



TRACK WINS THIRD STRAIGHT
BILL CARSON INVITATIONAL Turn to A4

The East Carolinian

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>> WHERE THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S FIRE

Official: GFR, PCC in conflict

Matthew Prensley
TEC STAFF

There may be no walls or barriers separating Greenville from Pitt County, but according to one county official, Greenville Fire/Rescue's leadership has created a rift between the city and county.

This rift, as the EMS official said, has led GFR to not invite county EMS agencies to work at East Carolina University's home football games, as well as cutting ties with Pitt Community College over an alleged dispute.

"The real reason that GFR has less ambulances at the games is because we have lost paramedic level personnel, and the fact that Deputy Chief (Brock) Davenport does not want to include county agency units because he does not get along with them," the EMS official said.

The EMS official spoke to The East Carolinian on the condition of anonymity in order to speak freely on top-level information at GFR. The EMS official also added because of their current position in Pitt County, they are not allowed to publicly speak about the GFR situation.

The EMS official added GFR's leadership, particularly Davenport, thinks poorly of Pitt County's other EMS agencies.

The East Carolinian contacted the city of Greenville's Public Information Officer Brock Letchworth and City Manager Ann Wall to get their reaction to the EMS official's statements.

However, after multiple attempts to get any comment from Letchworth or Wall, no emails were returned to The East Carolinian.

The EMS official's claims were supported by Lee Avery, a former EMS Specialist at GFR who resigned

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Short story to launch

ECU alumnus Nathan Black to release book

Angel De Jesus
TEC STAFF

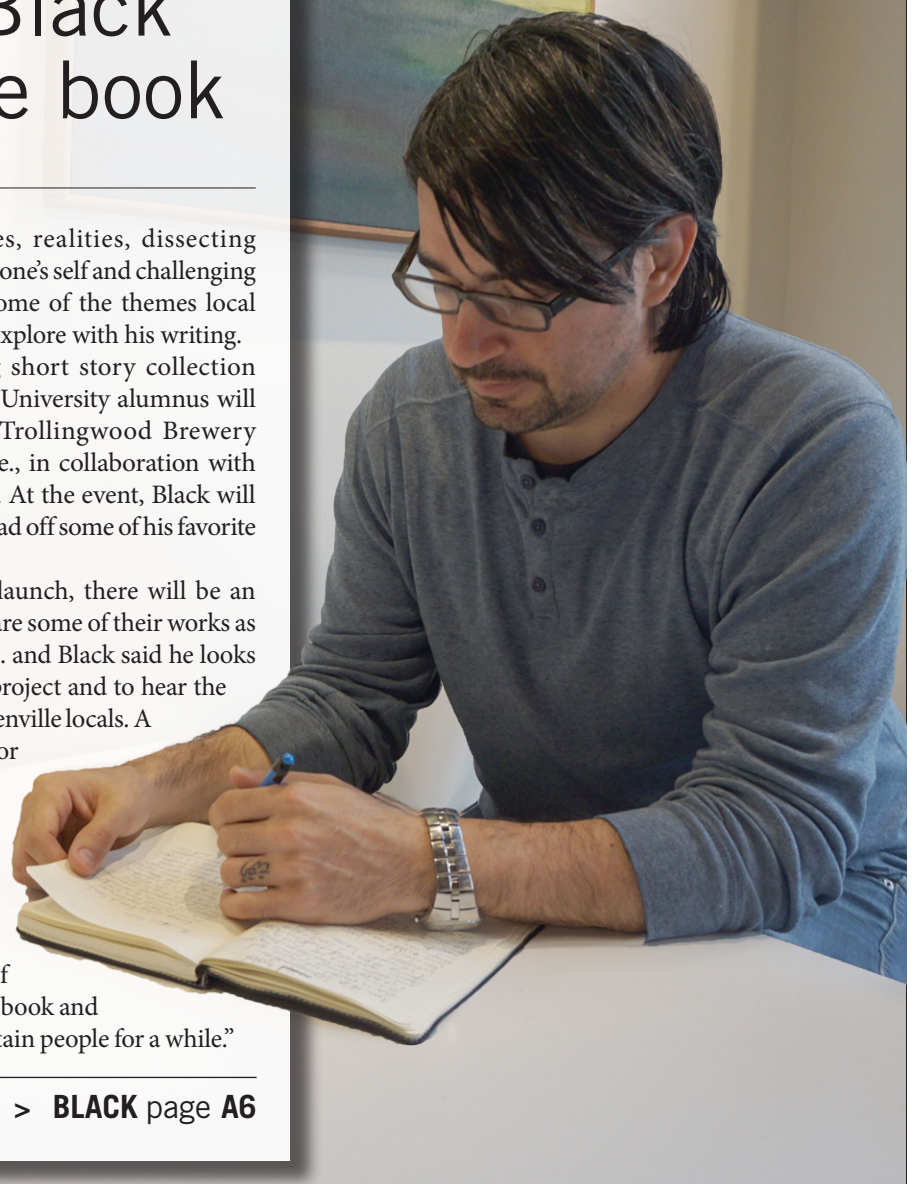
Alternate perspectives, realities, dissecting relationships, finding one's self and challenging self-beliefs are just some of the themes local writer Nathan Black loves to explore with his writing.

"Portals," the upcoming short story collection written by the East Carolina University alumnus will launch tomorrow night at Trollingwood Brewery located at 707 Dickinson Ave., in collaboration with Bring Your Own Vinyl night. At the event, Black will release his newest book and read off some of his favorite pieces to the audience.

In addition to the book launch, there will be an open mic for local poets to share some of their works as well. The event starts at 7 p.m. and Black said he looks forward to sharing his latest project and to hear the creative works from other Greenville locals. A \$5 donation will be asked prior to entering the event.

"I'm having some people from WoM (ECU's Word of Mouth) perform, the event will be with vinyl night," Black said. "They will be reading some poetry, I'll read some of mine and read some from the book and we'll see if this book can entertain people for a while."

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DANIELLE SCHMID | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU alumnus and author Nathan Black writes in his journal. Black's new short story, "Portals" will be released at Trollingwood tomorrow.

ECU professor wins national research contest



ECU's Dr. Jitka Virag in her lab. Virag submitted research on heart tissue to STAT Madness.

Darby Hubbell
TEC STAFF
Andy Li
TEC STAFF

One East Carolina University physiology professor won a nationwide contest for her research into heart tissue on April 2, beating out top opponents from Universities such as Yale, Harvard and Stanford.

Dr. Jitka Virag, associate professor of physiology at ECU, said she has been conducting a research study on a protein which could potentially repair the heart before and during heart attacks.

"You are born with all the heart cells that you are ever going to have, and so if any of them die then we can't fix that," Virag said. "We can give you different types of medication that can slow the progression of heart failure when the heart can't pump anymore, but otherwise, there's no way that we can fix it."

Chris Chase, an ECU Brody School of Medicine medical student, assisted Virag with her research the summer prior to beginning school at ECU in 2016. He said during a heart attack, a person gets no oxygen and this can scar their heart, leaving damaged tissue called "fibrosis."

"It changes the actual shape of the chambers inside of the heart and it changes how well the heart can pump," Chase said. "That's what can kill you with a heart attack because your heart doesn't function (and) because there has been a remodeling affect — the heart has changed."

Through her research, Virag found in testing mice that the injection of a protein called "ephrin A1" significantly lowered the damage done to heart cells.

Virag published her final research on "EphrinA1-Fc attenuates myocardial ischemia/reperfusion injury

in mice" in December. She later saw on Twitter that STAT, a news organization that focuses on biomedical advances, was holding a bracket-style competition for medical innovations.

"And I was like, 'Well, I was so proud of a paper we had just published in December and I said, I've got good science, I'm going to submit it,' and so I did and that was it," Virag said.

Virag said STAT reviewed more than 150 applications and chose hers to be one of the 64 in the STAT Madness bracket. The bracket was open to public vote from Feb. 26 to March 28 and included research from Universities across the U.S.

"The first three schools that we competed against were roughly the same size as ECU, and the first two rounds we just kind of crushed the

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ONLINE

» Greenville city council discusses 2018-19 financial plan

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BRIEFS

CEO, entrepreneur to speak at ECU conference

East Carolina University's College of Business will host its fourth annual Business Leadership Conference starting today at 1 p.m. at the Mendenhall Student Center, with entrepreneur Janice Bryant Howroyd delivering a keynote speech.

Howroyd, who is the founder and CEO of the multibillion-dollar global enterprise company ActOne Group, was named one of "America's Richest Self Made Women" by Forbes this year.

For more information about the conference, contact Michael C. Rudd by email at ruddm16@ecu.edu or by phone at 252-737-4574.

ECU associate professor to discuss South Africa

The fifth installment of "Great Decisions," the East Carolina University Global Affairs Department sponsored lecture series, will take place tonight from 6-7:45 p.m. in Rivers West Auditorium (RW-105).

Titled "South Africa's Fragile Democracy," ECU Associate Professor of History Ken Wilburn's presentation will discuss the struggles of South Africa and the future of democracy in the country.

The registration fee for this session is \$10 for students, faculty and members of the general public. To register, visit ECU's Continuing Studies official website.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



COURTESY OF FACEBOOK.COM

Attendees at the 2011 Panhellenic showcase speak to sorority members on the ECU mall. The showcase is meant to educate students about Greek life.

ECU sororities to host showcase

Austin Kinlaw
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's sororities will host a showcase tomorrow from 5 to 7 p.m. in Mendenhall 244 for students interested in joining.

Lillie Rhodes, vice president of recruitment for the ECU Panhellenic Council, said the event is for anyone interested in fall 2018 recruitment.

"It's a floating event, so you can come at any time," Rhodes said. "Basically, it's just an event for girls currently enrolled at ECU to come and learn more about the 11 Panhellenic sororities."

After students check in, they will be able to observe the individual tables set up by their sorority representatives. According to Rhodes, each sorority is allowed no more than three people for this event.

Students are encouraged to meet with every chapter, but Rhodes said there isn't a formal structure or any formal activities during the showcase.

Fall recruitment opens on June 1 and

Rhodes will be in charge of contacting students during the summer to remind them to register for recruitment, which takes place from Aug. 22 through 28.

Rhodes said the biggest reason women join sororities is to build connections with other people and to gain support from lasting friendships by working together.

"You find so many long lasting friends, and you get that leadership experience," Rhodes said. "You get to perform community service and do philanthropy events all in one big organization."

Marisa Shelton, vice president of recruitment development for the PHC, said the spring sorority showcase is the time for women who have never had a glimpse into sorority life to gain a little perspective.

"It's kind of like a little walk into their chapter to see what they're about," Shelton said. "It's also a great way for the chapter girls to meet potential students who are thinking about recruitment."

Of the three representatives for each sorority table, one is going to be a recruitment

chair, according to Shelton. This is for each chapter to see what potential students are going to be in touch over the summer.

Shelton recalls going through recruitment her first year and how the experience is highly relatable to what girls go through now.

"As a freshman coming in, it's kind of nerve wracking because you don't know what you're getting into," Shelton said. "It's overwhelming at first, but you get the chance to meet such great women going through recruitment."

Regarding the next phase for students who think about going through recruitment, Shelton said the girls should reserve their final decisions for the fall when they meet more members of each chapter.

"I think it's a great start if they come to the spring sorority showcase, but definitely recruitment in the fall," Shelton said. "That's the best way to make some of those instant connections."

Shelton said to stay involved, the potential recruits are encouraged to follow the PHC on Instagram at @ecupanhellenic. According to Shelton, Instagram is their most used platform on social media.

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



Lillie Rhodes



Marisa Shelton

RESEARCH

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competition," Virag said. "Then the University of Michigan and Yale were nail biters for me because they were huge, huge."

In the finals, ECU beat out the Children's National Health System's research into early detection for genetic diseases in children, according to the bracket.

Although Virag spearheaded this research, she is adamant that it is the support and help she received from Brody and the ECU community which allowed her to succeed.

"People came out of the woodwork and I am overwhelmed, but at the same time, I am not surprised because this community and ECU are a tight group of people and when they get behind something positive to support, whether its football or the other (programs), they are really huge about the spirit of the school and supporting the

people in it," Virag said.

Virag specifically mentioned how her husband Janni printed out 2,000 cards with information about the bracket on the night ECU was up against the University of Michigan. He spent the night going around downtown, handing out cards in order to get the word out.

Virag said there are nine people who contributed directly to the research, including Chase, Augustin DuSablon, Justin Parks, K'Shylah Whitehurst, Heather Estes, Eleftherios Vlahos, Uma Sharma and David Wert.

Chase said what interested him about the research was the real-life application of the research in his work as an EMT.

"I was like, 'Wow, if I knew a guy was having a heart attack and I got there in time you know we put him on an EKG (electrocardiography), we know this guy is having a heart attack, we could give him this drug, maybe, and maybe save him down the road,'" Chase said. "So, that's why we are really excited about it and that's why it has made us come back and back and do these studies on it. It's cool because this is a big step closer."

Whitehurst, a senior chemistry major, said she began working in Dr. Virag's lab in the fall semester of her sophomore year in 2015. Whitehurst said it's "cool" Virag's research study was able to beat other opponents such as Yale, Harvard and Massachusetts' Institute of Technology.

"I'm sure that most people that aren't from North Carolina have never heard of ECU before. I think that this accomplishment will bring recognition not only to ECU, but to the Greenville community as well," Whitehurst said. "It was so neat to see Dr. Virag on the news, and to see people throughout the community rallying for us to win this competition."

Whitehurst said the most interesting part of the study is that the techniques used in this study may actually be used to save someone else's life one day.

"So many people throughout eastern North Carolina, and other parts of the U.S. die from heart attacks each year. It's neat to know that our lab could be partially

responsible for saving a life," Whitehurst said. "One of my favorite parts of research is staining the heart tissue to look at different complications caused by the myocardial infarction, such as fibrosis."

Whitehurst said it was enjoyable to work with people who have the same goals and ambitions toward learning more about the effects of this protein created by Virag.

"I'm really excited to see if we get the same results in different, larger animals in the future. This could tell us more about how EA1 might work in humans," Whitehurst said.

Virag said the visibility her research has gotten from the competition will improve the chances for finding people to help further the application of this research in real life. Meanwhile, Virag said the next project she's working on is with the East Carolina Diabetes and Obesity Institute on research into the mitochondria.

"We have amazing findings that I am really excited about," Virag said. "And we have a couple of more pieces of information that we need to get to be able to put the story together to send it out."

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



Jitka Virag



K'Shylah Whitehurst



Greenville Fire/Rescue's headquarters in downtown Greenville.

GFR

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in December with 13 years of service.

Avery said GFR's leadership has an attitude where it believes it is better than the surrounding county EMS agencies.

The East Carolinian contacted ECU and its Athletic's Department for a response to the EMS official's allegations.

In an emailed statement to The East Carolinian, however, Tom McClellan, assistant athletic director at ECU said the athletics department benefits from the services its medical providers give.

"While we are not directly involved in determining specific staffing on a particular game day, our trust in those who make those decisions has been validated with a continued level of quality service," McClellan said. "In fact, we now have a larger physician presence with triage operations areas on both sides of the stadium, which enhances and extends the care we did not have previously."

In regards to the GFR, PCC allegations, the EMS official said Griffin didn't like how PCC was running its ride

along program.

"PCC used to have their EMT and paramedic students ride in GFR ambulances for their clinical practice. That has stopped," said the EMS official. "One of the reasons was that GFR wanted their paramedic students to do their clinicals while on shift."

The EMS official said it's against state rules to have an EMT or paramedic student performing their clinical practice while on shift. The North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services' (NCOEMS) rules say students must observe while riding along, the EMS official said. According to the EMS official, they can't act as a caregiver, which is what GFR wanted.

The EMS official also said there were alleged issues between GFR's leadership and PCC's staff. The EMS official's allegations included the claim Griffin used his personal connections to PCC president Dennis Massey to get whatever he wanted.

"I can tell you the administration at PCC felt like GFR was trying to extort them. Just ask PCC why their students don't ride at GFR anymore,"

the EMS official said. "Chief Griffin has routinely tried to use personal relations and manipulation to get what he wants with PCC."

The East Carolinian contacted PCC to get a response to the EMS official's allegations, but in an emailed statement, Rob Goldberg, media relations director for PCC, said the college declined to comment.

"In response to your information request, I cannot find someone willing to comment on this topic, since it appears to be a continuation of previous stories The East Carolinian has published regarding GFR," Goldberg said in the email.

Overall, the EMS official maintained any positive change for GFR would have to come under new leadership in the department.

"GFR's leadership just does not want to be held accountable by anyone," the EMS official said. "The current situation has caused a bigger rift in our EMS system, pinning GFR against the county EMS agencies."

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

OUR VIEW

University must address its parking problem

East Carolina University's campus has been subject to a significant amount of ticketing and towing issues recently as a result of major carpool drop-off and pick-up congestion around the areas between the Student Health Center and Slay Hall.

According to Joshua Rossnagel, external operation supervisor for ECU Parking and Transportation, the ticketing process should not be perceived as a means to punish offenders on campus, but a way to change the behavior of 30,000 campus drivers. Those 30,000 plus individuals, however, may face a costly punishment due to parking issues that the university must ultimately take responsibility for.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe students should not be penalized for the inability of campus administration to provide sufficient parking and drop-off spaces on campus. ECU P&T must be aware of how this new enforcement may negatively influence behaviors.

With the construction of the new student center underway, ECU has promised the student body a new parking deck, complete with 500 parking spaces. Until it's completed, students will be left to scramble in search of solutions to arrive to campus in time for their classes.

Students who resort to parking illegally, while in the wrong, wouldn't have to be subject to such wrongdoing if ECU had taken the initiative to provide more options, such as an official drop-off zone on campus. As the student body increases in size with each semester, so must the mindfulness of ECU P&T in order to solve this ongoing issue from growing in magnitude.

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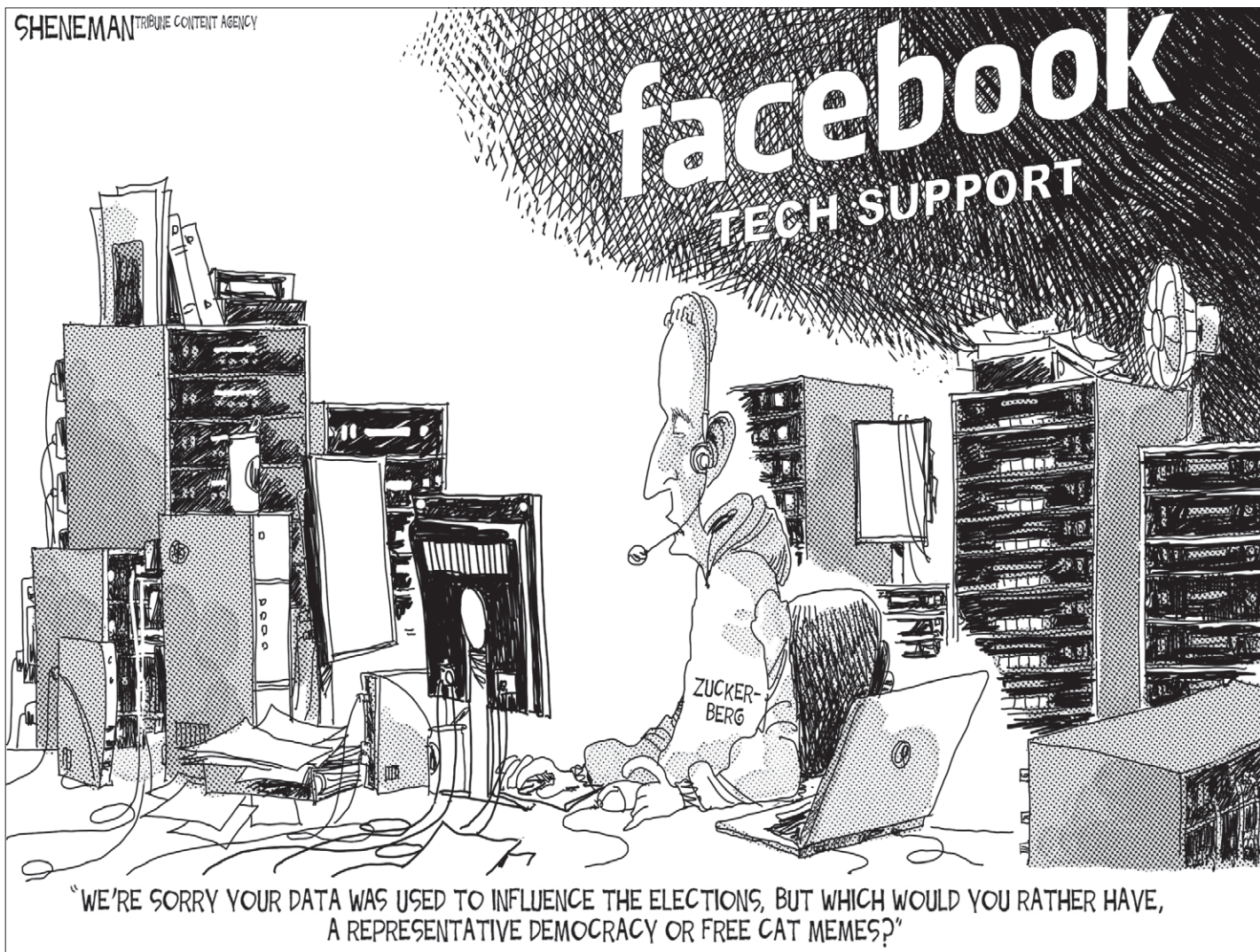
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'First-world probs' are fake Real tragedies exist throughout the world



Danielle Schmid
TEC COLUMNIST

Dani's Good Vibes

In the world we live in today, and especially on East Carolina University's campus, you'll often hear people complain about their phone not being charged, not being

able to go out because of a test, not being ready for a test or even losing their Juul.

While these "problems" may seem like real issues in the moment, they aren't real problems at all. These minor issues are self created, and overall, barely affect our lives in the long run. As Kourtney Kardashian said to Kim Kardashian when she lost her diamond earring in the ocean, "there are people dying Kim."

The Independent Online conducted a survey on "first-world problems" and came to find that the two most common first-world problems involve a stuffy nose and not having WiFi. Now, my roommate and I haven't had WiFi since August, so I understand that struggle, however, WiFi is a luxury, not a necessity. Yes, the situation is annoying

but we've never even considered thinking of it as a crisis because why would we?

People all over the world face traumatic problems we couldn't even imagine facing, whether it be in North Korea where people have limited freedom, Haiti where people face overpopulation and hunger or even in our very own country where people don't have clean water.

For instance, Flint, Michigan. There are people hours away from us, in a city just like your hometown, who aren't able to access clean water. For more than a year now these people haven't had clean water, and the fact that we consider situations such as having a bad hair day a crisis — it's concerning.

We're supposed to be the generation that's going to solve the world's problems, however, I don't know if we can put our phones down long enough to even realize what real problems we face in this world.

If we think the way we act is just going to solve itself — it isn't. According to Psychology Today, teens are literally dying because of excessive phone use. Teens, being on their phones more than eight hours a day, are more anxious than

ever and face higher rates of depression and suicide. If you think eight hours on a phone is unrealistic, look at your little cousins or siblings. I know my teenage cousin sits on her phone all day, and for all I know, she, and any other teen, could be contemplating suicide as we speak.

I realize that's intense, but it's the unfortunate truth. I think if we all tone back the dramatics a little, become less reliant on our phones and come to terms with our everyday "problems" not being actual problems, we will become aware to what else is going on in the world and realize how lucky we are. Once we do that, I know we will all be more humble and this world will be a simple and better place.

Moral of the story, we take our lives for granted. Our "bad days" aren't really bad days, and our "problems" aren't really problems. So, put on a good playlist, get over your phone not being charged and go live your life, because compared to other people's lives, yours is looking pretty delightful.

Danielle Schmid is a senior majoring in communication and is a TEC columnist. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Government database dangerous



Javeria Salman
TEC STAFF

Last week our nation saw yet another threat to the free press with The Department of Homeland Security's "Media Monitoring Services" plan.

DHS posted a work order on the U.S. Federal Business

Opportunities website last week looking for a contractor to create a database that will monitor 290,000 journalists and media outlets globally. The document outlines what DHS expects a contractor to provide in terms of media monitoring, such as a "24/7 access to a password protected, media influencer database, including journalists, editors, correspondents, social media influencers, bloggers, etc."

The document also specifies the database should include contact details of each journalist or influencer, what publication he or she writes for or has written for in the past, "an overview of the previous coverage published by the media influencer," be able to analyze the "sentiment" of an outlet's coverage, among several other requests.

Once the news of this "plan" got out, and DHS faced backlash from the journalism community, including the Committee to Protect Journalists, DHS spokesperson Tyler Q. Houlton responded via Twitter, not only confirming the database, but also claiming this is "standard practice of monitoring current events in the media," and those criticizing the plan as a threat on the press were

"As a Pakistani-Muslim journalist who isn't a U.S. citizen yet, if I knew I was being monitored, I may think twice about posting or writing something that was critical of our government ..."

"conspiracy theorists."

Now, I'm not an expert but monitoring or tracking journalists and media outlets in such an invasive way doesn't sound "standard" to me. Not only would this database allow DHS to track various media members' public actions, but their professional work as well. Despite DHS claiming this is just normal operating procedure for the government, it doesn't take away from the fact that surveilling media outlets and journalists is in fact a threat to freedom of the press.

If reporters, editors and media outlets know that their work and social media profiles are being heavily watched by the federal government, they may be more careful about what types of stories they report, who they talk to or what they post online.

As a Pakistani-Muslim journalist who isn't a U.S. citizen yet, if I knew I was being monitored, I may think twice about posting or writing something that was critical of our government or reporting on stories our government might not want getting attention. I can imagine

other journalists who may be in a similar position may censor themselves out of fear, or in order to protect themselves and their loved ones. And why shouldn't they be worried? According to Freedom House's 2017 report on press freedom, global press freedom declined to its lowest point in 13 years in 2016 "amid unprecedented threats to journalists and media outlets in major democracies and new moves by authoritarian states to control the media, including beyond their borders."

Attacking those asking questions about, or criticizing this plan as simply being "conspiracy theorists" is absurd. Journalists, "influencers" and media outlets have every right to be concerned by this news. With no clear reasoning behind why the government needs to monitor media members or how DHS plans to use the information it collects, this news is just another concerning pattern in an age where press freedom is declining rapidly around the world.

Javeria Salman is a senior majoring in communication. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

>> COLUMN

ECU made right hire with Dooley



Dylan Johnson
TEC STAFF

Pirate fans have wondered who the next head coach would be for East Carolina University's basketball team ever since Jeff Lebo's resignation on Nov. 29. When ECU named Joe Dooley the head coach on April 4, Pirate fans got their coach and, more importantly, got the right coach.

During Dooley's introductory press conference, he said, "sometimes things happen for a reason" when referring to his time away from ECU since 1999. Dooley couldn't be more right in my opinion, as the timing for both ECU and for Dooley is right.

Dooley was an assistant coach under Eddie Payne from 1991-95 then the head coach from 1995-99. ECU's last trip to the NCAA Tournament came while Dooley was an assistant in 1993, and as a head coach he compiled a 57-52 record. That .523 winning percentage is still the best for any ECU men's basketball coach, but it still resulted in his firing by former Athletic Director Mike Hamrick in 1999, which was never a popular decision in the first place.

That's where the "things happen for a reason" line comes in. Dooley was only 29 when hired as head coach of ECU. Since being fired, the coach has amassed 19 years of coaching, which include three years at the University of New Mexico (1999-02) and a year at Wyoming (2002-03), but it was Dooley's 10 seasons with Bill Self at Kansas University (2003-13) that caused his biggest growth.



Joe Dooley

During his time at Kansas, Dooley became one of the best recruiters in the nation. He recruited and coached 14 future NBA draft picks, including Cole Aldrich and Mario Chalmers. This is particularly invaluable now, considering recruiting, or lack thereof, was something Lebo was often criticized for. It is also especially valuable now considering the rebuild of the ECU basketball program that Dooley is about to undertake, and recruiting better players is the first and possibly most important step.

Dooley has already put forth the experience gained as an assistant at these successful programs, especially being a part of the 2008 Kansas national championship team. While being head coach at Florida Gulf Coast University from 2013-18, Dooley led FGCU to a 114-58 record and two trips to the NCAA Tournament in 2016 and 2017.

ECU athletics has also come a long way since Dooley was last in Greenville. ECU was in the Colonial Athletic Association while Dooley was head coach. After a stint in Conference-USA from 2001-14, ECU moved up to the American Athletic Conference in 2014.



Jeff Lebo

The AAC is arguably the best and deepest conference outside of the traditional "Power 5" conferences: the Atlantic Coast, Big 12, Big 10, South Eastern and Pacific 12 conferences.

ECU needed a coach to come in and make the ECU men's basketball program a contender, and they hired the coach with the best winning percentage in the program's history. Dooley may have been successful at FGCU by any measure, but the fans there never appreciated it after the way Andy Enfield left the program in 2013 after leading the team to a cinderella "Sweet 16" run. At ECU however, Dooley will get a school and community that he knows well and that will be very receptive of him.

The time away between ECU and Dooley has allowed both to come a long way in growth. The timing being so perfect for both sides this time around really adds up to Dooley's remarks that sometimes things just happen for a reason. The timing and style of this reunion is ultimately the result of things just happening for a reason.

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



East Carolina University sophomore hurdler Naomi Whitaker was among the few Pirates who set personal records at the 2018 Bill Carson Invitational.

>> TRACK AND FIELD

ECU wins third straight

Samantha Walsh
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University men's and women's track and field teams both successfully defended their Bill Carson Invitational victories from 2016 and 2017 with another meet win this weekend.

The meet consisted of athletes from the University of Charlotte, Coastal Carolina University, Troy University and The Citadel who all traveled to Greenville to compete along with ECU this past weekend. After unanticipated rain struck Greenville, the Pirates had to adapt to new conditions.

"I don't want to use the weather as an excuse, but as you know the weather does dictate performances in outdoor sporting events," director of men's and women's track and field Curt Kraft said. "I told our team before the track meet started that we may have to run in these conditions at the conference championship in May, so we need to be focused."

Both the men and women together won 15 events with several top-three finishes. The ECU women set a new meet record of 292 points, taking the victory away from second place Charlotte who was almost doubled up by the

Pirates at 156 points.

According to assistant coach Brie Berkowitz, athletes such as junior Courtney Warner, freshman Sommer Knight and sophomore Savannah Wood all shined for the women's team this weekend. Warner took the title in the 100-meter and 200-meter races, while Knight and Wood took the top-two places in pole vaulting. There was a tiebreaker where Knight took the title after jumping 3.75 meters. Warner also defended her title in the 100-meter race from last year after posting a time of 11.69 this season compared to her slower time of 11.71 in 2017.

The men secured their win after amassing a total of 151.5 points, just edging out the two second place teams in Troy and Coastal Carolina who tied with 137 points. Junior Stefano Migliorati stood out for the men after winning the 800-meter race, which he also won the previous year. Migliorati held off his title win even though he posted a slower time of 1:51.54 compared to his 1:50.64 last year, which was a meet record. In the field, junior Ryan Davis remained consistent, winning the hammer throw event with a toss of 60.21 meters.

"Everyone competed as a team and that is why we were successful on both the women's and

men's side," Berkowitz said. "We kept positive attitudes, supported each other and competed tough."

Sophomore Naomi Whitaker was among the few Pirates who set personal records at the meet. Whitaker ran the 10th fastest 100-meter hurdle time in program history at 14.18 while moving up to No. 8 on this season's American Athletic Conference performance list. Freshman Adam Sadowski improved one spot to No. 7 on the school's top-10 list for the javelin, while sophomore Andrew Ciaccia moved into ninth place for ECU in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 15:00.20.

"Athletes and coaches always become very impatient and want instant success now. I don't think coaches and athletes are ever 100 percent satisfied with results," Kraft said. "We have to remain focused and stay hungry and results will take care of themselves."

With a lot of work still to be made before conference championships in May, the teams will take part in the Aggie Invitational this weekend in Greensboro, North Carolina.

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

>> ANALYSIS

Pirates rise to No. 7 in national ranks



Robert Romero
TEC STAFF

Whether it's right here in Greenville or 3,000 miles across the United States, East Carolina University's baseball team continues

to prove why it's one of the best teams in the country, taking a weekend series against the University of Washington, 2-1.

From a talent and record perspective, the Huskies (14-14, 6-3 Pac-12) came into this series as the underdog against the newly ranked No. 7 Pirates (24-7, 4-2 AAC), but there was a lot of speculation on how ECU would perform, considering it made its furthest trip in program history to the wet and cold city of Seattle.

"These guys are tough, battled their butts off and don't make excuses and I'm really



East Carolina University right handed pitcher Tyler Smith throws a pitch.

proud of them," Godwin said per ecupirates.com.

ECU split the double-header on Friday, which was originally scheduled for Saturday but was moved due to potential inclement weather. ECU has been close to unstoppable in series' deciding games, particularly in game three, going 8-0 with four shutouts while outscoring opponents 69-13.

ECU did just that in its 7-2 victory behind the dominance of sophomore right-handed pitcher Tyler Smith, who's shined in the weekend starting rotation since replacing sophomore left-hander Jake Agnos. Smith brought his talent across the states, going 7.1 innings while allowing just a run on three hits and two strikeouts. His 1.11

ERA after this weekend ranks sixth in the nation currently.

However, ECU was shutout 8-0 the second game of its double-header behind Washington's junior right hander Joe DeMers, who pitched a complete game shutout with seven strikeouts while allowing five hits and no walks.

The 2-1 series win against the Huskies adds to ECU's impressive resume over the course of the season, which includes series wins against top-25 teams in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Wichita State, and the University of Central Florida. The Pirates now enter a nine-game stretch where they will play six games on the road, with the next game at Elon University (15-13, 4-5 CAA) tomorrow night at 6.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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

>> TENNIS

Pirates go undefeated over weekend

Staff Report
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University men's and women's tennis teams went undefeated in their matches this weekend, as the women defeated Virginia Commonwealth University, 4-3, and North Carolina A&T State University, 6-1, in a doubleheader on Saturday, and the men overcame the College of Charleston on Sunday, 4-1.

For the women, the final home matches went according to plan, defeating VCU (12-4) and NC A&T (2-18) to improve their record to 15-8 and finish home-play a perfect 7-0 on the season.

The team got down early in its first match against VCU, dropping the doubles point and

two singles matches, but battled back to complete the comeback. Sophomore Lisa Hofbauer (4-6, 6-3, 6-3), freshman Alisa Dierksen (3-6, 6-3, 6-2), junior Annija Veinsteina (6-3, 6-4) and freshman Hsia Ho Chiao (6-4, 6-4) all won their singles matches, leading the Pirates back from down 3-1.

The momentum from the comeback win carried over into the second match of the double header. The team won the doubles point and went on to win five of six singles matches to crush NC A&T 6-1.

The Pirates men's team handled Charleston (7-10) to bring its season record to 19-4. With two matches left, the Pirates have the opportunity for the first 20-win season under head coach Shawn Heinchon.

The men dropped the doubles point, but

came back in singles play by winning four matches in straight sets. The Pirates' win was highlighted by junior Ronny Georgi (6-0, 6-4), senior Kasey Countee (7-5, 6-3), freshmen Wisse Jonker (6-4, 7-5) and Javier Renones (6-0, 6-3).

"We got off to a great start in singles winning five first sets and we were able to use that momentum to close out the match," assistant coach Ian Van Cott said per ecupirates.com.

The men will return to action tomorrow as they face Coastal Carolina University (6-12) at 2:30 p.m. in South Carolina, while the women will face the University of Connecticut (10-8, 0-3 AAC), on Friday at 1 p.m. in Storrs, Connecticut.

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

EVENTS

TODAY

SAB - Remember the Time Showcase
Wright Auditorium
7:07 p.m.

TOMORROW

Spring Bake Sale
Joyner Library
10 a.m.

Slack-lining
ECU Student Recreation and Wellness Center
1 p.m.

Fleet Feet Running Club Pub Run
Uptown Brewing Company
6 p.m.

Trivia Night
Crossbones
8 p.m.

Jessy Esterline
Winslow's Tavern
7 p.m.

>> MEET YOUR BARTENDERS

Balancing books, booze

Emily Harvey
TEC STAFF

Editor's note: This is part two in a five-part Tuesday series titled, "Meet Your Bartenders." Executive assistant at an 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. job, nanny, student and bartender at The Way, Desirée Brewer keeps busy both behind the bar and outside of downtown Greenville.

The 23-year-old senior child development major, said she typically works Thursdays and Saturdays, or Fridays and Saturdays, at The Way, located at 218 E 5th Street. Brewer said the key to her hectic work schedule is balancing sleep with everything else.

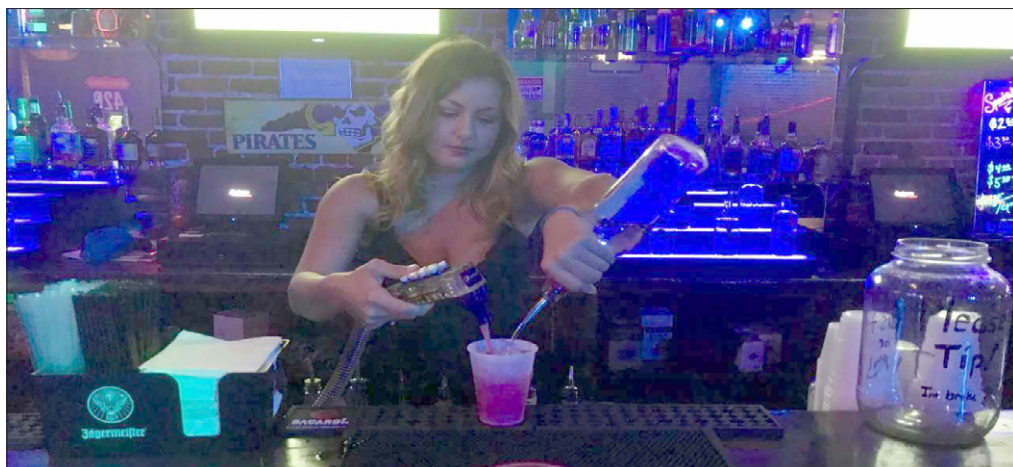
ECU alumnus Micah Lockhart, head of promotions at The Way, said Brewer has worked at The Way longer than many of the current bartenders.

"She's the type of person that if someone calls out, if there's an issue with whatever... whenever you interact with her, all of those other things kind of float away and you're just OK with whatever," Lockhart said.

Brewer said she thinks she dances behind the bar more than the customers at the establishment sometimes, as she laughed and added that she tells the patrons, "It's not OK for me to have more fun back here than you to be having out there."

She said her first night bartending at The Way, someone had just left and it was the busiest Saturday the club had seen in a while. With no training, she jumped into the job and didn't make a mistake, adding she "just figured it out" throughout the night. She said after that, the job became natural and easy, and now it's fun.

"Something I think people come to a bar to get is kind of that witty back and forth and they're (the bartenders) really good at that,"



Bartender and student Desirée Brewer concocts a cranberry vodka at The Way, located at 218 E. 5th St.

Lockhart said.

Lockhart said there are two sets of bartenders who are also roommates. He said it's "cool" because they are constantly interacting at home, so other employees and customers get the element of family at work as well.

Brewer is one of the bartenders who also works with her roommate. She said it sucks when they work different shifts, but it's nice when they get off at the same time because they're both up and have someone to talk to. Brewer added the staff will go out after closing occasionally.

"I think the best nights we have, we'll get off and we'll all go hang out together," Brewer said. "We'll be grilling wings at six in the morning."

As Garian Duval, a freshman public health major, waited in line to get into The Way, he said he went to the club with his friend for her 21st birthday recently and the staff made it a great night.

"We told them that and they were like 'Oh happy birthday,' and were really cool and nice

about it," Duval said. "They gave her a free special signature drink that they had."

The two most common drinks Brewer makes at The Way are cranberry vodkas and Blue Motorcycles, which consist of blue curacao, spretz slinker, vodka, gin, rum, tequila, sour and Sprite, according to Brewer.

She added her favorite drink to make is a cranberry vodka because it's easy, but if someone wants something sweet she'll make something with peach and coconut, pineapple and grenadine, or something with Three Olives Loopy, which is a vodka that tastes like Fruit Loops.

"She works her butt off and she's fun behind the bar because she knows what she's doing and she's quick," Lockhart said. "A lot of bartenders have to think, 'Oh no, what's in this drink.' She's the type of person where she knows all that, so she can just have fun while she's doing it."

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

BLACK

continued from A1

After losing his father a couple years ago, Black said he has drawn inspiration from real life experiences about relationship building

and incorporated it into "Portals." He also said the novel has hints of horror and science-fiction but the story is ultimately based in reality.

"The first story is called 'Light Eyes' and it's a Christmas story that deals

with family and childhood," Black said. "The other story is 'The Grasshopper Fiend' (and) that story is more horror influenced. Both of the stories deal with family in different ways."

"Portals" will be available for purchase

for \$10 at the event and available online through PayPal, by leaving an email address on the Facebook page—Nathan Black Poet. Black will then send an invoice for purchase of the book via email. Information on livestreams about his

latest novel can be found on the Facebook page as well.

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

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