



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

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N.C. officials offer condolences

Staff Report

After the recent passing of Congressman Walter Jones (R-NC), North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper has ordered all United States and North Carolina flags to be lowered to half-staff in his honor. Jones died Sunday after being

in hospice care for two weeks. Jones served as a member of the House of Representatives for North Carolina's 3rd district for more than 20 years. Jones will be laid to rest on Thursday, according to a press release.

Many people have released statements following with the death of



Walter Jones

Jones. Cooper released a statement on Sunday calling Jones a "longtime friend." In his statement, he said Jones was

a public servant who will be missed. North Carolina Senator Thom Tillis released a statement Monday. Tillis said in his statement Jones will be remembered for his advocacy for eastern North Carolina and for always following his own convictions. "He always did what he felt

was right for his constituents, his district, and his country, and it was no wonder why he was so widely admired and trusted," Tillis said. "It was a true honor to serve with Walter Jones. Susan and I send our deepest condolences to Joe Anne and his loving family." Jones' wife can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

MICE AND MOLD



The stairs of Legacy Residence Hall where students living in the building have reported both mice and mold, creating tenuous living conditions.

Students report sanitary issues

Jennifer Flippin
TEC STAFF
Sam Dolan
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

There have been rumors around potential construction and remodeling of Legacy Residence Hall to fix problems students have been seeing such as mold, mice and poor conditions, according to several students.

The rumors around the construction are not true, at least for right now, according to Aaron Lucier, director of

housing operations for East Carolina University.

"There (are) bits and pieces, there is a project that we are working and moving forward to for not this summer but next summer, which is what I call a project that will help student life but doesn't seem very exciting to

Aaron Lucier

students necessarily," Lucier said. "We're gonna be doing an upgrade to the buildings air quality, mainly improve the conditioned air and the core of the building."

Isabelle Park, a freshman psychology major, has lived in Legacy since the beginning of the fall semester and had issues with the cleanliness and upkeep of the building, including reported mice and mold sightings.

"We have mice on the first floor and stuff, some people had to move out actually cause of that.

There's mold everywhere on our desks, like underneath it. I think one of my friends actually got sick cause of it, so yeah that was fun," Park said.

Park said with time she got used to these issues, and has noticed some benefits that come along with living in Legacy, such as the study rooms and the location of being right next to the Galley where there are numerous dining options.

> LEGACY page A2

Executive tickets meet students

Jenna Price
TEC STAFF
Trajan Warren
TEC STAFF



East Carolina University Student Government Association hosted an event to provide students with the opportunity to meet the candidates running for president and vice president.

Elections commission co-chair, Savannah Walker, sophomore communication major, said SGA had the event in the hopes of raising awareness for the upcoming election.

According to Walker, there are three positions open: At-large representatives, college representative and the executive ticket. The big ticket, Walker said, is the executive ticket where students can vote for the presidential and vice presidential candidates.

"Student government gives every student a voice and it really lets administration know what the students want and how their decisions affect us," Walker said.



Savannah Walker

> SGA page A2

Softball hits off season with wins

Samantha Walsh
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina University softball team spent its weekend in Spartanburg, South Carolina to kick off its 2019 season, ending with a 4-1 record. This marks the first time the Pirates have carried a 4-1 record opening weekend since 2015.

The Pirates took on Youngstown State University, University of Miami of Ohio on Friday, Towson University on Saturday and University of South Carolina Upstate on Sunday in the

> SOFTBALL page A4

Showcasing 'Black Excellence'

ECU organizations to highlight talent for Black History Month



Members of ECU's F.A.M.E. Modeling Troupe performing.

Giana Williams
TEC STAFF

Students of color will be able to shine in the spotlight and show off their talents at the Black History Month showcase, showing East Carolina University the meaning of black excellence.

East Carolina University's chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will host a Black History Month Showcase on Wednesday in Hendrix Theatre at 6 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

The Black History Month Showcase is a show that gives people the opportunity to celebrate the great feats African Americans have accomplished through the years, according to Daysha Ervin, senior biology major and NAACP president.

Ervin said this year, the showcase is revolved around the theme titled 'A Tribute to Black Excellence' and will include performances in many forms of arts including music, dance and poetry.

"We invite a lot of popular

organizations on campus to participate as well as open auditions to those who aren't always in the spotlight to give them a chance to showcase their talents," Ervin said.

When the NAACP recharted on campus in 2016, it knew that eyes were on the them to provide the campus with a platform to advance the people of color who attend the school, according to Andria Brown, former NAACP president and ECU alumna.

As February approached, Brown said it was expected for the NAACP to celebrate Black History Month in a way the campus has never experienced before because the students at the time had never seen an organization like the NAACP.

At the time, the organization was family and community focused due to many black youth in Greenville who looked up to ECU students for motivation and guidance, according to Brown.

> NAACP page A6

ONLINE

» NEWS: ECU to host the fourth NC Civility Summit today

» SPORTS: ECU women's tennis gets first two wins of the 2019 season

SOCIAL MEDIA

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BRIEFS

Coffee break with Graduate and Professional Student

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate will hold a coffee and chat event today at the Health Science Student Center Starbucks from 8 to 9 a.m. Students can talk to members of the GPSS about their graduate and professional student experience.

Students who come to the event will receive a free Starbucks beverage of their choice.

Club sports program to hold blood drive

Campus Recreation and Wellness is partnering with the American Red Cross to host a club sports program blood drive at the Mendenhall Student Center in room 125. The blood drive will be held today from noon to 4 p.m.

Everyone who is able to donate is invited to come and join.

Ledonia Wright Cultural Center to present lecture

The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center will present its weekly lecture series, titled "What's the Tea?" in the Main Campus Student Center beginning tonight at 5. "What's the Tea?" is a weekly series that allows students to discuss hot topics in a safe environment.

The event will last until 6 p.m. and is open to all students.

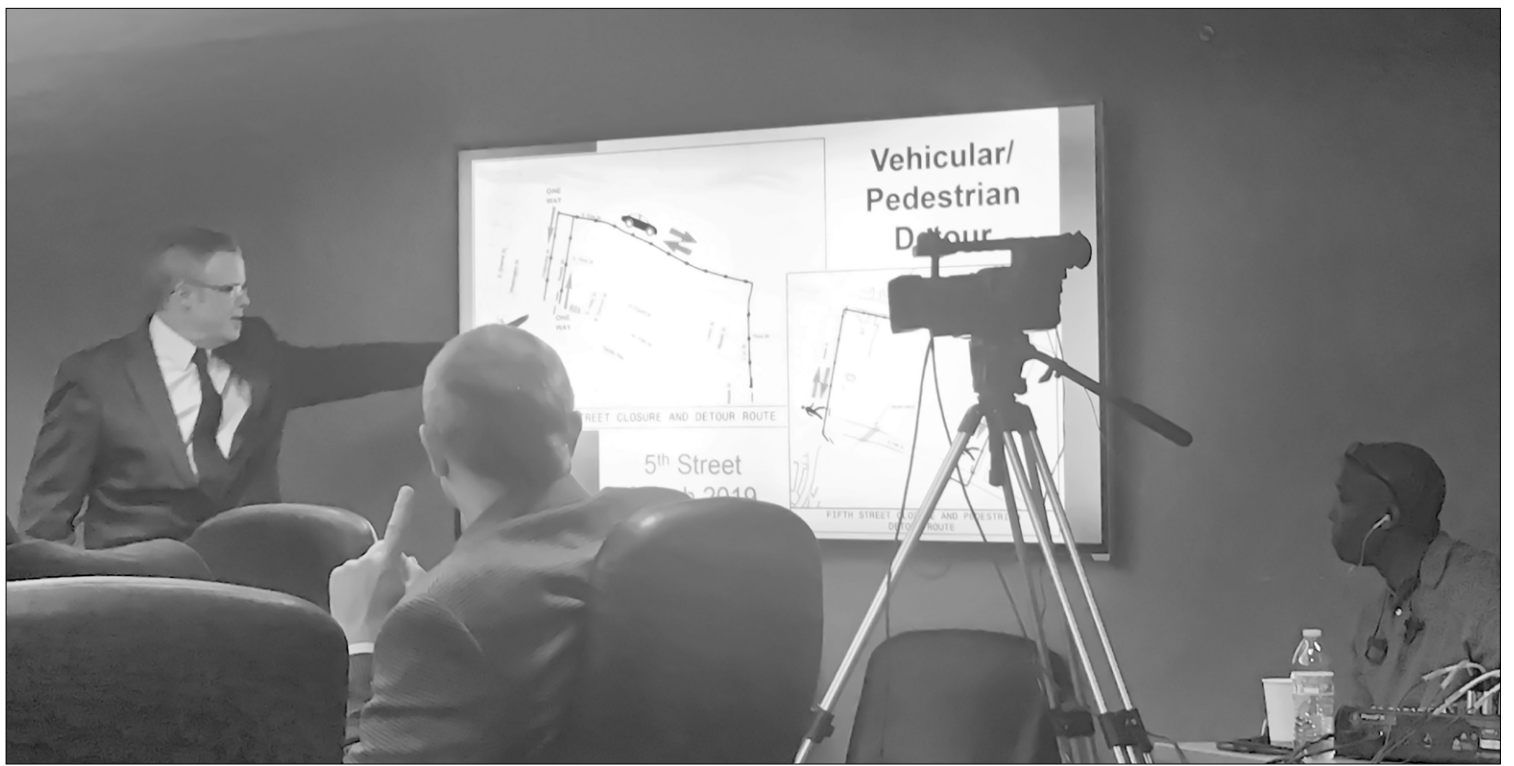
Campus Recreation and Wellness will teach defense

East Carolina University Campus Recreation and Wellness will present Self Defense Fitness tomorrow at the Student Recreation Center in room 239 beginning at 6 p.m. The class will teach basic self defense techniques while also providing a workout.

Students interested in attending must register online at through the orgsync page which can be found here.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



Kevin Mulligan discusses potential detours, which will be caused by the upcoming Town Creek Culvert Project, at the City Council Workshop.

Workshop talks detours

City Council discusses upcoming road closures

Elizabeth Johnson
TEC STAFF

Margaret McCollum
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



During the City Council Workshop on Monday, Director of Public Works Kevin Mulligan provided an update about the Town Creek Culvert project affecting downtown Greenville. City officials said in approximately three weeks the city will close Fifth Street near Sup Dogs.

Mulligan said the project started about a year ago and the goal is to have it completed by Fall 2020.

Mulligan said in two weeks, the last week of February, Fourth Street will reopen and Fifth Street will close. Mulligan said

this is when the project begins to get into the higher trafficked areas of downtown.

About a month later the project will begin closing a small section of Reade Circle, Mulligan said. Fifth Street, will reopen in June or July, as well as Eighth Street and Washington Street.

Mulligan said the project is currently working in two different areas, one next to the courthouse and the other location by Tasty Thai. Mulligan said in those locations the culvert is progressing.

Mulligan said the East Carolina University sign at the corner of Reade Circle and Fifth Street will close on March 1. Mulligan said Reade Circle will remain open until April.

"Reade Circle is where the project begins to get quite a bit more real," Mulligan said. "Reade Circle will remain open for the month of March."



Kevin Mulligan

Pedestrian detours will stay the same for the first phase of the project, and Mulligan said the city is working with ECU on signage to indicate the walkway is closed during Phase 2.

"The grassy area in front of the ECU sign will be closed beginning March 1 and the last week of February," said Mulligan.

Mayor P.J. Connelly raised concerns about those who live on Fifth Street and their access to Fifth Street. Connelly asked Mulligan how they were going to enforce the detour on residents of Fifth Street.

Mulligan said the detours include First Street down to Elm Street for Phase 1. Mulligan said Jarvis and Summit Street will still be open, but First and Elm Street are the most convenient detours.

In April, Mulligan said Reade Circle will close at the intersection of Fifth Street. He said this will be to address sanitary sewer issues.

Mulligan said there will be two-way traffic only for the entrance to Hodges parking lot so people will be able to come down Fifth Street and make a right onto Reade Circle.

Mulligan said Phase 3 will close Reade Circle for four months from June or July until October. Mulligan said the vehicle detours are less of an impact and drivers can make a left up Evans Street. Mulligan said pedestrian detours can use Fifth and Cotanche Street.

Mulligan said areas have been identified where people are not able to park and loading zones have been moved. Some parking spots along Reade Circle will be affected during March and April, however, during June and July through October approximately 25 parking spots along Reade Circle will be closed.

"You'll be able to load out of the Hodges lot as well as Cotanche that we've created since we're taking others away," Mulligan said.

"They feed 2,000-3,000 students a day, so it was imperative to factor something in so that those delivery vehicles can access that area."

-Kevin Mulligan

Mulligan said the Fifth Street sidewalk will be closed for walking during Phase 1 and Phase 2. There will be a six-foot perimeter fence surrounding the work area.

Mulligan ensured that vehicles for ECU dining services will not be affected during the project.

"They feed 2,000-3,000 students a day, so it was imperative to factor something in so that those delivery vehicles can access that area," Mulligan said.

Mulligan said signs will line detour routes to promote businesses being affected by the project.

"We continue to move and make progress on the Town Creek Culvert Project, the largest capital project the city has ever undertaken, and we are getting into some very critical parts of that project," City Manager Ann Wall said.

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

LEGACY continued from A1

The urinals remaining in the girls bathroom is also a bit awkward for Park, and she hopes they can be taken out in future bathroom renovations to make the girls bathroom feel more like a girls bathroom.

There is expected talk about future renovations though, specifically the bathrooms of not just Legacy Hall but also Jones Residence Hall, according to Lucier.

"There is nothing, there is no firm timeline for that project, but it's certainly on our future wish list is a bathroom renovation for the upper three floors of Jones and a bathroom renovation for all four floors of Legacy," Lucier said.

Lucier said the bathroom renovations would require a lot of planning, plus time and money and is on the radar, but cannot yet be scheduled.

Lucier said it is apparent from building assessments and other data outlet that changes need to be made. He said there doesn't seem to be any structural changes needed, but there have been several small incremental changes over the past few years.

"We've done incremental things over the years, you know we've added air conditioning, we've added the sprinkler system in the building, we've certainly maintained the carpeting in there," Lucier said. "So, the things that we can do relatively small, well not relatively small, but relatively manageable at this point."

Kiran Cornejo, a freshman nursing major moved into Legacy in August and immediately noticed her room was very hot for an unknown reason. Cornejo said she had to keep the air conditioning at 68 degrees blasting 24/7, otherwise she said her room would get "muggy, sticky and hot."

Cornejo said she got tested at a doctor's office and was told she has a mold allergy and can't be around mold or else she would become congested and break out in hives.

"I was noticing that (congestion and breaking out in hives) was starting to happen. I noticed on random places like under my desk or under my plants or notebooks, there was mold starting to grow, so I reported it and it even got so bad to the point where nobody was doing anything about it and I almost had to move out."

Cornejo said she does not currently have a roommate

"There is nothing, there is no firm timeline for that project, but it's certainly on our future wish list is a bathroom renovation for the upper three floors of Jones and a bathroom renovation for all four floors of Legacy."

-Aaron Lucier

and she had to cleaning the spare desk in her room that was covered in mold herself several times. She says that ECU did come clean the areas for her once but that cleaning the desks is still a process she continues to have to do.

"It took them like two weeks, but eventually I got a dehumidifier and then they came to clean the mold but you can't really do much, 'cause it kinda grows back still. Even though I have the dehumidifier, it still is prominent," Cornejo said.

Cornejo said she has been sick "three to four times" since August. Cornejo said she has just gotten over a sinus infection, which she believed was related to the air in Legacy.

Cornejo compares the air system in Legacy to jello, saying the muggy air is felt all around her as she walks through the hallways. She contributes the reason for mold she's seen in other places, particularly the bathroom, to poor circulation.

In response to mold allegations from students such as Park and Cornejo, Lucier says mold is common in eastern North Carolina and the air renovations planned for Legacy in the summer of 2020 will help alleviate some of the issues.

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SGA continued from A1

Walker said students should care who the student government representatives are because they provide a voice for students to express their concerns to ECU officials.

"So they work closely with Chancellor Staton, they work closely with Dr. Hardy, they work closely with a lot of the adults and the professors and the staff that work so hard to make ECU such a great university," Walker said.

Colin Johnson, the current speaker of the SGA, is running to become SGA president for the 2019-2020 academic year. Johnson's running mate is Taylor Chappell who also serves as president of her sorority Alpha Omicron Pi.

Johnson said he has thought about running for SGA president "for a long time" and said his ticket has a proven record of "success, service and support for all Pirates."

"I want to run for Student Body president because I've seen a lot of things being in SGA and I want to be in a position now where I can set goals and create a platform that I think can be the most effective and beneficial for students," Johnson said.

Johnson, also is a Honors College member, said his experience in SGA has prepared him to be in a position to set goals and create a platform that is effective and beneficial for all students.

Johnson said he and Chappell's campaign will focus on the advocacy, diversity, inclusion and increased programming to "bridge SGA with resources available to students."

Shelby Hudson, is the other candidate for SGA president and her vice presidential candidate is AJ Modlin.

Hudson and Modlin's campaign will work to unify the entire campus of ECU by providing "complete transparency" between campus leaders and the students they serve. Hudson and Modlin also will work on providing weekly emails to students detailing the current workings of SGA to increase awareness of the student body.

Hudson said given the fact they are "outsiders" will give them the opportunity to bring new diversity to campus. She said when people are members of SGA they become normalized to the way things are.

"So when we come in we have seen things that haven't been brought up in SGA yet, we have a whole new perspective on that," Hudson said.

Voting for the SGA elections will start on Feb. 20 at 8 a.m. and end Feb. 22 at 5 p.m.

Pat Polomchak also contributed to this story.

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



Colin Johnson

OUR VIEW

N.C. Rep Jones to be honored

Congressman Walter Jones passed away on Sunday and eastern North Carolina lost a representative who cared about his voters.

Jones was a man who cared about his community. He began his political career as a North Carolina state representative from 1983-1993 for the ninth district. After a two year break, voters again selected Jones to be their voice in Washington D.C. instead of Raleigh.

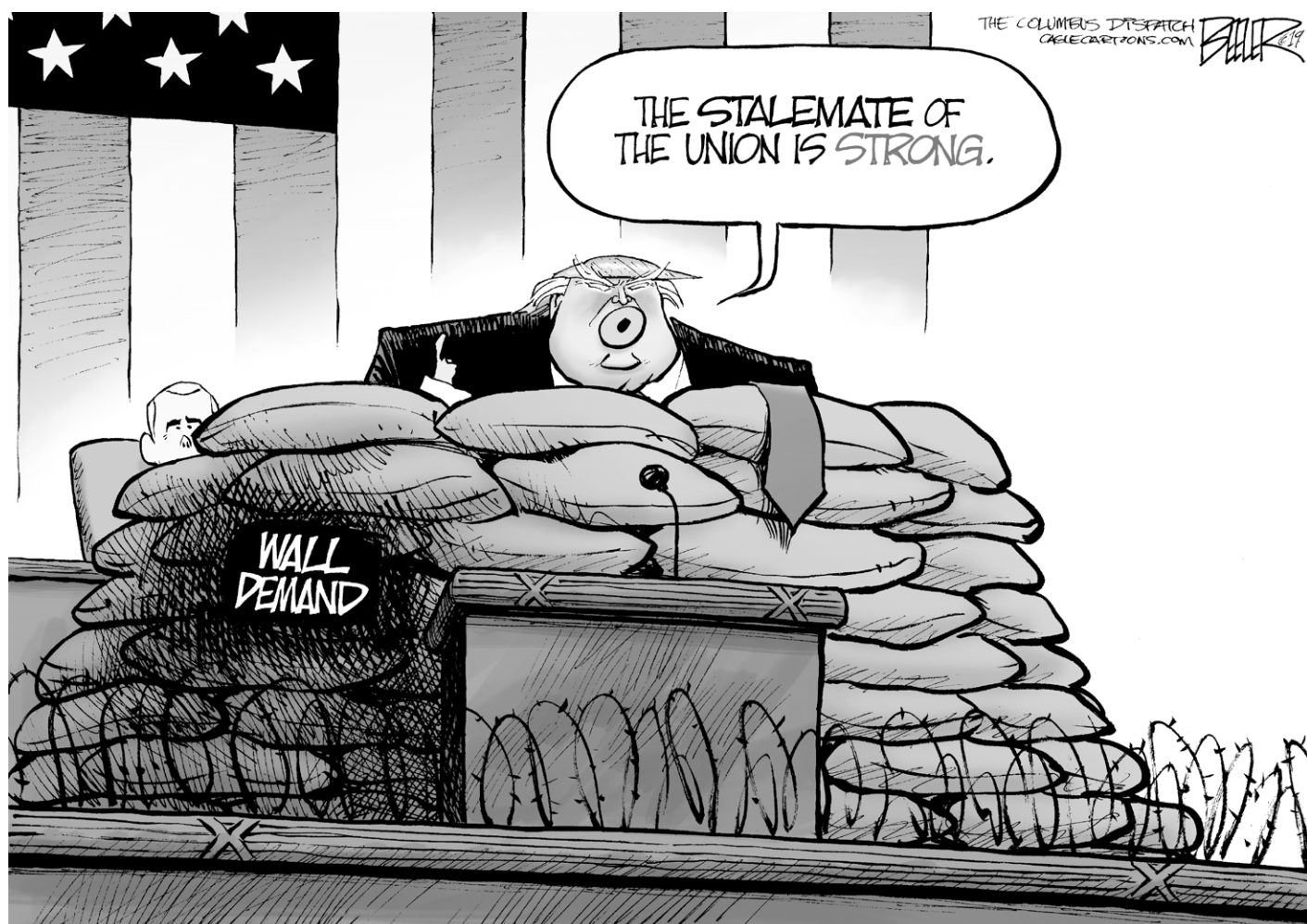
Jones would go on to serve in the U.S. House of Representative for the third district for 23 years.

Public officials on both sides of the political spectrum from North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper to U.S. Senator Thom Tillis spoke highly of Jones. Cooper called him a lifelong friend and Tillis admired Jones for how he stuck to his convictions.

Jones cared about his voters, not just because they were his constituents, but because they were people who would be affected by his decisions.

After his vote supporting the Iraq War in 2003, Jones spent the rest of his life writing to the families of fallen soldiers. Jones told NPR in 2017 that he wrote the letters as a way of asking God for forgiveness and to show his regret for his original support.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, would like to express our gratitude to Congressman Jones for his work toward bettering eastern North Carolina. We would also like to express our deepest sympathy to the Jones family for their loss.



Wage structure needed

Workers with disabilities deserve protections



Justin Salisbury
GUEST COLUMNIST

Most people assume that minimum wage protections inherently apply to anyone who enters the labor force. Sure, there are other pay schedules you may encounter if you work at a restaurant or on a farm, but people generally assume that these protections will apply to us as we approach the job market.

Workers with disabilities, however, are specifically excluded from the minimum wage protections, thanks to Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, a legal provision dating all the way back to 1938. Workers with disabilities have no minimum wage, and we can actually be paid a fraction of a penny per hour, just like the little nine that looks like an exponent on a gasoline price.

Employers can apply for special wage certificates from the US Department of Labor, which allow them to pay us wages based on arbitrary, rigged assessments to rate our "productivity." For the record, I have encountered thousands of able-bodied people who are quite unproductive in their jobs, but nobody is allowed to pay them less than the minimum wage.

The system assumes that workers with disabilities are less productive, and then we get set up with a productivity rating that can loom over us for the following six months until the next assessment. They cannot legally pay an ethnic minority less because of assumed lower productivity, but they can legally do it to a worker with a disability.

When I chose to attend East Carolina, I immersed myself in a student body full of people who were, like I was, determined to prove themselves to the world, sometimes in the face of low expectations. For me, it came largely from growing up in rural

Appalachia, as a biracial kid who could usually pass for white, who became blind halfway through high school.

East Carolina allowed me to be the first person in my family to earn a college degree, and, just as importantly, to have tremendous experiences to grow as a learner and a leader. Since graduating in 2012, I have been applying what I learned at ECU to work on this and other civil rights initiatives.

Many of the workers with disabilities working for subminimum wages are working in sweatshops and living like Oompa Loompas, often in housing controlled by the sweatshops themselves or partner nonprofits. Other times, an employer will set itself up to "serve" people with disabilities by providing them "training" or "employment services." Then, the people get shifted around from task to task, for which they are allegedly being trained. The incentive to the *sheltered workshop*, as they are generically called, is to keep the worker from leaving so that they can continue to profit from grants and contracts based on the employee's service.

Some of the workshops contract with regular businesses, like supermarkets, so that we are doing regular jobs but being paid less through the contracts. They take mind-numbing jobs, like the ones often performed by high school students, and they assume "this would be a good job for a worker with a disability." All too often, we are told to work in jobs that do not stimulate us or take advantage of our talents. I am one of the lucky ones.

Some states have demonstrated respect for workers with disabilities by including them in their minimum wage requirements: Alaska, Maryland, New Hampshire and Vermont. The cities of Reno and Seattle have also sanctioned this practice at the local levels. North Carolina could easily do it, too, if enough of our people care to make it happen. I now live in Hawaii, where there has been an ongoing fight to ban it at the state level. This year could be the

" They cannot legally pay an ethnic minority less because of assumed lower productivity, but they can legally do it to a worker with a disability. "

year for any states that want it. Ironically, the sweatshops in Hawaii argue that the workers with disabilities in Hawaii would not be able to find jobs if we had to be paid a minimum wage. I find this awfully disappointing because they are basically arguing that the people of Hawaii are inherently less productive than the people of Alaska, Maryland, New Hampshire and Vermont. Are people in those states born smarter and more capable than people in all other states? Surely not.

If there is going to be a minimum wage structure, it must apply to everyone. If we exclude an entire class of human beings from our minimum wage protections, then it isn't really a minimum wage at all. In a society where many minorities are yearning for an equal place at the table and an equal opportunity to bear the dignity of facing risks, we all have to have each other's backs. The privileged majority groups hold on tight, but every challenge to privilege that comes from an oppressed minority heightens the consciousness of equality in society.

Justin Salisbury is an alumnus of ECU. To contact this writer, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Drake brings problem to light



Chase Charroll
TEC STAFF

Chase'n the Truth

Validation is always something you look for when you do anything in life. You want the hard work you put in and the great work you do to be noticed

by more than just yourself.

While not everyone in the music industry can win a Grammy, Drake was fortunate enough to win one in the category for Best Rap Song for his song 'God's Plan' and earned the validation of mostly everyone in the music industry. With his speech, he used his platform to give validation to everyone who did not win a Grammy, or has not won a Grammy despite producing great music.

With the Grammy in his hands, Drake talked about how worthless the award really was in the grand scheme of things in music.

"I wanna take this opportunity while I'm up here to just talk to all the kids that

are watching this that are aspiring to do music, all my peers that make music from their heart, that do things pure and tell the truth," Drake said. "I wanna let you know we're playing an opinion-based sport, not a factual-based sport. So it's not the NBA, where at the end of the year you're holding a trophy because you made the right decisions or won the games."

We as people invest too much into winning these awards, as opposed to seeing what is really important. And although to me Drake is an unlikely source to shed light on the topic, I think he is completely right. Just as he started diminishing the importance of the award, CBS cut him off, and went to a commercial break before he finished his speech.

"Look, the point is, you've already won. If you have people who are singing your songs word for word, if you're a hero in your hometown look, if there's people who have regular jobs, who are coming out in the rain, in the snow, spending their hard-earned money to buy tickets to come to your shows? You don't need this right here.

I promise you. You already won."

Drake brings a solid point to light with his speech, as he brings up the blatant race issues that are faced by the Grammys. With rap and hip-hop music pretty much dominating music for the most part of the past decade plus, only one hip-hop artist has ever won album of the year, (Outkast in 2004) and it has been 11 years since an African American has won the album of the year, when Herbie Hancock won it in 2008.

It's time for those who create music in the most popular genre in America to receive the true validation they deserve. While Drake is correct in the fact that the trophy and award itself mean very little, those who make the music that people of just about every age, race and background listen to need to be recognized by being a fair chance at winning the Grammys, which I'm not sure is given to those in the rap community.

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

Knights leaps high for ECU

Jess Sabin
TEC STAFF

For most college athletes, the sports they play are sports they have been playing for most of their lives. This isn't the case for sophomore pole vaulter Sommer Knight.

From her early childhood until she was 12 years old, Sommer was a gymnast. After an injury she looked to play a different sport and decided on volleyball when she got to high school.

"I had no interest in running track," Knight said. "But our head track coach in high school asked me to come out and try pole vault because we had a new teacher who did it in college and she wanted to coach it and I just went out and did it."

Transitioning to pole vaulting was initially a challenge for Knight as her body wasn't used to the dynamics required to be a pole vaulter. The first two years were a struggle, but she grew to love it and eventually was able to gain a little attention from colleges late in her senior year. Since the recruiting process started so late, Knight actually reached out herself to different colleges that had expressed interest in her. This eventually led to her reaching out to East Carolina University event coach Brie Berkowitz.

"I was like 'Hey my name is Sommer Knight, I'm a pole vaulter. I gave her my marks and stuff and she was like OK and then she kind of took a chance on me,'" Knight said. "Initially when they were looking at me, my PR (personal record) was only like 12 feet which is not good, like not worth any money or anything. They kind of just took a chance on me and let me come."



Senior pole vaulter Sommer Knight has dominated for East Carolina during the 2018-2019 year.

Berkowitz admitted that Knight's high school marks weren't what truly stood out to her. Rather what caught her eye was that Knight was a multi-sport athlete and had great success with the volleyball team. Berkowitz knew she played volleyball and was talented, but it wasn't just about the height she could clear.

"I knew she had a lot of athleticism and she had a great vertical jump," Berkowitz said.

"That's not the only indicator of how good you are going to be or how successful you are going to be, but what other attributes go into it. Like how fast are you, how well can you jump, how strong are you, how dedicated are you, and so Sommer has all of those qualities. She is extremely athletic, she is extremely hard working, and she is extremely coachable."

That chance ECU took on Knight has paid off. Since her freshman year, Knight has become the first girl to clear 13 feet in ECU history and that was just her freshman year. So far this indoor track season, she has broken that record twice and shows no signs of slowing down. She currently stands in second place in the American Athletic Conference (AAC) and is very much striving to take back the top spot.

For many, the transition from high school to college can prove to be a bit of a challenge. Being away from home, more coursework and a new environment can all be overwhelming for some, but to Berkowitz she felt that Knight not only did well but excelled.

"Freshman year's an adjustment period,

there's a lot of changes with your time management, your class schedule, your study hall, your training, everything is really different, but she is just a stud," Berkowitz said. "She can adapt so well she works so hard she takes everything day by day, she never gets too high or too low, she's very humble and it shows. She is never fully satisfied and she has just really continued to improve."

Despite her coach's praise, Knight admits there were some things that took a bit of time getting used to, particularly in the actual training itself.

"There was a lot more focus on skill work," Knight said. "There was a lot focus on running mechanics, and we do a lot of high bar drills and a lot of more core strengthening than I did in high school."

With her success, all of her coaches have been incredibly impressed. Other than being a star athlete she is well rounded in every aspect of her life.

"The thing that stands out about Sommer the most to me is that she is just a wonderful person," head coach Curt Kraft said. "She's a great student, she comes from a wonderful family, you throw in all this other stuff like the fact she is a great athlete, her GPAs have been unbelievably great, and you put that all together and you get Sommer Knight."

Holding her silver spot on the AAC pole vaulting ranking, Knight is ready to challenge herself. She has set the bar high this indoor season and now with the spring season coming up she looks to clear it.

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

Pirates continue red hot streak

Daniel Roberts
TEC STAFF

After suffering its first and only loss of the year to the University of North Carolina at Asheville on Feb. 3, the East Carolina University men's tennis team made it known to opposing programs that when it comes to playing the Pirates at home, they will have a hard time walking away with an upset.

Last weekend ECU (7-1) had to defend home court against the University of Richmond (4-2) on Friday and Appalachian State University (1-5) on Sunday. The Pirates' toughest match up came on Friday against



Wissie Jonker

Richmond where it would result in a 4-3 victory for ECU, whereas the match with App State would result in a 4-0 win.

ECU started off its match on Sunday with a bang and that momentum carried throughout singles play. Redshirt junior Austin Allen and freshman Diogo Marques teamed up in doubles. Their chemistry clicked throughout doubles play to where they showed no flaws and were able to win on court two 6-0. Senior Ronny Georgi and sophomore Wisse Jonker secured the doubles point for the Pirates on court

one with a 6-4 victory.

Jonker carried the momentum from doubles into his singles match where he appeared to have found his second wind. Jonker dominated in both sets of his match, only giving up one loss. He managed to put ECU up 2-0 in the match, with a 6-0, 6-1 victory on court three.

"It felt great," Jonker said. "The last couple of matches we had some struggles in doubles and we were glad that we got the doubles point in the end. I focused the whole time in singles on the guy's serve and I kept pounding and grinding to where I was able to win in the end."

Senior Vlad Anghel took care of business on court two to put the Pirates within one of winning the match 3-0. Anghel battled in the first set of his match to where he won 6-3. Anghel stayed focused in set two and won 6-1.

After dominating in doubles, Marques struggled to gain any momentum in the first set. Mountaineer junior Milo Barger gave Marques a lot of trouble to where it appeared that ECU would not get the 4-0 shutout at home. Marques lost the first set 6-1 and head coach Shawn Heinchon talked with him before the second set began.

"I was telling Marques to really just hang in there," Heinchon said. "The beginning of the match was more of errors we were making more so than the things that the other guy was doing. Once he cleaned up his own game, the momentum

went in our direction. Marques started playing better and better and the other guy starting playing worse to where Marques was kinda controlling everything."

After Heinchon's conversation with Marques, he dialed in to where he was able force the third set. Barger gave Marques a tough battle in the second, but it was Marques who came out with the 6-3 win to force the deciding third set of their singles match. Marques didn't allow Barger to gain any type of momentum to where Marques would dominate and win the third set 6-1 and give ECU the 4-0 win on Sunday.

"I started to make my opponent run more after the first set," Marques said. "I have to give a lot of credit to my coaches and my teammates, they really cheered me up and got me motivated to compete in the second set which I was able to pull out of and in the third I was able to play really well because of that."

On Friday, the Pirates were not able to jump out the gates and secure the doubles point to start the match against Richmond. Senior Will Bissett and freshman Simon Labbe fell in their doubles match 6-2. Marques and Allen pulled the Pirates back with a 6-2 victory. Jonker and Georgi tied their



Shawn Heinchon

Richmond. Senior Will Bissett and freshman Simon Labbe fell in their doubles match 6-2. Marques and Allen pulled the Pirates back with a 6-2 victory. Jonker and Georgi tied their



Redshirt junior Austin Allen played well for ECU in doubles Friday and Sunday.

doubles match at 5-5, but Richmond won in the end 7-5 to go up 1-0 in the match. Jonker made quick work of his opponent finishing with a 6-1, 6-3 victory on court three. Georgi on court four prevailed in singles with a 6-2, 6-4 win to give the Pirates their second point of the match. Anghel and Bissett had tough matchups to overcome as all four were decided in tiebreaking third sets. Anghel fell in the first set 6-4. Anghel took over and won the second and third sets 6-2 each Bissett on court six was in a similar situation like Anghel's. Bissett lost the first 6-4, but forced the third set with a 7-5 victory in the second set. In the third set, Bissett took control to where he walked out with a 6-3 victory to

help ECU win in the end 4-3. "We're feeling great," Heinchon said. "I think we definitely benefited from having the day off in between matches. There is nothing like getting through a close match that gives you a little bit of confidence and allows you to play a little bit (more free) the next time out."

The Pirates look to bring this momentum on the road when they will travel to Storrs, Connecticut, Boston, Massachusetts and Smithfield, Rhode Island to take on the University of Connecticut, Boston University and Bryant University on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

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

SOFTBALL

continued from A1

Spartan Classic, taking on Miami at Ohio for their second time Sunday.

ECU ended the weekend with a win against USC Upstate in a low scoring game of 3-1, but split the day with a loss against Miami of Ohio 3-1 for its only loss all weekend. The Pirates and Spartans tied up the game 1-1.

Both teams went 0-0 from the second inning two through the seventh inning until the Pirates broke the deadlock. Senior catcher Ashley Weingartz hit a double, advancing herself to second and to third on an overthrow from outfield and another score put ECU up, 2-1. Upstate was unable to answer the Pirates and ECU took away the win for its fourth of the weekend.

Sunday morning ECU took on Miami of Ohio for its second contest of the weekend and its only loss. The Pirates came out with the first run in the top of the first from senior right-handed

pitcher and infielder Morgan Halo.

ECU's sophomore right-handed pitcher Whitney Sanford surrendered three runs (two earned) on four hits, five walks and three strikeouts, in addition to two runs in the bottom of the third and one in the bottom of the fifth for the loss.

Saturday's game against the Tigers resulted in a win for the Pirates in a run-rule win, playing in five innings. Sanford tossed a perfect first inning against Towson. In return the Tigers scored five runs in the top of the second after taking advantage of a Pirate error scoring five runs on three hits, advancing 5-1.

ECU answered with a run in the bottom of the second and held off Towson in the top of the third, keeping it at 4-1 until the Pirates scored in the bottom of the third closing the point gap by one. ECU scored an outstanding 12 runs, on eight hits and three errors, demolishing the Tigers ending in five innings, winning 14-5.

Friday afternoon resulted in another five inning win but this time against Miami of Ohio, who the Pirates later lost to on Sunday,

Sophomore outfielder Tyler King hit a leadoff single following by stealing second and reaching home. The Pirates streak with five runs split in the bottom of the second and third.

Sophomore infielder Ashton Slone put the Redhawks on the board in the top of the third with an RBI single for their only run of the game. ECU batted in their sixth run in the bottom of the fourth and another three runs in the bottom of the fifth. With a big enough lead, the Pirates did not have to play any further, ending the game 9-1.

The Pirates kicked off the weekend Friday afternoon for their season opener game against Youngstown. ECU redshirt junior infielder McClellan hit the ball over the center wall to give the Pirates a 3-0 lead. Youngstown responded scoring three runs off of three hits and a pair of walks to tie, 3-3. ECU advanced

further in the top of the fourth with two runs, one by McClellan and one by Halo who hit her first home run of the season.

Youngstown loaded the bases in the bottom, but Sanford cleared the bases holding onto its lead. The scoring continued in the top of the sixth, running in five on five hits to advance 10-3. Sophomore right-handed pitcher and infielder Liv Gatman made her debut in the circle in the bottom of the seventh, allowing one run, ending with a Pirate win 11-4.

ECU ended the weekend 4-1, with a win streak of three before its loss on Sunday. The Pirates will open up the ECU Softball Stadium this weekend when they host the Pirate Clash. ECU will take on Wagner College at 5 p.m. and Cleveland State at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Saint Francis University at 5 p.m. and Cleveland again at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and Wagner again at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday.

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



Tyler King

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT

Houses on the Grid one, two, three bedroom houses. Available Fall 2019. Go to carpenterrentals.com or call 252 531 5701.

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- You can get what you need, despite financial worries. A hidden danger could arise. Conditions could change quickly. Slow down, and watch where you're going.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 9 -- A barrier arises with a personal project. You can see what wasn't working. Keep practicing. Work with someone who sees your blind spot.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 6 -- Finish up what you've begun. Review, sort and file. Consider what's ahead and how you'd like things to go. Schedule actions to forward that vision.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Surprising news impacts your team. Reach out to your networks and community for support. Lend a steady hand. Reinforce long-distance connections.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- An opportunity may seem like a lucky break. Things may not go as planned. Wait for developments. Advance when you have a reliable landing spot.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Your exploration takes an unexpected twist. Enjoy delicious deviations, while meeting your deadlines. Consider a persuasive argument carefully. A surprising opportunity is worth pursuing.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- A change at work puts more coins in your pocket. Review finances carefully, or risk mistakes. Don't get talked out of what you want. Compromise.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Unexpected circumstances arise for you and your partner. Work could interfere with play. Try another perspective. Look at a situation from another view.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 9 -- You can get what you need. A truth gets revealed. Practice to raise your physical skill levels. Ask for more and get it.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Let someone interesting draw you into a different world. Fact and fantasy may clash. Relax, and go for clarity. Have patience with breakdowns or false starts.

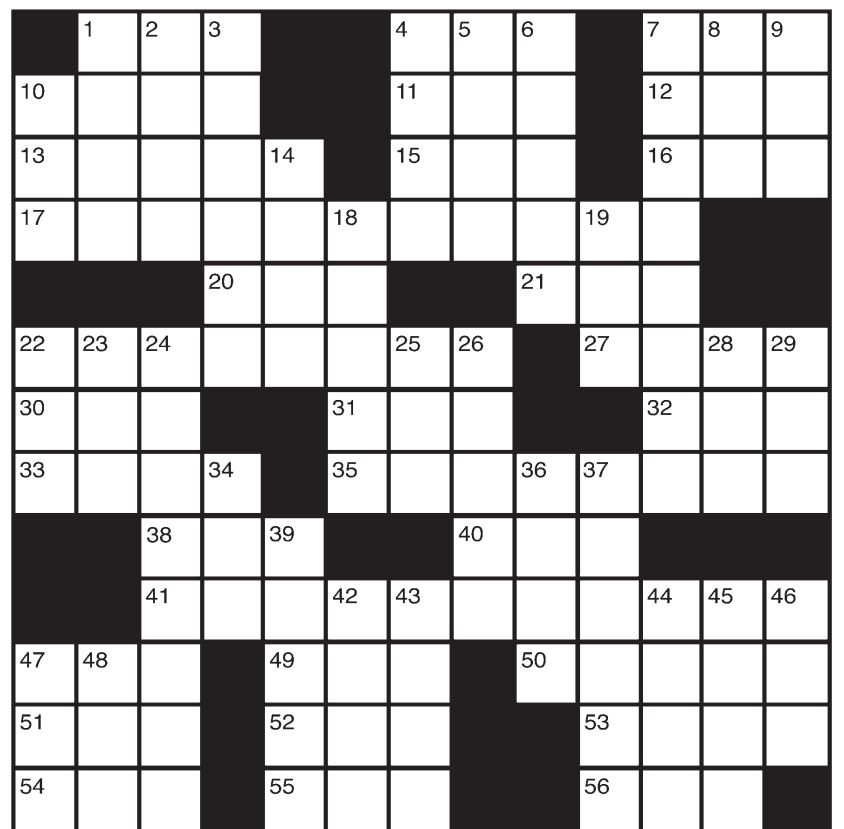
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 6 -- Domestic upgrades may not go as planned. Long-term changes may require a short-term fix first. Stick to your budget. Restraint is advised.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Share your message. Articulate a dream, and invite participation. Others bring a whole new view. Results may not go as imagined. They could be better.

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



ACROSS

- 1 "___ & Order"
- 4 "___ Haw"
- 7 "How I ___ Your Mother"
- 10 Thin coin
- 11 "18 Kids ___ Counting"
- 12 Pub order
- 13 "___Dabba-Dool!"; Flintstone's cry
- 15 "Catcher in the ___"
- 16 "Boy, ___ I Get a Wrong Number!"; Bob Hope movie
- 17 Actor on "CSI"
- 20 From ___ Z; the whole gamut
- 21 Cry
- 22 "Donny ___"; variety show for the Osmonds
- 27 Role on "Cheers"
- 30 Classic Father's Day gift
- 31 "Baby Take a ___"; film for Shirley Temple
- 32 University of Utah athlete
- 33 Jon Cryer's role
- 35 Like cartoons
- 38 "Road to ___"; Hope/Crosby film
- 40 Actress McKeon, to friends
- 41 Role on "Criminal Minds"

DOWN

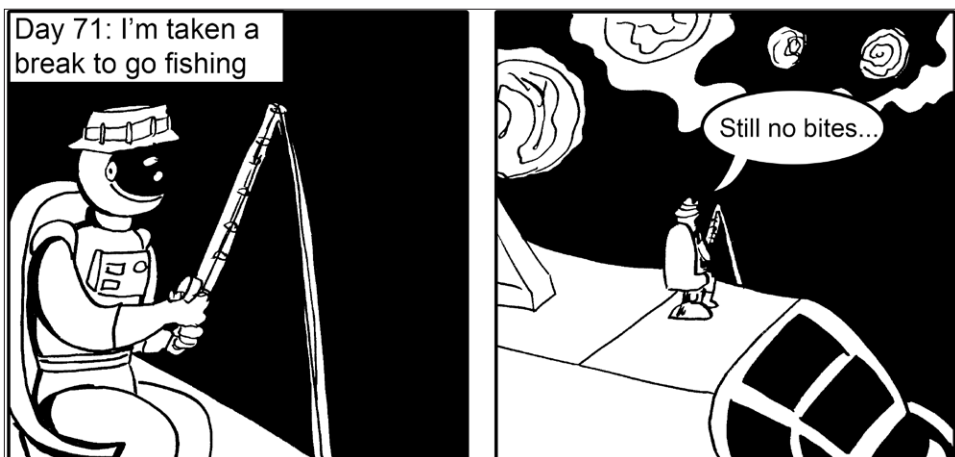
- 1 When doubled, a Jim Carrey film
- 2 Prefix before dextrous
- 3 Device for putting pictures online
- 4 Lead role on "JAG"
- 5 Popular Irish singer
- 6 Anthony and Barbara
- 7 "___ You"; Paul Reiser series
- 8 Actor Marienthal
- 9 Knight or Danson
- 10 "Touched by an Angel" actor
- 14 Dog on "The Thin Man"
- 18 "___ the Greek"
- 19 Adams or Johnson
- 22 "One Day ___ Time"
- 23 Nothing
- 24 Old Judd Hirsch series
- 25 Charged particle
- 26 Bobby or J.R.
- 28 Mailman's beat: abbr.
- 29 "Presidio ___"
- 34 Peeples or Long
- 36 Florence's position on "The Jeffersons"
- 37 Shawn Pyfrom's role on "Desperate Housewives"
- 39 Grouch of "Sesame Street"
- 42 Cincinnati's state
- 43 Urkel, for one
- 44 Roof overhang
- 45 Small bills
- 46 Neither this ___ that
- 47 Action director John ___
- 48 "___ the West Was Won"

Solution from 02/06

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COMICS

ONE AND ONLY



COURTESY OF BRIAN JUDGE

BEST IN SHOW



SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level:



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

Solution from 02/06

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

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

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Pirate Media

Fall in love with Pirate Media 1 at our Valentine's Day table!

12:00 - 2:00 pm
Thursday, February 14
In the Main Campus Student Center

EVENTS

TODAY

**Blue Fox Biweekly
Smash Bros Tournament**

Blue Ox Games
6 p.m.

Will Stovall at A.J.'s

AJ McMurry's
8 p.m.

TOMORROW

**Wine Tasting
Wednesday and
Valentine Bake Off**

Firefly Wine Shop
5 p.m.

**ECU Symphonic and
Concert Bands**

Wright Auditorium
7:30 p.m.

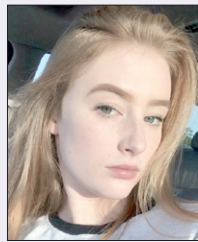
Karaoke Night

The Blackened Kraken
Bar & Grill
9:30 p.m.

REVIEW

The fear, joy of life decisions

ECU's spring musical presents modern romantic comedy of choices



Chloe Easton
TEC STAFF

University's spring musical "If/Then" is the perfect way to spend your Tuesday night.

Opening tonight and running through Sunday, the romantic comedy, directed by Michael Tahaney, follows the newfound life of Elizabeth, portrayed by Kennedy Young, and the decisions she makes along the way, ultimately leading her down the road of choosing between two distinctive paths.

No audience member would ever question if Young was a suitable fit for this role. She perfectly captures the personality of Elizabeth, insecure and unsure, constantly seeming on edge from every decision thrown at her, whether it be in her love life or her work life. Vocally, she was able to challenge herself with the more difficult pieces toward the end of the performance, showcasing her abilities.

Drew Wells took on the role of one of Elizabeth's "oldest friends" from college, Lucas,

If you've ever had second thoughts, doubted yourself or believe in universal signs, East Carolina

who just so happens to be her ex-boyfriend. Wells captures the essence of that one person who always finds a way to sneak back into your life and for some reason, you just let it happen. Just as he is hung up on Elizabeth from back then, he seems to be stuck in his college days. Screaming 2012 hipster, Wells does an amazing job of locking in this character.

Brandi Campbell performing as Elizabeth's best friend, Kate, is someone who I personally wish I would have saw more of on stage. Spunky and strong minded, Campbell hilariously introduces us to the elementary school teacher we all wish we had. With the help of her girlfriend, Anna, throughout the musical she is continuously trying to set up Elizabeth with a new man. Connecting with Young on stage, the two have great chemistry between each other.

Micah Simmons, as Josh, coincidentally keeps running into Elizabeth until she finally accepts his plead for "just one date." Originally joining the military to pay off medical school, he finds himself returning home to not only save lives, but making it harder on Elizabeth to navigate hers. Simmons captures that "dreamy man" persona without even trying.



THOMAS WEYBRECHT | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

From left: Drew Wells and Kennedy Young, two of the leads of "If/Then."

A tremendous amount of work was not only put in from the cast, but also by the set design of this musical. From flashy city skylines to fog machines, the essence of New York City is perfectly captured with people from all different walks of life present in each scene.

Overall, "If/Then" is your typical romantic comedy. Confused about making all the wrong decisions, the cast

explores how it really feels going through life's everyday choices and how difficult it can be.

RATING:
★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
4 out of 5

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

Sex activist to challenge social ideas

Taylor Mumma
TEC STAFF

Dawson Tisdale
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



East Carolina University will host a cancer survivor and "sexuality activist" on Wednesday in the Black Box Theatre at 6 p.m. in the Main Campus Student Center.

Ericka Hart, graduate from Widener University with a masters of education in sexuality, has taught sexuality education to college students and adults all over the country for 10 years, according to her website.

In 2014, she was diagnosed with bilateral breast cancer and realized that her sexual identity was not taken into consideration during her treatment.

Her work was made well known when she went to the 2016 Afropunk Fest, topless, revealing her double mastectomy scars.

Shaun Simon, associate director of the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, was first introduced to Hart



COURTESY OF KEEP-A-BREAST.ORG

Sex activist Ericka Hart in a photoshoot for keep-a-breast.org. Hart is also a cancer survivor and will speak at ECU.

when she had the opportunity to meet her in 2015 at the Creating Change conference, one of the largest LGBT conferences in the country.

As a breast cancer survivor and a sexuality educator, Simon said Hart talks about sexual health and wellness from a queer and anti-racist perspective.

"In today's society sex is political, when we have these conversations, sometimes they don't involve non-binary, trans or LGBT individuals in

general, so by including them we can talk with them about maintaining a healthy sexual relationship from the LGBTQ point of view," Simon said.

Kaitlin Brown, a junior psychology major, is the Student Activities Board (SAB) Initiatives Chair and handles setting up events like this on campus. With the help of her committee, she handles the many tasks that are needed to schedule an educational speaker at ECU.

Hart was already scheduled to

come and speak to the ECU Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC), and they reached out to SAB to collaborate for this event, according to Brown.

"After they mentioned her name to me, I looked her up and I really like the message that she brings and how empowering she is of normalizing her double mastectomy scars," Brown said.

Simon said Hart uses her knowledge of sexuality and black queer activism to teach mainly college

students about human sexuality.

"We are trying to fight those 'isms,' if you are talking about racism or homophobia, how does that impact your sexual relationship," Simon said. "For example, access to abortion options or birth control, it all feeds into your ability to make decisions about your own body, which is a key component when having a healthy sexual relationship."

Since February is Sexual Responsibility Month, Hart's workshop will be one of the many events happening through the rest of the week as a part of LWCC Pleasure Principle. Simon said Pleasure Principle will be running through the entire month of February with educational events about safe sexual relationships.

Information on the rest of the events for Pleasure Principle can be found on the LWCC's Twitter page.

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

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A group of ECU students protesting during an event in 2018's Black History Month at Mendenhall.

NAACP continued from A1

"The theme of honoring different black history figures in talent and art was meant to be seen as a 'past and present' perspective," Brown said. "We really wanted to give black talent on ECU campus a platform, but also celebrate our diverse history in a large scale way."

Jada Boyd, senior communication major and F.A.M.E. Modeling Troupe president, believes the Black History Month showcase is important for people to attend because

organizations within the black community will be showcasing their talents.

"Having that platform to focus on black history and having students showcase their talents to support black history is beautiful, strong and needs to be focused on," Boyd said.

The Black History Month Showcase will be on Wednesday in Hendrix Theatre at 6 p.m.

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