



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Tuesday, 2.7.17

VOLUME 93, ISSUE 8

Greenville to use cameras at stoplights

Cayla Rodney
TEC STAFF

The Greenville Police Department will be upgrading its system to monitor intersections by installing cameras that will take pictures of drivers who run red lights, fining them \$100 starting this summer.

The cameras will be placed at five major intersection in Greenville; Charles Boulevard and 14th street, Charles Boulevard and Fire Tower Road, Arlington Boulevard and Fire Tower Road and Arlington Boulevard and Greenville Boulevard.

The city's system will be modeled after the structure already in place in Fayetteville, North Carolina. In Fayetteville, the city gives the red light camera vendor \$35 per ticket and the school board receives \$65 per ticket.

Hunter said Fayetteville's local school board "collected \$1.3 million dollars from red-light ticket revenue in the first year alone." This amount of revenue could create big opportunities for the improvement of local schools.

GPD also said "the program is at no cost to taxpayers and is entirely funded by ticket revenue."

"By law, money received from the tickets must go to the local school district," said Hunter. "The camera vendor is allowed to get a small percentage of the fees to pay for the operational costs and maintenance of the system."

"If you run a red light, the cameras will take a photo of your license plate. An officer will review the photo and a civil citation will be sent to the registered owner of the car," said Kristen Hunter, the Greenville Police Department public information officer.

She said the camera will only take pictures of "cars that pass over the stop line after the light turns red. If you are in the middle of the intersection waiting for oncoming traffic to pass when the light turns red, you will not get a ticket."

The tickets are a civil citation instead of a criminal citation, which means there is no court procedure and no points will be added to the violator's drivers license.

> **RED LIGHT** page A2

City introduces new jaywalking ordinance

Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

Jessica Merklein
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Greenville Police Chief Mark Holtzman introduced a resolution at last night's City Council meeting, calling for a new ordinance which will make it illegal in designated areas to cross through a street within 150 feet of a marked crosswalk.

During his presentation, Holtzman stressed to the council this legislation will not be enforced throughout the whole city of Greenville, but only in certain places the department deems necessary for change.

"It is not a citywide ordinance. It focuses right where we are having accidents," said Holtzman.

Holtzman said the new ordinance will zero in on places that have a history of pedestrian accidents, including the crosswalk near The Boundary Apartments, as well as the one Stantonsburg Road and East 10th Street.

In just the past year, there have

been five pedestrian fatalities and 62 wrecks where pedestrians have been involved in Greenville.

"You are really taking your life into your own hands when you are crossing the street," said Holtzman. "Lives are being lost around the city, and it's tragic."

According to Holtzman, anyone who is in violation of this new legislation will be first given a warning, followed by a \$20 civil citation which will increase depending on the time taken to pay it off.

Holtzman said the police department plans to make signage a priority in these areas, using painted curbs, flags and signs to educate citizens on where crosswalks are located.

"To me this is about education," said Holtzman. "They need to know when they are in one of these zones."

Holtzman said the Public Works

Department projects a total cost of between \$2,500 and \$10,500 to pay for signage and pavement markings at each intersection.

In terms of the police department's plans for the crosswalk near The Boundary, Holtzman said public works is already in progress of installing pedestrian signals and fencing, in order to lead students towards using the crosswalk.

Holtzman said he has already been in conversation with Bill Koch, ECU's associate vice chancellor for Environmental Health and Campus Safety, about the plans for The Boundary. He said the university shares the city's concerns for pedestrian safety and is even willing to cover some of the partial costs of The Boundary project.

The East Carolinian will publish an update to this story as new information becomes available.

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



ECU students walk near the crosswalk on 5th Street near Cotanche Street. A proposed ordinance would make stricter crossing laws near campus.

City remembers BMX legend one year later

Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

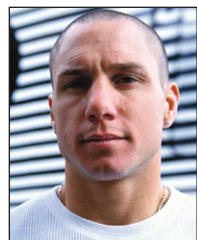
As the world remembered the one-year anniversary of local BMX rider Dave Mirra's death yesterday, Greenville celebrated the life of a man who inspired positive change for both the city and its residents.

On an average afternoon, anyone could visit Jaycee Skatepark in Greenville and see a community like no other. People of all ages gather at the park in hopes of forgetting about their lives for a while; but without Mirra, this sanctuary would not be what it is today.

Mirra moved to Greenville in the early 1990s, bringing with him a strong interest in action sports and a unique vision for the small town. With the help of his brother, Mirra set out to make Jaycee skatepark a place where anyone would want to practice. He turned Greenville into the BMX hub for people looking to train professionally and the home of a legend.

While most people were only familiar with Mirra the icon, some Greenville locals were fortunate enough to get to know the man behind the celebrity — the father, the husband and the friend.

Brian Lee, the owner of Lee House Art Studio and Custom Tattoo in Greenville, was a close friend of Mirra. Lee said he first met Mirra as a client at his tattoo



Dave Mirra

shop, where he helped design merchandise for Mirra, including DC shoes, shirts, as well as the cover for his video game. Lee said for him, his personal relationship was more important than any professional

relationship the two had. "Beyond that, as a friend, he was also the same guy that when I came to see him he was like 'Why haven't we had sushi lately?'" said Lee. "I've never not admired the iconicness of his career, but 20 years later the friendship is the thing I cherish the most."

As the anniversary of Mirra's death was approaching, Lee said he got the idea to build a memorial with Mirra's honor at Jaycee Park. Partnering with Tiebreakers Sports Bar and Grill, Lee put on a benefit concert and auction last Saturday night to raise the money to build the memorial.

The benefit featured music from Miss Nothing and Bryan Mayer and a variety of items for auction, including a Tony Hawk skateboard, a Travis Pastrana jersey, a Ryan Nyquist helmet, Connor Fields Olympic BMX jersey, VIP passes to X Games and many more. Out of the money raised from this event, 100 percent of all the proceeds is going towards the memorial for Mirra.

Lee said he wants the memorial to serve as a reminder of the person Mirra was not only for people who knew him, but also for people who were not familiar with his background.

"If someone who has never heard of him questions it (the memorial), they can look into it and find out what he was to this town, this community and to the world," said Lee. "If you were his friend, you were family. That is not going away to anyone who lives here for a very long time."

Mirra was an icon to people all over the world for his accomplishments as a pro-BMX rider. For most people daring to do the impossible seems just that — impossible — but for him it was simply a part of his profession. Mirra held the record for the most X Games medals until 2013 with a total of 24 and was later

inducted into the BMX Hall of Fame.

East Carolina University student Jacob Spurrier, a visitor of Jaycee skatepark, said Mirra's story serves as a reminder to him and other youth of what they can do if they push themselves.

"(For) me and everyone else here, it definitely kind of inspires you," said Spurrier. "Anytime you have hometown people become famous, you realize that it can be everyone's dream, and it can be accomplished."

Spurrier said he is grateful he has this place to meet other people in the community who share this common interest.

"It's basically a big family," said Spurrier. Lee said Mirra's love for Greenville showed in the fact he continued to stay in the town despite his celebrity status.

"Those of us who call this home, that relation and just seeing that, it made us all feel a part of something that was bigger," said Lee. "If you came to Jaycee Skate Park, it was the exact same thing as going to Michael Jordan's private basketball court and playing basketball with him."

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

ONLINE

» **AKA sorority 'double dutch' for heart awarness**

» **ECU basketball guard B.J. Tyson hopes to return to court soon**

SOCIAL MEDIA



@theeastcarolinian



Facebook.com/theeastcarolinian



@TEC_Newspaper

BRIEFS

NCDOT to Integrate Drones in Emergency Response

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is integrating drones into disaster relief efforts. The Department of Aviation hosted a three-day workshop in collaboration with 50 state and local government agencies and industry researchers. Officials held interactive demonstrations of drone operations in simulated scenarios. The goal is to open communications with the public so that hobbyist drones do not hinder disaster relief efforts.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

SGA hosts 'Soup'-er Bowl fundraiser

Mary Katherine Karcher
TEC STAFF

During February, several student organizations will compete in two rounds of competition to win the "Soup"-er Bowl Canned Food Drive, a month-long event produced by the Student Government Association to raise food donations that will benefit people in the Greenville area.

The event gets its name from the Super Bowl as the competition between the groups started the week of the big game. SGA's Director of Community Outreach Giovanni Triana said the goal of the event is to support the community surrounding East Carolina University.

"It's a great opportunity for student organizations to impact the greater Greenville area," said Triana. "In addition to getting recognition for the outstanding efforts of these groups."

The drop-off for nonperishable food donations will be at the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina located at 1712 Union St., in Greenville.

This is the first year SGA has put on the "Soup"-er Bowl Canned Food Drive. The event



Giovanni Triana

will bring together many student organizations, from those involved with Greek life to club sport teams. Each group will compete throughout the month to see who will bring in the most donations.

In order to raise more donations and make a greater impact, there will be two rounds of competition. The first round of donating will end Feb. 15, with the second round picking up again Feb. 16-28. The first round winners will be announced at 5 p.m. Feb. 15. An announcement for the second round winners is to be announced at a later date.

Based on the total number of pounds per group, there will be three top place winners. During the first round of competition, the first place winners will receive five tickets to the upcoming SAB Winter Concert featuring Waka Flocka Flame, an outdoor banner valued at \$120, and two printed sandwich board signs. Second place will receive an outdoor banner and two printed sandwich board signs.

Third place will receive two printed sandwich board signs. Prizes for the second round of competition are the same as the first with the exception of the Waka Flaka Flame concert tickets.

When it comes to putting together events like the "Soup"-er Bowl, Triana said anyone can introduce the idea but usually tasks need to be delegated and organized by the Committee of Community Outreach.

Triana put an emphasis on the fact that the overall goal of the competition is to help others.

"It's not really what SGA gets out of it, our whole purpose is to provide these organizations the opportunity to better impact the community so whether it's raising donations for people in need, it's our responsibility," said Triana.

While this is the first year SGA has put on the food drive, Triana hopes the competition becomes an annual event. "We will definitely do it again, especially if it is a successful event," Triana said.

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

RED LIGHT
continued from A1

Lawmakers chose this process because it is difficult to prove who was behind the wheel during the time of the offense.

"Our hope is that by having the cameras present, it will discourage drivers from running red lights and, in turn, reduce crashes and injuries associated with crashes," said Hunter.

GPD estimates that the cameras will be up and running in either July or August of 2017.

"Intersections will be marked with signs indicating there are cameras in place," said Hunter. "There will be a 30-day warning period when the cameras go up so everyone will know well in advance that they are there."

Information will also be available on the city website and social media. Greenville Police is also partnering with East Carolina University media and law enforcement as well as Vidant Medical Center to assist in informing the public on the changes.

The city saw this need for change after Greenville was reported to have one of the highest crash rates in the state.

"It is a problem that we are continuing to address," said Hunter. "Our officers investigate anywhere between 400 and 500 traffic crashes every month. Not every crash is at an intersection, but the ones that are often involve injuries."

The GPD said studies have shown that "red light violations drop by 40 to 50 percent when cameras are in place."

But with even with these statistics, other major cities across the country including Philadelphia, Miami, Chicago and many more have reported issues with this program. Motorists have reported faulty timers on the cameras resulting in many over rulings on tickets. Other cities have even repealed the program.

"All photographs will be reviewed by an officer prior to a ticket being issued to avoid any concerns about computer error," said Hunter. "There will be an appeals process and you can choose to have a non-judicial administrative hearing if you wish to dispute the ticket."

The idea was proposed last year by the City of Greenville and Pitt County Schools and was then approved by state lawmakers in June.

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



A stoplight in the grid sits on red. Some stoplights will soon be equipped with traffic cameras. PARIS SILVER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO GET.

ATTEND THIS INTERACTIVE SESSION TO POTENTIALLY MEET YOUR FUTURE ROOMMATE. LEARN TIPS FOR ON-CAMPUS AND OFF-CAMPUS TO EFFECTIVELY LIVE WITH OTHERS.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

WELLNESS PASSPORT EVENT

Roommate
Roulette

2/7/17 @4pm

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT SAO @ 252.737.1808 OR VISIT ECU.EDU/SAB. INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING ACCOMMODATIONS UNDER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) SHOULD CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT FOR DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE EVENT AT 252.737.1016 (VOICE/TTY). THE EVENT IS SPONSORED BY STUDENT FEE DOLLARS.

East Carolina University
CAMPUS LIVING

sab

East Carolina University
OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT SERVICES

Today thru Thursday at Dowdy!

GRAD
EXPO
2017

Get everything you need for graduation!

Feb. 7 & 8 • 10 am - 7 pm
Feb. 9 • 10 am - 4 pm

Pick up your cap & gown!

Order your class ring!

Get information & offers from:

Alumni Association • Pirate Club • The Buccaneer
University Frames • Rec Center • Registrar's Office
College of Education Office of Alternative Licensure
Career Services • Custom Stoles

Enter our drawing to win:

Diploma frame from University Frames
One of three \$100 Dowdy gift cards from Jostens

20% OFF

Diploma frames, both online & in the store
Regular price apparel & gifts

Jostens®
www.jostens.com
1-800-854-7464

Part of the
ECU 2017
SENIOR SENDOFF

Tues., Feb. 7 • 11 am - 3 pm
Wright Plaza

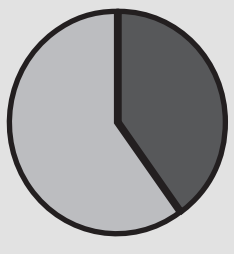
DOWDY
STUDENT STORES

Wright Building
252-328-6731
www.studentstores.ecu.edu

Apparel and in-store frame sales are Feb. 7-11. Online frame sale is Feb. 7-12. No coupons or other discounts permitted. If you miss the event, caps, gowns & other graduation items will be available at Dowdy Student Stores after the Expo. No purchase necessary to enter drawing. One entry per student, May 2017 graduates only.

ANSWER

Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?



40 % Patriots
60 % Falcons

QUESTION

Do you think ECU should change its policy for smoking on campus?

Vote online at www.TheEastCarolinian.com

Our view

Limiting tobacco on campus benefits all

On Jan. 18 the Student Government Association General Assembly passed a resolution in an 20-18 vote to support a potential expansion of the no smoking zone on East Carolina University's campus from 25 feet to 100 feet, starting in the Fall of 2017.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that this resolution, along with the \$20,000 grant ECU received to help change smoking policies on campus, is greatly beneficial. Not only would this policy promote healthy living, but it pushes an environmentally safe idea onto campus. Although increasing the acceptable smoking distance on main campus may be an inconvenience to smokers, it is

still a smart policy for the university.

With any luck, enacting this policy will make a profound change both on campus and in the lives of ECU students. Joining the ranks of many campuses across the country, increased tobacco regulations not only increase the relative comfort of non-smokers and increase their safety, but also encourage students to reconsider a harmful habit.

In the end, an increase of 75 feet is a rather marginal change in policy that will make a tremendous change in the high traffic areas in our campus, and only a mild inconvenience to smokers who are forced to walk only a tiny bit more.

Respecting the rights of others



Dimitri Dragones
TEC COLUMNIST

Its all Greek to me

It may come as a shock to many of you, but you don't get to violate someone else's rights or destroy property because what someone said made you very angry.

Someone thought it was a great idea to punch a man named Richard Spencer on live TV. This was done because Spencer is, more or less, a white supremacist and espouses views in accordance to that philosophy. His political views are about as vile as you'd expect, but what shook me was what cropped up afterwards. The violence was based on a simple idea. People hated Spencer, they hated his ideas, so it became acceptable to make him be quiet using force. Thousands upon thousands lauded this basic violation of civilization's first principle, that you don't beat others because you don't like them, as a great idea.

Milo Yiannopoulos, a man who can basically be described as a semi-Right wing provocateur, visited Berkeley University to give a speech. Protests started up with no significant violence at first, but eventually activists showed up cloaked in black with face masks and thus began a night of fear, of activists swirling with protesters pushed over the edge into a mass riot. What followed was damaging property, with some more notable accomplishments of setting fires and beating a man unconscious. This was justified because the part-Greek, part-Jewish, gay man who prefers the company of black men was a neo-Nazi. Yeah, that's something the activists actually believe.

If the logic doesn't inspire you then you may be unfortunate enough to possess a brain and at least two neurons to get a spark from. Intimidation as a means of political opposition has a dirty and bloody history. There's no point in just stopping at physically assaulting someone, you might as well set fire to Spencer's house or break his

windows.

There's also the million-dollar question here: If someone's speech is enough to warrant violence against them, it would follow that doing violence in return is perfectly justifiable, right? Now maybe some of you want to start a war in the streets between so called "anti-fascists" (the perpetrators of violence) and whoever their targets are, but I prefer not having to duck bricks and step around rubble on my way to get some food.

Maybe it's a fantasy that I can convince anyone anymore on principle, that I and others have to rely on the fear of mutually assured destruction or retaliation to make others not beat people, to not set fires or destroy things, but it's worth a try. Part of being in society means you have to give up certain things. One of those things is you agree that your political ideas and philosophies will stand on their own merits, that no one has the right to the stick to beat others into agreement. We as a society agree that, in order to get the best possible outcome for Western civilization, all ideas stand on their

own merits. The implication is that certain ideas are good enough that they rise to the top and leave the others at the bottom.

This is effectively where we are now, large splinters of the left effectively lost their mind when Trump won. They are incapable of coming to the conclusion that Trump won, to a large extent, because voters decided his ideas were better than Clinton. These protestors first and only goal is to make people see their way. They lost in the intellectual sphere, so they go to violence and intimidation. They want to make you think like them, or shut up. Their value of you is limited exclusively to how hard you believe what they believe. So better sit down, shut up, and follow the crowd, lest you be submitted for some forced re-education, comrade.

Dimitri Dragones is a senior majoring in business administration. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Human labeling hurts patriotism



Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF

Labeling is a neat trick humans have created. It sweeps different topics in categories, dusts off confusion and makes a chaotic world organized in a fresh, shiny manner.

Labels divide an item, belief or ideal from another in order to spare the sanity of the next person who will encounter it. Although, those same categories humans use to distinguish staples from paper clips are being used in a much more cynical manner these days.

Man, woman, gay, straight, rich, poor, Republican or Democrat; these are all labels that organize, yet instead of giving our brains peace for calming dysfunction they seem to draw lines. These lines divide people in the same way as a border may separate warring nations.

In a video created by Love Has No

Labels, professional wrestler John Cena makes a point that patriotism for the United States should be the same as loving every citizen of this country.

"This year patriotism shouldn't just be about pride of country. It should be about love. Love beyond age, disability, sexuality, race, religion and any other labels," Cena said. "The second any of us judge people based on those labels, we're not really being patriotic, are we?"

In just three and a half minutes, Cena may have a planted doubt in the minds more than 20.4 million viewers over just how patriotic they are. He didn't insult anyone, make a political statement or even source baseless information, all he did was look into a camera and use the gift of free speech.

The point he makes is simple. To be patriotic about the United States someone must love America. That means an American should love all Americans, because a major aspect of any country is its people.

In the Constitution of the United States of America, the Gettysburg Address or the Declaration of Independence there is no reference to one group of Americans being the best. This nation's greatest literature identifies and empowers all equally.

In a nation built on immigrants, dreams, blood, sweat and tears, how is unification possible? Every human is naturally different from the next so how did the founding fathers of this nation expect everyone to get along? The answer is life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Whether someone is a first generation American or their family has been here since the British surrender at Yorktown in 1781, every immigrant comes to the United States for a common reason. As a nation we make a promise to all that if someone works hard enough, dreams big enough and never stops, whatever they want is possible. Every child who grows up in America is taught the same ideal that every migrant wants, the "American

Dream."

To conclude, consider this: it is simple to type some spiteful words on a screen and click a mouse all in the darkness of the internet. To hate another has become as easy as lifting a finger and letting it fall over a mousepad. But, as Americans we have never been lazy.

We fought for independence from one of the largest colonial empires and won, American footsteps inhabit another celestial body and let's not forget that some of the greatest talent in the world comes to America to succeed. Therefore, no, we as Americans are not lazy. When pushed into the dust, no matter what they believe or who they are, any American stands right back up and fights harder. Therefore, from one American to another let us not become lazy. Let us unite and love each other because if we truly love Lady Liberty we should unify under her torch.

Matthew Prensky is a sophomore majoring in political science and communication. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.



Our staff

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Seth Gulledge | Editor in Chief | Annah Schwartz | A&E Editor | Brian Wudkwych | Copy Chief |
| Corey Keenan | Managing Editor | Kai Jones | Sports Editor | Andi Caruso | Multimedia Director |
| Mattia Mitchell | Production Manager | Paris Silver | Photo Editor | Ashley Federici | Social Media Manager |
| Javeria Salman | News Editor | Lindsay Rayner | Opinion Editor | Jordan Philippeaux | Business Manager |

Serving ECU since 1925, The East Carolinian is an independent, student-run publication distributed Tuesdays and Thursdays during the academic year and Wednesdays during the summer. The opinions expressed herein are those of the student writers, columnists and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of the faculty, staff or administration at East Carolina University or the Student Media Board. Columns and reviews are the opinions of the writers; "Our View" is the opinion of The East Carolinian Board of Opinions.

As a designated public forum for East Carolina University, The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor limited to 250 words. Letters may be rejected or edited for libelous content, decency and brevity. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number.

One copy of The East Carolinian is free. Each additional copy is \$1. Unauthorized removal of additional copies from a distribution site constitutes theft under North Carolina law. Violators will be prosecuted.

Contact Info

The East Carolinian
Self Help Building,
Greenville, NC, 28889-4353

Email: Editor@theeastcarolinian.com
Newsroom: (252) 328-9238
Ads: (252) 328-9245 **Fax:** (252) 328-9143

EVENTS

TODAY

Spring Grand Expo
ECU Dowdy Student Stores
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Phi Alpha-Chi Zeta Fundraiser
Panera Bread
4-8 p.m.

State of the District: Pardon Our Progress
Uptown Greenville
5-7:30 p.m.

Pitt County Schools Board Meeting
1717 W 5th St., Greenville, NC
6:30-8 p.m.

Basic Computer Class
Sheppard Memorial Library
9-11 a.m.

TOMORROW

Spring Grand Expo 2017
ECU Dowdy Student Stores
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Basic Computer Class
Sheppard Memorial Library
9-11 a.m.

State of the District: Pardon Our Progress
The Martinsborough
5-7:30 p.m.

Student critiques films

Andi Li
TEC STAFF

Angel De Jesus
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



Sitting in his room late at night, surrounded by homework, Andrew Fiorini turns on a camera and starts talking.



Andrew Fiorini

Fiorini is a junior theatre education major who has a passion for film and wants to let others know of his views on certain films, while bringing them into the discussion as well. He started a Youtube channel called "College Critic," posting reviews of both recent and classic films.

"I try to make it as candid as possible," says Fiorini. "I don't want to come across as fake, I'm just a guy who loves movies."

Recently, Fiorini has been watching the films up for Best Picture at the 2017 Oscars and he hopes "Arrival" wins.

"It blows me away every single time," Fiorini

said. "I know what's coming, but it's so well made."

Fiorini's passion for movies comes across as he talks to the camera from his dorm room instead of doing homework.

He was pleasantly surprised with Hidden Figures, which is also nominated for Best Picture and won at the Screen Actors Guild Awards for its outstanding cast.

"I remember seeing the trailers for it and thinking, 'This looks good,'" Fiorini said. "It was so revolutionary, and it was able to be seen on all levels 'cause it was a PG movie."

Fiorini was inspired by other Youtubers like Chris Stuckmann and Jeremy Jahns, who do weekly movie reviews.

"Hey, these people are doing this out of their houses and pretty basically, I could do that," Fiorini said. "Well, I'm at school, I should call it College Critic. I should do it pretty basic and see where it goes."

Fiorini films the majority of his videos late at night, during the few spare moments he has between homework and sleep. Fiorini has

goals for his channel, but mostly just wants to facilitate discussion about film with many different people.

"I just want to talk about movies," Fiorini said. "Film and theatre are ways of taking real life and putting it in staged events. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't but when it works and it tries to convey a point, it can be done really well. What I am trying to do is bring that stuff to the light and for people to create discussions."

It's in discussion that Fiorini finds the true meaning of art and film, and that's what he's working for.

"I might like something you don't and vice versa," Fiorini said. "That's film, that's art. I am open for discussion and I think that is great, especially when something is polarizing, I think that is when the great discussions happen."

Fiorini's reviews can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/collegecritic/>

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

Jean brands promote body shapes

Madison Lawson
TEC STAFF

When all other pieces of an outfit fails, there will always be the tried and true blue jeans. Everyone has a favorite pair. The ones that go weeks without washing so the color won't fade. The ones that make rear-ends look flattering. The ones that hug curves perfectly.

"My all time favorite jeans are ones with an amazing fit," said junior fashion merchandising major Morgan Price. "They feel great and not to mention they look great."

Denim has been a statement piece in wardrobes for centuries. After creator Levi Strauss marketed this garment back in the late 1870s, it has evolved numerous times to stay in style. From a skinny fit, flared fit, boyfriend fit, distressed wash, acid wash, to fun colors and patterns, Price says jeans will never go out of style.

"They're so versatile and accessible," said Price. "You will see people like the Kardashians wearing jeans, and you will also see regular people on the street wearing them as well."

In a world where seemingly more and more light is being shed on body shaming, shopping for figure-flattering clothes has become challenging for some.

Khloe Kardashian, in partnership with Emma Grede, scored a huge business deal by launching a new line of body-positive jeans called "Good American." Critics were shocked to hear that Kardashian raked in \$1 million in sales on the day of its release Oct. 18 and has been named "the biggest denim launch in apparel history."

According to the Good American Instagram, it is a fashion brand designed for a curvier, sexier and stronger shape. With sizes ranging from 00 to 24, Good American doesn't discriminate and appeals to a wide range of curvy or petite women. After selling out twice in the past couple of months, Kardashian appears humbled

and has posted on Instagram saying this brand is about loving yourself no matter what and that life is but a dream.

"Of course women are going to love it, her line is so inclusive," said Price. "Plus, Khloe Kardashian is always talking about being the best version of yourself, [along] with her new (television) show, she has built this brand within herself to help sell her clothes."

In comparison to Good American, other more affordable brands like Fashion Nova have a unique fit to them that makes them extremely figure flattering. With fibers made of 49 percent rayon, the jeans offer a tight fit that never sag or feel loose. They were built for women with hips and thighs, and include a waistline that comes up high enough to hide any insecurities.

"Since I am petite, my jeans are always too long and I hate it when they fade in the wash," said Price. "That is why I always shop at either American Eagle or boutiques to find jeans that fit well."

American Eagle jeans, a common and convenient denim choice for many, are made with 99 percent cotton. It offers a more sturdy fit for both sexes and come in a variety of colors, washes and styles. Last September, American Eagle launched the #WeAllCan campaign to empower America's youth and honor individuality amongst the millennial generation. According to its website, it created this campaign because no two people are the same and people deserve jeans that make them feel like their best, most authentic self.

"The best part about wearing jeans is that you can dress them up or down," said Price. "You can pair a dark wash with a nice blouse and necklace and it can be business casual. Or you can pair an acid wash with a flannel and go for a grunge look. I think that is why people love them so much."

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



Khloe Kardashian wears her own jeans brand, Good Americans.

Crowds go 'Gaga' over Super Bowl halftime show

Lauren Sura
TEC STAFF

With country star Luke Bryan starting last night's Super Bowl with "The Star-Spangled Banner," Super Bowl LI hosted American singer, songwriter and actress Lady Gaga for its halftime show.

In a dazzling silver one-piece, Gaga opened her show atop NRG Stadium, serenading the crowd with a rendition of Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land" under the night sky with drones forming an American flag.

While people will argue about the political contexts of Gaga's performance, it was nonetheless entertaining to the people watching.

Gaga leapt into her performance by flying down to the stage on suspension cables and began her set with her first hit song, Poker Face, and playing to the crowd with the words, "I wanna hold 'em like they do in Texas plays."

Laser lights, drones, flares and fireworks decorated the performance while Gaga sang to the audience.

Gaga then let her hair down and let

loose in a song and dance performance of "Born this Way," where fire and accents of purple and blue illuminated the stage, which was then followed by the song "Telephone."

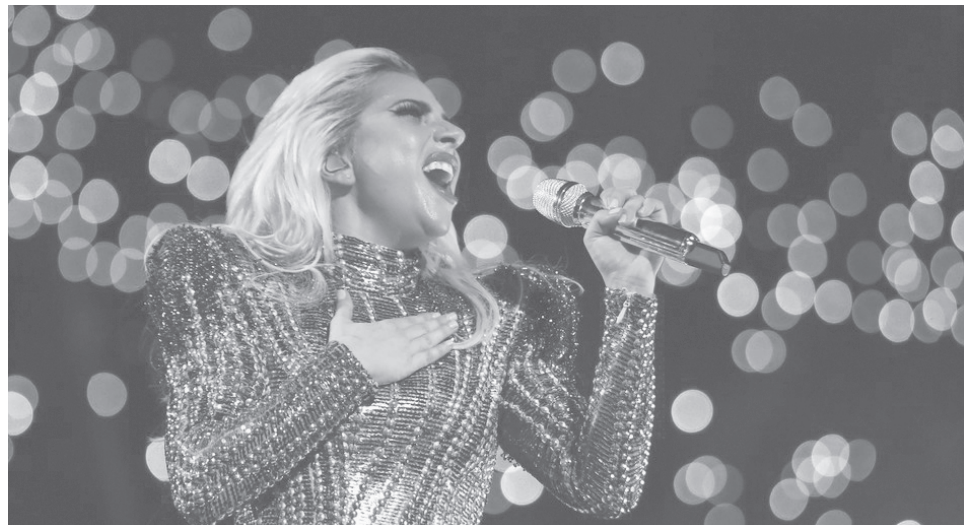
Gaga proceeded to bring out her keytar and sing her song "Just Dance" in a sea of purple lights.

One could argue that Gaga truly shined in the emotional performance of her song, "Million Reasons." The entire field was lit with lights held by audience members and dancers as Gaga showed her true, raw talent as a musician.

Gaga ended her entertaining show with a performance of "Bad Romance," in which she and her dancers wore outfits representing football gear.

In a stadium soaked in red lights with flashes of white and blue, Gaga rose above the stage on a pedestal that she continued to show not only her musical talents but her dancing talent as well.

Carried above a crowd of rainbow lights, Gaga closed the show with a jump off a star stage structure, catching a football after throwing the microphone to



Lady Gaga performs during the halftime of Super Bowl 51 where she began on top of the NRG dome.

the floor with fireworks sending her off.

In a press conference before the game, Gaga said her fanbase was the driving factor behind her performance.

"One of the things I'm most excited about for this halftime show, as much as it is a great moment for me in my life, I really don't feel like it was given to me, it was given to them," Gaga said. "This

performance is for everyone... I want to, more than anything, create a moment that everyone that's watching will never forget."

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

HOUSE FOR RENT

PIRATEPLACES.COM It's time to pick your perfect house across the street from ECU. We have over 90 of the best and closest houses next to ECU. Go to PIRATEPLACES.COM and pick your favorite home that is listed as AVAILABLE!!! The lease for each home MUST start on the date listed in the home's description. We can show and sign a lease now for a lease starting this summer. Last year all of our houses were rented by March. Find your house now so you don't miss out. Go to PIRATEPLACES.COM today.

Development Center. We are hiring for subs and part-time positions right now. Must have great availability and flexibility. E-mail resumes to sarahelliott@opendooreducation.com. Check out more information about this and other positions under our employment section of our website at www.opendoorchurch.com. Must be 18 years old.

Friendly Sales Associate at Once Upon a Child. Full-time or Part-time. Will work around school schedule. Apply in store Monday through Friday 10-5.

WALK TO CLASS! 5,4 & 3 BEDROOM HOUSES all one to two blocks from campus. Private bedrooms with privacy locks. Central Heat/ Air, washer/ dryer, high speed internet, cable, monitored alarm system, lawn care all included. Some dogs ok. Available August 1. Call (252) 916-5680.

HELP WANTED

Calling all Early Education & Child Development majors! This is a fantastic opportunity for you to gain knowledge & experience in a Christian Child

VALUABLE ADVERTISING SPACE

252.328.9245 | SMAA@ECU.EDU
THEEASTCAROLINIAN.COM

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level: **1** 2 3 4

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

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

2/6/17

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

© 2017 The Mephram Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.

PUZZLES

ACROSS

- Most musicals have two
- Start to faceted or purpose
- Modern organizers, for short
- Countenance
- In front
- Wine prefix
- First chip in the poker pot
- Football with scrums
- Songwriter Kristofferson
- Player who shoots par regularly
- Malted relative
- Magnolia State school, familiarly
- Baseball misplays
- Calendar page
- Floppy disk backup device
- Forest official
- Angsty rock genre
- Michelangelo statue
- R&B's ___ Hill
- Changes gears
- Ballad for a valentine
- Start of a Poitier film title
- Seek ambitiously
- O. Henry works
- Mexican dip
- Virtually zero, and where the ends of 20-, 32- and 43-Across are literally situated
- Slick-talking
- Jokes and such
- Cupid
- Save for binge-watching, say
- '50s nuclear trial
- Dressed in
- River of Hades
- Barcelona babies
- Joint commonly replaced

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | |
| 14 | | | | | | 15 | | | | | | 16 | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | 18 | | | | | | 19 | | | |
| 20 | | | | 21 | | | | | | | 22 | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | | | | 24 | | | | | 25 | 26 | |
| | | | | 27 | | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | 31 | | | | |
| 32 | 33 | 34 | | | | | | | | 35 | | | | | |
| 36 | | | | | | 37 | | | 38 | | | | 39 | | |
| 40 | | | 41 | 42 | | | | 43 | | | 44 | 45 | | | |
| 46 | | | | | | | 47 | | | | | | | | |
| 48 | | | | | | 49 | | | | | 50 | | 51 | 52 | 53 |
| | | | | 54 | | | | 55 | 56 | 57 | | | | | |
| 58 | 59 | | | | | | | | | | | | 61 | | |
| 62 | | | | | | | | 63 | | | | | | | 64 |
| 65 | | | | | | | | 66 | | | | | | | 67 |

By Jake Braun

2/6/17

DOWN

- Accumulate, as a fortune
- Easy-peasy task
- Aquarium fish
- Moved stealthily
- Artist Chagall
- "Nah"
- ___ Mason: investment giant
- No-nos
- Poem of rustic life
- Critters hunted with a hugely popular 2016 mobile app
- Heroic exploits
- Young Darth's nickname
- Distress signal at sea
- La. or Dak., once
- Disaster relief org.
- Titanic rear end
- "So what" shoulder gesture
- Fabric flaws
- Egg: Pref.
- Fishing line holders
- Thin citrus peels
- Words spoken by a sweater?

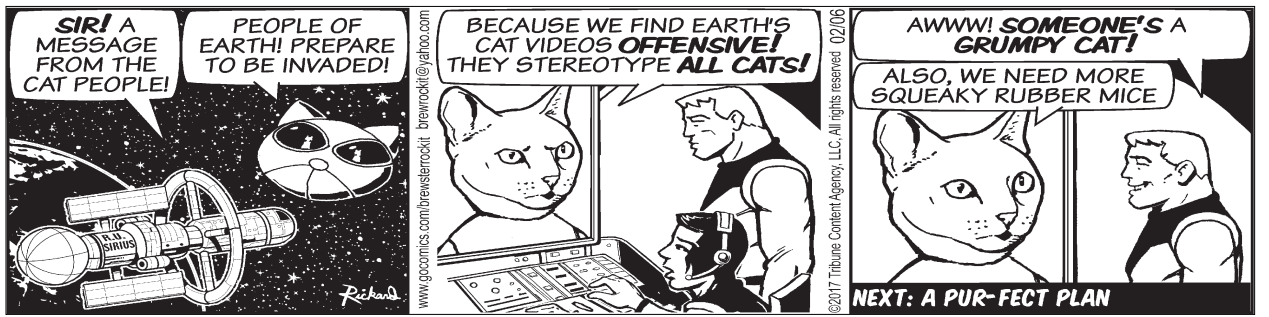
Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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

- Plant responsible for much itching
- Sitarist Shankar
- High side
- Locomotive furnace
- Cereal coveted by a silly rabbit
- Former "formerly"
- Seattle football pro
- Sharp as a tack
- Wharton's Frome
- Chihuahua citrus fruit
- Boring lecture, for example
- Share the same opinion
- Dark clouds, perhaps
- Aroma detector
- Leftover bits
- Classic sports cars
- Set fire to

COMIC

BREWSTER ROCKET



MAKE YOUR MARK

As a Student Media Executive

ECU Student Media is now accepting applications for MEDIA EXECUTIVES for 2017-2018



Must be a full-time student with a 2.50 GPA
Applications available at www.ecu.edu/studentmedia
or media board office
Self Help Building 301 Evans Street, Suite 205A, Greenville NC

Submit applications by
February 22, 2017 at 5pm

For more information email moyey@ecu.edu or call the Media Board office at 252.328.9236

the Big VAPE THEORY

E-CIGS, VAPES, E-JUICES AND HARDWARE

PARTY LIKE A PATRIOT

CLIMB ABOARD AND CHECK OUT OUR GREAT VAPE SELECTION!

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

2800 EAST 10TH STREET
(SHOPPING CENTER AT 10TH AND 5TH)



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Authorized retailer for top brands you want



TAKEAWAYS

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Head coach Rob Donnenwirth announced the 2017 signing class that consisted of ten new players from five different states..

MEN'S TENNIS

The men's tennis team picked up its sixth straight win in a blowout against Navy to stay unbeaten..

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Pirates dropped their seventh straight game to fall into last place in the American Athletic Conference (10-13; 1-9 AAC) in a 73-62 loss against Houston.

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Stefano Migliorati posted a time of 1:49.81 in the 800-meter, which is good for third all time in ECU history.

ONLINE



Follow us on Twitter at
@TEC_Sports for
ECU sports coverage.



www.theeastcarolinian.com

ECU soars past Tulane

Pirates earn third AAC win; second under Perry

Chase Carroll
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina men's basketball team picked up an American Athletic Conference win at home Saturday over the Tulane Green Wave, 74-65, after suffering back-to-back away losses at Memphis and Southern Methodist.

The Pirates (11-13, 3-8 AAC) came into Saturday's game after being handed a 40-point beatdown by the Mustangs on Wednesday. ECU came into the game looking to put that game in the rearview, and their focus was getting the season back on track by making a late season run, starting with a struggling Green Wave (4-19, 1-10 AAC) team.

"We are at a point in the year where your team can go north or south," interim head coach Michael Perry said. "We want to be able to change the culture and the history here, and be the team that actually goes north at this time of the season instead of south."

Senior guard Caleb White showed the character Perry had alluded to. After a month or so of frustration and poor play, he seemed confident in his shot once again. White led the team in scoring with 20 points, and knocked down three 3-pointers.

"It was like a weight off my shoulders," White said. "It was just about staying the course. Coach Lebo came into practice a couple times, and told me he was rooting for me. He told me that I've worked the hardest, that I'm one of the best shooters he's ever had. He was in my corner, he told me I could do it. I started on that a lot, and it paid off today."

Helping White with the scoring load were freshman Jeremy Sheppard with 18 points and sophomore guard Kentrell Barkley with 14. Barkley also pulled down 12 rebounds to earn him his sixth double-double on the season.

"It was just basically being in the play, doing the dirty work, getting my teammates involved. It was about competing, not giving up, and playing hard the entire time," Barkley said.

Shooting beyond the arc has been the Pirates' achilles heel the entire season, but Saturday was a different story. ECU hit most of its



ECU's Kentrell Barkley (15) goes up for a layup against the Green Wave Saturday in Minges.

open 3-point attempts, and even hit a few highly contested ones as well. The Pirates finished 12-of-21 from 3-point range (57.1 percent) to greatly exceed their season total that sat at 29.7 percent.

The Pirates held a 15 point lead with 16:16 left in the second half, but a late run by Tulane brought the lead to just three points with 5:10 remaining in the game.

Big plays offensively by Sheppard and Barkley down the stretch ultimately brought the game out of reach for the Green Wave, and great overall team defense shut down any hopes for Tulane as ECU stopped it from scoring in the last 2:54 of the game.

The Pirates will look to build off of this conference win and make sure their season goes north instead of south, as they go on the road Saturday to face South Florida. Something will have to give, as the Pirates are winless on the road this season at 0-8, and USF is winless in the conference at 0-10.

"We've got the character, we've got the grit, the toughness to be able to do it. It's within ourselves to be able to do that, but it's up to us to do it," Perry said.

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

Pair of ACL tears can't slow ECU's Gaffney

Sean Finnerty
TEC STAFF

Things couldn't have been going better for Kristen Gaffney. It was her senior year at Green Hope High School in Cary, North Carolina, she was having a great season, averaging 27.5 points and 8.9 rebounds per game, after already committing to play college ball at Vanderbilt.

Her excellent play didn't go unnoticed as she was named a Parade All-American and North Carolina Player-of-the-Year by several publications, including the Associated Press and the Raleigh News & Observer.

Then came the knee injury. Gaffney tore her ACL and missed the state playoffs. After recovering from her injury, the 6-foot-1 post player tore the ACL in her other knee. Gaffney missed almost two full seasons, not making her college debut until the final few games of her sophomore year.

Those devastating injuries could've been enough to derail anyone's career, but they served to strengthen Gaffney and help her become the player she is today.

While Gaffney now looks at the injuries as moments that helped her grow, that wasn't the case back then.

"I was in a really dark place," she said. "I was depressed; I put on weight after the surgery. I didn't leave the couch for three weeks."

But Gaffney put her nose to the grindstone and got herself ready to finally play college ball, only for bad luck to strike again.

"I pulled myself out of that one and then obviously to go back feeling better than ever at Vandy for a second summer session and tearing my other ACL was devastating," Gaffney said.

Understandably, doubt started to creep in Gaffney's mind.

"I had always believed in myself, but obviously I had doubted (myself) after having two ACL (injuries)," she said.

What kept Gaffney going was the support of her teammates and trainers.

"I really, really owe everything coming back to the people I was around," she said.

What helped her drive was the hope to get to play in a college game. She wanted to get out there, touch the ball and play in front of those people that had supported and believed in her.

Looking back, Gaffney's injury troubles helped her improve.

"The mental aspect, above everything, has made me so much stronger," she said.

The injuries also changed her outlook.

"Never taking a day for granted," Gaffney said. "Obviously you have bad days and better days, but never losing a day, always moving forward."

Once Gaffney conquered her injuries, she had one more hurdle to overcome: getting playing time.

In her last two years at Vanderbilt, Gaffney was mostly stuck as a role player, never averaging more than 5.3 points per game.

Having graduated and not wishing to end her college playing career on that note, Gaffney wanted to play elsewhere as a graduate transfer.

Enter ECU and head coach Heather Macy. Gaffney had a prior relationship with Macy, having attended Macy's basketball camps when she was coaching at Francis Marion University. At those camps, Macy impressed Gaffney as a coach.

"I really enjoyed her passion," Gaffney said. "I had never been around a female coach so passionate, so in your face and so involved."

Macy reached out to Gaffney about a possible transfer, and went over tape about how Gaffney would be used in the offense.

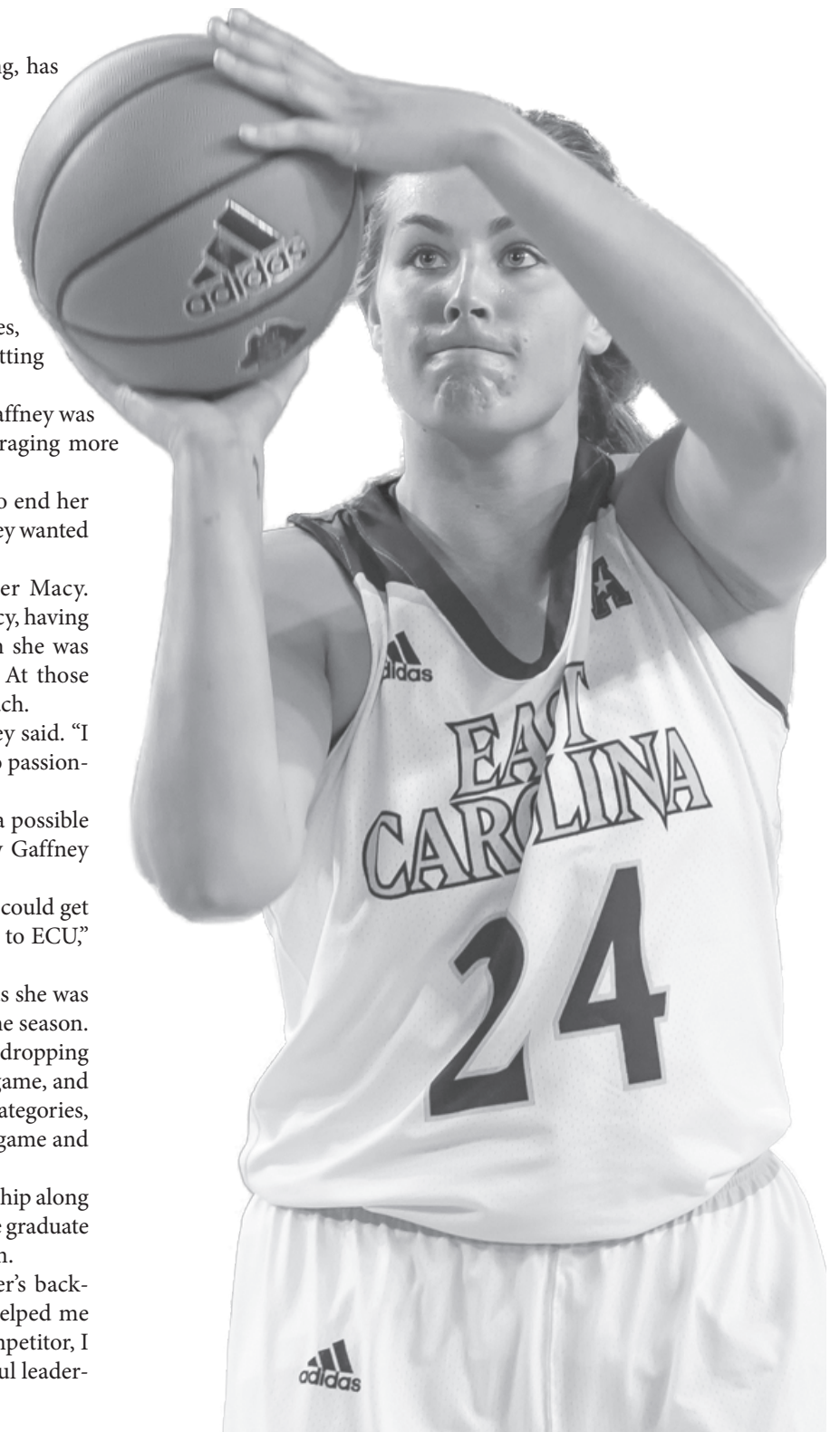
"I felt really confident in her that she could get the best out of me and I could give back to ECU," Gaffney said.

Gaffney was right to feel confident, as she was the go-to player since the first game of the season. She set a new career-high in points after dropping 32 against Detroit-Mercy in the second game, and is currently the team leader in several categories, including points per game, minutes per game and field goal percentage.

Macy believes their previous relationship along with Gaffney's intangibles have helped the graduate transfer's smooth transition into the team.

"Knowing each other and each other's background has helped her adjust and has helped me better coach her," Macy said. "She's a competitor, I think she's very mature and has wonderful leadership capabilities."

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



Kristen Gaffney readies to take a free throw attempt during a game this season.

PARIS SILVER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Pirates ready to chase championship

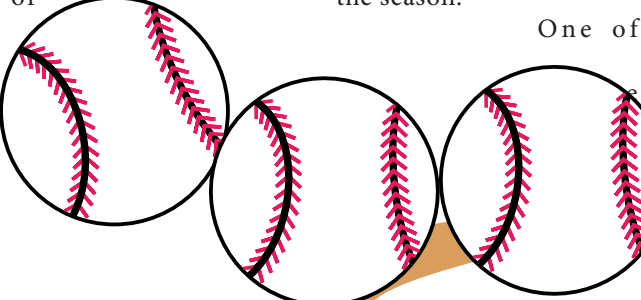
Seam Finnelly
TEC STAFF

As the East Carolina baseball team enters its season ranked No. 6 by Baseball America, its highest preseason ranking in school history, under third-year head coach Cliff Godwin, the expectations are higher than ever.

Godwin has led his team to back-to-back appearances in an NCAA regional, after missing out three years in a row before his arrival. During his tenure, ECU has also won an American Athletic Conference Tournament title and made a super regional appearance. There, the Pirates came up just short of making it to the College World Series, losing Game 2, 3-1 against Texas Tech, after stranding a man on third in the bottom of the 12th, before falling in the decisive Game 3, 11-0.

There's a lot of talk about the No. 6 ranking, but that's not something Godwin wants to dwell on.

"We just focus on getting a little bit better every single day, so we focus on the process," Godwin said. "We know that we have to get better every day because they don't pass out trophies at the beginning of the season."



reasons the Pirates are being tabbed to do well this season is their strong senior core, led by redshirt senior catcher Travis Watkins. The Most Outstanding Player of the Charlottesville Regional last year, he also had a strong regular season, averaging .326 at the plate while leading the team in hits, runs, doubles, RBI and home runs. Watkins, who was named one of the team captains for the second-straight year, leads off the diamond too.

"My goal is to get better every day and share my experiences with the younger guys," Watkins said. "We've got to be able to instill the culture that we built into the younger guys, so that when we leave it continues to improve."

Two younger players to keep an eye out for are first basemen and outfielders Bryant Packard, who attended D.H. Conley in Greenville and Spencer Brickhouse. Godwin described them as left-handed hitters with a lot of power, who are both polished for freshmen.

Another senior expected to lead the team is pitcher Evan Kruczynski. The southpaw, chosen as the Friday night starter for the second straight year, is the ace of the pitching staff. Last year, he led the team with an 8-1 record, posted a 2.01 ERA, and led the team in innings pitched and strikeouts.

Due to his success, Kruczynski has received several preseason awards. Among them, he was named Preseason AAC Co-Pitcher-of-the-Year and selected for two preseason All-America Teams (Collegiate Baseball/third-team and Perfect Game/third team).

But Kruczynski doesn't put much stock in preseason awards.

"They give out preseason awards for what I did last year," Kruczynski said. "It's nice to see, but I'd rather get a postseason win and be in Omaha."

The Pirates will begin their quest to win a national championship Feb. 17 in Oxford, Mississippi, where they will take on Ole Miss in a three game series.

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

ECU depends on depth

Golf to rely on youth in new campaign

Daniel Roberts
TEC STAFF

It won't be easy for the East Carolina women's golf team to top last year's performance, where it finished second in the American Athletic Conference tournament, reached the NCAA Regional Finals and finished with a national ranking of No. 29 by Golfstat.

Head coach Kevin Williams is heading into his 10th season and in his previous nine seasons he has led his team to eight regional finals berths.

Williams and his team will come into this season without last year's key golfer, Frida Gustafsson Spang, as she graduated after finishing the season ranked No. 10 by Golfstat. Spang finished as the AAC Golfer-of-the-Year after she set an ECU single-season record of four wins last year. She won a program-best six titles in her career overall.

Replacing Spang will be no easy task, however, if the fall season is an indication on the team's success, Williams is excited about this season and the future. He has a young team this year, as there is not a single senior on the roster and just one junior. Despite the lack of experience on the team, Williams believes this is one of the best rosters he has had so far in his tenure.

"One through seven, we have seven players on the team, is the deepest we have ever been," Williams said. "We may not be as top-heavy as we have been in the past, but we are deeper, and I think we have the potential to be better than last year's team because of that depth."

Part of that depth will be junior Lisa Pettersson, who was another key golfer on last year's team. She was a unanimous AAC selection as a sophomore after posting a 74.67 stroke average, and tallying four top-five finishes. Pettersson had a great fall season, averaging an even better stroke average of 72.67, and will look to build off of an already successful career thus far.

"She's kind of, in a lot of ways, lessened the blow of losing Frida (Spang) because she has played at that level," Williams said. "She is doing nothing but getting better each year, and we are very pleased with how Lisa's progressing, she's working really hard and her game's getting better."

After finishing last season No. 29, fin-

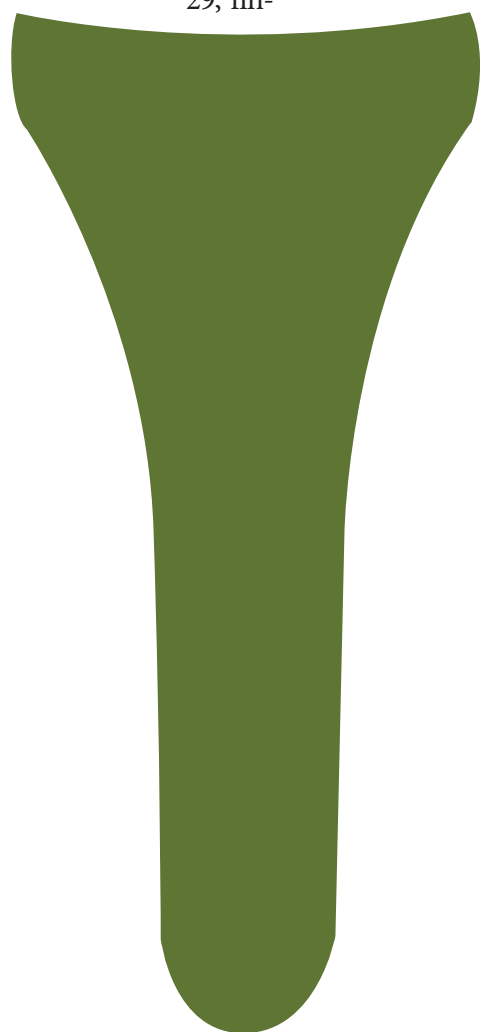
ishing second in the AAC tournament and reaching the NCAA Regional Finals, the Pirates have their minds set on winning the AAC Championship after coming so close last season.

"Without a doubt we want to win the conference tournament," Williams said. "I don't think there's a weak team in the conference, every sport in the American is strong. There's a lot of money in this conference with all of the programs."

To go along with winning the conference, Williams has his eye set even higher — making it to the National Tournament this season.

"We want to win the conference tournament," he said. "But our ultimate goal this year is to advance out of regionals, advance to the nationals, and play for a national championship, that would be our ultimate goal."

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



ECU's Ruiz settles in for second season

Seam Finnelly
TEC STAFF

East Carolina women's tennis star Celia Ruiz was a huge success a season ago, as she posted a 20-6 singles play record and completed her first full year living in the United States.

Ruiz ended the season at the No. 1 spot in the lineup for the women's tennis team, and was one of only three freshmen named to the 2016 All-American Athletic Conference team. If the 2016 fall season is anything to go by, she's learning and getting better.

A native of Pontevedra, Spain, Ruiz started off the fall season by participating in her first professional tournament, International Tennis Federation's women event in Charleston, South Carolina. It was an experience she calls "sweet and sour."

Ruiz breezed through three matches in the qualifying draw, but lost in straight sets in the first round of the tournament.

"After I went through the qualifier I was super excited about trying to win my first professional tournament round, so I pressured myself too much," she said. "I played the worst match I ever played in my entire life."

After playing in her first professional tournament, Ruiz accomplished another first. She was the first player in program history to be invited to play in the 2016 Intercollegiate Tennis Association Riviera All-American Championships held in Pacific Palisades, California.

Unfortunately for Ruiz, her mind was still on her loss in Charleston. She dropped both of her matches, without winning a set, but still has taken the losses in stride.

"It helped me mature," she said. "I've learned that you have to get over it. After a match is done, you don't have to carry it with you."

It's obvious Ruiz learned from those losses, because her record is 5-2 in singles play since the Riviera All-American Championships. That includes a four-match winning streak she ended the fall season on, and a third place finish at the Kitty Harrison Invitational, where she went undefeated.

Although Ruiz's record of 5-4 this fall season doesn't match last fall season's record of 5-2, she says this fall has been a lot better for her.

"I've learned a lot more, I've grown up a lot more even though I lost," Ruiz said. "That's worth a lot more for me than just winning. I need that experience, I need to lose."

Even though Ruiz didn't win a match at the Riviera All-American Championships, she and ECU didn't go unnoticed. A coach from a top school stopped Ruiz and her coach to offer words of encouragement.

"I felt super proud that somebody from a really good school could see that ECU is growing," Ruiz said.

Being the first Pirate invited to the tournament and representing ECU is something Ruiz doesn't take lightly.

"In that tournament I'm not playing for myself. I felt like in that tournament I was there to represent my university," Ruiz said. "When I think about it, it makes me almost cry, because I'm representing a whole university."

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

ECU looks to build off 2016 success

Chase Carroll
TEC STAFF

Courtney Oliver is entering her second season at the helm of East Carolina's softball team and hopes to improve on the 23-31 record her Pirates finished with in 2016, when her squad opens its season Friday.

The team will travel to the Red and Black Showcase in Athens, Georgia, where it will take on Syracuse University, Winthrop University and University of Georgia.

When Oliver took over for the Pirates, there was an instant improvement in all facets of the game, most notably pitching and offense. The 2016 Pirates saw a seven-win improvement from the 2015 team, and under Oliver the offense featured two players batting over .300, a mark that no player was able to achieve in 2015.

Oliver liked what she saw from her team last year, but sees even better things coming from her team this season.

"Our expectations never change," Oliver said. "We are here to win championships, and we've prepared them for that.

We've built ourselves a pretty good schedule to play the best competition in the country, and I think all we have to do is execute and

we will be right there."

Although Oliver expects her team to compete in the American Athletic Conference for a championship this year, she knows that the conference brings tough competition, as the Pirates won just three games in the conference all of last season.

"I certainly believe our conference is right up there. While we are not a 'Power Five,' we are definitely the sixth conference in the country as far as softball goes," Oliver said. "We had three teams from the conference go to the NCAA Tournament last year, so that speaks volumes for itself. We play in a very competitive conference, and I think it's some of the best competition in the country."

This season Oliver will bring back most of the pitching staff she had on the team last year, and will look to build off the improvement it displayed.

The most notable pitcher returning is senior right-handed pitcher Lydia Ritchie, who despite a lingering shoulder injury last season, was able to compile a 13-12 record with a 2.67 ERA. She led the team in strikeouts, games started, complete games, complete-game shutouts and opposing batting average.

Ritchie received preseason national recognition for her talents as she was voted the 35th best pitcher in college softball by "Fastpitch News."

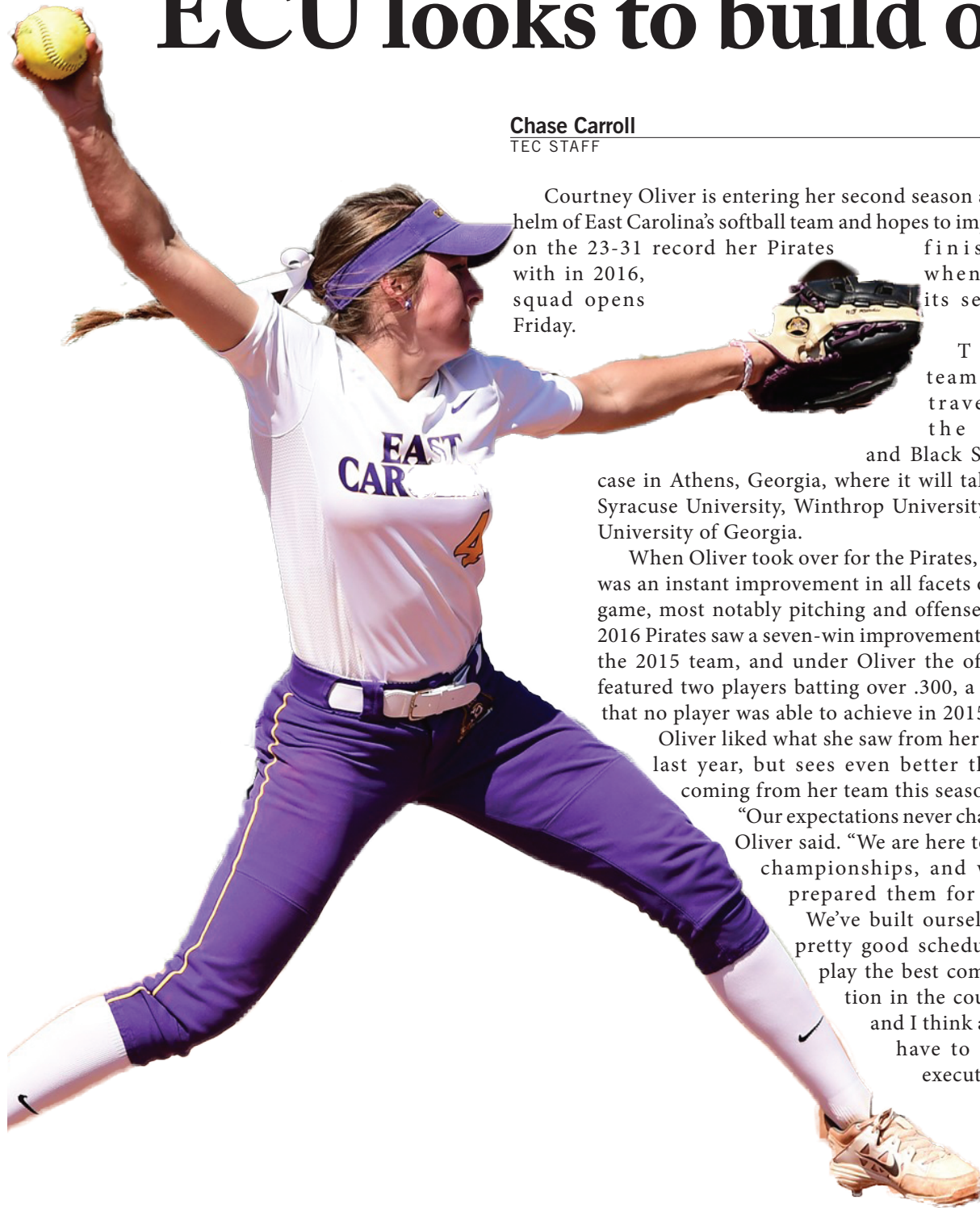
"I was shocked," Ritchie said. "All my teammates were excited for me, so it was flattering, it was a big surprise."

Ritchie is excited about the upcoming season, and believes she and the rest of the team can build off of the season they had last year, especially now that she is feeling healthy.

"I definitely feel like my injury, and the pitch count held me back a little bit [last season]," she said. "All in all we got to add another pitcher to our staff this year and the team is working everyday so as a whole even, we will be able to build off of what we did last year."

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

PARIS SILVER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN



Pitcher Lydia Ritchie winds up to deliver to the plate in a game last year. She led the team in strikeouts and recorded a 2.67 ERA.

Men's tennis springs into hot start

Daniel Roberts
TEC STAFF

A hot start by East Carolina's men's tennis team has resulted in a 6-0 start for head coach Shawn Heinchon and the Pirates don't appear to be slowing down anytime soon.

The six victories have come against North Carolina Central, Presbyterian, George Mason, Connecticut, Asheville and Navy, where the Pirates outscored their opponents by a com-

bined score of 36-6.

"We have been diligent in our work and in practice and are getting ready to go," Heinchon said. "All the guys realize that we have a lot of really good matches to start off. Their preparation has helped us play really well in the beginning and have a great start so far."

Half of their wins have been shutouts, which came against George Mason, and at home against North Carolina Central and Connecticut. Presbyterian posed the toughest competition yet for the Pirates as they won 4-3, and they also defeated Asheville by three matches, 5-2.

"We've been fortunate to get good leads with

some of the doubles matches which has carried over into some of our singles matches," Heinchon said. "A lot of times when things start going well, they stay going well."

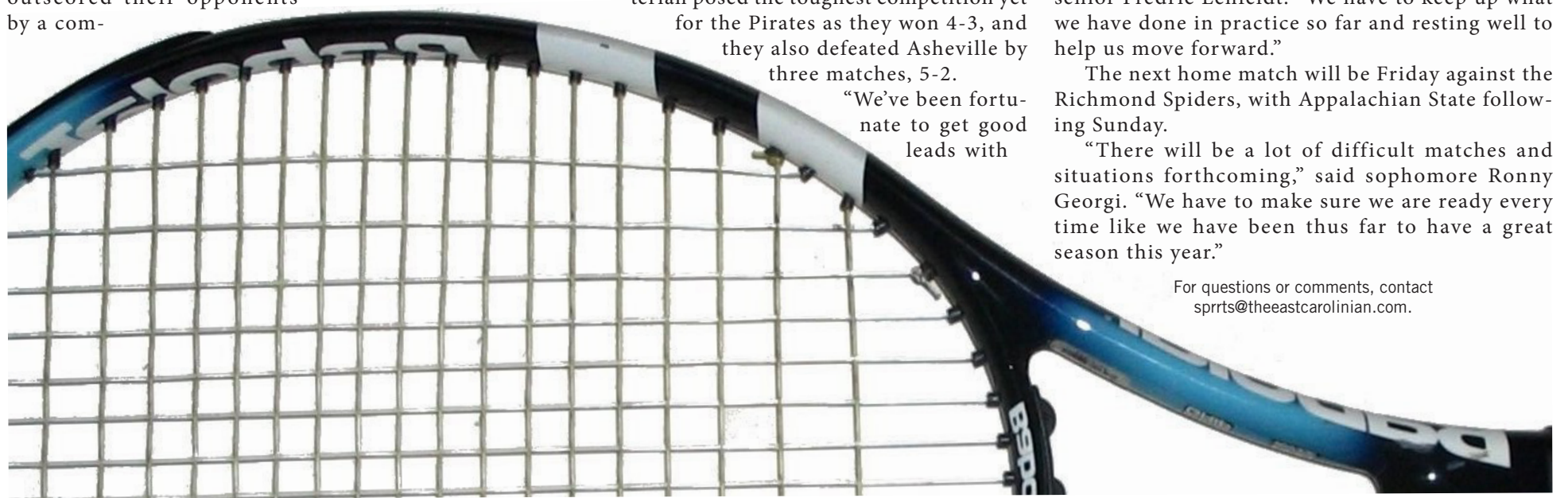
Moving into the spring season the tennis team has 18 games remaining with many matches coming on the home court for the Pirates.

"Having three courts to play on, and the rest of team cheering from the bench when he have been at home has really helped us perform well," said senior Fredric Lehfeltd. "We have to keep up what we have done in practice so far and resting well to help us move forward."

The next home match will be Friday against the Richmond Spiders, with Appalachian State following Sunday.

"There will be a lot of difficult matches and situations forthcoming," said sophomore Ronny Georgi. "We have to make sure we are ready every time like we have been thus far to have a great season this year."

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



Pirates hope to replace graduated athletes

Seam Finney
TEC STAFF

East Carolina's track and field team looks to improve from last year's outdoor season, while trying to fill the shoes of record-breaking high jumper Avion Jones.

The Pirates have been working all offseason using the cross country and indoor track season to help prepare themselves. This year the Pirates brought in 22 freshmen to help replace the now-gone athletes. The track and field team found great strength in their throwing and jumping.

"The combination of upperclassmen and outstanding freshman are going to help carry the team into the outdoor season," head coach Curt Kraft said.

The throwers have continued their success from last year in the outdoor season. Senior Adam Manns has been placing in the top eight throughout the indoor season meets in both the shot put and weight throw.

Junior Mohogany Baker is currently ranked third in the American Athletic

Conference in the weight throw. Some of the sprinters have made themselves into top contenders in the conference, such as Courtney Warner who is ranked sixth in the 60-meter and fifth in the 200-meter event.

"I don't see my final season being tough however, I will miss the throwers tremendously," the senior Manns said. "There is also a great group of young throwers that have come to ECU within the past two years that have helped create a very fun environment."

The distance discipline has been making strides towards being top contenders. Sophomore Nick Ciaccia is ranked in fourth in the 3,000 meter race in the AAC. Sophomore Grace Sullivan led the successful women's cross country team this season and has been working during indoor to help expand upon her performance from last season.

"This is an amazing group of ladies we have on the team," Grace Sullivan said.

Kraft finds throwers to stand out in the outdoor season, specifically Manns will

be the focus in the discus, and freshman Adam Sadowski in the javelin throw. On the women's side Kraft expects senior Lauren Lubarski to do well in the javelin throw as well. He also expects the women competing in the steeplechase, such as Sullivan, to stand out this year.

"These are two people who really stick out when it comes to their potential for this upcoming outdoor season," Kraft said.

The biggest challenge the Pirates have coming into this year is filling olympic-qualifying jumper Jones' shoes in the high jump and broad jump. Avion lead the Pirates in both events last year and went on to earn a spot on the United States Olympic team.

This indoor season, ECU has two high jumpers ranked in the top-10 in the AAC. Sophomore Jonte Leaston is fifth and junior Tyler Banks is tied for eighth, both of whom made their high marks this season at the Dick Taylor UNC Challenge. Kraft believes the key to success in the events Jones competed in is through

committee.

"Tyler Banks and Jonte Leaston have filled those shoes," Kraft said. "The two of them together can hopefully make up for what Avion did by himself."

Overall, the Pirates have over 20 athletes in the top-20 ranging in many different events across the disciplines through the indoor season. The team has been an effective unit across the board and the different discipline standouts are working to continue this into the outdoor season. Kraft said the hardest part of going into the outdoor season is the transition, which is like starting all over again.

"You have to fight the elements," Kraft said. "The weather is the key factor there that is the great equalizer, it equalizes everything."

Overall Kraft believes the Pirates will do well in the outdoor season, and will begin at the University of North Carolina in the Carolina Relays on Mar. 17.

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