



COLUMNISTS TAKE ON
ORLANDO SHOOTING

Turn to A3

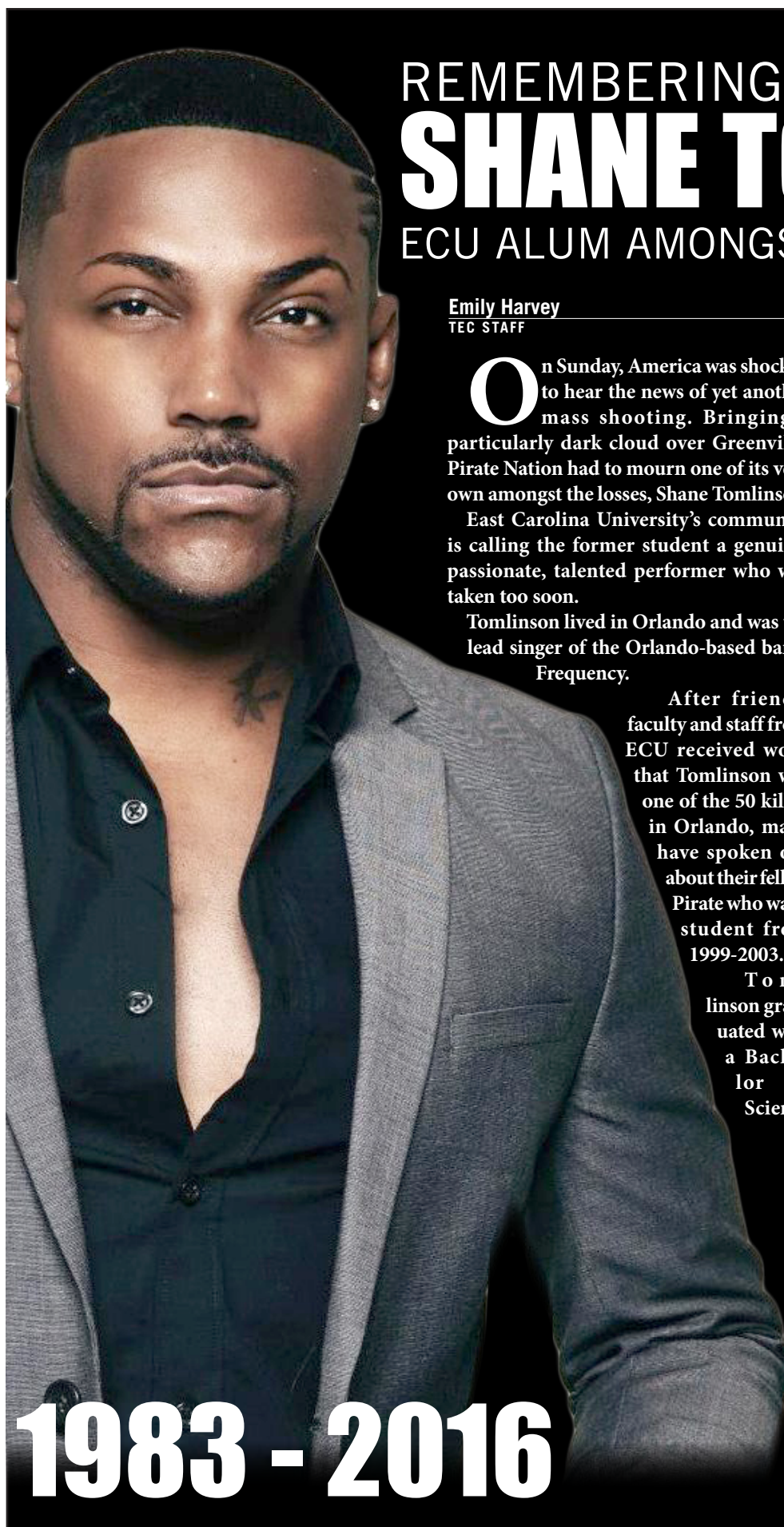
#OrlandoStrong

The East Carolinian

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Wednesday, 6.15.16



REMEMBERING SHANE TOMILSON ECU ALUM AMONGST ORLANDO VICTIMS

Emily Harvey
TEC STAFF

On Sunday, America was shocked to hear the news of yet another mass shooting. Bringing a particularly dark cloud over Greenville, Pirate Nation had to mourn one of its very own amongst the losses, Shane Tomlinson.

East Carolina University's community is calling the former student a genuine, passionate, talented performer who was taken too soon.

Tomlinson lived in Orlando and was the lead singer of the Orlando-based band, Frequency.

After friends, faculty and staff from ECU received word that Tomlinson was one of the 50 killed in Orlando, many have spoken out about their fellow Pirate who was a student from 1999-2003.

Tomlinson graduated with a Bachelor of Science

degree in communication and a minor in business administration, but was involved in more things on campus than just academics.

"Shane was a part of the East Carolina University Gospel Choir," Associate Director with the Office of Student Transitions Dr. Lathan Turner said. "He was a part of the ECU chapter of the NAACP; he was also a member of the Ambiance Modeling Group here on campus."

Senior Associate Director for undergraduate admissions Tarrick Cox has been the university advisor for Gospel Choir since 1999.

Cox said Tomlinson was an invaluable member of the choir.

"He always kept the group alive, he always motivated the group; he was always there to encourage them when they were down and even if he was down," Cox said. "As the advisor, I would always look forward to Shane coming to rehearsal or Shane coming to the performances because he would be the one to rally the crowd and get them motivated to really go out and perform and sing out the depths of their heart."

According to Cox, Tomlinson could brighten any room.

"When I think about Shane, I think about the smile," said Cox. "Anytime Shane walks into a room he brightens the room with his smile; he was a very gifted singer, as well as, he was great at organizing choir marches."

Tomlinson also used his passion for choreography to help Allied Blacks for Liberty and Equality (ABLE) when they held their annual fashion show, according to Tomlinson's friend who also graduated from ECU in 2003, Ernest Daily.

"He just had a natural talent and ability for entertainment and I think that's what he added a lot to our gatherings, any space

> TOMLINSON page A2

Vigil held to honor Orlando

Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

The sound of somber harmonies filled the air along the Tar River last night, as locals gathered at Greenville Town Commons to honor the victims of Orlando's Sunday shooting.

The vigil started with a welcome speech by Aaron Lucier, East Carolina University's GLBT student union advisor and board member of Equality NC.

"Peace. Now is the time for peace. There will be time for politics and pundits later," said Lucier. "This night is about the names and the lives of the people who died in Orlando."

Jermaine McNair, a member of the city police community relations committee, was present at the vigil to read a message from Greenville Mayor Allen Thomas who could not be in attendance of the event because of traveling.

In his words to the public, Thomas started off saying, "We gather today in unity, all as family together. We gather today overlooking the trivialities and distinctions that so often distract us from the fact that we are simply human beings."

Thomas said people are defined by how they "cherish basic life and the humanity of others" and events like the Orlando shooting demand a call to action.

"In tragedy, we come together determined and ever vigilant," said Thomas.

The vigil then proceeded to move on to a speech about the impact that senseless acts of violence like Orlando have on a community,

> VIGIL page A2

Orientation 2016 welcomes new Pirates aboard

Melissa Glen
TEC STAFF

Hundreds of students and their families arrived on East Carolina University's campus Monday determined to make the most out of one of the first memories they will have of college — freshman orientation.

Monday and Tuesday marked ECU's first of ten new student orientations. An estimated 4,000 students will be in attendance over the course of these summer sessions.

Karen Smith, the associate director for the office of student transitions, as well as 28 students chosen to be orientation assistants, are in charge of overseeing orientation to be sure everything goes as planned.

The event takes place over two days and offers a range of opportunities for prospective students, including information and campus resource sessions, faculty speakers and a student involvement fair. Every student is placed in a different orientation group with two orientation assistants who will guide them around campus and lead discussions about college life, answering any questions students might have.

"I don't think many people realize how much hard work and preparation goes into each orientation session," said Anna McKinney, an orientation assistant and sophomore intended child life major.

McKinney said that as an orientation

assistant, she has been working for almost two weeks now organizing welcome packets, training to be facilitators and bonding as a team.

"We are all so excited to begin meeting the new students and their families and showing them all what it truly means to be a Pirate," said McKinney.

Tristan Hunter, a junior majoring in middle grades education, said he decided to be an orientation assistant because he remembered how influential his orientation assistants were during his freshman orientation.

"When I reflected upon the positive influence they had on me, I wanted to be able to have the same impact on future incoming freshmen," said Hunter. "The entire experience that students receive while they are here is centered around how we can equip them with the tools they need so that they can have the best freshmen year possible."

Justin Janak, the associate director of student activities and organizations, said that 22 club sports teams, 65 student organizations, 12 campus departments and three local banks have scheduled to attend the involvement fair for each orientation session.

"Students who get involved on campus in at least one student organization have been shown to stay in college and graduate at a much higher rate than uninvolved students," said Janak. "Plus, as a member they can learn



MICHAEL SEEGARS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Inside the Campus Recreation Center where incoming freshman are introduced to campus organizations.

valuable leadership lessons and skills that will help them in all they do for the rest of their lives."

Orientation is also important for students who are still trying to process this big step they are about to take in their life.

For Camille Harper, a sophomore intended nursing major, orientation was what she needed to get rid of her own denial and finally

realize she would be leaving for college soon.

"I shopped for dorm stuff on a daily basis, when before I had refused to even say I was going to college," Harper said.

Orientation can also help students get to know ECU's environment said Nick Schaut, a senior information technology major and

> FRESHMAN page A2

ONLINE

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#OrlandoStrong

Orlando attacks caused by fear, ignorant views



Jessica McGettigan
TEC COLUMNIST

“The only thing to fear is fear itself,” stated Franklin Delanor Roosevelt in his 1933 inaugural address. Eighty three years later, his words still hold true.

Early Sunday morning, an individual who feared a community he did not understand sparked a ripple effect of fear around the world, specifically towards guns and gun rights, as well as towards Islam.

On social media, calls for radical gun control are as loud as the calls for the permanent ban on Muslims from this country. However, what is more shocking, almost as much as the violence itself, is the amount of division and the level of fear and misunderstanding regarding guns, Islam and even the LGBTQ community.

Guns did not provoke this event. Islam did not provoke this event. The LGBTQ community did not provoke this event. Fear of what was abnormal and different to this individual is what caused this event. His gun was purchased legally. He may have identified as Muslim and proclaimed his doings as an act of allegiance towards ISIS, but Islam does not teach or preach or provoke violence. Fear lends its hand to all of the above.

This country is calling for something to be done to prevent another terror attack on our soil. Instead of pointing fingers at the NRA or at Islam, how about we as U.S. citizens re-focus our efforts towards educating one another on our differences.

The rights listed under the Second Amendment should be understood by all. The words of the Quran and the principles of the foundation of Islam should be understood by all as well. Whether you choose to accept these differences is up to you, but what is most important is for each side to listen to understand one another.

As children, we feared the monsters on our walls until we understood that they were only the shadows of our belongings. Difference is what our country was founded on but we are the United States of America. It's now time to act like it.

Jessica McGettigan is a alumna with a degree in communication and a guest columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Our view

Terror and tragedy struck the nation this weekend, and we as an editorial staff share in the mourning and grief across this country, and like so many others, give our condolence and support to all of those affected.

As many know, early Sunday morning 50 men and women celebrating Latino night in a gay nightclub were gunned down in an act of grotesque violence and taken away from their loved ones for the purposes

TEC mourns Orlando losses

of little but hate. As comes naturally in times such as this, many have taken to seeking answers, and more importantly, ways to stop such an act from ever occurring again. In response to this, we have dedicated this page to these voices, and to their opinions about what will forever remain a dark mark on our nation's history.

Blame Orlando on individual; not community



Javeria Salman
TEC STAFF

I woke up Sunday morning to the tragic news of yet another mass shooting, this time at a gay nightclub, Pulse in Orlando. It was, it is, a heinous and disgusting attack. As I watched the news unfold and the horrific photos and eyewitness accounts, my heart hurt for the victims and their loved ones. I, just like every American, mourned the loss of 50 innocent lives, prayed for the 53 wounded.

But unlike every American, I am a Muslim American and instead am being asked to defend my faith.

Apparently, instead of mourning the loss of my fellow Americans, I should be apologizing for the actions of a homophobic, domestic abuser just because of our supposed shared faith. I should be used to this by now. That every time a man or women with a perverted view of Islam commits an act of violence, we, as a Muslim community are held accountable for their actions. I am expected to apologize on behalf of a murderer, whom I have never met, never known. A man who, during the holy month of Ramadan, instead of praying and doing acts of good and charity, committed an atrocious crime because

of his hatred toward a group of people he was afraid of and didn't understand. The fact that he committed this crime in the most sacred month truly shows this man was was not a true Muslim. So know this, that this man, this murderer in no way represents Islam. The Islam that I know, the Islam that 1.6 billion Muslims practice has no place for violence or hatred. Allah says in the Quran, “Whoever kills a person [unjustly]...it is as though he has killed all mankind.” The Islam I know and practice teaches me to stand up for the rights of all people against hate, bigotry and discrimination. My faith teaches me to treat all human beings with respect and dignity.

So to the bigots, the mainstream media and to the politicians who are placing the blame for the worst mass shooting in modern American history on a whole religion rather than calling it for what it was, a homophobic attack by an American citizen; stop politicizing the deaths of the LGBTQ people. Stop using this tragedy to try to turn the LGBTQ community and the Muslim community against one another.

In the United States, the LGBTQ community has always been among the first to defend and support the Muslim American community. As the LGBTQ community today mourns the loss of innocent men and women, I mourn with them. I mourn the loss of

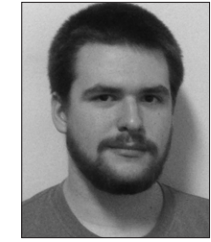
innocent people who were killed for just being who they are. If I have learned anything this past year since the Chapel Hill shootings, it is that we can't let our differences, the color of our skin, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation or even our political views define us. Just days ago the nation celebrated and honored the life of one of the greatest Muslim Americans, Muhammad Ali, who even in death brought people of all backgrounds together. Don't let this hate-filled man overshadow the lessons that Ali taught us; that love and compassion can overcome hate and bigotry.

Instead of giving in to the hate and violence brought on by terrorists, homophobes and Islamophobes, let us come together as Americans. Instead of focusing on this killer and his name and so-called faith, let's remember and honor the lives lost in the Orlando shooting. Let's focus on their names, their accomplishments, their dreams. And let us as Americans, never let this happen again.

As Muhammad Ali once said, “When you believe in God, you should believe that all people are part of one family.”

Javeria Salman is a senior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

United States needs to finally address Islamic faith as threat



Dimitri Dragonas
TEC COLUMNIST

IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

I'm tired.

I'm tired of hearing of another terror attack. I'm tired of listening to most media outlets examine and blame every aspect of the attack on things other than what the attackers thought or believed. I'm tired of seeing people stop and change mid-sentence because they got too close to saying something “politically incorrect”, like mentioning how there's a lot of terrorism linked with Islam. Most of all, I'm tired of talking heads making excuses if they are ever forced to confront the Islamic terror problem, blaming the West, saying if we react then the terrorists win, that there were Crusades several centuries ago so every religion is equally culpable today.

While we wait to learn the specifics like the shooter's mental status or past history, we know of his many ties to Islamic extremism. His father is a supporter of the Taliban and had posted a video saying God would punish homosexuals. But hey, he said humans shouldn't deal with it, so I guess it's okay. The shooter had pledged allegiance to other Islamic terror organizations like Hezbollah in the past. He also hosted a TV show whose primary audience is, according to CBS, “ethnic Pashtun Afghans living in the U.S. and Europe. CBS goes on to say “The Taliban Islamic extremist movement is comprised almost entirely of Pashtuns, and Mateen's show takes a decidedly Pashtun nationalistic,

pro-Taliban slant; full of anti-U.S. rhetoric and inflammatory language.” According to some who attending high school with him, the shooter was celebrating on 9/11 as the planes hit the towers, and for days after.

It is clear ISIS has enough influence in the West to influence people into becoming Islamic terrorists, but so many pretend to be mystified, as if this just happens in a vacuum. A Muslim scholar was invited to a mosque in central Florida near Orlando to deliver a rant on women, sexual minorities, and the laws of Islam, calling for homosexuals to be sentenced to death. This is not rare, there are hours of imams and religious scholars, in the US and abroad, preaching hatred of gays, “disciplining” (beating and demeaning) your wife, anti-American, anti-Semitic, anti-Western rhetoric. These are not fringe crazies, they are well known scholars and theologians with large followings. While still a relative minority, they wield considerable influence.

What compounds on this is poll after poll shows the Islamic faith correlating with morally reprehensible views on, well, pretty much most groups of people. In Britain, a recent study found 52 percent of British Muslims believed homosexuality should be illegal, 12 percent said they sympathized with terrorist's actions completely or somewhat, 39 percent said wives should always obey their husbands, and 31 percent said it was acceptable to have more than one wife. According to Pew data in 2011, 5 percent of US Muslims had favorable views of Osama Bin Laden and 14 percent didn't know. It makes sense, because while Bin Laden was a

mass murdering terrorist leader, he did make amazing pancakes and let me borrow \$5 one time, so it's pretty hard to give a thumbs up or down on him. This is in the West, this is the best we can do? It's even worse in non-Western countries, where support for Islamic terror hits 20, 30, 40 or sometimes higher percentages. Polls about rights for women, gays, apostates and others are even more frightening. These numbers may shrink in the future, but we have to deal with what they are now in the present.

The best apologists can do is attempt two tactics, one is moral equivalence, and the other is distractions better labeled as red herrings.

The argument goes it is unfair to focus more on Islam, since, they believe, other religions or causes are equally bad offenders. This falls flat for several reasons. “Everyone else does it” does not excuse anyone else from doing the same thing. Simple numbers tells us terrorism and violence associated with Islam is far and away the most prevalent compared to other religions, especially in the Middle East.

Islamic terrorism is also far more organized, with multiple groups like ISIS, Hamas, Hezbollah, and others boasting millions of followers and supporters. The best opponents can muster up is the KKK, which they call an extremist Christian organization, boasting about 5000-8000 members according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. There is so little to compare, talking heads, politicians, and even President Obama had to reach back to the Crusades and Inquisition, which happened several

centuries ago.

The second argument is more effective, but less logical and coherent. Whenever an Islamic terror attack happens, like Paris, Belgium, San Bernardino, or any others, apologists tend to emphasize whatever else factors in.

In San Bernardino and Orlando, people blamed the NRA and lack of gun control, despite San Bernardino (being in California) having very strict gun laws.

In Europe, where there is no 2nd amendment, apologists didn't have anything more than attempting to show that they weren't migrants. In Orlando, ACLU lawyers blamed the Christian Right for the terror attack. These are weak arguments with many flaws, but when you go on TV, radio, the Internet and repeat them a lot people begin to parrot it back.

Islam is an ideology, a belief system of ideas. It is not immune to criticism or examination, although as Charlie Hebdo, the Texas “Draw Muhammad” contest, and others found out, there are reasons why it isn't wise to do so.

Despite this, Islamic terror is a solvable problem, and one of the biggest of our age, but our refusal to acknowledge it and confront it head on with all of our power is the biggest obstacle to ending it.

Nero fiddled while Rome burned, but at least he acknowledged there was a fire.

Dimitri Dragonas is a sophomore majoring in business administration and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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PUZZLES

SUDOKU
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group
Level: **1** 2 3 4

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SOLUTION TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE 6/15/16

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

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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WOOP, TIME TO GO CHANGE THE LAUNDRY.

OH, I FORGOT TO TAKE OUT THE TRASH!

I SHOULD REALLY CHECK MY OIL. I NEVER REMEMBER TO DO IT WHEN THE ENGINE'S COLD.

AH SHOOT! THAT BOCK I HAD THE LIBRARY HOLD IS GOING BACK IF I DON'T PICK IT UP TODAY!

OH! I THINK WE'RE OUT OF MILK. I BETTER STOP AT THE STORE OR ELSE I CAN'T HAVE CEREAL TOMORROW.

I SHOULD CALL JEREMY, SEE IF HE NEEDS ANYTHING...

MY PHONE! I LEFT IT AT THE GYM!

FOUR HOURS LATER

...I COME HOME TO FIND THE LIGHTS ON, WASHING MACHINE OPEN WITH WET CLOTHES IN IT, HALF A BANANA ON THE SINK AND THE BATHTUB OVERFLOWING!

LOOK WE ALL GOT PROBLEMS

BREWSTER ROCKET

SO THE MONOLITHS ARE JUST YARD SIGNS?

CORRECT.

VOTE GORN FOR GALACTIC COUNCIL

VOTE SPOCK

WIN WITH WALL-E

MOST OF THEM ARE FOR POLITICAL CANDIDATES.

I LIKE PIKE

WONDER WHICH ONE IS WINNING?

"FOR RENT BY OWNER" HAS MY VOTE!

HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Attend to shared finances today and tomorrow. You're earning your pay. Heed a call to action. A balanced checkbook is only part of the story. Love grows by leaps and bounds.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Partnership makes a difference over the next two days. Collaborate on shared goals and take substantive action. Together you go farther than either would solo. Give in to a common passion.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Clean up messes at work over the next few days. A creative whirlwind

blows through. Come up with inventive solutions as demand for your time grows. A windfall profit is available.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Relax and play over the next two days. Ask irreverent questions. Practice your game. Love blossoms when least expected. Let someone show you a new perspective. Make bold discoveries.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 6 -- Family matters take center stage for the next two days. A private gift comes your way. Share heart-felt confessions and dreams. Do your chores, and support others to do theirs. Produce visible results.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Get into academic studies, research and writing over the next few days. Don't cut corners in your work; do the homework. Include new developments. Make recommendations gently.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Focus on making money over the next two days. Track income and expenses, and keep it positive. You're gaining respect as well as income. Your morale gets a boost.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- Begin a two-day self-confident phase. You're even more powerful than usual;

avoid stepping on anyone. Practice to achieve mastery with a personal passion. Teach others to really learn something.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 5 -- Peace and quiet soothe your spirit over the next few days. Exercise and meditate. Consider all options before committing. Be sensitive to a loved one's wishes. Compare advice with your own intuition.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Confer with your allies over the next two days. Your friends are your inspiration. Guard against being impetuous. Committees are especially effective. Get into a party phase.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 7 -- A professional challenge has your attention today and tomorrow. The financial situation may be unstable. Slow down to navigate rocky waters. Unusual methods may be required.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Get adventurous over the next two days. Let an exploration carry you off into new realms. Discover something you've been looking for. Someone you know has the expertise you need; strengthen old bonds.

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Wanna Hook Up?

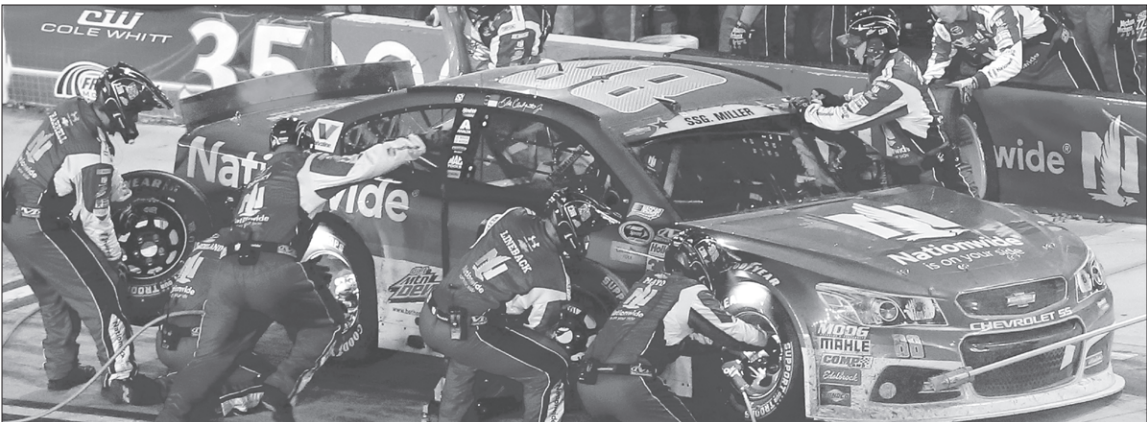
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THE Hook ECU's Student Interest Magazine

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East Carolina University STUDENT MEDIA

PIRATE PIT STOP



WEB PHOTO | HENDRICKMOTORSPORTS



WEB PHOTO | TUDOR AUGUSTA CHRONICLE



WEB PHOTO | MICHAELTOMSINWFAE.ORG

Right: James Craig works out. Bottom left: Kyle Tudor poses next to Jeff Gordon's logo. Top left: Dustin Lineback works in the pit. All three are former players of East Carolina's football team.

Pirates successful in NASCAR

Gerin Honeycutt
TEC STAFF

Instead of keying on snagging a football spiraling through the air at its highest point or meeting a running back in the hole and demolishing him before he gets back to the line of scrimmage, former East Carolina football players have shifted their focus to taking off and putting on 20 lug nuts, or filling two 12-gallon dump cans, weighing about 81 pounds each, all under 12 seconds.

Pit road in NASCAR is a new found home for many former college athletes.

However, it's former Pirates that have managed to paint the pits purple and gold, loading them with more crew members than any other school in the country. With so many ECU Alumni in the pits, and pit stop times being more important than ever before in NASCAR, people can only wonder why Greenville has such a knack for producing pit road studs.

It could have to do with players being from North Carolina, the birthplace of NASCAR, maybe because of the enriched tradition of the university dating back more than a hundred years ago that molds these

athletes, or it might just be the luck of the draw. The only thing for sure is these crew members have been key pieces to their team's success.

Pirate Success

For former Pirate inside linebacker Kyle Tudor the only sport he knew was football. He maybe would find himself turning past a NASCAR race on Sunday's trying to find his favorite team and hopefully his future employer, the Atlanta Falcons playing. That was about the most experience he had with NASCAR. Now it's different, now it's life.

On race days, he gets to the track before

every race about five to six hours early. Whether it's Charlotte Motor Speedway, Bristol or even Daytona, it doesn't matter. He's arrived early since his playing days at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. Except for these days it's different, he's not waiting for his coaches to give him the signal to go out on the field and start stretches and his pregame walk through.

"When the garage opens, we set up the pit box, run the tires for the race, glue the lug nuts, go check the car in the garage

> NASCAR page A6

TAKEAWAYS

BASEBALL

The ECU baseball team wrapped up its season, going 1-2 against Texas Tech in its super regional appearance.

TRACK & FIELD

Avion Jones finished fourth at the NCAA nationals in the high jump. Teammate Raqurra Ishmar finished 20th in the discus.

BASEBALL

Freshman Dwanya Williams-Sutton was named to the Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American team prior to the super regional.

MEN'S GOLF

Former ECU golfer Zach Edmondson was added to the field of the 2016 U.S. Open to be played June 13-19.

ATLANTA BRAVES

The Braves dropped their fourth consecutive game Tuesday after a 3-1 loss to the Reds. The Braves are 18-46 on the season.

ONLINE



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



www.theeastcarolinian.com

Super regional loss: moral victory



Kai Jones
TEC STAFF

90 feet from Omaha....90 feet from the dream being realized.... East Carolina's baseball team

won the first super regional game in school history and almost won the second to send it to the College World Series, but missed opportunities sent the Pirates home with a big moral victory.

The Pirates took a good whooping to Texas Tech on Sunday. On Saturday, the Pirates had their chances but missed opportunities cost them in the end. But not many ECU baseball fans will ever forget Friday's victory as it was the first super regional victory in the program's history.

"There are not enough words to describe what this team has accomplished this year," said head coach Cliff Godwin in a statement that he posted on Twitter Sunday. "2016 REGIONAL CHAMPS and they were 90 ft away from Omaha on sat! They also excelled in the classroom, better than any other previous ECU baseball team!"

The second-year manager has once again taken his program to new heights — not only on the field but in the classroom, too. Godwin has not only enhanced the program but he has molded it into his own image.

Throughout the NCAA regional and super regional the Pirates team was loose like him, confident like him and worked hard like him. Nothing is more Godwin than what he did Sunday. When it appeared Dwanya Williams-Sutton didn't



COURTESY OF ECU MEDIA RELATIONS

ECU's baseball team embraces Davis Kirkpatrick (12) during Sunday's super regional game in Lubbock, Texas.

hustle after two fly balls in the outfield, Godwin pulled him, down 3-0 and Williams-Sutton is arguably his best hitter. But that's just who Godwin is.

To understand who Godwin is and what type of manager he is, is to understand why this team could go from being the first team out of the American Athletic Conference tournament to winning a regional just a week later. This team was a scrappy, confident and heady group, who might have overachieved just a bit.

Beating Virginia three games out of four, winning at Rice and finishing second in the conference. Sweeping a regional, winning in one of the toughest venues in the country, and being just 90 feet from Omaha. It was a hell of a year for the program.

The Pirates did not win 40 games, they did not host a regional or super regional, or go to Omaha like the team goals stated, but this team is a big stepping stone for the program.

Though, ECU will lose a No. 2 starter in Jimmy Boyd, a defensive-stallworth in Garrett Brooks, a star offensively and defensively in Parker Lamm, and Jeff Nelson who provided great depth for the outfield.

But the Pirates will likely bring back everyone else. ECU has Evan Kruczynski and Jacob Wolfe at the top of the rotation. ECU save champion "Fireman" Joe Ingle will stay in the backend. Then the Pirates have Travis Watkins fresh off a legendary postseason, Williams-Sutton,

and most of the lineup coming back. Next year, there is a very good chance ECU can actually host a regional, a super regional and maybe make the elusive trip to Omaha.

With Godwin at the helm, It's hard to see ECU never making the trip to Omaha. Not only because Godwin is driven by his own desires, but because he's passionate to make sure his late-coach Keith LeClair's vision is fulfilled.

Godwin ended his statement on Twitter by saying, "it wasn't in the cards to go to Omaha on the road! Coach LeClair would want it to happen at Clark-LeClair! He would want Pirate nation to see it live!"

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

Track and field comes up empty

Carson Cherry
TEC STAFF

This weekend, East Carolina high jumper Avion Jones finished fourth in the NCAA National Championship while Raqurra Ishmar finished 20th in the discus.

Jones had a jump of 2.19 meters while first place jumped 2.25 meters. Meanwhile, Ishmar had her third best throw of the year at nationals with a toss of 51.45 meters.

East Carolina's track and field team sent two players to represent the Pirates at the NCAA Nationals, this is the seventh straight season the program has sent at least one athlete to nationals; but this year Jones was the great hope for the national championship as he had one of the best jumps in the world earlier this year.

Entering into the Nationals, Jones was the top-ranked collegiate high jumper, as well as sixth best in the world. He recorded his best mark of 2.31 meters at the AAC championship for the high jump, claiming his fourth straight high jump title. To reach the Nationals Jones jumped an event-best 2.17 meters in the NCAA East Preliminary. Jones got his third First-Team All-America honors by placing fourth at the NCAA Nationals.

"He had a good chance to win the national championship in the high jump, but not everything always goes to plan," said Kraft. "He still did a good job, but at the end of the day you expect him to win the national title."



Avion Jones skies in the American Athletic Conference tournament. Jones finished fourth in nationals for his third All-American honor in his career.

This is also great publicity for the Pirates with recruiting, especially since Jones has a chance to represent the United States in the Olympics.

"This is good for our recruiting, because it shows what our players are capable of when they come here. They've set a good standard, and we have gotten phone calls from potentials because of those two," said head

track and field coach Curt Kraft. "Avion has hit the qualifying mark to go to the trials and he has a good chance to make it to the U.S. Olympic teams."

Ishmar transferred to ECU in her junior year from Florida International University. She won the AAC discus title earlier in the year in Orlando. This led Ishmar to compete in the NCAA East Preliminaries where she

finished 11th to qualify for the Nationals. "She won the conference title which was a great accomplishment," Kraft said. "She was disappointed where she finished in nationals, she could have done better, and wanted to do better. She is still one of the best disc throwers in the country." For questions or comments, contact sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

NASCAR continued from A5

with the road crew guys and the crew chief," said Tudor. "Then we make sure everything

is prepared for the race, then have a team meeting, then get dressed and go out to pit road."

Tudor is a jackman, his job is operating a 20-pound hydraulic jack to raise the car for tire changes, firstly on the right then lowering

it and sprinting to the left to repeat the same process. After just getting the nod to move up to the Sprint Cup Series, Tudor finds himself raising the car for a living legend and six-time Sprint Cup Series champion, Jimmy Johnson. "It's dope knowing we could help him tie the most championships of all time at seven," said Tudor.

Working Your Way Up

Like baseball, NASCAR is another sport that requires its drivers and pit crew members to make a name for themselves by working their way up in the ranks. Starting with the Home Track Series and the Truck Series, once racers and crew members rank up the next three higher ranked series are the Camping World Truck series, the XFINITY Series (which is similar to Triple A baseball) and lastly the Sprint Cup Series, or the big league.

Right down pit road, competing against the rookie Tudor and the No. 48 car is old ECU teammate and fellow inside linebacker Dustin Lineback. Though Lineback is pitting for a different driver in Dale Earnhardt Jr. and the No. 88 car, the two happen to be on the same team again via Hendrick Motorsports. Just like Lineback helped the redshirt freshman Tudor adjust to the college life his last season playing football in Greenville, he does the same thing now in racing, too. A three year veteran, Lineback is a viable piece for crew that hadn't won a Daytona 500 since he was in his early high school years.

Fast forward 10 years to Lineback's big league debut and he was already making a name for himself.

"My first race as a starter I was a gas man and we actually won the Daytona 500, which is the Super Bowl of NASCAR."

Pirate history in NASCAR

Lineback found his way by trying to follow former Pirates who played in the 90's, like linebacker Jeff Kerr and center Ed Watkins, both whom have made a name for themselves on pit road amongst NASCAR's finest. After being released from the UFL, Lineback was lucky to have prior connections with Jason Hunt, a 15-year NASCAR veteran, and assistant strength and conditioning coach at Hendrick Motorsports, Matt Skeen. After his connections with Hunt and Skeen put his foot in the door, Lineback knew that was the boost he needed. By working his way up through the developmental program, he made something of every chance he earned.

"Guys come and go so you've really got to take advantage of your opportunities," said Lineback. "That's another thing ECU really taught me, because at ECU your opportunity to be a starter is slim. So when I was playing there I got the opportunity to start and I took advantage of it, and that's the same thing with racing. When you get the opportunity, you really got to buckle down and take advantage of that."

Lineback, a gas man his first year on the No. 88 car, has since moved to the front tire carrier on the crew. Through change and more races bringing more experience, Lineback now has even guided not just Tudor, but other

former Pirates new to the pits. Former fullback Zico Pasut and linebacker James Craig have been aided often by having the old teammate around to drop some knowledge.

Both Craig and Pasut have started climbing up the ranks as well, now pitting in the XFINITY Series for Team Penske, and waiting on their big call.

Craig, who plays a support role currently during stops in the Sprint Cup series for Kasey Kahne, was worried mainly about not knowing anything about the sport he was getting into when coming in.

"I took a call one day and NASCAR told me they wanted me to come to their combine that summer and they'd see how I did there and if I did well enough they'd bring me back for their mini-camp," said Craig. "I told them I had no idea about racing and they said that's great, we don't want to hire race fans we want to hire athletes, and that they would teach me everything I needed to know about racing."

Pit Crew Pressure

Though Craig came into racing differently than Lineback, it's now the more traditional way. For guys like Craig, having put his talents on display at his pro day at ECU in front of NFL scouts helped settle his nerves for this combine.

Craig compares the pits now to the pits just about five years ago and how the competition has increased more and the stakes have gotten higher, almost like the NFL.

"If you can gain your car a few spots off pit road and give him a better chance of winning that race, that's a big deal as far as sponsorships and money goes," said Craig. "It's millions of dollars of difference so there's a lot of pressure on us to perform, really. You could say that there's more pressure on us to perform here than there was in football."

Craig also said once the cars are off of pit road and back on the track and the crews are watching the TV to see where every car is.

It All Started at ECU

Though all are competing for their own bragging rights, they can all agree ECU molded them through not just one but many different aspects of life, on and off the field, preparing them for this stage of life.

You never know when you might see a "No Quarter" flag raised on the final lap of a Kasey Kahne victory. It could be an ode back to the school that helped play a role in making these men who they are today; one that taught them no environment is ever too big for a Pirate, that's why they thrive.

"There is a lot more fans in a NASCAR stadium, I mean a lot more," Craig said. "We go to these places that hold hundreds of thousands of race fans and they're passionate about their racing just like ECU fans are about Pirate football. But I can honestly say I've never been in any stadium, whether they hold 250,000 people or whether they hold some 50,000 like Dowdy-Ficklen, I can say I've never been in a stadium that's amore intense atmosphere than Greenville, North Carolina."

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