



The East Carolinian

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GERLACH'S NIGHT OUT



PHOTOGRAPHER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach standing at the podium in Mingus Coliseum to address the fall 2019 freshman class during convocation.

University community defends Dan

Margaret McCollum
TEC STAFF

Summer Tonizzo
TEC STAFF



Students and alumni at East Carolina University are showing their support for Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach after he was placed on administrative leave for allegations which are being further investigated.

Students, faculty, staff and members of the community took to social media to voice their opinions on the subject matter. Hashtags such as #IStandWithDan and #DanTheMan began to circulate on platforms such as Twitter, Instagram and Facebook yesterday.

Zachary Zynda, a senior industrial technology major, created a petition on Change.Org titled "Save ECU Chancellor - Fight Fake News" yesterday and said he is hoping to reach 10,000 signatures.

Zynda said he created the petition because he saw the situation being "blown out of proportion" over the weekend. Students can sign the petition online at change.org

"He (Gerlach) doesn't hold himself higher than us (students)," Zynda said. "We're all equal and just having a good time, and then it gets blown out of proportion and the guy gets put on (administrative) leave for being out among the students."

As of 8 p.m. Monday, the petition had reached nearly 6,000 signatures and the numbers continued to rise.

Amirah Pitt-Bey, a senior finance major at ECU, said she supports Gerlach's decision to go downtown. Pitt-Bey said she appreciates his choice to go to the downtown area because he has plenty of options of places to drink, but he chose to go where he could interact with students.

"I think he had full intentions of kind of seeing why we enjoy going downtown to get a better understanding of the real ECU, like actually being out, instead of being on campus or acting on our best behavior because that's probably not all that we do," Pitt-Bey said.

Pitt-Bey said she is in ECU Ambassadors, an organization on campus which hosts various events. She said the first time she met Gerlach he came to speak to the ambassadors.

He was very personable and humorous in her experience, Pitt-Bey said. She said Gerlach expressed his support for the ECU Ambassadors and was straightforward with his intentions for ECU.

"He said he wants to work with us and focus on the students and ensure that our experience at ECU is the best he can make it while he's here," Pitt-Bey said. "He hopes can be here for a good while."

Pitt-Bey said her interactions with Cecil Staton, the previous chancellor before Gerlach took the interim position, were "completely different" than her interactions



Zachary Zynda



Greer Jones



Amirah Pitt-Bey

UNC investigates allegations

Elizabeth Johnson
TEC STAFF

Summer Tonizzo
TEC STAFF



East Carolina University's Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach has been placed on administrative leave pending further investigation following allegations of misconduct after photos of him drinking with students at Club 519 on Wednesday, Sept. 25 circulated.

Over the weekend, several local news outlets released photos of Gerlach in Greenville's downtown area with students. As of yesterday, University of North Carolina (UNC) System Interim President Bill Roper issued a statement in response to the allegations and concerns surrounding Gerlach.

"In light of reports from this past weekend, ECU Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach has been placed on administrative leave pending further investigation," Roper's statement said.

ECU News Services did not provide a comment in response to Roper's statement.

Photos of Gerlach in downtown bar, Club 519, surface

According to a statement issued by ECU News Services Interim Chief Communications Officer Jeannine Manning Hutson on Sunday, Sept. 29, the videos and photos taken at Club 519 show Gerlach interacting and taking selfies with "college-aged, young adults."

"On the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 25, ECU Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach went to Sup Dogs near the campus of the university. While there he ran into two adult

male acquaintances who invited him to walk down the street to join them at a local pub, which he did. Gerlach is known for taking selfies with students, staff and faculty on and off-campus," the Sept. 29 statement said.

Via the Sept. 29 statement from Hutson, Gerlach said prior to him becoming interim chancellor he had heard the students of ECU were in need of a "present and approachable" leader.

"When I first started here, and even before, one constant concern that I heard was that our students needed a leader of the university to be present and approachable, someone who can speak to them in their language. That's what I've set out to do at ECU. I regret that these photos are being perceived as anything more than what they are," Gerlach said in the Sept. 29 statement. Gerlach's statement continued,

The statement continued, "During the time that I am interim chancellor, I will continue to work toward balancing the university's budget and improving enrollment and will continue to engage with students and the community. On Wednesday night, I spoke with 125 proud Pirates at Cypress Glen. Because our students are the center of the university, I've been working hard to show up - at performances, on tours, at Fall Open House yesterday. Students are the reason the university exists."

Witnesses share their accounts of Gerlach's Sept. 25 actions

Bartender at Club 519, Greer Jones wasn't working on Sept. 25 night but was present at the bar at the same time as Ger-

lach. She said she had never seen Gerlach or the women in the pictures before Sept. 25.

Jones said she arrived at Club 519 around 11 p.m. and Gerlach was already there. Gerlach was with two friends close to his age, she said.

"He was having a good time. I wouldn't say he wasn't like drunk or belligerent or anything but he wasn't sober per se," Jones said.

The woman in the picture was being aggressive toward Gerlach and other guys in the bar, Jones said. The woman was forcibly removed from the bar after an altercation between 11:30 p.m. and midnight, she said.

According to Jones, Gerlach tried to distance himself from the woman and the woman "reinserted" herself multiple times. The woman came up behind Gerlach and put her arms him a couple of times, she said. Jones said Gerlach did not kiss the woman in the pictures.

Gerlach was only with the students when he was "trying to evade the other girl in the pictures advances," Jones said.

"I don't think the pictures are the most accurate portrayal of what was happening. The girl in the photos seemed to be a little aggressive and in my opinion he was being more polite, more passive than being inappropriate," Jones said.

Club 519 bartender and manager, Bran-

> UNC page A2

Piratethon prepares for fundraiser

Hannah True
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The East Carolina University chapter of the Children's Miracle Network Dance Marathon organization, Piratethon, has begun its preparations for its upcoming dance marathon in March to raise money for the Vidant James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital.

Junior sociology and communications major and he reservationist for Piratethon, Tara Martin, describes the dance marathon organization as a nationwide event to help raise money for the Children's Miracle Network (CMN), being

that the Maynard Children's Hospital is apart of the network. Martin said the event is popular among both university and high school level students.

"It's a nationwide movement (the dance marathon) at colleges and high schools around the country which focuses on fundraising for the Children's Miracle Network," Martin said. "CMN is a nonprofit focused on raising money for local children's hospitals in order to fund research, equipment and treatment for the kids at the hospital."

> DANCE page A4



CONTRIBUTED BY PIRATETHON
Sneha Amaresh, Beth Endsley, and Mary Eleen Hunter at 2018 event.

ONLINE

»NEWS: Jennifer Pharr visits ECU for adventure presentation

»Check out our website for more photos, articles and videos.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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BRIEFS

Students invited to Breakfast at the Bus Stop

Off-Campus Student Services will pass out breakfast today at its Breakfast at the Bus Stop event from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at the Christenbury Gym Bus Stop.

All Recovery Meeting to take place tonight

The Division of Student Affairs Center for Counseling and Student Development will its weekly peer-led support meeting tonight from 7 to 8 p.m. in Rawl 204 for students who wish to examine their drug and alcohol use. The meeting is a confidential, closed meeting.

COB Career Meetup to discuss career-related topics

East Carolina University's College of Business is scheduled to host a Career Meetup in the Bate building, room 3204 tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. where a discussion of career-related topics will take place.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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

DEFENDS continued from A1

with Gerlach.

Gerlach approached every ambassador individually and asked each student where they are from and their names, according to Pitt-Bey. She said Gerlach probably still remembers her as "the girl from Maryland."

Pitt-Bey said she hopes people will focus on his accomplishments as chancellor during this time, she said she feels he has done more as interim chancellor than many previous chancellors have done. Pitt-Bey said she hopes these allegations do not affect his chances at becoming chancellor of ECU in the future.

"Me and other people, I feel like we're really upset about it (the situation). I would definitely want him to be our permanent chancellor (and) I know other people would as well just from the experiences that we've had with him (and) the different feel that he has provided to our campus, this shouldn't be something that should affect his chances," Pitt-Bey said.

Catherine Williford, an ECU alumna, said she believes Gerlach's intentions were innocent. She said students and alumni support him for his involvement in the community, including drinking downtown.

Williford said Staton was chancellor when she was enrolled at ECU and a major complaint of students during her time at ECU was his lack of involvement with students. She said she is envious of students now who are attending ECU while Gerlach is an interim chancellor.

"I didn't have that support when I was in school, with Staton, that was everyone's



Catherine Williford



Dan Gerlach at his introductory press conference after first being named ECU's Interim Chancellor.

main complaint is that he just seemed like he was too good to hang around the students," Williford said. "I didn't feel any support from administration and this (Gerlach's time as Interim Chancellor) is the opposite."

Williford said she is disappointed Gerlach is in the position he is in now because he is the chancellor everyone was hoping for.

"I hate this is kind of tarnishing his name because I really hope he will be able to become chancellor and I think it would be a really cruel decision to not consider him for that position because of him being in the wrong place at the wrong time, which I think is what this whole situation is," Williford said.

Alumni are experiencing feelings of outrage and confusion about the pictures and stories published about Gerlach, according to Williford. She said she thinks the pictures were portrayed incorrectly.

Abdullah Alabdali, a junior finance major at ECU, said he believes Gerlach was trying

to engage students in an interactive setting outside of campus.

Alabdali said he does not know Gerlach on a personal level, but he believes Gerlach's intentions were not malicious and Gerlach has been a productive chancellor so far.

"He's driving ECU in the right direction (and) I think, and obviously this whole issue has united the whole ECU community, and even the Greenville community," Alabdali said. "He definitely makes ECU a place where everybody feels like they belong, so that's why I stand behind him."

Alabdali said he understands the chancellor being put on administrative leave but he hopes the facts will prevail and Gerlach will still be considered as chancellor in the future, which was a consensus he received from peers he spoke with about the subject.

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

UNC continued from A1

don Smith, said he saw Gerlach show up for the first time to the club on Sept. 25. Gerlach was with "highway patrolmen" who were in their late 20s, according to Smith.

Gerlach had a couple shots and a draft beer, Smith said. He wasn't drinking with students, he was drinking with the people who he came with, according to Smith.

Smith said he saw a picture of the woman hugging Gerlach but he said her advances didn't go further than that. The woman was kicked out of the bar after 10 to 15 minutes, Smith said. The woman was making advances toward everyone in the club and when confronted she didn't take it very well which led to her removal from the club, Smith said.

"The one picture that I've seen, she was very forward and she walked in the bar and came onto me and was making sexual advances onto me. I can only imagine because later that night she got kicked out of the bar because she hit someone and we had to get her out of there," Smith said.

Gerlach seemed approachable, Smith said. He said Gerlach was hanging out in the club with his friends and talked to those who came up to talk to him. Gerlach did not approach students, according to Smith.

UNC System, ECU Board of Trustees officials release statements in response

Yesterday, UNC Board of Governors Interim President Bill Roper released a statement addressed to Pirate Nation. In the statement, he asked Ron Mitchelson, ECU's Provost and senior vice chancellor of Academic Affairs, to take on the role of Acting Chancellor following Gerlach's indefinite administrative leave.

"We expect the investigation to be conducted as thoroughly and quickly as possible, with our first priority being what is best for East Carolina University. I thank you and all of Pirate Nation for your understanding during this time," Roper said in the statement.

ECU News Services released an official statement yesterday afternoon from ECU Board of Trustees Chairman Vern Davenport.

"As Chairman of the ECU Board of Trustees, our first priority is and will always be our students, staff, faculty and alumni of East Carolina University. I have been in regular contact with UNC System Interim President Bill Roper and value the System's support of ECU and all of Pirate Nation. Along with my fellow trustees and Acting Chancellor Ron Mitchelson, we support President Roper's decision to conduct a thorough investigation and hope this matter will be addressed as

quickly as possible," the statement said.

In an interview with The East Carolinian, Davenport said as of right now there is not a time frame as to how long the investigation into Gerlach will last. He said the sooner the context of the situation to complete the work, "the better" and there is no intention of "dragging" it out.

Davenport said the situation is an important matter to the university and he expects it to be "expeditiously handled." He said the UNC System office will investigate the allegations and there are "very clear" lines of communication between ECU and the UNC System office.

"We're going to do the investigation based on the facts, again, the investigation is going to be conducted by the (UNC) System's office, but I appreciate all feedback from any member of the ECU ecosystem and have received a ton of those today (Sept. 30)," Davenport said. "We welcome that feedback and input throughout the process."

Student Government Association President Colin Johnson released an official statement in response to the allegations and concerns surrounding Gerlach, who has been placed on administrative leave until further notice.

"Over the past several months, Dan Gerlach has served East Carolina University with distinction and has been a loyal champion of student needs. The recent reports of Interim Chancellor Gerlach's behavior are unfortunate. However, it is imperative that we let the investigation of these allegations coincide before making a judgement," Johnson's statement said.

Johnson said as student body president he will advocate for the best interests of students. He said he is in open communication with university leaders to ensure the voices of students are heard.

In his statement, Johnson said "Pirate Nation is a proud community" and students deserve a leader who "embodies the spirit of the community." He encouraged students to contact the SGA office via email at SGA@ECU.EDU if they have thoughts on the situation.

Gerlach responds to situation directly on-air with Pirate Radio

On Monday Sept. 30, Gerlach spoke on Pirate Radio with Troy Dreyfus about photos and videos which surfaced over the weekend.

Following an interview on Sept. 25 at Pirate Radio, Gerlach went to Cyprus Glenn, went back to his house on Fifth Street. At this time his wife was not home. Gerlach then decided to go have a beer at Sup Dogs, as heard on Pirate Radio.



Vern Davenport



Colin Johnson



Dan Gerlach



Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach photographed with a woman at Club 519 on Wednesday, Sept. 25.

Gerlach said he began talking to off-duty law enforcement officials who went with him to Club 519 for "a beer or two," around 9 p.m. or later, as heard on Pirate Radio. Gerlach said he spoke to a Golden Leaf Scholar and her friend, who are both students. Gerlach said during the interview he hung out at Club 519 for a while, which was in one of the pictures that surfaced.

Gerlach said he ran into multiple students during his time at Club 519 which are what most of the photos and videos being shared, as heard on Pirate Radio.

"I was having a good time. Probably too good of a time. It wasn't a good judgement choice. Let me stop right here and say I probably should've said, 'One beer and then you know that's it,' but good atmosphere (at Club 519). I'd never been in that establishment before, went to another place and that was it," Gerlach said on Pirate Radio.

Gerlach said he thinks the pictures taken of him with the women were "not a good look," as heard on Pirate Radio. Gerlach said he is "guilty of poor judgment but not of anything other than that." He said he didn't do anything to "justify

what's happening right now."

Gerlach said he regrets putting himself in that situation and regrets that he is distracting students from their exams and said "it won't happen again."

Gerlach said the investigation process is not "completely clear" to him as it is not often chancellors are investigated. He said he believes independent council will be sought out as the UNC System office proceeds with the investigation.

Gerlach said he received a letter from Roper after 4 p.m. on Monday about the numerous stipulations. Gerlach said he wants to get the investigation done quickly and will comply fully.

"I expect, hopefully shortly, hopefully shortly to be reach out by the system office to answer any questions they might have, address any concerns, about this, is this behavior suitable for a chancellor? I made a mistake, chancellors are human beings who make mistakes I don't think it is indicative of my ability to lead the university especially with the great team we have," Gerlach said on Pirate Radio.

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OUR VIEW

Officials should be accountable

East Carolina University Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach was placed on administrative leave as of Monday, Sept. 30, because of the pictures that were released of him at a bar in Uptown Greenville. The pictures depict the chancellor interacting with students and in one particular image, a female student appears to be straddling him while he has his arm around her.

The release of these images by local news organizations such as The Daily Reflector and WITN have caused ECU administration to place Gerlach on leave and to investigate the circumstances surrounding the pictures.

Gerlach became ECU interim chancellor on May 6, 2019, and had been in the position since then.

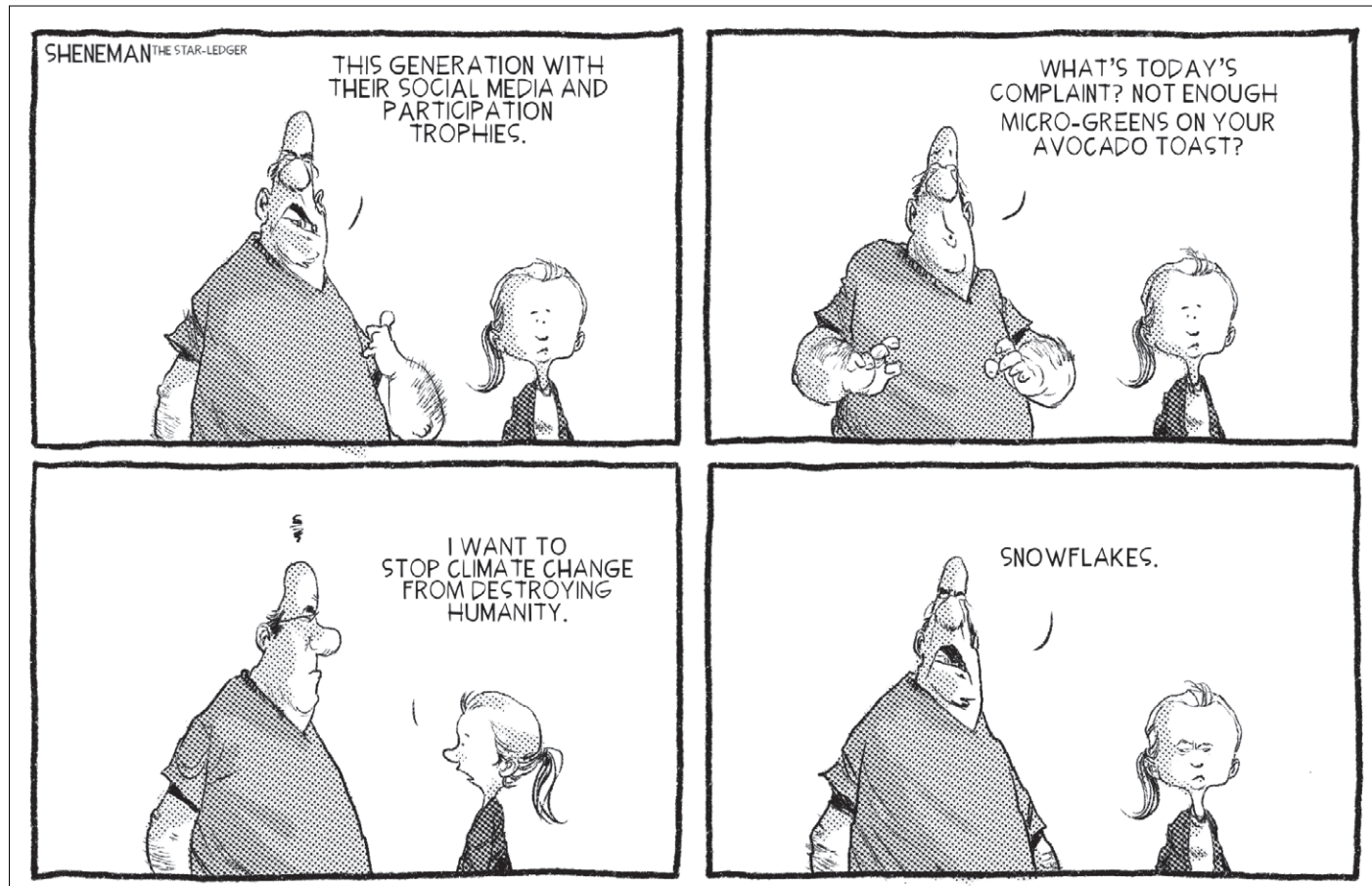
There have been numerous petitions posted online in support of Gerlach, and several local establishments have voiced its support of him. Sup Dogs Twitter account voiced support for Gerlach, as well as the bar Club 519.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that while all members of ECU administration should be held accountable for their actions, the context of the photos in question are needed before viewers can make a proper judgement of the Chancellor.

Authority needs to be kept in check while they hold large amounts of power in any organization or school, and ECU has every right to investigate any situations that may appear to be suspicious or to have an issue of misconduct.

While many students and alumni may be upset at the University's decision, it is important to understand that they have the right to do so as his employers.

Ron Michelson will be the acting interim chancellor while Gerlach is on leave. Michelson is the senior vice chancellor and ECU Provost, and will be taking his responsibilities during the investigation.



Voting is important

Students should make voting a habit

Tara Kermiet
GUEST COLUMNIST

Alex Dennis
GUEST COLUMNIST



It has become a common question for us to ask students if they're registered to vote or if they need to update their voter registration. Some students divert eye contact and quickly walk past us. Some have run away from us. Others have asked, "Register for what?"

The Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement prioritizes voter registration and voter turnout through our work because your voice matters, and one opportunity to make your voice heard is by voting. Many of the issues being discussed by our political leaders have a direct impact on you as a college student – student debt, employee wages, funding for higher education, and the economy are just some examples. As a college student, you are the most qualified to vote on these issues because they have a direct impact on your lived experiences.

We hear it all the time – college students are the least faithful voters. However, we are starting to see an increase in political engage-

ment over recent years. According to a study published last week by Tufts University, college students across the United States more than doubled their rate of voting between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections. At ECU specifically, our voting rate increased by 13.1% from 2014 to 2018. Millennials and Gen Z will be the largest share of eligible voters in 2020, and you can help us continue to change these historical trends for the better by engaging in the democratic process.

How you choose to use your voice matters not only for your current self but for your future self, as well. Many of you will be graduating, moving, or getting new jobs within the next four years. Think about what will be important to your future self. By voting now, you are setting a foundation for your future.

Just as you brush your teeth in the morning or drive to school and work, voting should be a habit. If you create the habit of voting in each election, you are more likely to vote in the next one and the ones after that. Voting is a habit.

Start the habit now by voting in the next

municipal election. Municipal elections have a direct impact on your home community and our local community. Often, the local offices that are on the ballot are decided by a matter of a few votes. The Pitt County Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019. One-Stop Early Voting for the Pitt County Municipal Election will be available in the Main Campus Student Center, Room 125 on October 28-November 1, 2019 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. This means that you will not have to travel far to cast your vote.

The North Carolina voter registration deadline is October 11, 2019. If you need to register to vote or want to check your voter registration status, the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement can assist. Stop by the Main Campus Student Center suite 208 or visit our website and navigate to our VoteEverywhere Portal.

Tara Kermiet and Alex Dennis are associate and assistant directors for the Center of Leadership and Civic Engagement and guest columnists. To contact her/him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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As a designated public forum for East Carolina University, The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor limited to 250 words. Letters may be rejected or edited for libelous content, decency and brevity. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number.

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ECU student Lauren Verzaal and Chancellor Dan Gerlach shake hands in the Boneyard at the last home football game against William and Mary.

Student shares view on Gerlach



Taylor Nishimoto
GUEST COLUMNIST

As a student of East Carolina University, I thought I would share a few things to keep in mind with my fellow ECU students, while they are forming their opinions about our Interim Chancellor, Dan Gerlach.

First off, a lot of people who haven't really worked in a news environment often don't see how journalism works or how some things can be taken out of context behind the scenes. While yes, it is the job of news outlets to report what is shared with them, from my own personal experience, bold headlines and out of context photos can be EXTREMELY detrimental to a person's reputation.

Secondly, we need to remember that we asked for a chancellor who is more open and approachable in comparison to our former Chancellor, Cecil Staton.

From my own personal experience, it was extremely hard for me to even make

"While the decision is ultimately not up to us, it is now in the hands of the UNC System Board of Governors, I would still like to remind each and every student that you have a voice."

an appointment to speak with former Chancellor Staton, however just the other week while I was at Freeboot Friday, an event hosted by Uptown Greenville, I was able to have a conversation with Chancellor Gerlach.

Sometimes we forget that there is a lot of hard work that goes into being a chancellor, and the fact that he makes time to come out to these types of events, football game, and so much more is pretty impressive. So rather than focusing on how he went downtown maybe once or twice, look at all the local community and ECU events he has attended and let that guide your judgement.

Finally, I have always been a fan of the facts. Don't just read the news articles and

look at the pictures. Find other sources. Talk to those who were there, see what the bar employees and the bar owners have to say. But above all, always remember that there are two sides to every story.

While the decision is ultimately not up to us, it is now in the hands of the UNC System Board of Governors, I would still like to remind each and every student that you have a voice. It would be ashamed to see a great Chancellor be thrown out because of a snapchat picture that was misinterpreted.

Taylor Nishimoto is a junior majoring in business and a guest columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

EVENTS

TODAY

National Mean Girls Day Trivia Night
Uptown Brewing Company
7 p.m.

The Wolves
The Burnette Studio Theatre
7:30 p.m.

Opening reception for True Colors: Honoring Stonewall
ECU Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center
5 p.m.

Call for Artist: Inktober
The Art Lab
Noon

TOMORROW

Comedy Pitt Open Mic
Pitt Street Brewing Company
8 p.m.

Fleet Feet Pub Run
Uptown Brewing Company
6:15 p.m.

Franklin Graham Tar Heel Tour
Greenville Toyota Amphitheater
7 p.m.

THURSDAY

Game Day Shuttle
Five Points Plaza
3 p.m.

Comic Book Club
Smashed Waffles
7 p.m.

Kameron Marlowe LIVE
Boneyard Harley-Davidson
5 p.m.

FRIDAY

Opening reception: Schwa Show
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
5 p.m.

Holden Dixon & the Straightlines
Uptown Brewing Company
8 p.m.

Jazz Night
Starlight Cafe
8 p.m.

Charm/riots/Orphan Riot
Christy's Euro Pub
10 p.m.

SATURDAY

Pop in, Pop art
Emerge Gallery and Art Center
1 p.m.

IBXIMPROV Show
Whirligig Stage
7 p.m.

Comedy Showcase
Pitt Street Brewing Company
9 p.m.

Gorham's Cafe Food Truck
Pitt Street Brewing Company
6 p.m.

Rock Springs Food Truck
M Pourium
6 p.m.



MICHAELA EMORY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Ebony Addams poses during her performance at last years Scullery Coffee House and Creamery monthly Pitt County AIDS Service fundraiser Drag Brunch.

Drag dinner to make debut

Devin Raines
TEC STAFF

Uptown performance arts center Whirligig Stage will host the first Drag Dinner Cabaret and offer locals a night out with a unique show and dinner catered by Wasabi 88 this Thursday night at 7:30.

General manager for Wasabi 88 and drag queen, Shawn Michaels, who performs as Michelle Michaels, is bringing a brand new event to Whirligig Stage. The cabaret show will feature illusions such as Adele, Dolly Parton, Adam Lambert and many more famous figures to entertain the audience in a family friendly style.

"It is not a midnight show, it's early in the evening, it's family friendly," Michaels said. "I picked people that do illusions that everybody will love, that everybody will know and I've tried to use a lot of local entertainers that way they (audiences) see what Greenville entertainers have to offer."

Not only is this event catered towards family friendly fun, but will also act as a fundraiser. A portion of the proceeds from this event will be going to PiCASO, the Pitt County AIDS Service Organization.

"The money that's raised stays in Pitt County, and it goes to help people pay electric bills, pay for medications they need, pay for anything they need," Michaels said. "They can go to the organization (PiCASO) and say 'I need help.'"

The main goal of the show is to give people a chance to sit back and relax. People can come to this show to genuinely have a good time and forget about all of the stresses of their day, all according to

Michaels.

Executive director of Whirligig Stage, Jason Coale, said Whirligig is a local performing arts venue that hosts everything from comedians, musicians, performers, murder mystery dinners and anything they can to focus the town of Greenville. The Drag Dinner Cabaret was just something they felt really excited to host.

"To us, it's something that reaches out to a section of our community that some of our other entertainment doesn't necessarily touch on," Coale said. "It also is an opportunity that there will be a portion of the proceeds donated to a local charitable organization, we are always excited to have events and performers who like to give back."

Coale said being able to bring diverse events to the Greenville community and to allow people a chance to enjoy a nice meal with friends and family is an amazing benefit in hosting the event. The Drag Dinner is pure fun and entertainment for people, according to Coale.

Michaels' show will be filled with music, make-up, costumes, lights and entertainment, and it is bound to offer something for the whole family. This is a unique performance and is the first of its kind here in Greenville, which is just all the more reason to come, according to Coale.

"Michelle is just hilarious. Their shows are quite fun, quite funny, lots of jokes, lots of costumes, lots of make-up," Coale said. "There's definitely some adult humor to drag kings and queens, but it is not on the raunchy side. This is not a club show, this is a dinner show."

Drag queen and previous first alternate, Miss Gay Buckeye America, known as Kelly Ray Shelton, has been performing for nearly forty years total with around thirty years off and on in Greenville.

Shelton is bringing his Diana Ross illusion to Whirligig Stage. From a young age, Shelton said he loved lip syncing to Ross's songs when nobody was home and that a love for performing only grew as he grew older.

"I hope the people that come will be friends of ours, I hope there's new people that have never seen a drag show, that they want to come out and do something different," Shelton said. "I hope the people who come just feel my music and appreciate what we're doing."

Shelton said he selects the songs and clothes that he likes the most to presents to the audience something that is genuinely him. He encourages people interested to come talk to him before or after the show and to take pictures with him.

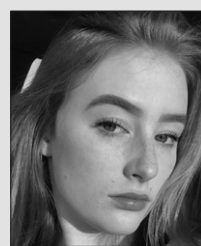
"Come with an open heart and take it all in," Shelton said. "It's something that could be a win win for everybody in Greenville; straight people, gay people, all kinds of people. It's entertainment, and it's amazing, if you've never seen it, to see what it looks like and what it feels like."

Tickets, which can be found on the Whirligig Stage website, are \$25 for the full dinner and a show and are \$10 for just the show alone. More information about the event can be found on the Whirligig Stage Facebook page.

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

REVIEW

DaBaby disappoints in "KIRK"



Chloe Easton
TEC STAFF

North Carolina native Charlotte rapper DaBaby, also known as Jonathan Kirk, released his second 2019 full-length studio album "KIRK" this past Friday, Sept. 27, featuring mainstream rappers such as Nicki Minaj and Chance The Rapper. After his recent comeup six month prior with "Baby on Baby," the artist makes his success known, but fails to create a variety within his music.

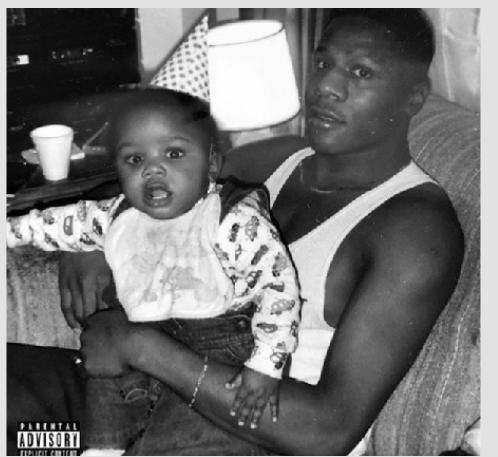
Starting off the 13 track album, DaBaby doesn't waste any time in "INTRO" and jumps right into personal rap. The artist reminds listeners of where he came from, that his success was not handed to him and acknowledges the self changes he has made along the way. With lyrics referencing how the undiscovered artist could barely afford to make a sandwich, to now performing at the BET awards, DaBaby reminds us though he has made a quick come up, the loss of loved ones he has endeavored has helped shaped the rapper he is today.

Moving further down the album, DaBaby keeps the same vibe going in "BOP" with a brag like lyrics mentioning his ability to not only provide those who raised him, but his ability to fund his lavish lifestyle. However, the beat used in "BOP" is almost too similar to the one used in "Goin Baby" in his previous album "Baby

on Baby." Both tracks have an underlying flute like melody and sound identical in rhythmic pattern. One thing mainstream artists need to stray away from is sounding like everyone else, especially their own older releases when promising something new.

One of the multiple collaborations on the albums, "GOSPEL" featuring artist Chance The Rapper, seems comical at this point following Chance's release of "The Big Day." This most recent album release by Chance received a lot of hate from listeners claiming the album was too religious and only focused on God and the love he shares for his wife. The irony comes into play when DaBaby comes in with one of the first lines "this s**t right here sound like some gospel," which is the vibe Chance is now known for, and leads into his verse discussing, once again, his recent come up.

Another popular collaboration on the album features Trinidad and Tobago-born rapper Nicki Minaj in "iPHONE," where DaBaby expresses the common mainstream rap culture subject of toggling back and forth between partners. Sticking to the ideal pop culture relationship in the celebrity realm, with lyrics such referring to his current lover being unfaithful and his plans to switch to someone new, DaBaby sounds like just another man whose in it for the lust of it. Though Nicki Minaj comes in with the same idea of leaving her current man for another, she focuses on the reasoning behind it.



COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

DaBaby's second 2019 studio album "KIRK" cover.

Overall, DaBaby has released an album we have already heard before. Almost every song discusses his newfound success and includes similar beats found on his previous album. For someone who gloats so much about his lavish lifestyle, one would think he can find the time to focus on something new.

RATING:



2 out of 5

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

DANCE continued from A1

Last year, over \$15,000 was raised for James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital in Greenville all thanks to Piratethon, according to Martin. This year the chapter hopes to increase its amount donated and encouraged those to help in their goal.

Sneha Amaresh, junior public health major and co-president for Piratethon, said the organization is a major event at other schools and universities around the country raising over millions of dollars. Amaresh hopes that ECU can partake in common efforts found in relation to the event.



Sneha Amaresh

"This organization is a mammoth at other schools and

in some universities, students help raise millions and millions of dollars to help sick children, and I think ECU has the potential to do some amazing work," Amaresh said.

Piratethon was started last year by ECU alumni Hayden Raynor. When he graduated, he passed on the organization to Martin and Amaresh, who helped get Piratethon on its feet. Assistant Director for the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities at ECU, Elizabeth Endlsey, serves as the organization's adviser and senior communications major, Mary Ellen Hunter, serves as the vice president of External Affairs.

Hunter opened up and shared her personal experiences with Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome and Supraventricular Tachycardia, which influenced her involvement in the event.

"In order to solve these conditions, I had to undergo many terrifying hospital visits and three

heart surgeries at Duke Children's Hospital in Raleigh, NC," Hunter said. "I used my experience to gain a level of empathy I never even knew I was capable of and have done everything in my power since to give back and dance for those who can't."

According to Amaresh and Martin, the board is currently working on recruiting volunteers and dancers for this years Piratethon. They are also focused on fundraising, which donors can do in groups to win special prizes.

"We would absolutely love for more people to get involved with Piratethon, you don't need to be any good at dancing in order to join," Martin said.

Piratethon will be held on March 24 from 2 to 8 p.m. in the New Student Center Ballrooms A and B, but due to the severity of preparations the chapter encourages those to get involved now.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Did someone say FREE?

Looking for a roommate or a sublease?
Got something for sale?
ECU students can submit a classified for **FREE!**
Contact smaa@ecu.edu for more information.



HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19)
-- Today is an 8 -- You could struggle with long-term goals. Take the shortest route. Make things easy. Choose work over play and avoid risky business. Follow an experienced guide.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
-- Today is an 8 -- Someone may be sending you love messages. Slow down and look around. Avoid provoking another's jealousies or sensitivities. Strengthen a creative partnership. Discuss future options.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
-- Today is a 9 -- Choose your path carefully to avoid accidents or delays. Focus on the job at hand despite abundant distractions. Practice your talents, skills and best moves.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
-- Today is an 8 -- Make plans to develop a passion, ambition or enthusiasm. Avoid self-indulgence or doubts. Share concerns with someone who tells the truth. Keep things simple.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
-- Today is a 7 -- Make long-term domestic dreams and plans. Consider investments to improve systems and beautify your space. Simplicity soothes. What about a tiny home? Realize a vision.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
-- Today is an 8 -- Dig into a juicy assignment. A potentially great idea needs work. The previously impossible is beginning to seem attainable. Keep the faith. Discuss methods.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
-- Today is a 9 -- Stick to your budget to squeeze through an unexpected financial drain. It's a good time to sell. Draw upon hidden resources. Follow a profitable trail.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
-- Today is a 9 -- Something doesn't work. Don't throw shade. Keep your cool and get creative. More work is required. Friends can help. Completion leads to advancement.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
-- Today is a 7 -- Make no assumptions and avoid snap judgment. New facts dispel old fears. Not everything computes, though. Listen to intuition. Use what you've kept hidden.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
-- Today is an 8 -- Share ideas and information with friends and colleagues. Teamwork gets things done despite temporary confusion or chaos. Teach each other tricks.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
-- Today is an 8 -- Don't broadcast your plans or reveal unfinished work yet. Keep developing. Take a walk and think. Adapt as you go. Crazy dreams seem possible.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
-- Today is a 9 -- Educational opportunities present themselves. Let folks know if your plans change. Monitor the conditions, and when the getting is good, get out and go.

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COMICS

ONE AND ONLY



BLISS

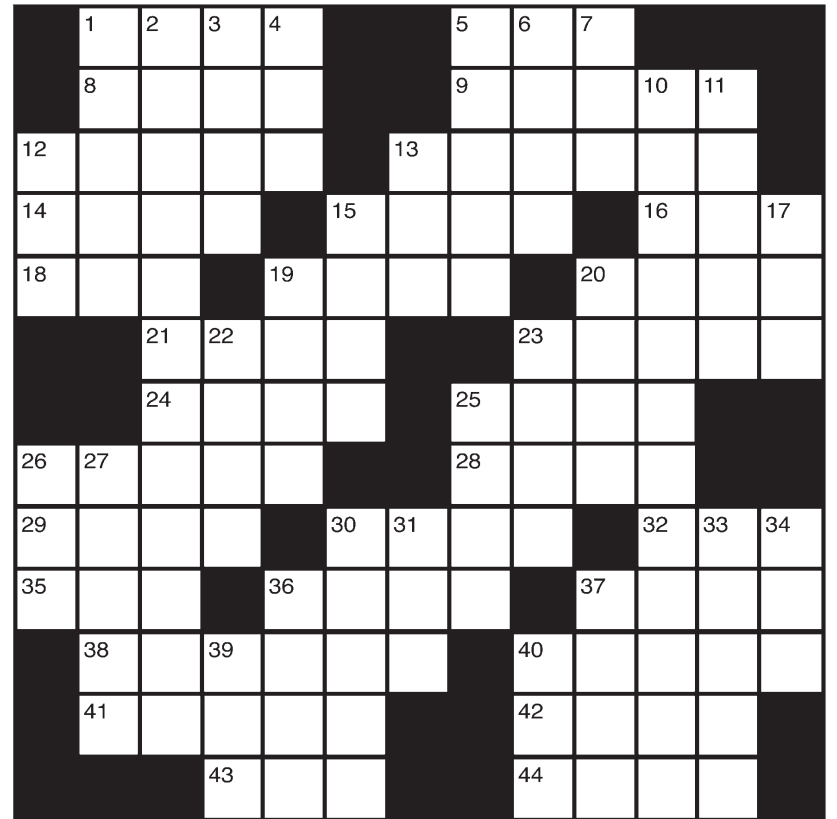


"Hulk no like proctology."

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

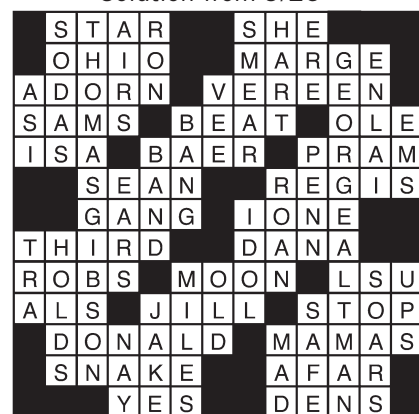
- Actress ___ Daly
- Network for Diane Sawyer
- Word in some Hope/Crosby titles
- Bullwinkle, for one
- Sightseeing trips
- Long-running primetime serial about the Ewing family
- Youngest on "The Cosby Show"
- "Promised ___"; Gerald McRaney drama series
- Whitney and McKinley: abbr.
- Dined
- Adams and Ameche
- Pitcher
- Robe for Indira Gandhi
- "X-Men: First ___"
- Arden and Plumb
- Blockhead
- Threaded fastener
- Comedian Martha ___
- Dallas hoopsters, for short
- "___ the Clock"
- Record speed letters
- Take advantage of
- Shredded cabbage dish

- ___ dead people"; Cole's line in "The Sixth Sense"
- Character in "Winnie the Pooh"
- "___ Attraction"; Glenn Close film
- "Enemy of the ___"; movie for Will Smith and Jon Voight
- Run ___; go wild
- Drug that causes hallucinations, for short
- Sunbathes

DOWN

- Rainbow ___; food and game fish
- Game show hosted by Chris Harrison
- ___ a soul; no one
- Sullivan and Bradley
- "___ home is his castle"
- Courageous
- Potter's title on "M*A*S*H": abbr.
- Actor on "Law & Order"
- Actor Rob ___
- Refrain syllable
- Rather or Aykroyd
- "___ & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman"
- Yrbk. section
- "The Price Is Right" host
- ___ May Clampett
- 22 5th and Pennsylvania: abbr.
- Winter garment
- "Win, Lose or ___"
- Dallas school, for short
- Throws
- Lose vital fluid
- "A Flea in Her ___"; movie for Rex Harrison and Rosemary Harris
- Mountaintops
- Diner owner on "Alice"
- Friday and Bilko: abbr.
- "___ Rock"; Simon & Garfunkel hit
- "For Me and My ___"; Judy Garland film
- "My Big ___ Greek Wedding"

Solution from 9/26



SUDOKU

SUDOKU

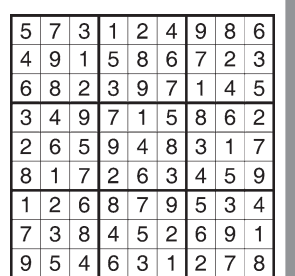
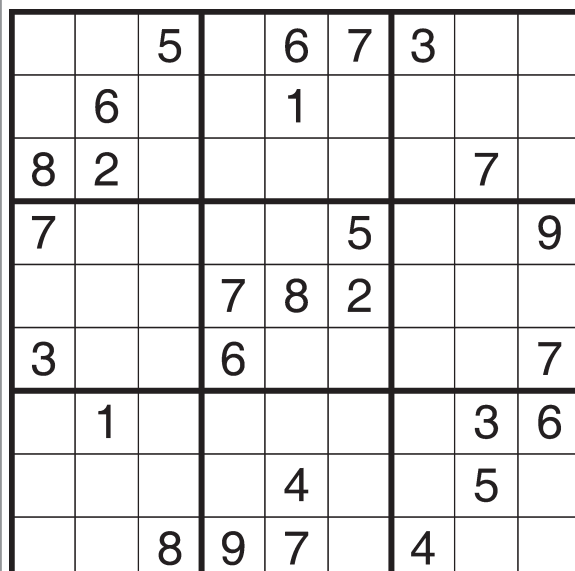
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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 9/26



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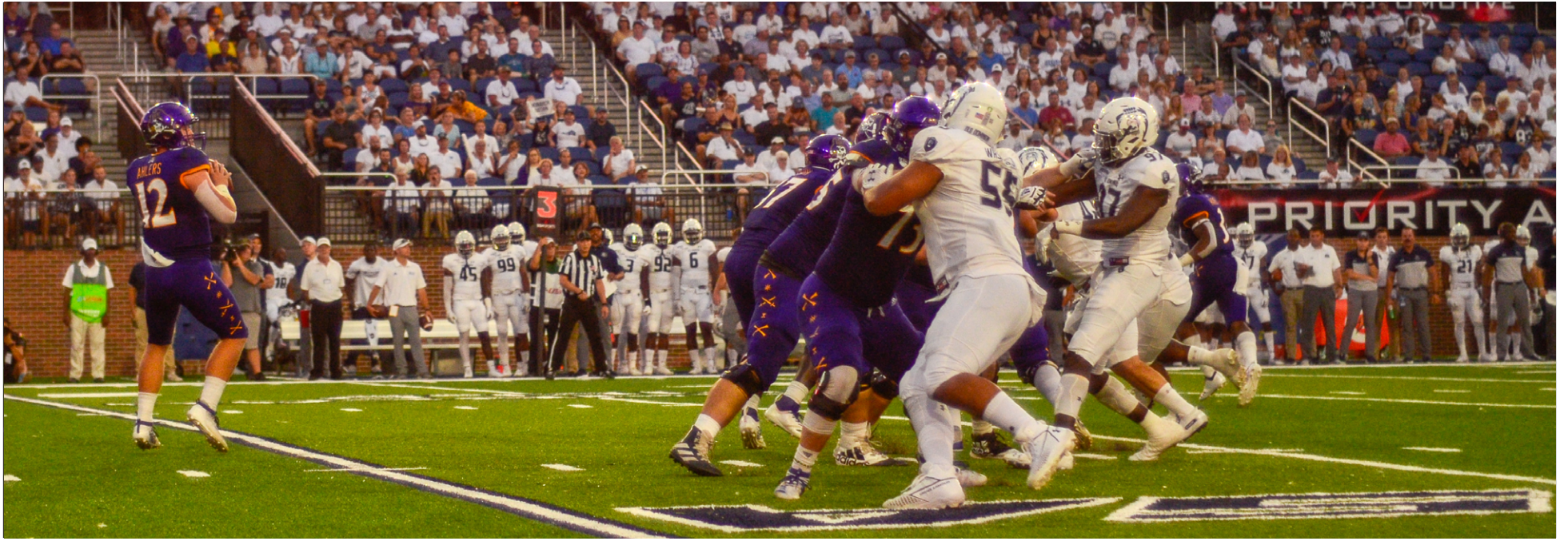


Showcase your business during Homecoming 2019

This special section in The East Carolinian offers the opportunity to reach ECU students, alumni, and the greater Greenville community ahead of the Homecoming football game.

Sales deadline: October 21st

For more information contact smaa@ecu.edu



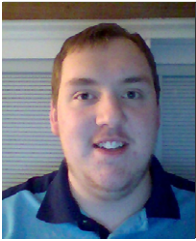
ROD MCCLURE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Holton Ahlers drops back to pass to a target down the field, something that ECU excelled at against Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. The Pirates defeated the Monarchs 24-21 on Saturday.

» ANALYSIS

Pirates win at ODU with deep ball

ECU's use of long passes helped in the team's defeat of Old Dominion



Daniel Shepard
TEC STAFF

On Saturday night in Norfolk, Virginia, the East Carolina University (3-2, 0-1 AAC) football team shook the narrative of being a team unable to win on the road, defeating Old Dominion University (1-3, 0-0 C-USA) by a score of 24-21.

Despite some near late-game heroics by redshirt senior running back Kesean Strong and the Monarchs' offense, ECU held on for the victory, riding some big offensive plays in the process. Entering Saturday, the Pirates had yet to consistently move the football down the field, a testament to the shaky play by sophomore quarterback Holton Ahlers.

Prior to the first play from scrimmage against ODU, the Pirates' longest pass play of the season came on a 41-yard catch-and-run by redshirt

freshman wide receiver Tyler Snead in a 42-10 thrashing at the hands of the United States Naval Academy two weeks ago.

This week, while on the road, the Pirates were set to face a defensive alignment familiar to them from last season. Current Monarch defensive coordinator David Blackwell held the same position at ECU last season before moving on to ODU during the coaching shake-up in Greenville.

"We faced the same defense all last year so there was definitely a couple things in the bubble early to Dre (senior wide receiver Deondre Farrier). I knew that from the coverage we faced all last year that that was going to be there," Ahlers said postgame.

That play Ahlers is referencing was a 53-yard strike to Farrier on the first true offensive play for the Pirates on Saturday. After a delay-of-game penalty added to the disaster of a botched kickoff return, ECU's offense began its opening drive

on its own one-yard line. Recognizing a familiar coverage from Blackwell, however, Ahlers was able to find Farrier over the middle for a momentum-flipping, early chunk play that moved the Pirates into Monarch territory.

"I think it was a big breath of fresh air for our fans, our team. Obviously starting back that deep, it's big, but making a big play, ran a great route and he made a great catch as well," Ahlers said.

A huge part of the storyline heading into Saturday was whether or not ECU's offense would crumble without solidifying a run game. Before giving up 107 rushing yards to the Pirates, ODU was sporting the 21st best defense against the run in the FBS, allowing an average of just 89.7 yards per game.

To accomplish those results, however, Blackwell and the Monarchs' defense was forced to take away from its pass coverage, leaving favorable match-ups for Pirate receivers to exploit.

"We saw on film that the safety would come down a lot and be flat-footed so we said we were going to take a shot during the game and we came through," sophomore wide receiver Blake Proehl said after the game.

With one-on-one coverage for much of the game, Ahlers was able to finally find Proehl on a deep ball early in the second quarter. Driving from the team's own 28-yard line, the Pirates executed a 72-yard pass play over the middle to a streaking Proehl who shook a would-be tackler and raced into the endzone.

Moving forward, this aspect of ECU's offense will remain something to watch as the Pirates move into conference play against Temple University (3-1, 0-0 AAC) on Thursday. Kickoff between the Owls and Pirates is slated for 8 p.m. inside Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

TEC Talk:
Time for Tolerance

Diversity should be accepted and celebrated. But, as President Donald Trump's rally held at East Carolina University in July proved, many people are a long way from that goal. Rally attendees yelled, "Send her back," referencing Rep. Ilhan Omar, a naturalized U.S. citizen who immigrated from Somalia, after the president commented about her and other Democratic congresswomen of color he criticizes. If acceptance and celebration are elusive in this time of unrest in our communities and nation, can we begin with tolerance? A panel of students and audience members will answer that question.

Thursday, Oct. 17, 6-7:30 p.m.
Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms 1 and 2
Free and open to campus and community members

PRESENTED BY
The East Carolinian
CAMPUS NEWS SINCE 1925

Soccer splits two conference matches

Daniel Shepard
TEC STAFF

Brendan Cavazos
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



East Carolina University's (4-6-1, 1-1-0 AAC) women's soccer team went all out during its game against Temple University (3-5-3, 1-1-0 AAC), but ultimately lost in overtime 1-0.

After playing 95 minutes full of shots on both ends, Temple was able to break free from the standstill when Gabriela Johnson received a pass from Julia Dolan and scored in the 96th minute.



Jason Hamilton said.

There were multiple attempts at the goal taken by both teams. Before the final shot, ECU and Temple both took five unsuccessful shots, three of which were attempted within the final 15 minutes by each team.

ECU has struggled through injuries this season, but Hamilton said, "This is the one game we had more depth than our opponent as they are dealing with injuries as bad as we are. Sunday games are all about outworking your opponent and you have to give credit because Temple outworked us in that game."

ECU outshot Temple 13-12, where senior forward Jenna Dages led the pirates with four shots and one shot on goal.

Both opponents were tied in shots on



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Daria Draovitch speeds down the field with the ball.

goal, 6-6 and were 5-6 in saves, in favor of Temple.

Despite a hard-fought overtime loss against Temple, the Pirates were able to defeat the University of Connecticut (4-5-1, 0-2-0 AAC) last Thursday by a score of 1-0.

The Pirates' lone goal of the game, and the only score in the match, came off the leg of senior forward/defender Daria Draovitch in the 28th minute off a corner kick. With ECU holding the edge at halftime, Connecticut attempted a heated comeback effort in the waning minutes of the match.

In the final half of the contest, the Huskies took nine shots and four corner kicks on goal to the Pirates' three shots and one corner kick.

"In the second half, I thought we showed much physicality and that's what you need to be able to hold off a team and protect a lead," Hamilton said.

Without a game-tying goal, from the Huskies, ECU took the match despite being out-shot 15-7 by Connecticut. That included a 6-3 advantage in corner kicks and included multiple shots on goal late in the game.

"Leading up to this game, we talked about believing in ourselves and knowing we are capable of winning game," Hamilton added. "We challenged players to step up and fill the shoes of the players we are missing. It was a great team win tonight."

The Pirates will be back in action on Oct. 10 when they take on the University of Tulsa (6-6-0, 0-2-0 AAC) in Greenville, North Carolina. Opening kick is slated for 7 p.m. inside Johnson Stadium.

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