



PIRATES GOT TALENT
SET TO HIT HENDRIX

Turn to A5



The East Carolinian

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YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Tuesday, 3.22.16

TAKING THE PLUNGE



First openly gay ECU male athlete paves own path

Kayla Morton
TEC STAFF

Sorting through dozens of Sessences in Crystal Connection to go along with a delicate bracelet for his boyfriend, Alex Clark finds his escape.

"I love clothes, and I love stores. It's something that I've always really been drawn to," he said.

A fashion merchandising major, Clark is also a four-year letterman diver for the Pirates' dive team. He found acceptance

in the unity of his team that he did not find in his Mormon faith growing up.

His sexuality sent him on a moral and religious journey that culminated in his arrival to ECU where he rediscovered his faith and found the acceptance that he always desired.

Finally coming out

In high school, Clark recalls sitting one-on-one barely saying

anything to a therapist who gave more judgment than empathy on a topic he refused to try and understand.

"In the Mormon religion they do not accept it at all," Clark said. "They believe marriage is between a man and a woman and that's it."

Clark was born one of 11 children to devout Mormon parents in Elkhart, Indiana, where he worked hard to gain his parents'

> CLARK page A8

Senior diver Alex Clark sits in his home folding clothes. In addition to diving, Clark is a fashion designer as well as ECU's first openly gay male athlete.

MICHAEL SEEGARS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Officials to review Dail use

Javeria Salman
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's Board of Trustees has formed a committee to explore options for Dail House on Fifth Street, which has served as the university chancellor's residence for the last six decades.

Steve Jones, chairman for ECU's Board of Trustees, announced Tuesday that Chair of the Board of Trustees' finance and facilities committee Bob Plybon will lead the new committee.

"This is a kick-off of a high-level analysis of options," said Jones in a news release from ECU News Services. He added that the committee is set to begin work immediately.

While Chancellor Steve Ballard and his family currently occupy the residence, Ballard announced last year he will be stepping down July 1.

This is not the first time the board has explored options for the Dail House. The Board of Trustees have had discussions in the past on whether to expand, renovate, or relocate the chancellor's residence.

In 2008, the Board was presented with a report updating it on the chancellor's residence. The report stated that in the 60 years since the purchase of the Dail House, "the social engagement purpose of the home has been stretched to its limits due to the growth of the campus".

The historic 5,100 square-foot residence was built in 1921 by William Haywood Dail Jr. in the Italianate style. ECU acquired the house in 1946 when the university was still East Carolina Teachers College.

Officials have said Dail House has outgrown the needs of the University since the home can't adequately provide facilities or space for large-scale functions.

> DAIL page A2

Schedule Planner to aid students in registration

Corey Keenan
TEC STAFF

This semester, East Carolina University has established a new way for students to find the best available schedule during registration, which began Friday and will continue through August for the Fall semester.

The Schedule Planner, available through Banner Self Service, was presented to ECU along with other colleges and universities at a conference by a vendor.

Steven Asby, associate director of Academic Advising & Support Center and ECU graduate in 2003, 2006 and 2015, said most of the products shown were not very appealing, but there was something different about the Schedule Planner.

"In my opinion, this is one of the most intuitive things we've ever done," Asby said. "It's just super easy. The thing about it is, not a lot of our students know about this. I think, if they knew about it, it would help their registration. This is something I think will become a staple and I'm glad to be a part of the conversation."

Asby helped spearhead the introduction of the application along with



Chelsi Thigpen, sophomore nursing major, looks at the Schedule Planner online. The new system was adopted this year.

KENNA WILLIAMS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Amy Barber, the associate registrar for records and registration, and other members of advising and ITCS.

The application can be used to coordinate work and other schedules along with a student's planned ECU schedule. The system works along with Banner to assess the availability

of classes based on open time slots. Classes can be locked by students to their schedule and added to a "check out" list that can then be used at registration time.

Asby said the process of integrating the Schedule Planner happened more quickly than he had anticipated.

"Someone saw the product on campus and said 'this is really cool and this could help some of our students kind of quell the anxiety with registration,'" Asby said. "It just kind of steamrolled from there. People started talking and it got faster and faster. ITCS, advising, the registrar's

office -- everybody just kind of got together everything just happened a bit faster than we thought it would."

The Schedule Planner can also be used on a mobile device, including smartphones and tablets.

The system draws on time availability and stresses choosing specifically by professor less. Asby said it is important to focus on the time aspect of registering for classes rather than searching for professors.

"You can either look for someone who's student friendly and maybe a professor that's going to be easy to communicate with and engaging," said Asby. "For me it really becomes a situation where you want to put yourself in the best scenario possible. I don't know how much you want to say 'I'll take a horrible schedule as far as time goes, just so I can have better --' and I'm using air quotes -- 'better professors'."

Schedule Planner will show students different options of potential schedules based on available time slots. The variations of the schedules can be shown side-by-side.

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

ONLINE

» ECU men's tennis falls on the road to Liberty

» ECU student creates new social app along with brother

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

Joyner Library readies for Human Library

Joyner Library is recruiting students to serve as human books for the Human Library. This event is meant for people with interesting life stories to open up a dialogue about stereotypes on campus and show others that we are all humans and we each have a special story.

Students are encouraged to share their stories about issues regarding health, family, religion or other aspects of diversity at the Human Library on April 12 from 1 to 4 p.m. The Premier Wellness Passport Event will be followed by a gallery opening at 4:30 p.m. for the Humans of Greenville project.

Design Thinking hits ECU campus

ECU will host Design Thinking sessions for educational professionals during a workshop on campus. Design Thinking is a creative way to deal with innovations in education and teaches courses on design, school technology leadership and school reform. The workshop will bring together local teachers, high school students and ECU faculty together to discuss important challenges in higher education.

The workshop will be held this week in the Green Room at the Croatan Building and in Todd Dining Hall. The events are sponsored by Matt Mittello, the Wells Fargo Distinguished Professor in Educational Leadership.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

If you feel there are any factual errors in this newspaper please contact Ryan Clancy, editor@theeastcarolinian.com

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

Did you know



We are online

New publications every Tuesday and Thursday



Planes sit on the runway of the Pitt Greenville Airport. The airport hosted an emergency test last week.

Pitt Greenville Airport hosts emergency test

Matthew Prensley
TEC STAFF

Pitt Greenville Airport recently completed their annual “Airport Emergency Response Exercise,” allowing the airport to continue serving the eastern North Carolina region.

Last Monday, smoke filled the skies around Pitt Greenville Airport, giving the sun a hazing background as it set. At approximately 6 p.m., the drill began and local authorities began simulating as if a plane had crashed. Kiara Jones, Director of Public Information and Media Relations for Pitt County, said the exercise was meant to simulate an aircraft crashing, causing fires and leaving individuals injured.

Dozens of volunteers filed through the airport helping local officials by acting as victims. Using make up, each volunteer portrayed themselves as victim that needed medical assistance. As part of the drill, medics were supposed to identify the injury and treat it until the victim could receive further medical assistance.

According to the Federal Aviation Administration, this drill is one of a number of exercises an airport must pass to operate. Since June 9, 2004, the FAA has used a set of drills and tests as a way of determining if an airport has the resources and safety measures in place in order to operate safely. The drill performed at PGV was one of those drills that required fire and medical officials to complete a number of tasks in an amount of time.

Local officials from all around Pitt County and Greenville participated in this exercise. Members of the Greenville Police Department helped guide traffic and restricted access to the airport while the drill was underway. Greenville Fire-Rescue

played a much larger role. GFR treated victims and extinguished fires. Vidant Medical Center, Pitt County Sheriff’s Office and local members of the North Carolina National Guard also took part in the drill.

Pitt Greenville Airport was originally constructed in 1940 as a result of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s economic recovery policies. During the second World War, the airport was the home to different fighter squadrons, scout bombing squadrons and was the busiest airport to the Marine Corps, according to the PGV website.

More recently, PGV has become a major part of travelling in eastern North Carolina. PGV stated on their website that more than a quarter of a million passengers travel in and out of the airport. It is home to over 70 private aircrafts and offers commercial flights in and out of Greenville everyday of the week.

“PGV meets or exceeds all FAA safety standards. We do incident drills periodically to exercise our airport emergency plan,” said Executive Director of Pitt-Greenville Airport, Jerry Vickers.

PGV has never had an accident at the airport since it was returned to commercial use after World War II.

According to the Greenville Police Department, the last time this drill took place, the GPD dispatch center was overwhelmed with emergency calls. This time, officials made it a priority to make the public aware of this test and how no emergency was taking place.

Greenville Fire Rescue did release a statement later Monday evening calling the drill a success.

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

Local man accepts GPD ride-along

Matthew Prensley
TEC STAFF

After posting a picture of himself making inappropriate gestures with a Greenville Police Department cruiser, a Greenville man has been offered a ride along with the GPD.

Brandon Mateo captioned the picture with “#MakeMeFamous.” According to Mateo’s Facebook page, the photo had been posted to social media on Feb. 17, of this year.

While Mateo did blur out the license plate number on the police cruiser, GPD quickly identified the vehicle because of the car number. The vehicle belongs to the head of the Greenville Police Department Gang Unit.

“The officer who drives this car is trained to recognize a few hand gestures himself... after all he is in charge of our Gang Unit and has dedicated his life to protect and serve the citizens of Greenville for the last 12 years,” said the GPD on its Facebook.

Mateo quickly gained that quest for fame when concerned citizens made Greenville Police aware of the picture. Greenville Police issued a statement through its Facebook account, responding to the photo and challenging Mateo.

As part of the challenge, Mateo would ride around with a member of the police department. Greenville Police said that the goal of this ride along was to show Mateo what GPD does in the Greenville community. In order to give Mateo the fame he asked for, GPD volunteered to allow the media to tag along and document the ride along.

As of yesterday, Mateo agreed to the ride-along challenge and is trying to schedule the meeting for sometime next week, according to Kristen Hunter, public information officer with the Greenville Police Department.

This story has received national attention with many people coming to the defense of GPD. The response by Greenville Police to the photo has been shared more than 17,000 times since GPD issued the statement last Friday. Yesterday morning, Chief of Police Mark Holtzman and Hunter joined Fox News “Fox & Friends” to talk about the situation and how it is being handled.

“Was his post immature? Yes. Was it offensive? Yes,” said GPD.

GPD has defended Mateo throughout the ordeal. While they did acknowledge that the post was not smart, they have asked that people not judge Mateo’s character based on this one decision. GPD are looking forward to the opportunity to change the mind of Mateo and show him what police officers do on a daily basis.

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



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The East Carolinian



DAIL continued from A1

Another issue that has been brought up previously is the area around the house has changed significantly since it’s purchase. When the home was first purchased, Fifth Street was a quiet, residential area. Fifth Street and the area across from the main campus is now a combination of private residences, sorority and fraternity houses and university offices.

The area surrounding the chancellor’s residence has also seen an increase in late evening automobile and pedestrian traffic on Fifth Street due to the growth of downtown Greenville.

The 2008 report said since Dail House serves as the chancellor’s home “it therefore should provide a quiet, safe family-like environment free from unusual disturbances.”

The board has not announced whether it will look for a new residence for the new chancellor or expand and renovate Dail House.

The Chancellor Search Committee is expected to announce the new chancellor in the coming weeks.

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

East Carolina University

Tomorrow starts here.

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences

Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series

PRESENTS

Zonnie Gorman



“Navajo Code Talkers: In-Depth with Zonnie Gorman”

The Thomas Harriot Lecture

Co-sponsored by the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, ECU’s Division of Academic Affairs, Division of Health Sciences, Division of Research, Economic Development and Engagement, Division of Student Affairs, and the Honors College.

Gorman is a recognized historian of the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II and a consultant for several documentaries and the movie “Windtalkers.”

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 23, 2016

Wright Auditorium

This is a Wellness Passport event, and all lectures for the 2015-2016 season are free to attendees. No tickets are required. For more information, contact Dr. Jeffrey Johnson at 252-328-6378 or johnsonj@ecu.edu, or visit www.ecu.edu/voyages.

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

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PIRATE RANTS

The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants.

Misinformation and ignorance is dangerous. That is why most of the people who publish rants and opinions on TEC frighten me.

Was told by Drumpf supporters that “There are no brakes on the Trump Train!” Well, that would explain the trainwreck that it is. #Trainwreck2016 #FeelTheBern #LoveTrumpsHate

Women’s lacrosse team, but, no men’s soccer team?

Did you guys hear about the photographer who was accused of harassment, only for him to come back with video evidence that the female accuser was completely lying? Please ask the hard questions. NEVER believe a single person’s accusation without evidence. #FIXTHESYSTEM

Trump’s strategy for getting out of debt, COMMIT BANKRUPTCY. Let’s ask Greece how well that works. #MAKEDONALDDRUMPHAGAIN

No shoes, No shirt, No problems. Except well failing because I spend all my time at the pool. #gotoclass #Partyontheweekend

A man who decides not to be a father is an abominable deadbeat dad. A woman who decides not to be a mother is pro-choice. This is why nobody takes you seriously.

They covered Uriah Ward more prominently because he was AN ECU STUDENT. Stop putting bias where it’s not.

NYT says once women take over a male-dominated role pay drops 20 percent. Anti-feminists have been claiming this for the past three decades. TEC should do a write up on this!

Gawker’s paying the Hulkster \$115 MILLION for showing his weiner on the Internet. Are unscrupulous clickbait sites finally getting what’s due to them? Gawker owns Jezebel, Polygon, and all of the other sites that like to ruin people’s lives.

White dudes think feminist and “social justice warriors” are bad words. Shocker. TEC looks more and more like Breitbart every day.

ECU is the most conservative school in the state. In unrelated news, it’s also filled with frat boys and girls and all-around rich, racist dummies.

Questions regarding rants can be directed to Tyler Kelbaugh at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Poll results

Have you ever had trouble registering for courses at ECU?

Yes- 40%

No- 60%

Poll question

Is your bracket busted?

Visit theeastcarolinian.com to vote.

Our view

New parking needed at Student Health

Complaints about parking at ECU are all too common, and while the university can reasonably explain away a lot of the noise, there is no excuse for the lack of parking spaces available in front of the Student Health Center.

Parking spots are very limited, with only two spots clearly labeled for those needing urgent care. Worse, the only way to obtain a pass is to actually request one from the front desk inside the building. Other nearby lots all require students pay at a parking meter, another frustrating obstacle to those who just want to use the health services they’re paying for.

While the incredibly limited amount of parking poses an obvious crowding problem for students when illnesses spread across campus, the fact that there is no way to actually reach Student Health without walking a significant distance is unfair to those who may be weak from their illness.

For students who live in off-campus areas that do not provide buses, the only alternative is to walk or find someone to drop them off. At that point, it would just make more sense for students to visit an off-campus urgent care facility instead of taking a gamble at whether they’d get one of the two parking spots available.

ECU needs to make it easier for people who need medical attention to reach student health. If it’s too much of a hassle for sick students to actually visit the center, then there is no point in actually having it.

Presidential race runs too long



John Faulconer
TEC COLUMNIST

From Around The World

I am sick of hearing about the presidential election. The exhausting campaign has made me wonder why it’s necessary for the United States to have one of the longest campaigns in the world. What is there to learn from this year’s 596 days of coverage? And, most importantly, how can we stop this exhausting, ridiculous circus?

A lot of the responsibility for the length of the campaign falls on the shoulders of the mainstream media. It was exactly a year ago, on March 23, 2015, when Ted Cruz announced the start of his campaign, marking the start of election coverage. One by one, candidates disclosed their plans to run for the presidency. The mass media geared up the primetime talk shows and debate scheduling. They talked about campaign contributions, candidate history, and countless polls. Late night hosts began asking each guest what they thought about each candidate. And the toxicity was only beginning.

Donald Trump’s entrance was a perfect fit for the media’s love of the obscene. Every week Trump had a new comment that shocked the politically correct establishment. A debate over his morality followed every brash remark, and

this only served to boost Trump’s poll numbers. Our media-centric presidential campaign and Trump are the perfect fit for each other. Trump gets constant airtime, and the media gets juicy news topics and high ratings.

Whilst the media has undoubtedly extended and intensified the election coverage, it isn’t the only reason why campaigns are so exhausting today. The structure of our campaign plays a large role as well. Other countries campaigns are controlled at the national level, while our voting system is state-by-state. This takes a lot of extra time. The United States has this structure because the founding fathers were terrified that the majority would vote for “politicians who entice them with rhetoric and vague speeches”. Sound familiar?

Some favor the current campaign format with similar concerns the founding fathers had. The comedian, Bill Maher, stated that he’s glad the presidential campaign lasts almost two years. He says the American people are “slow and dim” and they need the extra time to make an intelligent decision. But several months have passed since this comment was made, and the frontrunners haven’t changed since.

I also lack faith in the American people, but the solution isn’t to add more time to the equation. Firstly, as the months go by, the public has almost become accustomed to a candidate that was once considered farcical and impossibly electable. Secondly, the lengthy election

takes the light away from more important news events, like accusations that ISIS is currently committing full-fledged genocide. But most importantly, it turns our prized presidential campaign into a reality show.

A reality show provides an intellectual escape from the complex and tiring world - that’s why they’re so appealing. When the race to become the most powerful person in the world becomes nothing more than a reality show, complete with a “what will he say next” mentality, you know there is a serious problem with both the electorate and the campaign process.

The best way to fix this campaign process starts at the top, with the candidates themselves. By demanding that our politicians respect one another and the people they are supposed to be serving, we can cut down on the dramatics that have made our campaign a drawn out joke.

Sadly, a widespread rational epiphany is much more unlikely than the election of Donald Trump. But there is a silver lining: Trump’s rise has proven that racism, bigotry, and ignorance are still America’s backbone. God bless America!

John Faulconer is a senior majoring in information and computer technology and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Madness tells powerful stories



Tyler Kelbaugh
TEC COLUMNIST

FROM THE OPINION DESK

Although the world of sports is often written off as a pointless escape from reality, nothing could be further from the truth. Look no further than the annual NCAA College Basketball tournament, known as March Madness, for proof.

Millions upon millions of people, regardless of their knowledge on college basketball, fill out a bracket every year trying to accurately predict the winner of each game in the massive 64 team field. The tournament captures our collective imagination like almost nothing else. March Madness is so wildly popular because every year the tournament itself tells an accurate story relatable to our actual lives.

People love an underdog and every year the tournament provides an opportunity to see David defeat Goliath. Those games remind us that anything is possible, and that, through cooperation and teamwork even the steepest of odds can be overcome. Those moments, the times when Mercer beats Duke or Middle Tennessee State defeats Michigan State, stay with us for years to come.

Those underdog teams are hard to root

against, even when they threaten to bust your bracket. In a way, they symbolize everyday people trying to snare victory in a brutal world filled with obstacles. The joy on the faces of the players is absolutely heartwarming, even if you know in the back of your head that the losing team is feeling as devastated as the winner is elated. Seeing the players who never receive mainstream media attention rewarded for their passion, and watching them bask in what must be one of the greatest moments in their lives, never gets old.

While that view may be a bit unfair to the college basketball blue bloods, painting them as the villains in the story, they usually get their way in the end anyway. The tournament, while often highlighted for its Cinderella stories, actually has an ending that’s all too predictable. Outside of N.C. State in 1983, and Villanova in 1985, rarely do any of the darling Cinderella’s actually make it all the way.

Yes, VCU reached the Final Four as an 11 seed, but moments like that are so incredibly rare. Since the field expanded to 64, no 16 seed has ever beaten a one seed. The major upsets don’t happen at the high rate they are made out to be. That’s true even this year, in a season where there was no clear cut top tier of squads. There are only two double digit seeds in the Sweet 16, Syracuse and Gonzaga, and they both were seen as under

seeded by basketball experts.

This reality adds a bit more credence, and a more dour feel, to my March Madness is applicable to real life theory. If VCU is the underdog dealt a bad hand that manages to overcome and make the most of life, Duke is the wealthy corporate executive who always stays on top. The basketball blue bloods pretty much always pull through, with Kentucky, Duke, North Carolina and Kansas rarely earning seeds lower than four, let alone missing the tournament entirely.

Ultimately though, the joy of those upsets overshadows the predictable reality. Even if it’s a bit sad that the underdogs inevitably fail year after year, they still leave us with fond memories and great dreams.

March Madness is an exciting time of the year because it tells a story we can all relate to. There’s participation nationwide as fans and casual viewers alike gather to watch the impossible become reality. Every year, the first rounds of the college basketball tournament capture our imagination with the thought that anything is possible. Even if that’s not necessarily the case, it’s still always a heck of a ride. And hey, there’s also some pretty good basketball being played.

Tyler Kelbaugh is a senior majoring in communication and is the opinion editor. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Contact Info

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

Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com

Newsroom: (252) 328-9238

Fax: (252) 328-9143

Ads: (252) 328-9245

Classified: (252) 328-9290

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Thursday 3.22.16

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HELP WANTED

Summer help wanted. Pm shift leader, Duck Donuts, Corolla, NC. Five nights a week from June 7 - August 16. Interested persons email letter of interest to obx@duckdonuts.com

College student needed part-time in busy, professional dentist office for filing, running errands, and other clerical duties Monday- Friday. Bring resume to 2330 Hemby Lane, Greenville, NC

PUZZLES

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

Level: **1** **2** **3** **4**

				5			1
	2				6	9	
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				9		1	
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		7			5		
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8			7				

SOLUTION TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE 3/22/16

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

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

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COMICS

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I SAY THAT IS CRUEL AND UNUSUAL PUNISHMENT.

I'M ACTING AS OUR LEGAL COUNSEL. HERE'S MY CARD.

THIS IS A POKÉMON CARD. SEE YOU IN COURT.

NEXT: ALBERT SNAP: KID LAWYER

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LISTEN, KYLE. JUST SO YOU KNOW. IT'S OKAY TO EXPERIMENT WITH CROSS-POLLINATION.

AAHHH DAD

WE ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION RIGHT NOW!

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LOGGERS. PLEASE. CLUT ME DOWN. NOW.

HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Take notes. You're exceptionally clever with words over the next few weeks, with Mercury in your sign. Underscore your statements with feeling. Share a vision that inspires your partner over the next two days.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 6 -- Begin a busy two-day phase. Listen to intuition and unspoken clues over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Aries. Don't bend the rules ... transform them. Increase your security online.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Your friends crack you up. You're surrounded by love. Participate with an energetic team over the next three weeks,

with Mercury in Aries. Fun with family and friends especially entices today and tomorrow.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 6 -- Make a home improvement you've been wanting, today and tomorrow. Upgrade household beauty and functionality. Watch for professional opportunities over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Aries. Creative work pays well.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Creative work engages you today and tomorrow. Catch up on the reading. Make long-distance connections. Communications and transportation flow with greater ease over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Aries.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Tap new revenue. Today and tomorrow are profitable. It's easier to organize shared finances over the next few weeks, with Mercury in Aries. Divide the goodies fairly. Develop a lean, mean machine.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- You're getting stronger today and tomorrow, with the Moon in your sign. Let someone draw you into a different world over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Aries. Challenge old assumptions together.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 6 -- Your imagination goes wild over the next two days. Relax in hot water. Over the next three weeks, with Mercury in

Aries, find ways to work smarter. Clever solutions come through your networks.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Put your passion into words. Romantic prose flowers over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Aries. You have more friends than you realized. Share your enthusiasms. Get into a two-day party phase.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Take on a home renovation project over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Aries. Discuss the improvements you'd like, and get family on board. Focus on professional opportunities over the next two days.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 7 -- Travels and studies occupy you today and tomorrow. Get the word out over the next three weeks, with Mercury in Aries. Participate in a bigger conversation. Promote, write and publish. Share what you're learning.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- For nearly three weeks, with Mercury in Aries, develop new income. Track finances for growth. Make profitable connections. To avoid potential trouble, play exactly by the book. Tackle detailed financial tasks today or tomorrow.

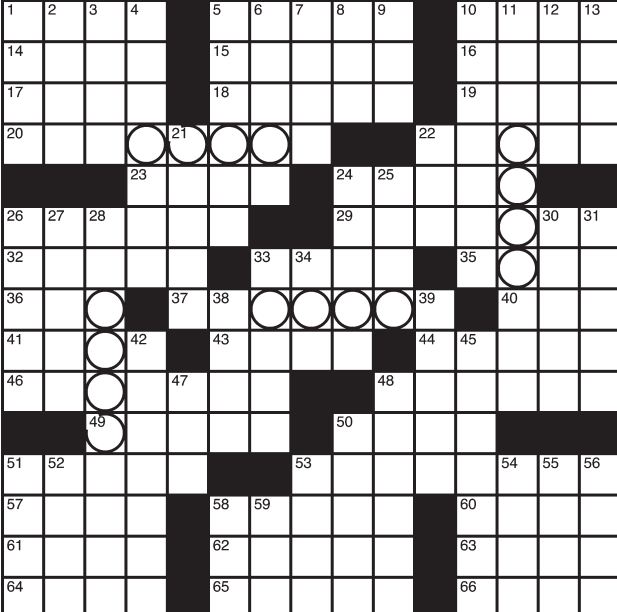
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FOR RELEASE MARCH 22, 2016

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Wife of 25-Down
5 Flipping burgers, e.g.
10 Victorious shout
14 Sylvester's speech problem
15 Now, in Nuevo León
16 Nixed, at NASA
17 Corrosive stuff
18 Be homesick (for)
19 Country legend Tennessee Ernie
20 Gradually exhaust
22 Helpful staffers
23 Amiss
24 Nag
26 Embarrassing slip-ups
29 Bottom-line red ink
32 "That's all she _"
33 Bear shelter
35 Infamous vampire, familiarly
36 One's self
37 Salon task
40 Korean carmaker
41 Like Lady Godiva on horseback
43 Author _ Stanley Gardner
44 Upright
46 Darkest lunar phase
48 Some school uniform parts
49 Salon task
50 Part of a progression
51 Corned beef solution
53 Ogden Nash specialty, and a hint to this puzzle's circles
57 Count for something
58 Cooper of shock rock
60 Pre-euro Italian money
61 Sign of the future
62 German thanks
63 One of seven for Julia Louis-Dreyfus
64 Skin growth
65 Ice cream helping
66 "Slammin'" slugger Sammy



- DOWN**
- 1 Imperfection
2 Grain in some cakes
3 Where billions live
4 Rising air current
5 City VIPs
6 Like taffy
7 Cusack or Crawford
8 Bobby of the Bruins
9 Outlaw
10 Shortstop's realm
11 Furniture maker, e.g.
12 "Puss in Boots" baddie
13 Signaled yeses
21 Geeky type
22 Singer Garfunkel
24 Derogatory
25 Husband of 1-Across
26 "Miracle on 34th Street" actor Edmund
27 Pick a fight (with) reviewer
28 Restaurant
30 Superdome NFLer
31 Tons

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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

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- 33 "SNL" producer Michaels
34 Piercing tool
38 13 popes
39 Teamed, as oxen
42 Highly respected
45 Baby bottle parts
47 --man band
48 Meryl of "The Iron Lady"
50 Great, in show biz
51 It may be furrowed
52 " _ Lama Ding Dong": doo-wop hit
53 Sot
54 Wheels for the well-heeled
55 Akimbo limbs
56 "Divine Secrets of the _ Sisterhood"
58 Magazine fillers
59 Fond du _ , Wisconsin

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TUNE IN



EVERYDAY

Hendrix to recognize Pirate talent

Rebecca Sefter
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Tonight, Hendrix Theatre will transform into an America's Got Talent-esque stage as ECU students compete for a performance spot at this year's Barefoot at the Mall.

Pirates Got Talent, an event created by the Student Activities Board in 2015, will be held at 7:07 p.m. Tuesday night.

In the past, student committee members had advocated for the creation of a talent show, and last year, they got their wish.

"The success of the show last year took us all by surprise," said Derek Hairston, SAB entertainment chair. "We did not expect it to go as well as it did because it was our first time doing it."

The event is modeled after NBC's America's Got Talent, and SAB aims to make the event as similar to the show as possible.

"We did our best to imitate America's Got Talent in terms of the logo, in terms of how the show is run with the judges providing feedback and the best part about it is that students vote," said Hairston.

Auditions opened immediately after winter break and closed mid-February.

All ECU students were allowed to participate.

"We had about 20 people audition," said Hairston. "So it was a very rigorous process in terms of selecting who we want to perform."

Of the 20-something auditions, 11 performers were chosen to perform at the main event.

Pirates Got Talent incorporates a text-to-vote system into the show, allowing students to cast their votes right from their mobile devices.

"Students love to support one another," said Hairston.

"This is one of our bigger events in terms of attendance and we think it's simply because students [love to] come out and support other students."

Last year, performances included singing, rapping, dancing, performing comedy routines and one very unexpected baton twirler.

"Part of our target in creating the show is to bring variety and allow it to be a true talent show showing many talents," said Hairston.

Vocal acts, however, tend to take up the majority of the contestants.

"I don't know if it's a matter of there are just more singers in the world," said Hairston. "Or if singers are just more bold in showcasing their talents, but singers always outweigh other talents."

The event is free and open to all students. The winner will be paid \$250 to perform at ECU's Barefoot on the Mall on April 21.

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

Navajo historian to speak at 'Voyages of Discovery'

Alaina Corsini
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

A recognized historian of the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II will perform tomorrow as part of the Voyages of Discovery Series.

Zonnie Gorman has appeared in numerous documentaries, as well as contributions to museum exhibitions and authors. Her lecture, "Navajo Code Talkers: In-Depth with Zonnie Gorman" will feature the Marine Navajo Code Talkers' vital role in the Pacific, and the development of a military code in their native language.

Her appearances in several documentaries displays an untold story of the second World War and the pioneer phases of the code. Gorman is featured in a double DVD release in the historical documentary section of Windtalkers, and the PBS documentary, "True Whispers."

"It was exciting and an honor to share their stories," said Gorman.

Gorman is the daughter of Carl Gorman, one of the original 29 code talkers who created the initial Navajo code.

"My father died in 1998, a few years before they got their medals," she said. "It was really an honor to be able to tell not just the code talker story but tell it in his memory."

Carl Gorman and other Navajo Native Americans worked out a two-tier code in World War II in which English words were represented by different Navajo words.

"That first group was very vital and critical to the story," said Gorman. "They are the ones that developed the original code. If they had failed and not been able to make the code the Marine Corps probably would never have been able to go on with the project."

Different types of planes were matched with a Navajo word for a type of bird and other military combat. For example, da-he-tih-hi, or hummingbird, was used for a fighter plane. The Navajo language does not have an alphabet which caused confusion for Japanese code breakers.

"They were very successful in making the code, and it worked. The Marine Corps went ahead and implemented the program. They were critical," said Gorman.

The code served as a tool commanders used to issue orders, report on any movements and coordinate complicated action.

According to Gorman, some of the code talkers were told not to talk about the code when they left the Marine Corps or during the time they were in the Marine Corps.

"It was really on a case by case basis, [the code] was kept pretty close but there was no swearing to secrecy or anything like that," said Gorman.

Gorman's appearance in the documentary, "The Code Talkers: A Secret Code of Honor" displays her feelings on the situation of Marine Navajo code talkers involved in WWII. The documentary also includes the ceremony in which the code talkers were given their gold and silver medals from the federal government commending their service in World War II.

"I think that what they did was very important for America's freedom at the time but for native people the story is a success story in a different way," said Gorman. "It shows the tenacity of Native people to survive in the sense of our language. Because of boarding schools people were punished, they were severely beaten sometimes for speaking their language."

Gorman stressed the importance of the teaching of the language and the code talkers across reservations in Navajo Nation.

"Against all odds these men were asked by the same government that was doing that to them to do what they did in World War II," said Gorman, "These men were able to show how very important our language- and any second language- is important."

Zonnie Gorman will be performing Wednesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. at Wright Auditorium.

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

"These men were able to show how very important our language- and any second language- is..."
-Zonnie Gorman



WEB PHOTO | US EMBASSY CANADA

Zonnie Gorman speaks to the University of Victoria about the Navajo code talkers. Gorman is the granddaughter of Navajo code talker Carl Gorman.

Bevello hosts spring fashion show

Victoria Schule
TEC STAFF

Tomorrow night, Bevello Boutique will host their spring fashion show at their Arlington Village store.

Bevello is a contemporary womenswear brand that offers a selection of jeans, accessories and separates made to empower women to look and feel beautiful.

According to Bevello's manager Jordan Pulido, the fashion show will be a celebration of their clients and VIP clients.

Bevello will have 12 of their VIP clients wear clothing they chose from Bevello's spring line and showcase their outfits by walking the runway.

"It's supposed to be a big fun party basically where everyone is invited," said Pulido. "The models will start walking the runway at 7:30."

This season's palette will be filled with vivid brights and transcend cultural and gender norms.

Pulido expects to see a variety of color trends in spring denim on the runway



COURTESY OF BEVELLO

A lineup of models walks down the runway at last years fashion show, debuting the seasons trends.

matched with classic blues, shades of grey and mint.

Accessories will also be a key trend for many of the outfits such as organic texture, tassels, pendants and lots of layering styles.

"The models will be wearing two looks,"

said Pulido. "The first look is a casual day or work look, and the second look will be an evening look, which will be a little more dressier."

Some of the outfits will be showcase clothing by brands like BB Dakota, Hudson Jeans and Paige.

"Anyone that comes will have the chance to be a part of the 20 percent off sale that is a part of the fashion show," said Pulido.

The fashion show will also offer beverages and complimentary snacks as well as a DJ.

"I've been working here since February so this will be the my first fashion show with Bevello," said Pulido.

"I think the most exciting part will be seeing everyone come together and being able to connect with the community."

Bevello usually has two fashion shows, one in the fall and one in spring, to showcase their new lines.

"The more people that come the merrier, I'm excited to see how the fashion show will turn out," she said.

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



East Carolina junior pitcher Zack Mozingo hurls a pitch to the plate during the Pirates' weekend series win against visiting Monmouth.

Disappointing finish

Godwin, co. upset at Game 3 loss to Monmouth

Kai Jones
TEC STAFF

A frustrated East Carolina baseball head coach Cliff Godwin looked on in disappointment after his team failed to sweep the 7-11 Monmouth Hawks on Sunday.

“Anytime you win the series, that’s a goal, but you want to sweep,” Godwin said.

Godwin and junior second baseman Charlie Yorgen both have been frustrated with the team’s play this week, as the No. 19 Pirates finished this week at just 2-2, including a drubbing at the hands of the North Carolina Tar Heels.

“As hitters, that was pathetic,” Yorgen said after Sunday’s loss. “We didn’t make adjustments, we hit lazy fly balls.”

Both of the losses were in embarrassing fashion, as North Carolina throttled the Pirates 17-4 on Tuesday and Monmouth

shut them down, allowing one ECU hit in Sunday’s 4-0 loss.

“Just poor at-bats by our guys,” said Godwin. “That guy has a six and a half ERA and comes in here and makes us look terrible. When we face Connor Jones [of Virginia] and [Jon] Duplantier [of Rice], guys that are going to be top 10 picks, we can get up for it.”

The Pirates put three base runners on in nine innings Sunday. On the pitching side, it wasn’t much better, as three ECU pitchers allowed four runs on nine hits. ECU never appeared to be close in the game, even in its one rally in the eighth inning, that was ended by the first triple play in Clark-Leclair stadium history.

“If we’re trying to host a regional and host a super regional, we’ve got to learn how to finish teams, and today we didn’t

finish them,” Godwin said.

The lineup badly missed Parker Lamm, who had a 4-for-4 game on Saturday and a great series overall. Lamm suffered a thumb injury when sliding into home plate in Saturday’s game.

Overall, it was a pretty good series for ECU as it claimed the series victory in Saturday’s game. Jacob Wolfe had another solid outing, throwing seven innings of scoreless ball bringing his season ERA to 0.88.

The Pirates had control of the game until the eighth inning when freshman relief pitcher Chris Holba allowed two base runners to get on. In a strange move, Godwin called on normal Sunday starter Jimmy Boyd to close the game out on

> **BASEBALL** page A7

TRACK & FIELD

Pirates impress in invitational

&

Gerin Honeycutt
TEC STAFF

Tori Poole
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The East Carolina track and field team opened up its outdoor track season by putting on a show this past weekend in Chapel-Hill for the Dennis Craddock Relays.

“It was a wonderful weekend. We won 10 events, and it was good to be outside again,” head coach Curt Kraft said. “We had a lot of great [personal records]. We won a lot of events, so anytime you’re winning events on both the men’s and women’s side on the first meet out of the gate that’s a pretty positive weekend.”

Freshman Hakeem Horton is tied for 26th in the country after recording a time of 21.71 to take home first in the 200-meter dash. He also claimed first in the 110-meter hurdles after finishing with a time of 14.87. Freshman sprinter Courtney Warner was also able to place first in the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.33, allowing her to tie for the nation’s current 28th-fastest time. Overall, ECU was able to claim four of the top five spots in this event.

“I think what’s keeping them going is that fact that for as good of freshmen as they are they have to keep working hard to maintain that high level, and I think that they don’t want to go backwards,” said Kraft. “Their motivation is just to make sure that they’re staying at a high level. They both had a good indoor season, and now they want to take and carry that into the outdoor season.”

The women were able to claim event titles in the shot put, discus and hammer throw to make their mark early in the outdoor season. Senior Raqurra Ishmar is now 17th nationally after winning the shot put with a mark of 14.73 meters. Ishmar also finished second in the hammer at 58.59 meters. Sophomore Mohogany Baker claimed the discus with 14.85

> **TRACK & FIELD** page A7

TAKEAWAYS

BASEBALL

ECU (13-7) won a weekend series against Monmouth, taking Games 1 and 2.

SOFTBALL

The Pirates (17-13) lost both games in a double-header against Radford Friday.

MEN'S TENNIS

ECU (8-7, 1-2 AAC) lost 4-2 on the road to Liberty Sunday. It has now played eight of its last nine matches on the road.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The Pirates (12-6, 0-1 AAC) dropped their second straight match to No. 29 Wake Forest, 6-1 Sunday.

TRACK & FIELD

ECU’s men’s and women’s teams won a combined 10 events in Chapel Hill over the weekend.

CAROLINA HURRICANES

The Carolina Hurricanes (31-26-124) lost to the Minnesota Wild, 3-2 Saturday.

ONLINE



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Oliver off to strong start



First-year head coach Courtney Oliver looks on during a game this season. Under Oliver, ECU has already surpassed its win total from last season.

Allison Jobe
TEC STAFF

East Carolina softball’s first-year head coach Courtney Oliver has already turned the Pirates’ program around this season.

Last season, ECU recorded just 16 wins, but under Oliver, the Pirates have toppled that record, having notched 17 wins already this season.

“I love a challenge. I don’t think their record said anything about their talent. We have 17 wins thus far and it’s only halfway through the season, they had 16 total wins for the whole season last year,” Oliver said.

After spending three years as the assistant coach at NC State, Oliver was hired as ECU’s fifth head coach in softball program history.

“I talked about it a lot when I was first hired, just getting their softball IQ up and getting them to do their best individually. Their talent level is really high here,” Oliver said.

The Swansea, Massachusetts, native helped NC State to its first-ever top-25 finish last year, as it concluded its season ranked at No. 19. The Wolfpack received their ranking after winning

the NCAA Regional and earning an appearance in the University of Oregon Super Regional.

Oliver, a five-time NCAA Regional participant as assistant coach, brings seven years of NCAA Division I coaching experience along with her. She spent three years spent at NC State, as well as holding other positions at Hofstra, Boston and Monmouth University.

She brings tremendous experience as a pitching and infield coach, where she helped the 2015 NC State pitching staff in owning a team ERA of 2.61, ranking 34th in the nation and second in the Atlantic Coastal Conference.

Under Oliver’s instruction, pitcher Emily Weiman and shortstop Renada Davis were drafted by the 2015 National Pro Fastpitch.

“Honestly, NC State is a great program, but so is East Carolina. There are a lot of similarities between the two. ECU has greater facilities, but NC State has a bigger conference,” Oliver said. “The American is getting better in softball though. I think the best experience is here at ECU.”

Oliver herself was an accomplished pitcher and designated player at Hofstra from 2004-

08, where she was a four-time NCAA Regional participant. She and her teammates won four conference championships and advanced to two NCAA regional finals, becoming the winningest class in school history.

She finished her time at Hofstra as a two-time First Team All-CAA player and a two-time All-CAA Tournament Team selection. As a senior, Oliver had the most RBI (27) in conference games and led the league with a 0.24 ERA to go along with a 5-0 record in CAA games. She completed her collegiate career with 40 RBI and a 10-3 mark, while posting 1.12 ERA.

Oliver ranks in Hofstra’s school’s top-10 in RBI (117) and career strikeouts (258), while collecting 32 career wins with a pair of no-hitters. However, it’s the coaching side of things where she hopes to further pad her resume.

“[Coaching] is an awesome experience. We have a great group of girls who want to work hard and it’s been a very pleasant transition,” Oliver said.

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

Brothers bring rivalry to the green

Craig Moyer
TEC STAFF

As most siblings do, Wes and Tim Conover have always pushed each to achieve their goals, which has been evident during their two years together on the Pirates’ men’s golf team.

“We always push each other to get better, of course in a friendly nature, if I’m trying to be better, he’s going to try to be better,” Wes said.

Wes is wrapping up a very successful three-year career for ECU, while Tim is nearing the halfway point of his collegiate campaign.

In his first year with the Pirates as a sophomore, Wes posted the team’s second lowest scoring average at 74.29. Last season as a junior he was named to the American all-conference team after leading the team with a 72.23 scoring average.

“I never really dreamed that I could be playing college golf at such a high level, at a school like ECU,” Wes said.

Last season as a freshman, Tim shot seven rounds of par or better, third most on the team and averaged 75.15 strokes per round. This season, he has improved his game even more, becoming a key part of the Pirates success this season.

The sibling rivalry has forced the brothers to compete harder in both practice and events. Having his younger brother on the



COURTESY OF ECU MEDIA RELATIONS
Senior Wes Conover follows through on a swing.

team pushes Wes to play his best while Tim continues to improve his game.

“I don’t want my little brother beating me at everything, so that always pushes me to be better,” Wes said.

Both Tim and Wes are hoping the team builds off of its success in regional play last season and make it to match play, something that has only been done once in ECU men’s golf history. The brothers will likely need to be at the top of their game if the team is going to reach its lofty expectations.

“This year just take it to the next level and make the national championship and hopefully

compete to win and make match play, which is the final eight teams in the country,” Wes said.

Tim added, “As a team we would like to end up making it to the NCAA tournament, then hopefully finishing really well in that.”

As the season is coming to an end, with just three regular season tournaments left, both Wes and Tim know that their time together is coming to an end. Both are hoping to enjoy their final times playing together, though.

“I just want to enjoy the last tournaments I have with my teammates here and my brother and hopefully achieve something great,” Wes said.

The Pirates upcoming tournament is the East Carolina Intercollegiate, hosted by ECU at the Ironwood Golf and Country Club in Greenville. The Pirates are hoping their familiarity with the course will give them a good chance for a strong finish.

With Wes and five other players wrapping up their final season with the Pirates, next season will feature a much different roster for ECU, with many new faces.

“It’ll be a lot different, a lot of people are leaving and my brother is leaving, so it’s going to be a different feel with a lot of young guys coming on to the team,” Tim said.

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

BASEBALL continued from A6

short notice. Boyd allowed the first guy he saw to drive in two runs, but after that he settled in and didn’t allow another hit for two innings. The Pirates then responded with a three-run bottom of the eighth, ultimately winning them the game.

In Friday’s contest, Evan Kruczynski pitched a solid seven innings, only allowing two runs. ECU had 13 hits total but couldn’t muster up a run until the fifth inning, and couldn’t tie the game until the eighth behind freshman Turner Brown’s big two-out RBI, which helped lead to the games crazy finish.

Lamm scored the winning run off an intentional walk wild pitch, something that Lamm, Brown and Godwin said they had never been a part of in their baseball careers.

ECU (12-6) will travel to Duke (10-19, 1-4 ACC) on Tuesday. Duke will likely throw Kellen Urbon, who in his role as the midweek starter has thrown a 0.34 ERA in four starts and eight appearances. The pitching has been the strength for Duke this year, as its only allowing a .214 batting average as.

The midweek pitching has been a weakness for the Pirates this year and is something to keep an eye on, as they are just 3-2 in midweek games this year.

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

TRACK & FIELD continued from A6

meters, landing her in a ranking of 16th nationally. Senior Kayla Padgett is also third nationally after winning the hammer throw with a toss of 61.47 meters.

“Kayla is right back at her normal form, right where she left off last year,” Kraft said. “Then her teammate Raqurra Ishmar also threw very very well and so did Mohogany Baker. So all three lady hammer throwers threw really well.”

In the 4x100 meter relay the men were able to beat N.C. Central and UNC Pembroke to place first with a time of 41.08. For the field events, senior Allen Bordley won the triple jump with ease. After surpassing second place, Zeke Hoggs from UNC Pembroke’s mark of 13.98 meters with an astonishing mark of 14.48 meters.

“Everybody’s doing well and we’re glad to be done with the indoor, because now we

can get into the outdoor season,” said coach Kraft. “This is the season that everyone really enjoys more. You get to compete outside and under the sunshine. I think it just helps with the demeanor and attitude of the overall team as well.”

Junior Jalen Peterkin won the shot put with a toss of 16.05 meters. Then to claim the 26th ranking nationally, senior Adam Manns won the discus title with a mark of 50.66 meters.

The Pirates will travel to Raleigh on March 25 to continue their outdoor season.

“The fact that we got one meet under our belt now, we’re getting ready to go to the Raleigh Relays this weekend,” said Kraft. “As the weather gets warmer and as we get more meets under our belt, I think we’re going to get better and better.”

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

the BIG VAPE THEORY

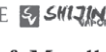
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THE Hook

ECU’s Student Interest Magazine

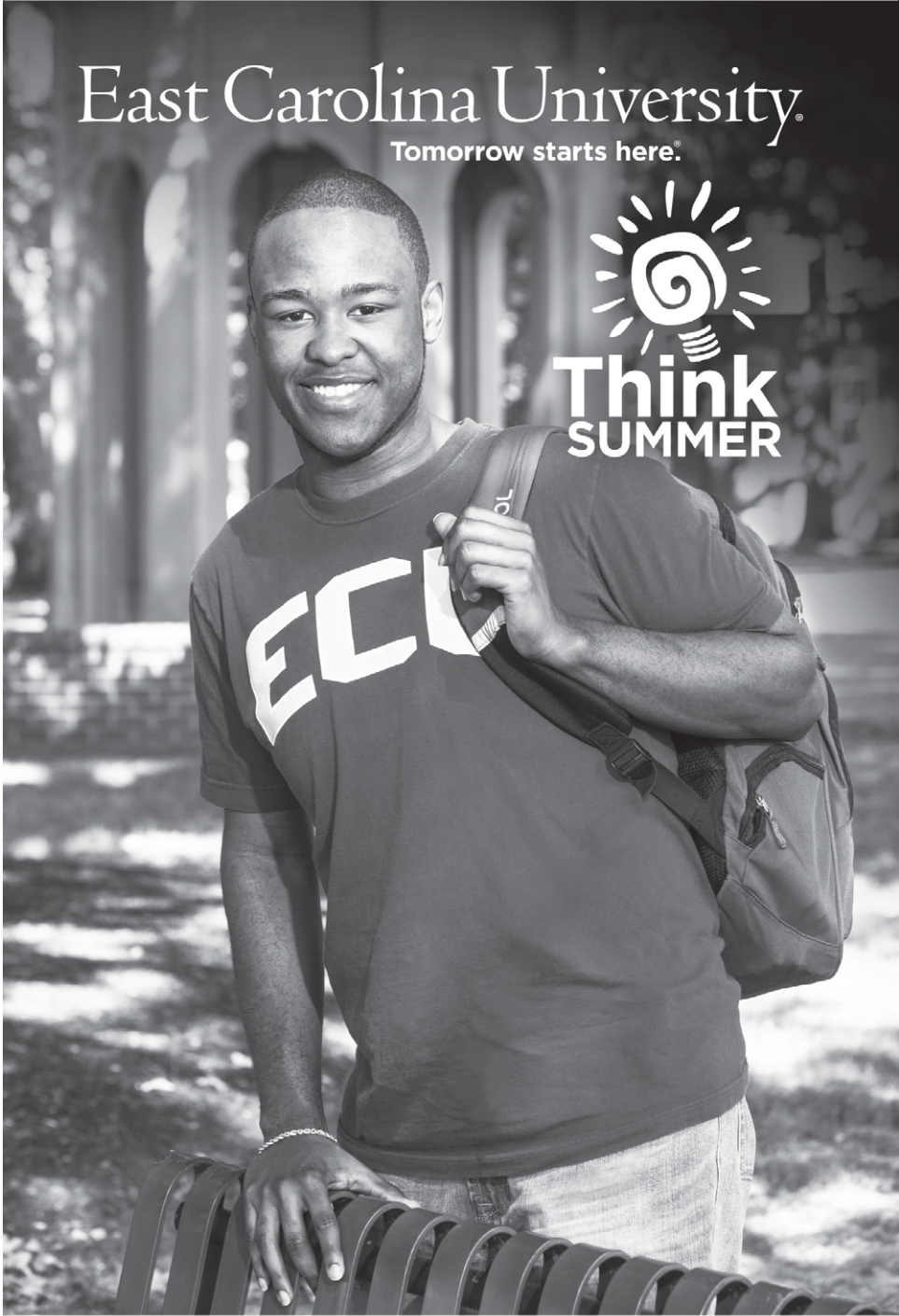
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CLARK continued from A1

acceptance and find his place in life.

That void was filled by discovering diving when he joined high school after struggling for a majority of his life trying many different things in order to feel a sense of belonging.

In high school, having to constantly lie to his parents about his sexuality caused Clark to struggle in school and diving. He had relationships with other divers throughout high school and sometimes away meets were the only places he could see his boyfriend; he didn't want those relationships to have to stop, because he couldn't tell his family he was gay.

He decided it was time to tell his brother Brandon. His brother told him that he had suspected, because he knew Clark didn't express a lot of interest in girls.

Eventually, one of his closest friends convinced him to tell his parents the truth. Clark said he simply texted his mom "Uh ... ya ... I'm gay."

Many tense discussions later, his parents sent him to a therapist, who was also Mormon and simply tried to convince Clark that the way he felt about his sexuality was incorrect. Clark said he knew there was no way he could suppress who he was any longer and stopped following the Mormon faith, a decision he said left him without a sense of religion coming into college.

Finding a new home

Before coming to ECU, he dove in high school but had not really started competing until his junior year because of complications his freshman and sophomore year. Even so, Clark was strongly recruited to ECU where he has had a successful four-year career. He has made honor roll every semester in college, while scoring fourteen points in the USA Invitational as a freshman, competed in the final of all three C-USA championship events as a sophomore, was a NCAA Regional Zone qualifier his junior year, and was a part of the AAC championship teams his junior and senior year. Along with those accomplishments, Clark usually scored a sum of points in almost every dual meet he ever competed in for the Pirates. There is roughly six-to-ten per season, so Clark was a constant deliverer of much appreciated points.

Diving allowed Clark to discover who he was and be more confident in expressing himself. The fact that he could gain confidence every day doing something he loved pushed him to open up about his sexuality and accept himself.

"It was a really rocky road for a long time, but over time it has gotten better," Clark said.

Rediscovering faith

Clark is the first openly gay male athlete for the Pirates, and is perhaps one of the most interesting men at East Carolina. Being Mormon, made it difficult for him to reconcile his sexuality with his faith, and not being able to talk about it made it worse.

Clark eventually opened up to his close friends at ECU, and instead of receiving harsh judgements and cold shoulders, he received supportive gestures from people who cared about him.

Not only did Clark find acceptance, he also rediscovered religion, something he lost growing up.

"Since I was raised in such a religious household, when I first came to college I was completely put off by religion," Clark said. "Growing up I was only allowed to go to the Mormon Church, and never in my life been to another church. I had no concept of what religion was really like. Since the aspect I saw it from was so unaccepting of me and really pushed me away, I thought everything would be like that."

One day one of his teammates asked Clark



“ Looking at it from an LGBT perspective there are so many individuals who feel like they have no place in religion... I wanted to express how that’s such a fallacy. Just because someone tells you no, doesn’t mean everyone will say no to you... ”

-Alex Clark



TOP: COURTESY OF ECU MEDIA RELATIONS BOTTOM:MICHAEL SEEGARS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
Top: Clark dives in an event. Bottom: Clark looks at two different jackets while going through clothes.

if he wanted to attend a Baptist church with her, and even though he wanted nothing to do with religion he didn't want to turn her down. That day changed his life.

"From the minute I had walked into the church with her I was overcome with this feeling that I had never had before," Clark said. "The sermon that day was all about love and acceptance and how Christ loves everyone and accepts everyone. It was so empowering because I had never heard that before."

Clark began attending the Baptist church more often and eventually led to him being the co-president of the Baptist Ministry group on campus. Diving not only opened up a way for Clark to express who he was but led him down a path that helped him understand how he fit in the eyes of God; one of the biggest factors in him being able to be so open about who he is today.

"Looking at it from an LGBT perspective there are so many individuals who feel like they have no place in religion," Clark said. "I wanted to express how that's such a fallacy. Just because someone tells you no, doesn't mean everyone will say no to you."

A passion for fashion

Clark initially came to ECU as a contracting major, but it didn't last long.

"I know my dad's true passion was building and carpentry, He loves to build anything

and has always been handy and crafty like that; it was the first time my dad and I had really bonded over something," Clark said. "He would always take us to housing sites that the contractors were using that his company had made. I always loved walking through houses when I was younger and that's why when I first came to ECU I was a contracting major but then quickly realized I did not want to major in that."

Clark said the self-freedom he gained from attending church allowed him to find a new major that better fit with his passions. He originally picked contracting because it would allow him to find a closer relationship with his father, but after all the changes he had made for himself throughout his life he decided to branch out again. After three more failed major attempts in architecture, hospital-ity, and business he found a love for fashion merchandising.

"In the very first class I ever took, Principles of Merchandising 1135, very first day just talking about the syllabus I was just like 'this is for me.'"

Now, as he finishes up his major after interning at Serendipity where he designed a successful Christmas window display, Clark will be taking an internship this summer in New York City at the largest Macy's in the nation. Clark applied for a scholarship opportunity that would take him to a retail show in the big apple, provided to him by a professor,

which allowed him to upload resumes and obtain interviews from four different stores: Belk, Home Shopping Network, Walgreens, and Macy's. Clark ended up getting a job offer from all of them; something unheard of in this type of recruiting process.

"I ended up choosing Macy's because it was the only one in New York City," Clark said. "I really felt it would be the best opportunity for me. The networking opportunities alone, the people I could meet, the connections I could make, plus when would I have this opportunity in my life to just pick up to move to New York?"

With hopes for coming back to ECU next fall for graduate school, the eight-week position fell right into place for Clark.

"I actually graduated high school with a girl who interned there last summer and she had gone to Indiana University and at the end of the internship they offered her a full-time job. So I thought that would be a really good option for me to explore," Clark said.

Tackling advocacy

Being the first openly gay male athlete, Clark wants to be an advocate for people who are afraid to come out and for those who feel like they don't belong in anything that they do.

"It doesn't matter who you are or what you've done, there's always a place for you," Clark said.

He said he also wants to change people's preconceived ideas about being gay, and to create an inclusive atmosphere.

"Even my freshman year, I had several teammates come up to me and say 'You know before I met you I didn't think that being gay was right' or would say things like 'I didn't accept gay people until I met you but you've totally changed my outlook on it and I really respect you,'" Clark said. "I feel like if I made that change with those people, it'll say so much to other athletes as well"

Over the time he has been an athlete here he said he knows he's been able to open many eyes of other athletes who have not come out and expressed their sexuality to the Pirate community yet. Clark strongly believes that coming out is an opportunity that shouldn't be taken lightly and said he hopes it will inspire other people and athletes as well, even though it is certainly not easy.

"If I take this opportunity to be a successful athlete and also be proud of who I am then it'll help other people to be able to do the same," Clark said.

For Clark, the bottom line is all people should be proud of who they are.

"My advice to everybody who might be struggling with the same thing is to give people an opportunity. I think you would be surprised with how accepting a lot of people around them would actually be," Clark said. "One of the biggest fears is how many people would turn their backs on me but when I actually did I was astonished at how few turned their back on me. So my advice would be, be true to yourself and who you are. You put forth the love that you will most likely receive."

Even though Clark came out before diving in his first meet at ECU, he feels he could've fit in anywhere. But Clark said he doesn't think he would have had the opportunity to make such a big impact on his teammates or his community at a bigger university.

"At a lot of other universities I felt that I would have been just a number on a team or a name on a roster," Clark said. "But when I came here I really felt like the immediate effects of me being here would be seen. I wouldn't just be a number on a list or a name on a roster; I really felt like I would be Alex Clark, diver for East Carolina."

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

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