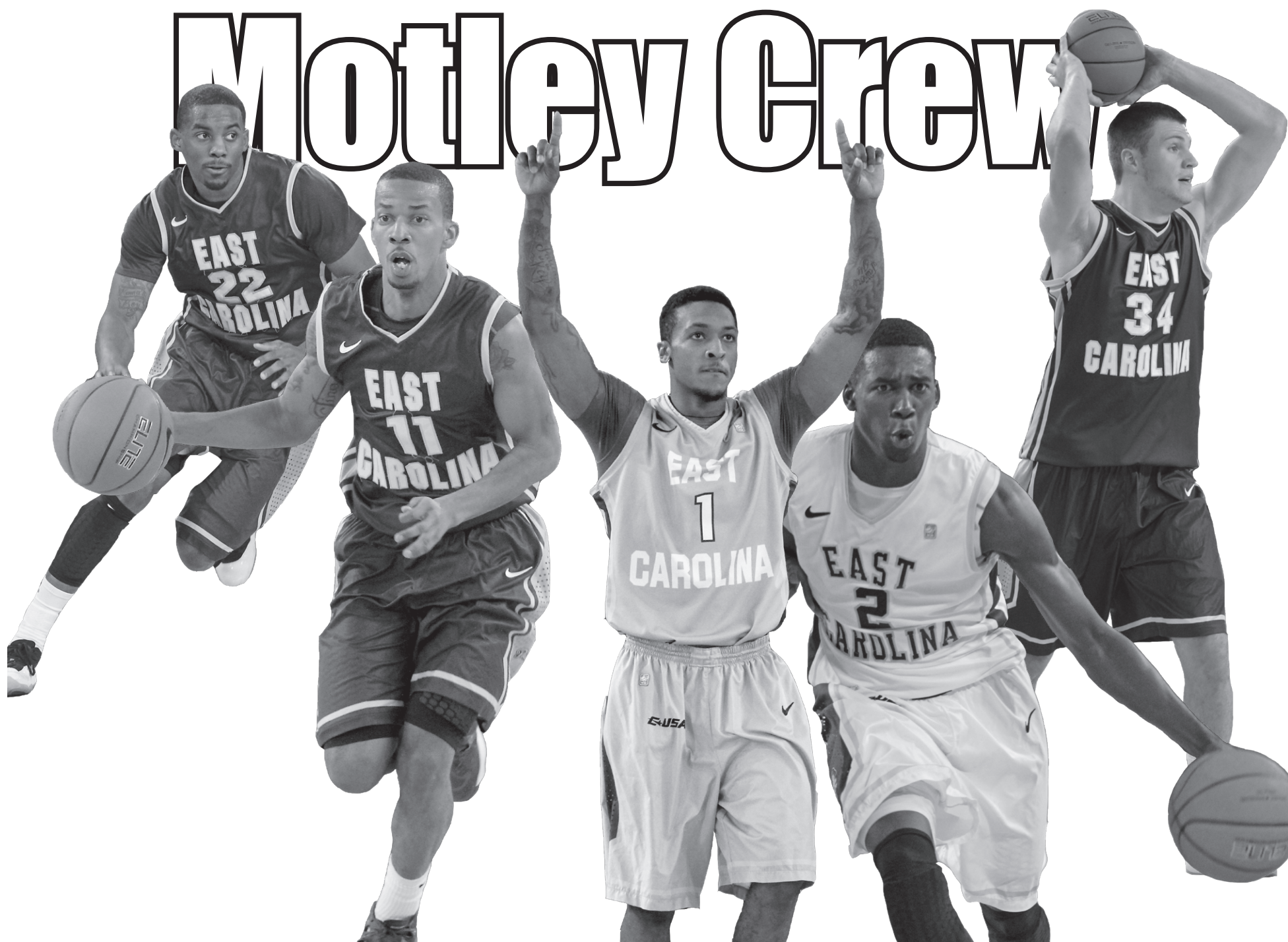
Is it just me, or is Alex Trebek getting younger?

I only go to the career fairs in Bate for all the pens the employers give away.

A jealous woman does better research than the FBI.

I wish my exams were as easy as some of the girls I go to school with.

The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding rants can be directed to Will Farrar at [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).



With injuries plaguing the team, players have been asked to step into certain roles that they may not be accustomed to playing. Coach Jeff Lebo continues to shake up the lineup as the season draws onward. ARCHIVED PHOTOS

## ECU limited in lineup choices

**Brian Wudkywch**  
TEC STAFF

Well into the heart of conference-play, the Pirates men's basketball team has seen multiple lineups this season.

A wave of off-season departures, combined with a mid-season injury, has forced Lebo to use a variety of players and rotations at any given time.

ECU was at its best early in the season when it was able to play with two big-men on the floor at a time. Forwards Marshall Guilmette and Michael Zangari were starters, while freshman Brandan Stith came off the bench. Having the size on the inside helped the Pirates in a multitude of ways. From both an offensive and defensive standpoint, the Pirates were able to hold the fort.

When the 6-foot-10 Guilmette went down with a season-ending knee injury during a game against McNeese State, all of that changed for the Pirates.

Production on the inside hasn't been the same since. The Pirates are giving up an average of 13 more points a game since the injury and with opposing teams taking away outside shooters Akeem Richmond and Paris Roberts-Campbell, offense is hard to come by.

So what can Head Coach Jeff Lebo do to play within the team's limitations, and what lineup would be most effective?

A question mark coming into the season was the point-guard position. Prince Williams started the season for the Pirates, but his production has fallen off recently. Antonio Robinson has stepped up and provided the Pirates with a better pace.

Robinson has shown the ability to control the pace and facilitate the ball. However, he is not a natural scorer like Williams is. Williams averages 9.5 points per game to Robinson's 5.9. But Robinson has 56 assists with only 25 turnovers while Williams has 63 and 42 while playing more minutes.

Robinson provides the Pirates with a 'true point-guard' and should be the team's starter with Williams coming off of the bench for him.

Akeem Richmond is the starter at shooting-guard. He is, after all, second in the nation in three pointers.

A type of offense that Lebo has utilized since the injury is the three-guard system.

Roberts-Campbell has been consistent in the three spot. He is second on the team in points per game and can shoot from the perimeter. He also has the ability to drive to the lane, something they have lacked this year.

On the inside, freshman Caleb White has flashed the potential to score with his 12 points per game and has hit 23 three-pointers this season. But where the Pirates need him most is on the interior. While he averages 3.6 rebounds a game,

his 6-foot-7 frame is relied upon to be more of a presence on the boards. If White can continue to get points and become more consistent on the boards, the Pirates will benefit greatly.

Zangari is and should remain to be the center on the team. Standing at 6-foot-9, 230 lbs, Zangari has the size and strength to play inside. His scoring touch is somewhat inconsistent, but being one of the only big-men on the roster, his starting position is secure.

With Robinson bringing the ball up court, facilitating it to shooters Richmond and Roberts-Campbell, the Pirates are sound with the three-guard system. Williams can come off the bench and spell Roberts-Campbell and Robinson.

On the inside, Zangari should be the go-to guy with Stith backing him up while seeing plenty of minutes.

White is the wild card because he is relied upon for his size and versatility. In order for the Pirates to be successful, White will have to find a way to make more of an impact on the boards.

Head Coach Jeff Lebo has been around the game a long time and will put the best lineup on the court every night. But considering ECU's lack of depth, this task could become harder and harder.

This writer can be contacted at [sports@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:sports@theeastcarolinian.com).

## Green Wave invades Minges

**Jesse Deal**  
TEC STAFF

The Pirates (11-7, 0-3 C-USA) are still winless in Conference USA play and tonight will be a chance for them to achieve that elusive first conference win and snap a three-game losing streak when the Tulane Green Wave comes into town.

The Green Wave (10-9, 2-2 C-USA) are coming off a 58-41 conference win against the Rice Owls (5-12, 0-4 C-USA) on Saturday. Tulane has had an up-and-down season so far, but a victory tonight would give it a winning record in the conference standings.

"They have three of the top 13 scorers in Conference USA. Their three guards are really playing great," said ECU Head Coach

Jeff Lebo. "That shows a lot about what Eddie [Tulane Head Coach Ed Conroy] has done with this group with the losses that he's had."

Tulane has been shorthanded this year due to injuries and the loss of six players who transferred, including junior guard Ricky Tarrant and senior forward Josh Davis.

The Green Wave gained a conference win on the road against North Texas (10-8, 1-3 C-USA) on Jan. 11. Sophomore guard Louis Dabney, who averages 17.5 points and 4.7 rebounds per game, led the Green Wave to a 73-62 win with his 19 points, nine rebounds and three assists.

Tulane has looked less than stellar in their two conference losses against Tulsa (8-10, 3-1 C-USA) and Louisiana Tech (15-4, 3-1

C-USA). On Jan. 9, the Green Wave travelled to Tulsa and endured a 97-71 defeat. Tulane's lack of size was very apparent and Tulsa converted on 57 percent of its field goals.

A week ago, conference contender Louisiana Tech made the short trip to Devlin Fieldhouse in New Orleans and delivered Tulane a 73-45 blowout loss. The Green Wave was held to 23 percent shooting (10-for-43) and missed all 14 of its attempts from behind the arc.

On Dec. 21, Tulane put together a true team effort and handled Alabama State (10-6, 4-1 SWAC) easily at home. Freshman guard Jonathan Stark made all 10 of his free throws and finished with a team-high 21 points. Stark has turned heads this season

with his play. He averages 15.5 ppg, 3.2 rpg and 3.9 apg.

In that same contest, junior forward Trevante Drye grabbed 14 boards and added to his resume as Tulane's leading rebounder. He averages over six rebounds per game in his third season with the Green Wave.

The Pirates should be very aware of Tulane's junior guard Jay Hook. He gets 14.5 ppg and 5.6 rpg, but his numbers are highly inflated when he is left open behind the three point line. Hook has made 45.2 percent of his three pointers and has the ability to take over a game.

In the Green Wave's home win against

> **TULANE** page A9

### TAKEAWAYS

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Lady Pirates beat Rice at home, 53-47. Home win streak extends to 23 games.

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Pirates play Tulane at home tonight at 7 p.m. in Minges Coliseum.

#### ECU BASEBALL

The baseball team will host its annual "Meet the Pirates" luncheon on Feb. 8.

#### CHARLOTTE BOBCATS

The Bobcats sit at 19-25 this season, eighth in the Eastern Conference.

#### CAROLINA PANTHERS

The Panthers had multiple players selected to the Pro Bowl including Cam Newton and Mike Tolbert.

#### ECU FOOTBALL

ECU coaches are on the recruiting trail until National Signing day on Feb. 5.

#### PIRATES IN THE PROS

ECU baseball's all-time saves leader, Seth Simmons, was invited to the Arizona Diamondbacks' spring training, which begins on Feb. 7 in Phoenix, AZ.



Follow us on Twitter, @TEC\_Sports for ECU sports coverage.

### ONLINE



For all other content, check online

at [www.theeastcarolinian.com](http://www.theeastcarolinian.com)

MENS TENNIS

# Pirates start home stint

Shane Cuthrell  
TEC STAFF

The ECU men's tennis team has started their spring season with a 1-1 record after losing to North Carolina and defeating UNC Asheville within the past week.

The Next Level Training Center in Greenville, NC will be the setting for this weekend's matches against Longwood University, Kennesaw State and Chowan University.

The Pirates play Longwood University today at 2 p.m.

Longwood posted a 6-13 record a year ago, 0-8 in the Big South conference and today will be their first match of the 2014 spring season.

The players to look for are senior Edward Becker, junior Steed Johnson, and junior Daniel Elston.

The last time these players competed was in November at the University of Louisville Fall Invitational. Elston posted a 2-2 record during that event. Both Johnson and Becker finished with a 1-3 record.

Becker and Elston are on a double team together.

ECU's Collin Roller is coming off a doubles win and a singles win after Monday's victory against UNC Asheville.

"We're excited for Longwood, we had a battle

with them last year," said Roller. "We're ready to go out and compete and get another win."

After Friday is over, the Pirates will have to wait till Sunday before they hit the courts again. It's a good thing because they will need Saturday off.

The Pirates will have a double header against the Kennesaw State Owls and the Chowan Hawks Sunday. Kennesaw State at 11 a.m. and Chowan at 5 p.m.

The Owls are 0-1 after losing to Florida Atlantic this past Sunday.

The players that won Sunday were Jorge Wilton, Jake Bouchillon, and David Durham. All three won their matches in two sets.

The double team of Alex Pena and Jake Bouchillon won their match against FAU's Robert Dubuque and Sean Bacha (6-2).

At the end of the fall season the Owl's Tobi Menofer defeated UNC Asheville's Thomas Panoulas. Panoulas was one of the two singles wins that UNC Asheville had in Monday's match vs. ECU.

Even though Kennesaw State lost their last match doesn't mean their not a good team. With a first-year head coach in Eduardo Rincon, the Owl's have something to prove.

Head Coach Shawn Heinchon said, "Kennesaw State will be a tough test for us, there much improved from last year, they have a new coach," Heinchon said. "We expect them to give us everything we can handle."

The second team ECU faces on Sunday will be Chowan.

Coach Heinchon likes the idea of double headers because it allows all of his players to show what they have.

"Those things are set up so hopefully we can get all of our guys on the team a chance to play on those type of days," Heinchon said. "But first things first, we need to get through Friday against Longwood."

ECU's senior Mario Martinez won his single match Monday against UNC Asheville's Alex Croker (6-2, 5-6, 6-5). The last two sets were tiebreakers that went both ways.

Martinez says he isn't sure what to expect from Chowan.

"They could be a good school. Anyone can beat anyone on any given day," Martinez said. "We just have to go out there and be prepared and play our best."

This writer can be contacted at [sports@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:sports@theeastcarolinian.com).

## TULANE

continued from A8

Jackson State on Dec. 7, Hook dropped 31 points and connected on a highly efficient 8-of-11 shots from behind the arc. He is coming off a 17-point performance against Rice.

Like the Pirates, Tulane has yet to establish a consistent big man under the basket. All of the Green Wave's players taller than 6-foot-6 have played sparingly in the rotation.

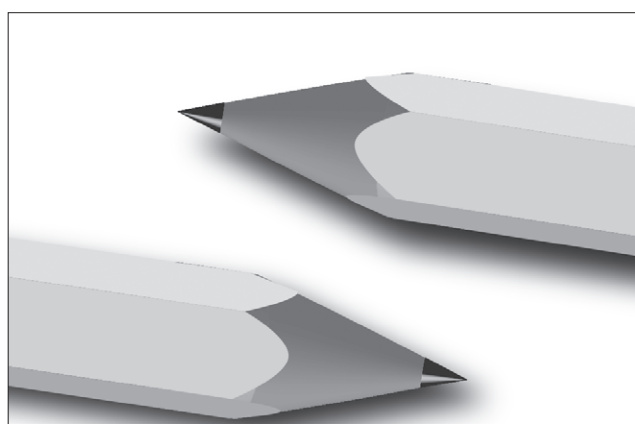
ECU's freshman forward Brandan Stith suffered a concussion against Florida International on Saturday and has been dealing with concussion symptoms since then. Lebo spoke on Stith's availability in tonight's matchup.

"He's highly doubtful," said Lebo. "Our backup one-man, Prince Williams, will be our backup five-man."

Williams will be playing behind sophomore forward Michael Zangari, who has scored double-digits in seven of his last eight games.

ECU trumps Tulane in almost every statistical category, but the Pirates' last few games have showed that no win is guaranteed in Conference USA matchups. The Pirates will surely look to reverse their fate tonight.

This writer can be contacted at [sports@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:sports@theeastcarolinian.com).



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# Baseball on deck

Brian Wudkywch  
TEC STAFF

After a strong finish to last season, excitement and confidence is permeating from within the ECU baseball team.

The Pirates hosted their Media Day yesterday, with the likes of Head Coach Billy Godwin, pitcher Jeff Hoffman and catcher Travis Watkins speaking to the media, along with a few other coaches and players.

Godwin, whose team is currently ranked 38 in the nation, feels good about his team's chances against a beefed up Conference-USA.

"We're not scared to play anywhere, anytime," said Godwin. "I think that helps the kids understand what it takes to be at that elite level. That's what our kids expect when we recruit them...to play on a big stage."

Godwin is no stranger to success at ECU. In fact, entering his ninth year at ECU, Godwin sports a 284-188-1 record. The prize possession in Godwin's arsenal is the aforementioned right-handed pitcher Hoffman.

"I just want to go out there and try my best and give my



DREW CARTER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Pirates start practice on Saturday in preparation for the season.

team a chance to win the game," said Hoffman.

Hoffman, a junior who had a 6-7 record last season,

has been a hot commodity since his play in the Cape Cod League. He has been tabbed as a potential top-ten pick in

the upcoming draft and is a preseason All-American.

"Keeping Jeff [Hoffman] grounded to the point that he knows the process that you have to go through and not get caught up in the little things that can distract you," said Godwin. "I think that's the key to his success."

Hoffman is not alone as far as being a potential All-American. Joining him as a preseason All-American is designated hitter Drew Reynolds. Reynolds hit .322 last season and accounted for 68 hits and 30 runs last season. Reynolds is a key player in the middle of the ECU lineup as well as the bullpen for the Pirates. Reynolds showed time and time again to be the most valuable Pirate reliever.

Reynolds led the team in saves with 14 last season. Coupled with his saves, Reynolds had a 2.92 ERA while holding hitters to a .243 batting average.

ECU opens the season with a three-game series against the James Madison Dukes on Jan. 14 in Clark-LeClair Stadium.

This writer can be contacted at [sports@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:sports@theeastcarolinian.com).

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# Lady Pirates stay perfect at home

Josh Graham  
TEC STAFF

Yesterday was not Abria Trice's night, from a scoring standpoint. She had just seven points – which is 10 below her season average – but came through for the ECU women's basketball team when it counted.

With her team clinging to a 48-45 lead, the 6-foot-1 junior guard scored the Lady Pirates' last five points inside the last 1:06 of the game, thus securing a 53-47 victory against the Rice Owls (10-8, 3-2 Conference USA).

ECU (16-2, 4-1 C-USA) was held to its season-low

scoring output and shot just 30 percent (19-for-63) from the floor, but prevailed for its 23rd consecutive win at Minges Coliseum. The Lady Pirates have now won seven of their last eight games.

"That wasn't really a pretty game to watch, that's for sure," said ECU coach Heather Macy. "We're finding ways to win and sometimes in conference play, that's what you have to do."

The game-plan for ECU was no secret. It had to limit C-USA's reigning Player of the Week, Jessica Kuster, who was coming off a 26-point, 17-rebound outing at Marshall.

To make matters worse, ECU's defensive specialist, Tatiana Chapple, was in foul trouble for the bulk of the game and disqualified with 6:28 remaining – forcing the Lady Pirates to turn to their leading scorer, Jada Payne, to defend the versatile, 6-foot-2 senior.

Everywhere Kuster went, she was met by Payne and forced to attempt several low-percentage shots. As a result, Kuster went 2-for-14 shooting from the field for a season-low 11 points.

"It really spoke to me when [Chapple] got into foul trouble. I knew I had

to come in and do my best job defending Kuster," said Payne. "I did my best to guard her on the ball and all my teammates had my help on help-side [defense]. So it was really a team effort and that is definitely our strong point, our defense."

Payne also led ECU on the other side of the floor with her game-high 17 points. Trice found her for an apparent back-breaking 3-pointer that gave the Lady Pirates their largest lead of the game – 46-35 – with 7:39 to go. But the Owls scored the next nine points to draw within a basket 46-44.

Towering 6-foot-4 junior Ondrea Shaw responded with a pair of made-free throws, snapping Rice's run, on her way to a team-best 11 rebounds and career-high nine points.

In the first half, ECU held Kuster without a field goal as she scored just two points on a pair of made-free throws. She would hit her first shot from the field with 16:38 remaining in the second half. Despite her struggles, Rice jumped out to an early 11-4 advantage before the Lady Pirates responded.

ECU trimmed the Owls' lead to 13-10 before building an 8-0 run for the game's lone



Kristine Mial (4) shoots a jump-shot over a Rice defender.

lead-change. Shaw completed a three-point play to push the Lady Pirates' advantage to 25-19 going into halftime. Both teams combined to shoot 25 percent in the first 20 minutes.

Southern Miss is up next on the schedule for ECU. Tip-off time is set for 5 p.m. from Hattiesburg.

This writer can be contacted at [sports@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:sports@theeastcarolinian.com).



Jade Payne (23) drives to the basket against Rice on Wednesday.

<b>Thursday 1/23</b> Men's Basketball Tulane 7 p.m.	<b>Friday 1/24</b> Men's Tennis Longwood 2 p.m.	<b>Saturday 1/25</b> (Away) Women's Basketball Southern Miss 4 p.m. Men's Basketball Southern Miss 7 p.m.	<b>Saturday(cont.) 1/25</b> Swimming & Diving Catawba/UMBC 1 p.m.	<b>Sunday 1/26</b> Men's Tennis Kennesaw St./Chowan 11 a.m./5 p.m.
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