



The East Carolinian

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New brewery hosts opening event uptown

Amanda Shea
TEC STAFF

The Uptown Brewing Company opened to the public Saturday, bringing light and customers into the once abandoned store front.

The space at 418 Evans St. was empty for almost 30 years before Billy Dunn, Donald Dunn and Benjamin Self bought the room and started one of the first local breweries in Greenville, North Carolina.

"It feels great to finally be open," said Self, brewmaster of the Uptown Brewing Company, at its opening on Saturday. "We've been building up to this day for so long and now to finally see the turnout we have today, it's very encouraging."

The Uptown Brewing Company opened smoothly at noon, awaited by students of East Carolina University and residents of Greenville alike, who were greeted by Self, Donald Dunn and the staff.

"This is above and beyond what I expected," Self said. "I was talking to my wife last night and was like, 'It's going to be nuts from (noon) to 10 (p.m.) tomorrow' and I completely underestimated how nuts it could be. It's just wave after wave of people."

The staff was greeted with crowds that were hard to maneuver and customers that were ready to see what the brewery had to offer.

"I haven't had a whole lot of time to train our staff but they've responded extremely well under, you know, this kind of pressure and this is the biggest crowd I've ever seen in a brewery taproom," said Self. "But they're professional, they're fast, they're courteous. It's been great, it's really encouraging."

With the crowds, Self tried to get a first hand account of how customers have taken to their menu.

"I've kind of been like walking around kind of listening to people talking and everything," Self said. "Just kind of trying to get some candid reviews and it's been pretty overwhelmingly positive."

The brewery offers a selection of locally brewed beers, such as a pale ale, wheat ale, west coast IPA and a coffee stout.

"I think our most popular one is the wheat beer," Self said. "I think just because it's a light bodied thirst-quencher, nice and juicy, people love it and it's an easy beer to love."

Saturday night customers also shared their favorites.

"I had their apricot wheat ale and I also tried their pale ale," said Alana Goldberg, part-time faculty member at ECU. "So far I think I like the pale ale a lot, it's really good, but my boyfriend has been drinking the IPA all night and he says that's really good."

Set in the middle of Uptown Greenville, the Uptown Brewing Company has given residents an alternative to the clubbing scene.

"I think Greenville really needed a place like this," said Goldberg. "Somewhere that was a little more upscale from all the club scene

> UPTOWN page A4

Travel ban felt on campus



PARIS SILVER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Sam Twaiti, secretary of the Muslim Student Association and a Yemen native, looks down during an interview Monday afternoon.

Staton stands with foreign students, staff

Staff Report

East Carolina University Chancellor Cecil Staton released a statement today expressing his support to all the international community at ECU affected by President Donald Trump's Jan. 27 executive order, banning travelers from several Middle Eastern countries.

In an email statement sent to the student body yesterday, Chancellor Staton explained that the international

community is an essential part of the university.

"While the exact impact of the Executive Order on our campus is still being evaluated today, our review indicates that fewer than 20 members of the ECU community (faculty/staff/students) could be directly affected," he said.

Staton advised students or faculty who were nationals of the seven countries

— Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Yemen — to remain inside the United States and not travel abroad. The university also plans to work with the UNC System administration to monitor the situation.

In the statement, Staton also asked students to contact the Office of Global Affairs, the Dean of Student's Office or the Director of Immigration Services with any concerns.

Muslim students bear burden of ban

Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

Sam Privette
TEC STAFF



With protests erupting across the nation over President Donald Trump's recent move to ban travel between the United States and seven countries, the East Carolina University community is also feeling the effects of this executive order.

ECU student Sam Twaiti is a Muslim

student coping with and trying to understand Trump's approach to preventing radical Islamic terrorism.

Twaiti, 24, was born and raised in Yemen, one of the Muslim-majority countries included in the recent ban. As a U.S. citizen, Twaiti doesn't worry about the ban on immigration to his native country. Rather, he fears the impact the Trump Administration may have on his place in America.

"I want people to know that I am planning to live here the rest of my life. And when I became a U.S. citizen, it's because I love this country and would like to serve this country," said Twaiti.

Before immigrating to the U.S. in 2009, Twaiti and his family lived in a small Yemeni town, far away from his father who owned and operated two gas stations in New York. Twaiti's father sent most of his income back to Yemen to support his family.

> REFUGEE page A2

Conley quarterback picks ECU over State

Tori Poole
TEC STAFF

D.H. Conley High School in Greenville had a certain buzz among the students as they spoke of classmate and quarterback Holton Ahlers' decision between North Carolina State University and East Carolina University while walking towards the school's gym Monday.

Students, family and friends of Ahlers filled the new gymnasium, eager to hear which in-state school he would choose for his collegiate career. The four-star recruit sat at a table, all eyes on him, with his mother, father and two football coaches sitting by his side to support his decision.

It seemed as though the students and family sitting in the bleachers were holding their breath in anticipation of his choice between the Wolfpack and Pirates, but as Holton's hand touched the purple ECU hat that sat in front of him, the gym erupted. It was clear that the school sat just miles away from the ECU campus, as everyone cheered in approval of Holton's choice.

"I actually just told (head coach Scottie Montgomery) a few minutes ago," Holton said. "I had a long conversation with him yesterday. I just let him know that me and my family have decided that I am going to stay home."



TORI POOLE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

D.H. Conley High School's junior quarterback Holton Ahlers poses after verbally committing to ECU.

The 6-foot-4 quarterback played a total of 26 games as the starting quarterback for the Vikings in his sophomore and junior campaigns. In his sophomore season, Holton completed 132-of-262 passing attempts for 2,457 yards and 27 touchdowns. Then, in his 2016-17 season Holton nearly doubled his stats with 284 completions

from 460 passing attempts for 4,503 yards and 51 touchdowns.

In addition to the passing yards, Holton caught the eye of several football programs with his mobility. In his two seasons he has racked up a total of 318 carries for 2,053 yards and 30 touchdowns.

A common sound in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium on game days is the sound of the public address announcer throughout the game, and for Holton this voice will sound extremely familiar on game days. Morgan Ahlers, Holton's father, has announced the Pirates' games for over a decade now, but according to Holton this did not influence his decision much. It was more of an extra benefit for the quarterback.

"It didn't really effect my decision that much, but it will be cool in my first game and just every game really," Ahlers said. "Just to go out there and hear him call out my name, it will be very special for me and my family."

As a Greenville native, Ahlers will be surrounded by friends and family as a Pirate. Although he still has one more year of high school play left before entering his collegiate career, he said he's ecstatic about joining the ECU football team on Bagwell Field on Saturdays.

"Just the atmosphere they have, the fans they have, they make me feel very wanted," Holton said. "Just to be home and play college football. I'm going to be playing six miles from where I grew up, and it's just a dream come true for me."

For questions or comments, contact sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

ONLINE

» 2017 Mr. and Miss ASO crowned during Sunday's pageant

» Men's basketball falls on road to high-powered Memphis

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

Teen charged with 'School Shooting Threat'

The Greenville Police Department have charged a 15-year-old boy for calling a pawn shop asking to buy a gun in order to carry out a school shooting. In a statement released by GPD, the unidentified minor told police that the call was a prank. Greenville Police was notified about the threat after a local pawn shop received a call from an individual asking whether or not the store sold firearms. After making a comment about shooting up a school, the pawn shop notified police. He has been charged with felony count of making a false report concerning an act of violence on educational property.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

If you feel there are any factual errors in this newspaper, please contact Seth Gulledege at editor@theeastcarolinian.com.

Greenville city manager retires

Cayla Rodney

TEC STAFF Following five years of service for the City of Greenville, City Manager Barbara Lipscomb announced her retirement earlier this month.

Lipscomb began her work as the city manager for Greenville in 2012 and dedicated herself to the everyday functions of the city.

In a recent press release, Lipscomb said, "Looking back to when I started my career, I never would have dreamed that I would be a part of positively touching the lives of so many people in so many communities."

Her career began in 1975, taking her to Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania and finally North Carolina. She has served in the public sector as a planner and administrative services officer, assistant city manager, deputy city manager and city manager in the various cities.

According to the press release, some of Lipscomb's achievements in Greenville include the Facility Improvement Plan, which ensures the development and maintenance of 68 buildings used throughout the city. Also, by enacting the transportation improvement bond in 2015, Lipscomb had \$15 million allocated to street renovations, sidewalks and greenways.

Lipscomb additionally tried to increase safety throughout the city by supervising the new fire and rescue training facility and Emergency Operations Center as well as additional police substations.

Other projects Lipscomb worked on during her tenure include the restoration of the South Greenville Recreation Center, the expansion of the Tar River Legacy Plan and the Horizons Comprehensive Plan, the opening of the Dream

Park and the Town Common Inclusive Playground. The South Greenville Recreation center's renovations included a 2,200 square foot addition.

"All of this was done over the last year," said Bershuan Thompson, the Greenville recreation supervisor. "It has helped everyone who comes here. Everyone has been blessed, happy and excited from youth to seniors."

The upgrades include a renovated gymnasium, additional office spaces, classrooms, lighting for the sports fields, a workout center and new equipment all for the benefit of the public.

The expansion led to enriching after school activities for children and adult classes. This has given many opportunities for ECU students to volunteer as the center is still requesting help to keep up with its growing demands.

This work and many other ongoing projects have totaled to about \$547 million worth of investment for the betterment of the City of Greenville.

"I have sincerely tried to meet the challenge and hope that the community is pleased with the progress that has been made and the programs and projects that are forthcoming," said Lipscomb. "I am very thankful that I received the opportunity to work toward actualizing Greenville's potential and serving the residents, businesses and visitors of this community."

The Greenville City Council will be assisting in the transition of power and hiring of a new city manager.



Barbara Lipscomb

"The hiring of a city manager is one of the most important tasks for city council," said Calvin Mercer, city council member at-large. "We appreciate the work of Barbara Lipscomb and wish her well in her retirement. We also appreciate her helping with the transition to a new manager."

Lipscomb's last day as the city manager will be Aug. 31. The city requested that Slavin Management Consultants hold a national search to replace Lipscomb. Once the new city manager is hired, Lipscomb will become the Special Projects Manager until her retirement date.

Greenville Mayor Allen Thomas said how important it is to keep the momentum going as this transition takes place. Thomas said he is thankful that Lipscomb will continue to work when the new manager comes so she can "transfer institutional knowledge."

"The city is growing at a rapid pace," said Thomas. "We will continue to grow as a hub for East Carolina economically, medically and through education."

In terms of looking for a new city manager, Thomas said he hopes "to look within the staff for the best candidate." He said his philosophy has always been to build up the city from within.

"The obvious choice [for the new city manager] is Merrill Flood," said Thomas. "But he is retiring so we have to look outward."

As the search for a new city manager continues, Thomas is thankful for the work Lipscomb has done. "The new manager will be finding it [Greenville] in a much better place than Barbara Lipscomb found it," said Thomas.

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.

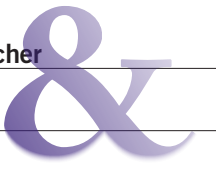
Right to Life rallies at Pitt County Courthouse

Mary Katherine Karcher

TEC STAFF

Melissa Glen

TEC STAFF



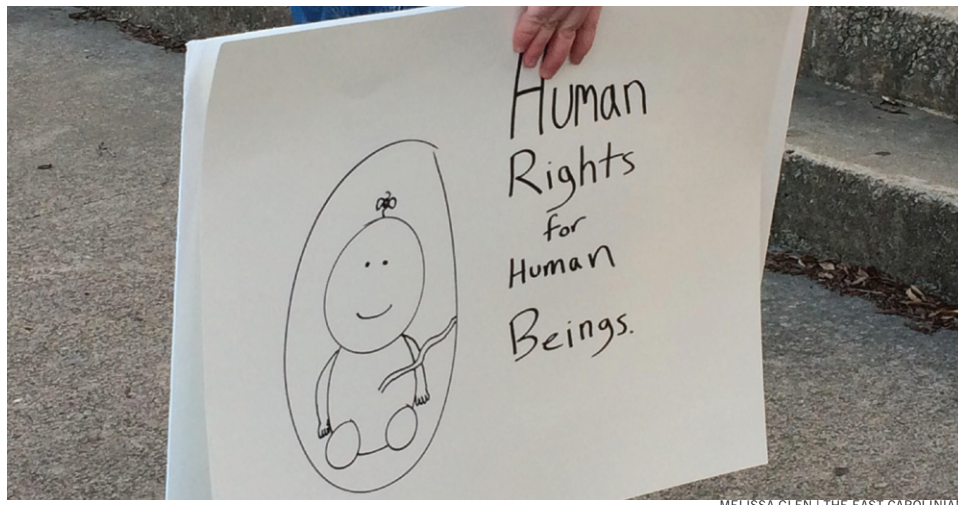
People of all ages gathered on the steps of the Pitt County Courthouse Sunday afternoon for Pitt County Right to Life's annual prayer vigil.

In response to the recent anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, children, adults and students united together through prayer and music to share the message of considering alternative options to abortion.

Pitt County Right to Life is the local affiliate for the North Carolina Right to Life organization. The mission statement on its website said the group work towards, "Upholding and promoting respect for all innocent human life from conception to natural death."

The chapter's mission also includes seeking legal protection for the unborn child by arguing a child's life starts at the moment of conception.

Aubrey Urwick, a criminal justice graduate student at East Carolina University, was present in support of the event. Urwick said these babies have a right to be protected while undergoing development.



A pro-life protester holds a sign advocating for the cause at the Pitt County Courthouse Sunday.

"The womb should be the most safe place for children and right now it's not," said Urwick.

As a student at ECU, Urwick said perhaps the most important part of events like this is promoting civil discourse and respect for one another's opinions, especially on a college campus.

"I think we need to learn how to embrace each other's differences and to respect everyone's opinion, whether we think they are right or wrong and to support each other

as fellow people," said Urwick. "We are all humans. We are all put on this Earth for a reason. We are all trying to find our way, find our purpose and find our path."

Urwick said in light of the recent political events surrounding Trump's presidency and the rise of hate crimes in America, people should rise above the urge to let these circumstances affect how they treat others.

Natalie Votipka, the co-president of Pitt County's Right To Life chapter, spearheaded the

vigil. Votipka said the "heart" of RTLI's mission is to pray for the mothers who feel pressured to turn to abortion during pregnancy.

"Sadly we know that so many women have been driven to abortion through either direct coercion. There's a horrific amount of that," said Votipka. "But also indirect coercion and pressure, because they feel like, 'Oh I can't finish school, I can't continue my career, this is really gonna throw a wrench in things.'"

Votipka stressed that abortion should not be viewed as a viable choice for women saying, "We know no woman wants an abortion, no one wants that... come on, abortion that's not a real option. Death is never going to be the best solution."

Since the decision to legalize abortion in the United States, people have been divided on the issue. However, this group stands firm in its view that women should think about their health, as well as the health of their unborn child during pregnancy.

"We are very much pro-woman, pro-health and pro-baby," said Urwick. "We just firmly believe that life begins at conception and that children should have the right to be born. We are encouraging people to embrace life."

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.



ECU Muslim students discuss the impact of President Trump's recent travel ban last night in Bate.

REFUGEE

continued from A1

Twaiti and his family left Yemen shortly before the Arab Spring revolution swept through the Middle East, leaving the region in chaos.

Despite the current U.S. military presence in his native country and anti-Islamic refugee sentiment in some parts of America, Twaiti's patriotism isn't hard to spot.

At 17 years old, Twaiti stood in front of a court and pledged his allegiance to the United States of America. He said he made a promise to fight for America, and expected America would make the same promise to fight for him.

"I would be willing to fight for the country if they asked me to," said Twaiti. Even if this meant going toe-to-toe with someone from Yemen, Twaiti said his willingness wouldn't change.

Twaiti said he does not believe this ban is all about immigration and protecting America, because as far as he knows there has never been a terrorist attack from any Yemen citizen or any U.S. citizen from Yemen.

The ECU Muslim Student Association (MSA) held a meeting yesterday in response to President Trump's 90-day immigration ban on Libya, Syria, Somalia, Iraq, Sudan, Iran and Yemen.

Vice President of the MSA Abdul Khadri, a

sophomore public health major, said the timing of the organization's first meeting of the semester could not have come at a better time to confront this issue.

"Not only did (the immigration ban) directly affect many of our members, but it also indirectly affected our sense of security," said Khadri.

Roughly 25 people attended the MSA general board meeting last night where students discussed their fears and concerns about the anti-Muslim sentiment they have experienced in the last few months. The board members advised the students in attendance on "How to 'trump' the hate" by using different techniques to handle tense situations on campus and in the community.

Antika Mishra, the president of No Lost Generation, said right before the ban the organization was working with members of Interfaith Refugee Ministry, a nonprofit organization which helps refugees get resources and support as they are starting their new lives in America, to bring several Syrian refugees to eastern North Carolina.

Mishra said after the ban, Interfaith does not know if these people will ever be able to come now.

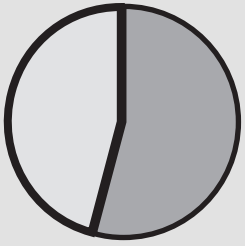
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Advertisement for Friends of the Sheppard Memorial Library 2017 Used Book Sale, February 2-5 at Greenville Convention Center.

Advertisement for East Carolina University 'Take your classroom global!' featuring a student with a Pirates banner.

ANSWER

Will you attend ECU baseball games this season?



YES 54.2%
NO 45.8%

QUESTION

Do you agree with the travel ban?

Vote online at
www.TheEastCarolinian.com

Our view

Staton backs global ECU students, staff

The executive order issued by President Donald Trump banning a certain demographic of folks from traveling to the United States has implications that affect public universities, including our very own.

East Carolina University Chancellor Cecil Staton issued a statement Monday to advise and assure students who may be impacted by the travel restrictions.

“As a large, research university with students and faculty members from around the world on our campus, we know the value of having fellow citizens of the world beside us in our classroom and in our labs and clinics,” the statement said. “They are an essential part of our campus, and our university is enriched by having them here. I want

to offer my personal support for all of our international students and colleagues.”

Staton also said that international students should refrain from traveling outside of the United States. In total, ECU estimates the number of individuals potentially affected by the travel ban is fewer than 20, including students, faculty and staff. Still, when any number of Pirates feel ostracized by their own country, guidance is needed.

The editorial staff of The East Carolinian is of the opinion that Chancellor Staton has taken the appropriate stance in the wake of the travel ban. His guidance and assurance for international students is needed now more than ever, given the unpredictability of the circumstances.

Conquering graduation jitters



Emory Saia
GUEST COLUMNIST

Even though the semester basically just started, most of us are already thinking about spring break, or even summer. That means some students are thinking about life after college.

I’ve been in this place for almost four years now. I think I’m finally getting the hang of it. I’m familiar with the campus, I see the same students in my classes and my professors started remembering my name. Nobody tells you it takes years to figure out a study method that works for you. Nevertheless, I’m almost at the home stretch and I’m not going to let it freak me out.

The idea of leaving a place that I call “home” for three quarters of the year is somewhat alarming. I assure myself that I’m not alone in my thinking. Universities — or ECU at least, is progressively supporting students to find internships before graduating. I’m aware that ECU professors and staff want to benefit students by boosting their resumes and increasing direct exposure before entering any workforce. It’s reassuring knowing they understand our anxieties.

The encouraging flyers around campus motivate us to apply ourselves. Emails are

constantly sent to us about meeting scholarship and internship deadlines. There are even career fairs and special events during the school year to workshop resumes and meet employers who look for paid interns and full-time workers. Instead of ignoring flyers and deleting emails, I’m comforted by ECU’s efforts. Thank you for being empathetic of our apprehensions. Thank you for helping us develop successful futures.

I realize that while we apply ourselves to add a line on our resume, getting a full-time career immediately after graduation isn’t always practical. Being the youngest of five siblings, I’ve watched my brothers and sister job search after college. They all said a similar thing; employer’s requirements seem unreasonable. Wanting 10 years of experience? Maybe not all requirements are that severe, but most students need some professional experience before graduating.

So, while my college credits rise and the semesters left drop, I ask myself, is there anyone I look to as a role model as seamlessly moving from college to “the real world?” Is there anyone I can look at and say, “OK, maybe this won’t be so bad?”

I look to my older siblings. Their struggles and achievements have empowered my optimism. I’ve watched them stress before an interview and wait impatiently for a call back. They may have been the guinea



COURTESY OF ECU.EDU

East Carolina University students celebrate at graduation as they prepare to enter the real world.

pigs of the family, but having them as role models, I’m confident that things will fall into place for me.

I remind myself to stop worrying whether I’m going to “make it” after college — I already *have*. Studying the same subject for four years while balancing life’s obstacles is not easy.

While I know the direction I want for my future, I know I have to be patient and positive. Some have told me, life is about

the journey, not an end result. It’s a process not a product.

Graduating college can either be frightening or motivating. I choose the latter. I’m starting to grasp that I’m adulting now. I’m about to embark in life after college. I choose not to be scared. Here I come (real) world.

Emory Saia is a junior majoring in Communication. To contact her, email opinoin@theeastcarolinian.com.

Education marks key to future



Connor Wilkins
GUEST COLUMNIST

If you were to take a poll of 100 people asking them what they think the most important political issue facing our country today is, the majority of the answers would be things such as jobs, the economy,

healthcare, immigration and foreign affairs. However, one answer you’re not as likely to get is education. Does this surprise me? Not really, especially considering the value our government has put on it in recent years.

Our society has become so focused on ridding the world of evil or sending a welfare check to someone living in poverty that we have forgotten about arguably the most important political issue in the modern era. And before you rush to judgement, I don’t advocate not helping our foreign allies in times of need or cutting

off welfare money to people who need it. What I do support is putting some effort back into improving our education system, because that would help us out more than you might think.

Former President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, “Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.”

Education is the foundation of our society. It allows us to protect ourselves in ways that are far beyond our imagination. Education leads to getting a job, which in turn will help boost the economy. It will help lower the unemployment rate. But that is only scratching the surface of what education can help you achieve. It will allow you to compete in an ever growing globalist world. It will help you to understand differing opinions and the reasoning behind them. The list goes on and on. America is already great and we just need

to tweak some things and change others around so we can get even better. In my book, education is at the top of the list for issues we need to address.

How can we fix education? The answer is simple, pump more time and money into improving the public school system. Many schools in areas of low population get neglected because they aren’t big and producing high test scores. If we gave them the attention they needed, then we wouldn’t run into those problems. When you are working on a project, the more effort you put into it usually equates to the product being better. The same concept applies to education.

The government doesn’t need to cut corners with it just because they think it isn’t important. This whole voucher situation to send children wouldn’t even be an issue if the public school system was up to par. And most importantly, we need to put people in the education sector of government that are intelligent, qualified

and know the difference between growth and proficiency (yes, I am looking at you, Betsy DeVos). At the rate we are going, our education system will go straight down the drain because we don’t have people that care or know enough about it running the whole system. We need to begin pushing an agenda that promotes our education system, not devalues it.

Being a future educator myself, I am probably more biased towards this issue than most people. We don’t want to go into the field of education because of the fame, glory or especially the pay. We do it because we want to empower future generations and spread our knowledge. We may not make as much as doctors, lawyers or engineers, but we are just as important as they are. It’s time to start caring about the field of education again, because let’s be honest, where would we be without it?

Connor Wilkins is a junior majoring in history education/histoy To contact him, email opinoin@theeastcarolinian.com.



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Waka Flocka to headline Winter Concert



Waka Flocka Flame performs for a crowd. He will headline the winter SAB concert.

Staff Report

East Carolina University's Student Activity Board will host American rapper Waka Flocka Flame featuring DJ Whoo Kidd as the main event for its Winter Concert Feb. 16.

Born in New York City but settled in Georgia, Waka Flocka had ties to the music industry from his mother, who was the manager of Gucci Mane and is the former CEO of So Icey/Mizay Entertainment.

Waka Flocka received his name "Flocka" from his cousin after the "Muppets" character Fozzie Bear's catchphrase, "Waka Waka."

Waka Flocka's breakthrough

single, "O Let's Do It," debuted back in 2009, which peaked at No. 62 on the "Billboards Hot 100" chart.

Waka Flocka has since become a member of 1017 Brick Squad with iconic musicians such as Gucci Mane, OJ Da Juiceman, Frenchie and Wooh Da Kid.

Collaborations with Gucci Mane on the album "Ferrari Boyz" and Drake on the single "Round of Applause" highlight Waka Flocka's musical journey, along with his second album, "Triple F Life: Friends, Fans & Family" and upcoming album, "Flockaveli 2."

Waka Flocka has also released a variety of mix tapes

through his career and his single "No Hands" reached No. 13 on the "Billboards Hot 100" chart.

The event will be held on Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium.

The concert will be free for students and \$15 for the public. Tickets can be purchased at the Central Ticket Office in Mendenhall Student Center starting today at 10 a.m.

Students can purchase one guest ticket during the student presale, running from today through Feb. 6., however unlimited tickets can be purchased after Feb. 7.

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

ALBUM REVIEW

Cole gets deep with '4 Your Eyez Only'



Jose Hernandez
TEC STAFF

North Carolina native J. Cole is back in his ambitious smorgasbord "4 Your Eyez Only."

Born Jermaine Lamarr Cole, the Fayetteville-based rapper found quick success and a fast ride to the top of

music charts.

After releasing his second mixtape in 2009, Cole had finally caught the attention of Jay Z, having put the rookie emcee on his album, "The Blueprint 3."

Just the next year, Cole was featured on multiple artists' works including Wale and B.o.B, but Cole's influence would not stop there.

At the turn of the decade, Cole found himself supporting and producing for even more prestigious acts such as Drake and Kendrick Lamar. At the same time, Cole's "Cole World: A Sideline Story" debuted with unprecedented success — going on to become No. 1 on the US Billboard 200 chart.

By the time 2014 came by, Cole had completed two more projects. "Born Sinner" and the "Truly Yours" series, both of which were met with positive reception, but Cole was still far from finished.

On Dec. 9, 2014 Cole released his third studio album "2014 Forest Hills Drive,"



J. Cole's newest album discusses deep subjects like fatherhood, racism and the price of fame.

which sold over 350,000 copies in the first week, and took the top spot on the Billboard 200 chart. Only two years later, the album was nominated for Best Rap Album and become certified platinum with no features.

Cole's fourth and latest studio album, "4 Your Eyez Only," is a mix of a lot of things. On one hand, it's a eulogy to a late friend and on the other, Cole is talking about the world through the eyes of a new

father.

"Neighbors" takes an incredibly dark turn, as it outlines how his empty childhood home was raided by a SWAT team on the bogus tip from a neighbor.

"4 Your Eyez Only" also takes no shame in highlighting key issues that Cole feels need addressing. Racism, fatherhood and the price of fame are all detailed in Cole's dark project.

Just like his previous works, Cole still

brings back his hard-hitting lyricism but unlike his older albums the production just does not seem to be there.

The first half of Cole's work brings about the high-energy back beats that flow perfectly with Cole's rhythm but after that it just seems to fall flat.

The latter end of the album is plagued by tired, flat sounding beats that just don't bring the same impact that one would come to expect from Cole.

Depending on who's asked, the serious tone of Cole's album can be a blessing or a curse. Some may say that all these issues need to be addressed and someone with the star power like Cole is just the mouthpiece to do it.

However, others may say that the preachy, melodramatic tone is the very downfall of the album that could have been another star hit.

Whichever position one takes, in favor of the seriousness or not, Cole still manages to deliver even if a whole song is dedicated to just folding clothes.

RATING:



3.5 out of 5

For questions or comments, contact arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

Northern vs. southern fashion trends at ECU

Madison Lawson TEC STAFF

Even though East Carolina University is south of the Mason-Dixon Line, it draws in a diverse group of people from all different parts of the country.

As with different cultures all over the world, people tend to dress differently the further north or south they are. As college students move to ECU for the first time, they bring various unique personal styles.

"I love wearing all black and statement pieces," said senior fashion merchandising major Elizabeth Condo. "Being from northern Virginia, I find myself gearing towards the tomboy look with ripped jeans since that is what I see in major fashion cities like New York and Washington, D.C."

Condo said fashion in the north is inspired by the fast paced city lifestyle and is neutral colored and edgy, often playing around with distressed denim and animals prints. Because major cities like New York employ over 2 million people, designers have also taken to designing practical and chic, blazers, pencil skirts, turtlenecks and trench coats.

Since it's colder, there's a whole season of nothing but fur, cashmere and leather textiles. Some prints found in the north have not made their way to the south.

"My snake skin boots are from Urban Outfitters," said Condo. "Urban is a little more grunge, so I see why it wouldn't be as popular down here."

Native North Carolinian and senior fashion merchandising major Alyssa Kotowski said there is definitely a difference in how northerners and southerners dress.

"I feel like southerners love to follow trends," she said. "That is why I am wearing my Kendra Scott Necklace, gold Sheila Fajl hoops, with a simple long sleeve red top and some over-the-knee boots."

As the tea gets sweeter the further you move south, so, too, does the fashion. Many girls give off a feminine southern belle vibe with classy yet vibrant looks. Kotowski said stripes, circle skirts, preppy silk blouses, modest necklines, floral patterns, big hair and a bold lip rocks the southern fashion scene.

While northerners shy away from being over the top, southerners tend to accessorize with bright colored necklaces, pearl earrings and the infamous cowboy boots.

"If it's monogrammed, we'll wear it," said Kotowski. "Southerners really love accessorizing and looking their best. Just look at what girls wear to football games."

Although fashion-forward attire differs amongst the top and bottom halves of the East Coast, people continue to mix styles together, regardless of where they come from or their preconceived notions of what part of the country wears what.

"When I came to college, I expected it to be all Lilly Pulitzer, but I was wrong," said Condo. "I ended up trying out some southern trends and really liking them."

Kotowski said she has noted that students combine fashion from all over. "ECU is a good mixture of both regions, I think that is what makes it so interesting and diverse," she said.

For questions or comments, contact arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

UPTOWN

continued from A1

down here. Somewhere where you could just come grab a beer and just hangout for a few hours with your friends, so I think it's really great."

As the Uptown Brewing Company's opening day rolls into opening week, the idea of hosting events throughout the year is turning into a possibility.

"Feb. 1, I believe, we're actually doing ECU's signing day here," Self said. "So, kids are going to be signing their letters of intent here. Our owner

Billy Dunn is a big ECU booster, so we were able to swing that which is great. Yeah, we want to be as much a part of Pirate football as possible."

On regular Friday and Saturday nights, the Uptown Brewing Company will be open until 11 p.m.

"Hopefully we can carry the momentum right through the weekend and into next week, that would be stellar," said Self. "I mean that's just more and more people that get exposed to our brand."

For questions or comments, contact arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

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The East Carolinian

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

				4					
		1			8	2			
6	2	8				7		5	
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Thursday's Puzzle Solved

1/31/17

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

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

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PUZZLES

ACROSS

- 1 Greek sandwich
- 5 Happy gatherings
- 10 Baby cow
- 14 Control for an equestrian
- 15 In full view
- 16 Buckeye State
- 17 Horse feed
- 18 TV's "The Practice," e.g.
- 20 "Bummer!"
- 22 Ford fiasco
- 23 Provides staff for
- 24 "That makes sense"
- 26 Champagne stopper or popper
- 27 Genius Bar pro
- 29 JFK's successor
- 32 High-card-wins game
- 33 Enjoy
- 35 Submitted tax returns with a click
- 38 Door holder's witticism
- 41 Part of Congress
- 42 Somali-born supermodel
- 43 Wide shoe size
- 44 Frat. counterpart
- 45 Aid in a felony
- 47 Traps in an attic?
- 49 Deborah of "The King and I"
- 51 Fictional Hawaiian police nickname
- 52 Rage
- 55 Procter & Gamble laundry detergent
- 60 Australia's "Sunshine State" ... or where you might find the ends of 18-, 20-, 38- and 55-Across?
- 62 "Go back" computer command
- 63 Sch. near the U.S.-Mexico border
- 64 Tweak, say
- 65 Raise a big stink?
- 66 Pops a question
- 67 Outlaw chasers
- 68 Hours next to flight nos.

DOWN

- 1 Branch out
- 2 "Okey-dokey"

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

By C.C. Burnikel

1/31/17

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	J	A		C	U	R	E	D		B	A	B	A
E	V	E	R		O	T	E	R	I		I	H	O	P
P	A	L	E	S	C	A	L	E	S		G	E	N	E
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S	L	O	P	P	Y				I	S	A			
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D	A	V	I	D		O	T	H	E	R		V	I	A
U	F	O	S		A	N	T	I	S		F	O	L	K
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			A	A	A				E	T	H	A	N	E
A	F	F	I	R	M		T	A	T	I		T	O	A
R	A	I	L		B	A	R	N	S	C	O	W	L	S
F	I	F	E		R	H	I	N	O		F	A	T	E
S	L	I	D		A	S	P	E	N		F	R	E	D

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1/31/17

- 3 Second actress to win an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony
- 4 GM system with an AtYourService app
- 5 Helps with the laundry
- 6 Happily __ after
- 7 Maker of the Genesis game system
- 8 Like many Shakespeare plays
- 9 MLB Cardinal's cap letters
- 10 Lear's youngest daughter
- 11 "I get it" cries
- 12 Green citrus fruit
- 13 Baby horse
- 19 Lousy grade
- 21 Sock that covers the joint it's named for
- 25 Biblical queendom
- 26 Pet store enclosures
- 27 Ref's ring decision
- 28 Spine-tingling
- 30 Margarine that shares its name with Texas' state flower
- 31 Ballet leaps
- 32 "Now, where __ I?"
- 34 "Sadly ..."
- 36 Red Sox ballpark
- 37 Hair coloring
- 39 Cocktail makers
- 40 Ambulance fig.
- 46 S.O.S shelfmate
- 48 Make certain of
- 50 Fish-eating eagle
- 51 Rapper with a title
- 52 Poolside shade
- 53 Pecans and cashews
- 54 Nerdy type
- 56 37-Down containers
- 57 Singles
- 58 Binged (on), as snacks
- 59 Pans for potstickers
- 61 Maple extract

COMIC

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THE Hook

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Ciaccia twins breed competition

Robert Milton III
TEC STAFF

Running every day, whether it be in practice or in meets, the Ciaccia twins, Nick and Andrew, are always competing and pushing each other's determination.

The two have been side-by-side for 20 years, so naturally they have become competitive with each other in practically everything. Whether it's video games, track, or anything else that could be made into a competition, the connection helped propel their athleticism and move their track careers forward.

"I would say we are best friends," Andrew Ciaccia said. "We have been there for each other for the past 20 years we have done everything together."

Both brothers find themselves in the top five runners for the distance discipline at East Carolina. They started their careers off in high school, competing alongside each other as well, and they each worked hard enough in the distance discipline of track and field, allowing them to earn themselves a chance to compete at the collegiate level together.

However, this is where Nick and Andrew found their first major separation from each other. Nick started his collegiate career at ECU and Andrew started his at the University of Toledo. Andrew chose Toledo due to a good relationship he formed during his high school career with the Rockets head coach.

Nick has been a quality competitor for the Pirates in his time at ECU. Last year he placed fifth in his first-ever conference steeplechase, ran as part of the conference team and then competed at regionals.

Andrew transferred to ECU last fall and started off his career during that same season. With his career at ECU starting later, he has already added to his accomplishments as he has eclipsed a top five placement on the team. His placement allowed him to earn points for the Pirates at the fall conference and regional meets.



COURTESY OF @ANDREW_CIACCIA1

East Carolina sophomore runners Andrew and Nick Ciaccia train for the Pirates track and field team.

"I felt that being back closer to home and with family would help fuel the fire a little more and get me competing more," Andrew

said.

The brothers being reunited helped them motivate and push each other more than when

they were apart. Both Andrew and Nick said working together through school and during track is a good thing.

"The competition between us doesn't get in the way. If anything, it helps me get more motivation," Nick said.

Not only does their competitiveness motivate each other, it has also helped motivate their teammates. Their teammates have called them a rivalry, because they are always battling for the top spot. This has allowed each team member to push further and "one-up" each other.

"If I'm taking the one step forward I am bringing someone with me, which then makes me take another step," Andrew said. "The competitiveness is contagious."

The two brothers found a new sense of renewal with competing together. Not only do they get to compete among each other, but they get to keep growing together both as athletes and as people. College can be a tough transition for anyone, but pushing through it with your best friend, and twin, makes it even better.

"Last year [when] he was at Toledo it was tough with that separation even though I had my older sister here," Nick said. "But now that (Andrew is) back it's like the good old days; like back during high school."

Another impact of the brothers being reunited and competing for the Pirates is that their parents do not have to split their attention between the two of them and their meets. This year, they have made it to most of their meets and this has been a great feeling, according to the brothers.

Overall, the duo has benefited from the presence of one another. As they continue to grow their rivalry likely will as well.

The brothers will return to action Feb. 3 in Blacksburg, Virginia for the Doc Hale Elite Meet.

For questions or comments, contact sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

Men's hoops looks to get first win on road

Carson Cherry
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina men's basketball team hits the road to take on Southern Methodist, trying to gain some traction to establish itself in the American Athletic Conference rankings as it goes for its first road win.

During their first meeting, the Mustangs (18-4, 8-1 AAC) dominated the Pirates (10-12, 2-7 AAC), 75-44 at Minges Coliseum. All five starters for SMU scored in double-figures, while senior Ben Moore finished with 18 points. ECU was led by sophomore Kentrell Barkley, with 13 points.

SMU also out-rebounded the Pirates, grabbing 52 in all compared to ECU's 24.

The Mustangs come in having won 14 of their last 15, with their only loss coming against AAC-leading Cincinnati, who currently sit at No. 14 in the nation.

SMU couldn't quite break into the top 25, but are sitting pretty at No. 26 in the country after receiving 69 votes in the AP top 25 poll, and sit second in the AAC behind the Bearcats.

Redshirt junior forward Semi Ojeleye leads the Mustangs in scoring, averaging 17.7 points per game, while the Mustangs have four players with a scoring average in double figures.

The Pirates are still without their leading scorer, junior guard B.J. Tyson, who was averaging 11.9 points per game before suffering an injury.

Of the players healthy to play, Barkley leads the team averaging 11.6 points per game this year.

"There's a lot of adversity basketball throws at you, like losing a leading scorer," said acting head coach Michael Perry.

One of the crucial things ECU needs to do in order to change the results from the last meeting with SMU is to grab rebounds. Graduate transfer Andre Washington is the leader in rebounds for the Pirates, averaging seven and a half per game.

However, in the game against the Mustangs earlier in the season Washington only came down with four rebounds.

"We've been putting a lot of emphasis on rebounding the last few weeks," said Perry. "The final phase of defense is rebounding and there's times in practice where there's no



DANIEL GAJDA | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Jeremy Sheppard (1) goes up for the open layup.

points for scoring, but only for rebounding."

ECU has been a great team defensively all season, holding its opponents to a 37.7 shooting percentage this season.

The Mustangs shot 41.7 percent in the first game against ECU, and the key for the Pirates is to lockdown the players they are guarding to contain the scoring.

Coming off a tough loss against the Memphis Tigers over the weekend, a win against a team like SMU will give ECU confidence and momentum to close out the rest of the regular season.

The game between the Pirates and the Mustangs will take place Wednesday at 9:30 p.m. in Dallas, Texas. The game can be seen on the ESPNNEWS.

For questions or comments, contact sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

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