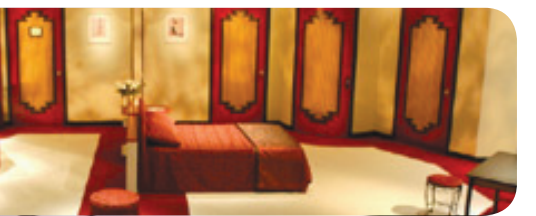




LEAD OF "LEND ME A TENOR" TO MAKE AUDIENCES LAUGH Turn to A4



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Tuesday, 4.18.17

VOLUME 93, ISSUE 27

Lahren visits Hendrix Theater

Protests hit ECU during speech

Cayla Rodney
TEC STAFF

As the controversial speaker Tomi Lahren arrived last night at Hendrix Theatre in Mendenhall Student Center, the East Carolina University Police Department was prepared for student protesters.

Before the event started, a handful of protesters arrived in front of MSC with signs that had various messages such as, "A woman's place is in the revolution" and "No hate no fear everyone is welcome here."

One of the protesters shared her personal reaction when she heard Lahren was coming to ECU.

"I'm disappointed," said Nykaysia King, an ECU sophomore. "When I heard (about the event), it hurt as a black student."

King said the group of protesters were there to go against the university hosting Lahren.

"We are out here because of the divisive things she has said about Black Lives Matter, her support of building the wall on the Mexican border, and her support of the Muslim ban," said King.

The protesters said they took direct offense to the university hosting Lahren.

"We have black, Muslim and Hispanic students. This shows how the university cares about the minorities," said King.

Many of the protesters in attendance believed the biggest problem with Lahren is she speaks out on topics without checking the facts.

"The false rhetoric is not OK," said King. "We don't need it at ECU and it is controversial to the inclusiveness ECU stands for."

The group of protesters attracted various students in support and in opposition of their viewpoint, creating an open dialogue.

"It's their right," said Stan Harriman, an ECU freshman. "I think freedom of speech is what founded America and without it we wouldn't have the country we have today."

Harriman was one of the first people to come up to the protesters and begin an open

> PROTESTS page A2



ALONZA MITCHELL | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
Tomi Lahren speaks with the media before her lecture on free speech in Hendrix Theater.

Lahren focuses on free speech

Mary Katherine Karcher
TEC STAFF

Hendrix Theatre rang with controversy as an energized crowd awaited the lecture led by Tomi Lahren, a young and outspoken political commentator, who came to East Carolina University to discuss the importance of free speech.

Shortly before the event started, Lahren met with several media outlets for about thirty minutes as they were not allowed inside the event. Lahren shared that it was ECU's wish to keep media out of the theatre to allow more students to attend the sold out show. Lahren spoke candidly about the importance of free speech in her line of work, the Black Lives Matter movement, North Carolina's controversial House Bill 2 and her views on the role of college campuses within politics.

"For me this is about free speech more than anything, more than being a conservative, a liberal, more so than anything for me this is about free speech," said Lahren. "It's to remind them that free speech isn't just saying what you want to say, it's also about hearing things you might not want to hear, and that's OK."

Lahren's visit to ECU was sponsored by the Student Involvement and Leadership, the Student Government Association and ECU's Chapter of Turning Point USA.

"I love free speech and freedom of expression that's why I do what I do on this stage so that they can go out there do what they do. However, I would remind them that freedom of expression and free speech is not bruning things, smashing things or hurting people," said Lahren.

Students who attended the event also rose and lifted their voices as the lecture was opened up into a question and answer segment with Lahren. As questions came from students with varying affiliations and viewpoints, the discussion was a learning experience for all in attendance. As differences of opinions became apparent, some questions were acknowledged with boos and others with vigorous clapping.

> LAHREN page A2

Crossbones to serve up 'Broccoli' Friday

Lauren Sura
TEC STAFF

Crossbones Tavern will be serving a main course of broccoli as the venue hosts live jam and electronica band Broccoli Samurai this Friday evening.

Broccoli Samurai is a jamtronica band with aspects of funk and jazz. Formed in Cleveland, Ohio in 2010, Broccoli Samurai was named with inspiration from an old Dana Carvey skit in which broccoli became a euphemism for smoking weed.

"Sometimes we hear that it reminds people of Lotus, Video Game Music or a voyage through space... Realistically we listen to just about anything and try to bring elements to the table from all around," Zach Wolfe, the band's bass player, said. "Rock and jam, funk and jazz, as well as Latin or world music, even hip hop and electronic music."

The band's keyboard player Ryan "Bruce" Hodson is the only remaining original member while Wolfe and members Cameron Bickley on drums and percussion and Michael

Vincent on guitar were brought on.

"We all started playing very young and most of us spent time in or around college music programs. The rest of us joined about a year ago after playing for a few, three, years in another local Ohio group called Acid Cats," Wolfe said. "Bruce would book us up at this venue in Cleveland, The Beachland Ballroom, and called us up when the last set of guys had to step down."

The band has rocked festival scenes throughout the Midwest, Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, growing its fan base and developing its music repertoire.

While venues include the The Werk Out, Nightlights, Domefest, Buffalove, Aura, Hullahween, Euphoria and Electric Forest, Broccoli Samurai has directly supported and toured with many bands including Aqueous, Pigeons, Big Something, The Werks, Papadosio, Lotus and Rusted Root, who recently headlined PirateFest in Greenville.

The group's future plans include new studio recordings and creating live videos



COURTESY OF BROCCOLI SAMURAI

Broccoli Samurai, a jamtronica band from Ohio, will perform at Crossbones Tavern this Friday. "We just bought a new Ford Transit as our tour van and plan on abusing it thoroughly over the next few years," Wolfe said. "We want to take things up a notch this year. We're ready to grind and play our hearts out 'til we drop."

As part of its current east coast tour, Broccoli Samurai will be playing at 7 p.m. on Friday at Crossbones Tavern.

To contact this writer, email arts@theeastcarolinian.com.

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BRIEFS

SRC to host Condom Casino night

This Thursday evening the Student Recreation Center will transform into a Condom Casino. The event is meant to service students by creating a fun, educational and relaxed environment. Students who attend the event in the Rec Center are encouraged to visit the different tables to get information about on- or off campus sexual health resources. The event is scheduled for Thursday in the Recreation Center from 4-6 p.m.

Greenville to celebrate National Community Development Week

Aiming to honor the work of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the City of Greenville plans to celebrate National Community Development Week, April 17-22.

Targeting low- and moderate-income households, the CDBG program provides grants for housing rehabilitation, infrastructure, business assistance and senior services for over 1,200 state and local governments.

There will be four events scheduled to celebrate National Community Development Week, including an open ceremony and a financial literacy workshop, all of which are free and open to the public.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

Study abroad opportunities abound

Alanna Joyner
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

With over 200 study abroad programs in more than 60 different countries that East Carolina University offers, finding a suitable study abroad trip may be challenging.

With summer approaching, the interest of visiting another country may be in the prospect of many students and the ECU Office of International Affairs provides help to those students.

The ECU Office of International Affairs holds study abroad information sessions every Tuesday and Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the International House throughout the academic year for interested students.

The sessions cover topics ranging from types of abroad programs being offered at ECU, financial aid questions to finding programs that helps students earn credits for their major.

Katie Erickson, assistant director for Education Abroad, said out of all of the offered locations, western Europe has been a popular destination among ECU Students. Italy, Spain

and the United Kingdom are the most favored, according to Erickson.

Semester- and year-long programs allow students the opportunity to thoroughly experience the host country. Summer faculty-led programs are also offered for those who seek venturing abroad in a “safe and secure environment,” according to the Office of Continuing Studies website.

Some students who attend the sessions already have an idea where they want to go, during a specific time, whether it be for a summer, a semester or a year. Others are open about the country selection and what works for them academically Erickson said.

For those without a preference, Erickson said they “tend to have the best time because the actual location doesn’t have to live up to the expectation that the student had built up in his or her mind.”

For students that are completely unsure, there are other opportunities and resources for them to obtain information on studying abroad.

The ECU Office of International Affairs holds an annual study abroad fair as well as host various events on campus. Information is also available on its website, piratesabroad.ecu.edu and students can talk to ECU Global Ambassadors, who are students that have taken a study abroad trip in the past.

For financing a study abroad trip, Erickson said students can rely on their normal financial aid to go towards the cost of the chosen program.

Students can apply for scholarships on ECU AWARD to find department scholarships that are available for study abroad.

“Be brave and sign up for study abroad. There will be no other time in your life in which you can take part in these types of opportunities,” said Erickson. “Studying abroad is not only a phenomenal opportunity for personal growth, it also enhances your resume by allowing you to gain skills and knowledge that you might not be able to get in a traditional classroom setting.”

To contact this writer, email news@theeastcarolinian.com.

PROTESTS

continued from A1

dialogue. “I think a lot of racial problems are perpetuated by the media,” said Herriman to the protesters. “Overall I think racial issues are on the decline.”

The discussion with students continued well into the actual event, allowing those who did not purchase a ticket to continue an open

dialogue outside.

ECU’s Deputy Police Chief Jason Sugg said the university was given advance notice that there would be protests outside of the event.

When the ECU PD was made aware of potential protests, they planned to make the safety of those at the event their top concern.

“We do have security in place and we are going to be monitoring the safety situation inside and outside,” said Sugg. “We trust the students and the organizations to be reasonable and play

by the safety rules and we will make sure they are heard.”

Before the event began Sugg explained that police would allow protesters to voice their opinions as long as they remained appropriate and peaceful.

“People are going to be provided with the opportunity and space to exercise their right and it is our job as a university and police department to help that group,” said Sugg.

To contact this writer, email news@theeastcarolinian.com.

LAHREN

continued from A1

Topics discussed ranged from global warming to her upbringing in North Dakota, all while Lahren responded tactfully as she danced across the thin line of political correctness.

“That is why I’m here. Those that want to silence speech that they don’t like — that’s just so counter productive, especially when you’re in an environment on a college campus. This should be the place where we are allowed to speak the most freely,” said Lahren.

Lynn Roeder, the Dean of Students, said that Lahren’s event will benefit ECU and contribute to the university’s goals of fostering a well-rounded learning environment for students.

“I think we need to have different perspectives as people come to campus and offer different perspectives,” said Roeder. “Sometimes university’s tend to be more one sided because they tend to be more liberal, but I think if we’re true to what our mission is, to offer opportunities for students that they may not agree with everyone but we want them to come and listen cause they may learn something.”

The ECU Chapter of Turning Point USA’s Vice President Daniel Pearce shared his support Lahren as she discussed the value of free speech.

“I think it’s important to promote free speech and diversity of thought in a free society,” said Pearce. “I think when you censor speech and restrict different opinions I think that’s moving towards a totalitarian state. I don’t think any of

that is what America is built on, and it especially isn’t what East Carolina is founded on.”

The goal of the event was to promote free speech and diversity of thought and ECU students in attendance took part in a discussion that covered many views with a political commentator who rarely holds back.

“I think the best way to counter speech we don’t like is more speech,” Lahren said. “Please feel free to express your opinions, I would hope we could do it civilly. That’s always the hope and in a respectful way but dialogue is important and sometimes it’s going to be contentious dialogue and that’s okay with me, I promise.”

To contact this writer, email news@theeastcarolinian.com.

CAMPUS RECREATION & WELLNESS

Protect the Pirate Nation Earth Day 2017

Tuesday, April 18th

Earth Day/Environmental speaker

MSC Hendrix Theatre
7:00PM



Wednesday, April 19th

Hammock Hangout Movie: Tapped

Bring your own hammock or blanket!

Register to win a free ENO hammock donated by Great Outdoor Provisions!

MSC @ 8:30PM



Thursday, April 20th

Adventure @ Barefoot on the Mall

Register for Adventure Trips!

Sustain ECU

Peddle your own smoothie
11:30-1:30PM

Friday, April 21st

Paper/Electronic Recycling

Parking lot drive thru with recyclables
SRC @ 10:00-3:00PM

Donate to Give & Go

SRC @ 10:00-3:00PM

Bike Blender & Bike Repair

Make your own Smoothie
SRC @ 10:00-3:00PM

Make Your Own Flower Pot

While supplies last!
SRC @ 10:00-3:00PM

Tar River Beekeepers

Live Beehive and Honey tasting
10:00-3:00PM

FREE Friday Float

Clean the Tar River pre-register
@adventure.ecu.edu

Oak Tree Planting

2PM

Reuse Craft Station

10:00-3:00PM

Saturday, April 22nd

Paint the Drain(LAST)

Register on Orgsync and find more information at
www.loveaseaturtle.org

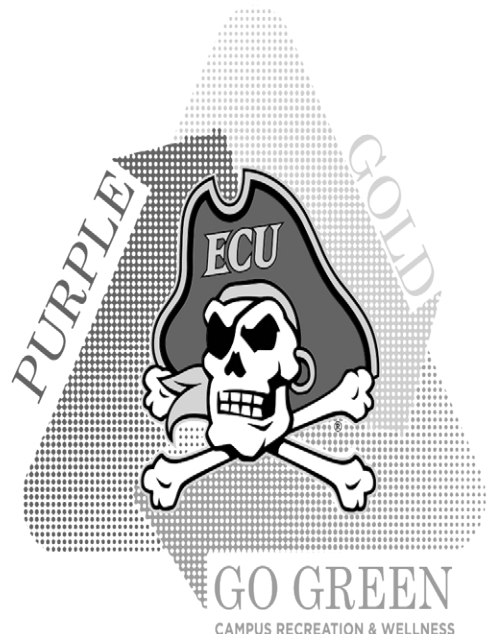
Paddle & Clean the Trails

Pre-Register @
Adventure.ecu.edu

Sunday, April 23rd

Paddle & Clean the Trails

Pre-Register @
Adventure.ecu.edu

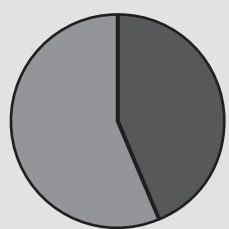


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ANSWER

Are you going home for Easter?



YES 43.8%
NO 56.3%

QUESTION

Do you think Zay Jones will go in the first round of the NFL Draft?

Vote online at www.TheEastCarolinian.com

Our view

Zoning laws benefit future student living

Future student housing will be built in regions closer to campus at East Carolina University, according to a motion that was passed on April 10 by the Greenville City Council.

We at the East Carolinian agree with this motion, as it will most likely increase students' quality of life by putting them closer to classes, dining halls and on-campus activities.

A main motivation for the new motion was to increase ECU student's capability to walk or ride bikes to class rather than driving. We definitely see the value that comes from living close to campus, and as a staff we feel as if this mentality will

provide future students with many advantages.

By limiting the building of future student housing to areas closer to campus, more students would be able to walk or bike to class instead of having to drive and park or catch a bus that only comes every 30 minutes, which would be especially important for students at ECU without a car.

This will also alleviate the pressures on an already scarce parking situation on and around ECU's campus. Having less cars on campus will help promote a more pedestrian-based university.

Time flies when you're having fun



Caitlin Griffin
TEC STAFF

With graduation less than a month away, I have been thinking about my many days at East Carolina University. In a few short weeks, I will be walking across the stage to grab the long-awaited degree and to complete one of my greatest accomplishments.

When coming to college four years ago, I had no idea time would go by so quickly. I guess when you are constantly looking toward the next exam, assignment, semester or deadline, it's hard to simply enjoy the present. Now, looking toward the future, it is so easy to reminisce. I never imagined that my four years here at ECU would go by so

fast. The time I have spent here have been so much fun.

ECU has brought so many great people, memories and teachers into my life. As I think back to move-in day, I can remember so many of the sights, smells and memories from that day. I remember walking up to Belk Hall and seeing everyone with boxes in hand. I remember trying to fit all my clothes into the small closets. I remember decorating the dorm room for several hours to make it look just right. It was the day that I started the next chapter of my life.

As I reflect on my time at this wonderful place, I remember the many walks across campus, the many, many classes taken, the trips to the dining hall freshman year, the tailgates and the football games, and the memories I have made with great friends.

I am so happy that I made the choice to attend this university. As an education major, I do not believe I could have picked a better school for myself to attend. I cannot wait to be a teacher in my very own classroom. It's my turn to teach!

I have connected with so many faculty members, mentors and friends that have helped guide me through this crazy thing called life. Fortunately, this portion of my life has been a great kind of crazy. My time in college has been a time in my life that I will never forget.

Now, as my time comes to an end here, I am left with no regrets and so much to be thankful for. I do wish, though, my time here did not go by so fast. My advice then, to all underclassmen, is to get involved and enjoy every moment. College can be overwhelm-

ing and rigorous, so try to make it fun and memorable!

I know I can look back on my many memories made from the years 2013 to 2017 and smile. I know I will show the many pictures from these years to my children one day and tell the many stories I must tell. I know that I can apply to jobs with pride knowing that I will have a degree from one of the best schools in the nation. I know that I can proudly represent this amazing place that holds so many amazing memories and a special place in my heart.

Caitlin Griffin is a senior majoring in elementary education. She is a designer and joined TEC in Summer of 2016. She is graduating in May. TEC thanks her for her service.

Path less traveled still yields happiness



Jennifer Hines
TEC STAFF

My academic career hasn't been what you would call traditional. I spent 5 years in high school, graduated from community college before I even received my high school diploma and spent half of my my time at East Carolina University commuting from home an hour away.

I have never lived in a dorm, had a meal plan that promised me food on busy days or even tailgated at a home football game. Worst of all, I am about to graduate and I have still not eaten at Sup Dogs.

I'll be the first to tell you that life happens fast. Faster than you'd like to think. I never envisioned my time at college like this, but I wouldn't trade it for the world.

School has been my life since I first walked into my kindergarten classroom. Not a year went by in elementary and middle school that I was not on the honor roll or on a nerdy team like Quizbowl or Battle of the Books.

My life was so school-oriented that I didn't even go to a normal high school. I went to an early college where I spent five years taking college classes on top of high school curriculum so by the time I finally got to ECU, I had already been a college student for over four years.

Spending another two years in college made it hard to see the end was in sight. But now, in a little over two weeks, the time will be here when I finally get to put away the textbooks and binders and trade them for adult things like student loan payments and a mortgage.

Every time I walk by the Cupola or

enter Joyner, I can't help but remember when I came to campus just visiting friends before I was a student. I used to marvel at how foreign and exciting college life seemed to be.

Now I realize that I had no idea what I was getting myself into. For me, college was full of long, tiring drives and empty-bellied study sessions between classes.

I never got the dreamy college life I expected, but what I did experience was so much better.

I experienced a college career that taught me to never give up and, most importantly, that following my heart was the most important thing I could do.

I may have only spent two years here at ECU, but each one has been so important in crafting the woman I am becoming. Each and every class, working here at The East Carolinian and all of the people I have

met along the way have helped me realize who I am and what I want to do with my life.

I have spent more time than I care to admit dwelling on "what if's" this past year and I can honestly say that I can't imagine having gone to school anywhere else. ECU has helped me find a career path that I am passionate about and make lifelong friends that I am going to miss when my time here is over.

At this point in time, I may have no idea where I am going from here, but I cannot wait to get started.

Jennifer Hines is a senior majoring in communication. She is the Arts & Entertainment editor and joined TEC in Fall of 2015. She is graduating in May. TEC thanks her for her service.

Pirate's Life: Making Greenville a home



Mackenzie Tewksbury
GUEST COLUMNIST

I blinked. I blinked and it was over. That's what they say anyway; and it's wholeheartedly true.

Many moons ago, I was packing up my childhood room in Cockeysville, Maryland to move to a town 600 miles away in

North Carolina. I remember thinking about this exact moment: the moment when I'd sit

down, three weeks until I walk across the stage, and wonder where the time went.

I had no idea it would come so fast. But here I sit, in a town I was once a stranger to, with four years' worth of memories that turned Greenville into my home.

The list of things that I'll miss about East Carolina University is seemingly never-ending. Singing "Livin' On A Prayer" at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, waiting in line at the Starbucks in Joyner Library and spending Friday afternoons on a sun-soaked stoop with my best friends.

I made friendships at this school that will truly last a lifetime. Friendships filled with laughter and spontaneity, love and charisma. Friendships that mean grabbing a last-minute beer and friendships that mean I'll stand beside them as they say, "I do." I've made memories that I believe would not have been the same at another school and I can't wait to continue them.

In my final days as a student in this town, I'm beginning to realize how special it really is and that I'm not quite ready to say goodbye. That's why I've decided to

make Greenville my home for the foreseeable future.

This school taught me what it means to be a journalist, but it's also taught me what it means to be a Pirate. And although I'll no longer be a student, I'll always be a Pirate.

After all, Kenny Chesney once said, "All my friends are Pirates, that's just who I am."

Mackenzie Tewksbury is a senior majoring in communication. She is the lead designer for The Agency and joined in Spring of 2015. She is graduating in May. TEC thanks her for her service.



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ECU student actor Matty Reda performs alongside Holly Long in a performance of "Into the Woods" COURTESY OF MATTY REDA

'Lend Me A Tenor' lead brings laugh to the stage

Andy Li
TEC STAFF

With hopeful energy, Matty Reda is preparing to bring "Lend Me A Tenor" to East Carolina University's mainstage.

"We've been running the show for about a week and a half now," said Reda, a musical theatre and professional acting junior. "So we're in a really good place."

"Lend Me A Tenor," written by Ken Ludwig and directed by Robert Caprio, is the farcical comedy that tells the story of the mishaps surrounding a performance by Tito Morelli, the greatest tenor of his generation. Reda, who plays Morelli, said he has enjoyed the challenge of the comedic role.

"It's the first true comedy that I've been a part of at ECU," Reda said. "They don't do farces a lot specifically here. It's definitely a challenge because as (Caprio) likes to say, 'Dying is easy, comedy is hard.'"

Reda began acting as a middle schooler when his sister became interested in the art form.

"My sister had gone to the movie and saw the very first Harry Potter movie. And she went home, she cried for like four hours straight... my sister just sat there and cried and said, 'That's what I want to do, I want to grow up and do that,'" Reda said. "She started doing theatre and I saw how much fun she was having doing it and, you know, typical brother-sister relationship, I said, 'If she can do it, I can do it but I can do it better.'"

The road to ECU for Reda was not

exactly a clear shot. Originally planning on attending New York University, he was unable to meet their academic standards.

"So ECU was the choice but I was kind of worried about going to ECU because I was like, 'Oh, if I want to follow theatre, I have to go to a school in a big city. I have to. I have to,'" Reda said. "But falling into ECU was the best thing that ever happened to me... We may not have teachers who are currently working in the field... We may not have the cutting edge technology that other schools have, but we certainly have the heart and the drive at this school."

The play was originally directed by the late John Shearin, but was taken over by Caprio as Shearin's health declined. Shearin passed away April 9 and although it has been difficult for the entire cast and crew, Reda feels that making the show the best it can be is the best way to honor Shearin.

"The first night we had rehearsal after we found out that John had passed away definitely was a little harder," Reda said. "We all kinda just mutually understood that John is gone but he would not want our work to suffer because of him, he would want us to work as hard as we could and put up the best show that we could."

"Lend Me A Tenor" opens Thursday and runs until April 25 at McGinnis Theatre. Tickets can be bought at the door or online at the ECU Arts box office.

To contact this writer, email news@theeastcarolinian.com.

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ON CAMPUS:

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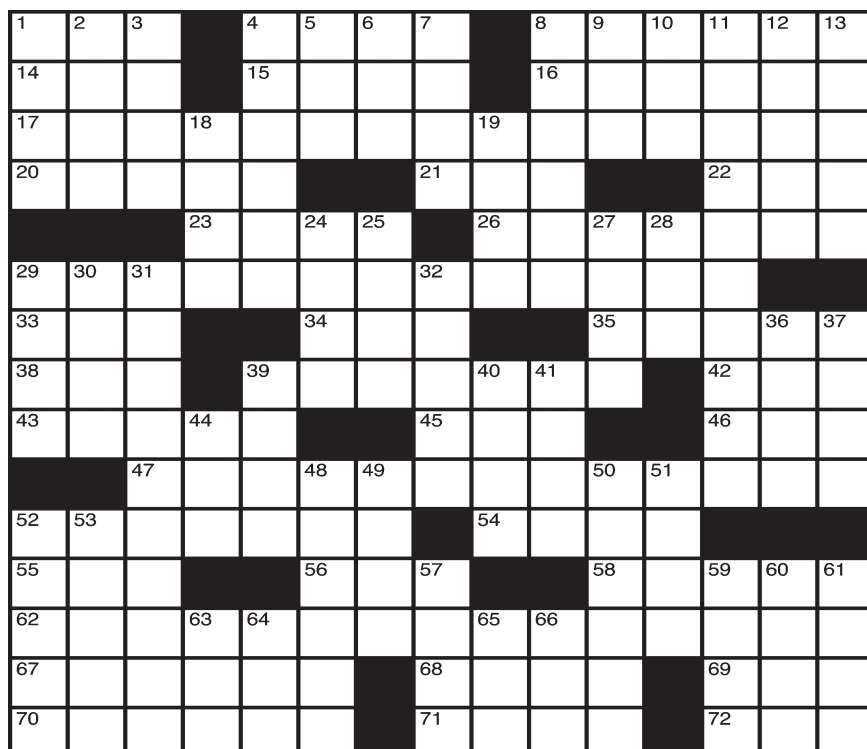
PUZZLES

ACROSS

- 1 Valuable stone
- 4 Hamilton and Burr, notably
- 8 Find incredibly funny
- 14 Word for a Latin lover
- 15 Cookbook author Rombauer
- 16 Not certain
- 17 Mom-and-pop stores
- 20 Vietnam's capital
- 21 Part of MST: Abbr.
- 22 FDR's successor
- 23 Serpent's tooth
- 26 Irreverence
- 29 Alfalfa, Darla and friends, with "the"
- 33 Biblical verb ending
- 34 Quick hellos
- 35 Curbs, with "in"
- 38 Blackjack half
- 39 "God bless us, every one!" Dickens character
- 42 Wedding notice word
- 43 What hares and mares do
- 45 Long, long time
- 46 La Brea ___ Pits
- 47 Game with windmills, ramps and such
- 52 Coiffures
- 54 Move, in real estate lingo
- 55 Part of MST
- 56 Tango maneuver
- 58 Higher than
- 62 Waterspout climber of song
- 67 California's San ___: Hearst Castle locale
- 68 Filming locales
- 69 401(k) kin
- 70 Six times cinq
- 71 VCR insert
- 72 Gov. Cuomo's domain

DOWN

- 1 Deep cut
- 2 2016 Best Actress Stone of "La La Land"
- 3 Pained sound



- 4 Like a child's love for a parent
- 5 Heavenly sphere
- 6 Grounded bird
- 7 Fresh talk
- 8 Pioneering hip-hop trio from Queens
- 9 Single
- 10 Beast of burden
- 11 Does without much thought
- 12 "Give it ___!"
- 13 Cantankerous
- 18 Barn storage space
- 19 "How sweet ___!"
- 24 Classic grape soda
- 25 Smile that may be silly
- 27 Eggplant ___: Italian entrée, briefly
- 28 L'eau land?
- 29 Shakespearean king with three daughters
- 30 Nagging desire
- 31 College freshman's comment about why his parents call so often

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



- 36 Patricia of "Hud"
- 37 Medieval laborer
- 39 Take care of
- 40 Vacation option
- 41 Memo heading
- 44 Defunct Soviet space station
- 48 First-aid fluid
- 49 "___ happens ..."
- 50 Pass, as time
- 51 Mongolian desert
- 52 Bank holdup
- sleeping
- 57 "Hey, get a load of this"
- 59 Chief Norse god
- 60 Quite
- 61 Significant periods
- 63 Kyoto cash
- 64 Droid
- 65 Positive vote
- 66 Gas additive brand

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Pirate baseball sinks at home

Tori Poole
TEC STAFF

After the East Carolina baseball team's ninth American Athletic Conference loss Saturday, head coach Cliff Godwin hung his head as he felt the overwhelming emotions from a sweep at the hands of Central Florida.

Saturday the Pirates (19-18; 0-9 AAC) were shutout for the second time this season. The team seemed to have a sense of eagerness as it stepped on the field in a final effort to break its losing streak in the conference with Evan Kruczynski returning to the mound after six weeks out due to injury.

"Anytime you have your Friday night ace back out there, obviously it's a good feeling," said Godwin. "I thought he was rusty early. Just his command wasn't as good as it normally is, and we probably pitched him one extra inning than we thought we probably were just because his fourth inning was so good."

Kruczynski pitched five innings Saturday and only let up three hits and one run against a fairly powerful Knights offense.

The Pirates quickly retired the three batters on the side before senior Wes Phillips led off for the Pirates with a double to left-center field in the bottom of the first. The bats would begin to struggle soon after, however, as ECU would only register four hits in the game. ECU was 0-for-11 with runners on base in the loss.

"It's something different everyday, but like I told our guys, we have to execute our plan," Godwin said. "We watch video, we talk about what the pitchers are going to try to do to us. If you look at our at bats, one guy would execute the plan then the next guy wouldn't, the next guy would execute the plan and just stringing those at bats together."

Similarly, for a majority of the season, ECU began to let in runs in the final innings with two coming in the eighth and two in the ninth to bring the final score to 7-0.

This same trend occurred in the matchup on Friday as well. Upon entering the eighth inning the Pirates held a 2-0 lead, but it would not last long. With one out, Trey Benton hit a batter with a pitch and UCF's (26-11, 5-4) Bryce Peterson drilled a double down the left field line to put runners in scoring position. A call to the bullpen brought in Ryan Ross to relieve Benton, but after a Luke Hamblin single and RBI, Ross was quickly replaced by West Covington.

Covington's first pitch fell short of success as the batter reached first to load the bases after being hit by a pitch as well. A fielder's choice to hold the lead left the bases loaded as Eric Tyler threw home for the second out

of the inning.

From that point forward the inning spiraled out of control. Covington walked in the tying run, and was followed by an error at second base by Charlie Yorgen to score two more runs. Covington then walked back-to-back batters to bring in another unearned run to make it 5-2.

A third pitching change for the Pirates brought in freshman Tyler Smith to face senior Kam Gellinger who cranked a ball to right field for a grand slam and a 9-2 lead. ECU tallied two more runs, but the damage was too much to overcome as the Pirates fell 9-4.

"It's nothing to do with effort. This team prepares and puts more in than any team in the country," Yorgen said. "Coach Godwin always says we do things the right way and that's true and I firmly believe that. This is a great group of guys, so we just have to keep preparing like we have been all year and something will click."

Overall on the weekend, the bullpen gave up 22 of the 24 total runs scored by the Knights. While the starting rotation has stepped up this season in spite of Kruczynski's injury and a difficult year for other returning starters, the bullpen has not had a similar fate.

Covington leads the bullpen ERA-wise at 2.19 in just 12 1/3 innings pitched, followed by Ryan Ross (seven innings) at 3.86, but they are the only two pitchers that have an ERA under four. Tyler Smith (27 innings) sits at 4.67, Kirk Morgan (seven 2/3) close behind with a 4.70, Jacob Wolfe (35 1/3) at 5.09, Matt Bridges (29 2/3) sits at 5.46, Sam Lanier (27 2/3) jumps up to a 6.18, Joe Ingle (19 2/3) at 6.86 and Davis Kirkpatrick (11 2/3) at 6.94.

In the first game of the series for the Pirates, they kicked off the game 7-1 going into the fifth inning. The Knights turned on their bats in the fifth inning against Wolfe, followed by poor help from Lanier, Smith and Bridges ultimately tying up the game to send it into extra innings. After 11 innings the Pirates ultimately fell short 8-7 for the first loss of the series.

"It's not going to get easier," Godwin said about the remainder of the season. "It's going to be tough. The kids are trying; it's just not happening for them right now."

The Pirates will hit the road to face UNC Wilmington today at 6 p.m. before traveling to Cincinnati to face the Bearcats this weekend in an attempt to grab their first win in the AAC.

To contact this writer, email sports@theeastcarolinian.com.



ECU's starting pitcher Evan Kruczynski returned to the mound this past weekend after his injury.

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