

THE OPINION PAGE

Editorial: Travel is good for the soul

Thousands of life size terra-cotta warriors and horses stand ready to defend the Emperor Qin Shi Huang, who ruled over two thousand years ago. With their armor in place and weapons at the ready they present a formidable force that would discourage any foreign or domestic army.

Twenty years ago when I entered the building that covers a section of the archaeological site of the tomb of China's first emperor, I was overwhelmed with the history it represented. The terra-cotta warriors and horses, located the Shaanxi province of China and were found by local farmers while digging a well, inspired me to appreciate a civilization that existed many years ago. There were ancient minds, hands and eyes that were responsible for the sculpting of those historical figures. This history was not a distant concept for me to study from a book; it was right in front of me and I had no doubt that it

was real. An energy was emitted from the site that was as palatable as walking into a home, where the Thanksgiving turkey has been roasting for hours, and the aroma engulfs you and reminds you of all Thanksgivings past. My sense of being was changed forever. I was now connected to the ancient past, where as before it was something that happened long ago, to people to which I didn't relate. Before the present was what I understood best, so I chose comfort over a deeper meaning to life.

I observed a mentality in the people of the China I visited to be similar to that of their ancestors, who were forced to construct a vast army out of terra-cotta that would protect a dead emperor. Their liberties were suppressed and their acceptance of mundane jobs was evidence of that fact. I remember traveling to a mountain resort where the Chinese vacationed. Few foreigners went there. On the way up

the mountain I saw men and women sitting on the side of the gravel road, with hammer and chisel in hand, breaking up rocks to make gravel for the road. I thought to myself, what was this person's view of life, what did they look forward to? Then I realized that their job was not the extent of who they were. They had to have other fulfilling facets to their life.

At that time of my life, I was completely immersed in my career and found little time for much else. Satisfaction in my job was the motivating force of my life. Finding myself questioning the purpose of my life and being given the gift of seeing others so completely different than I, created a path to my becoming a wife and mother. I did not covet these two roles before my trip; I was never going to marry or have children.

When I returned home and was back performing my job with less passion and enjoyment than before, I real-

ized I had changed. My basic ideas about what I needed from life had evolved from those I had observed in my parents to those that were completely my own. My mother had always been a career woman at heart, but she grew up in a time when women were expected to be housewives with families. She succumbed to the social pressures to have children, but always worked or owned a business. She once told me that she wished she had not had children. She thought a childless life for her daughter was best, and for a while I had taken her wish for my own. Traveling to China presented to me a feast of delicious alternatives to my previous life's ambitions.

Within a year of returning from China I quit my job, got married, sold

most of my possessions, and moved from California to North Carolina. That was a long time ago and I am still enjoying the leftovers from my trip to China. I am still married to the same man, I have a 17-year-old son, and I continue to challenge my perceptions of the people and events around me, as well as my limited experience and knowledge.

Take advantage of any opportunity to travel that you can and while in distant lands make an effort to understand the people there and the circumstances of their lives. You will see yourself and others differently when you return.

Susan Correll-Hankinson

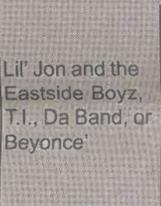
Talk of ECSU

Who would you like to see perform at future ECSU Homecoming concerts?



Darrien Jerman, Freshman Seaboard, NC

"Beyonce, Mya, Lox, Jay-Z, or Ludacris"



Lil' Jon and the Eastside Boyz, T.I., Da Band, or Beyonce'

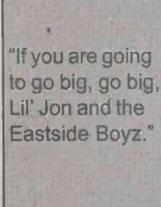


Nicole Burton, Sophomore Winston Salem, NC



Gregory Ackles, Senior Willingboro, New Jersey

"Whoever they can afford to get."



Wyatt Jordan, Senior Elizabeth City, NC

"If you are going to go big, go big, Lil' Jon and the Eastside Boyz."

Compiled by DeTra Stith

Fame--could you handle it?

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Staff Writer

Imagine being the president of the United States of America. How about being an N.B.A. All-Star, N.F.L. Pro-Bowl linebacker or the world heavyweight boxing champion? Living a lavish lifestyle as a world renowned recording artist wouldn't be too shabby, either. You would always be in the public's eye. Anyone with access to a television, the Internet, and other media publications would know your name, and possibly, praise your accomplishments. The only downside I can think of would be saying goodbye to your personal privacy. Nevertheless, I think life would be great.

Let me mention a few names that might grab your attention, Kobe Bryant, Bill Clinton, Michael Jackson, O.J. Simpson, R. Kelly, Ray Lewis, and Mike Tyson. Do these names ring a bell? All have achieved success in their profound careers. They also share something else in common: accusation of criminal behavior. Guilty or not, these allegations will never be forgotten. Will these claims outweigh or overshadow their triumphs? I think it depends on each situation and outcome.

It seems as if every time you turn around, someone famous is being accused of doing something shocking or profane.

I've heard the saying "What goes up, must come down" numerous times in my lifetime. Maybe that old cliché is concrete truth. All of these men mentioned are viewed as "role models" to young men and women around the world. Role model is defined in Merriam-Webster's dictionary as "a person whose behavior in a particular role is being imitated by others."

Most people consider these persons superhuman. We all sometimes forget that these individuals are only

human and imperfect, just as the rest of us. True, they earn large sums of money and are privileged to enjoy the finer things in life. True also, they should set an example for others. However, we must realize that they are entitled to make mistakes because they are human beings.

Everyone and their mama is looking at what they do and listening to what they say. If I were in the position of Kobe, Bill, Mike or any of the others, I would place strong emphasis on keeping my "business" out of the media. Everyone and their mama is looking at what they do and listening to what they say. As a matter of fact, I would hire professionals to help me hide my skeletons in the closet! Let's be honest, everyone has secrets that they keep only to themselves. If you ask me, keeping secrets should be the right of every human being. Dogs, pigs, goats, rats and other life forms have studies and documentation to explain their behavior. I doubt that animals keep secrets. But we aren't animals.

We all came to ECSU to one day be "somebody" in life, correct? We might not reach the status of the rich and famous, but people notice what we do and say. Be careful. Critics run rampant. Remember, no matter what one may accomplish in life, there is always an obstacle waiting to take us off course. The weak will perish, but the strong will survive.

History of world's first crossword-- can you figure it out?

Courtesy of: <http://thinks.com/crosswords/first1.htm>

Arthur Wynne had the job of devising the weekly puzzle page for Fun, the eight-page comic section of the New York World. When he devised what he called a Word-cross for the Christmas 1913 edition, published on 21 December he could have no idea that he would be starting a worldwide craze.

The puzzle page had previously featured plenty of word squares, rebuses, hidden words, anagrams and connect-the-dots drawings. For this edition Wynne decided he would have something new.

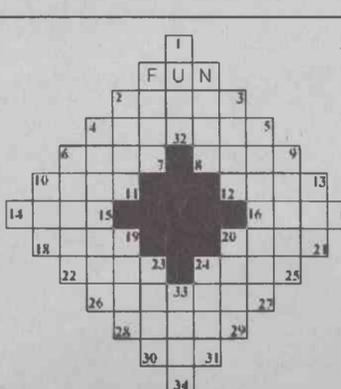
He sketched out a diamond-shaped grid, wrote FUN, the name of the comic section, across the top squares, and started filling in the rest of the grid. He numbered the squares at the start and end of each word, and wrote definition clues for the words he had filled in. The puzzle was printed with the instruction to the solver: "Fill in the small squares with words which agree with the following definitions." Thus, the crossword was born. The new puzzle became popular immedi-

ately, and continued to appear every week. One change was that after a few weeks the name was changed from Word-cross to Cross-word.

that the hyphen was dropped, and the Cross-word became a Crossword.

From the very first, readers began sending in crosswords they had composed, and by February 1914, Wynne was regularly using these readers' submissions. There was a problem, however: the weekly crossword was plagued by typesetting errors, and as a result it was decided to drop the crossword. An immediate howl of outrage came from the readers, and the crossword was reinstated, after an absence of only one week.

Surprisingly, despite their popularity, crosswords appeared nowhere else but the New York World. Then in 1924, a couple of newly-qualified graduates of the Columbia School of Journalism, called Dick Simon and Lincoln Schuster, set up in business as publishers. Looking for something to publish, they settled on a book of the puzzles from the New York World. This book was an immediate massive hit, and launched the crossword craze worldwide.



Fill in the small squares with words which agree with the following definitions.

- 2-3. What bargain hunters enjoy.
- 4-5. A written acknowledgment.
- 6-7. Such and nothing more.
- 10-11. A bird.
- 14-15. Opposed to less.
- 18-19. What this puzzle is.
- 22-23. An animal of prey.
- 25-27. The close of a day.
- 28-29. To elude.
- 30-31. The plural of is.
- 8-9. To cultivate.
- 12-13. A bar of wood or iron.
- 16-17. What artists learn to do.
- 20-21. Fastened.
- 24-25. Found on the seashore.
- 10-18. The fibre of the gomuti palm.
- 6-22. What we all should be.
- 4-26. A day dream.
- 2-11. A talon.
- 19-28. A pigeon.
- F-7. Part of your head.
- 23-30. A river in Russia.
- 1-32. To govern.
- 33-34. An aromatic plant.
- N-8. A fist.
- 24-31. To agree with.
- 3-12. Part of a ship.
- 20-29. One.
- 5-27. Exchanging.
- 9-25. To sink in mud.
- 13-21. A boy.

After experimenting with different shapes, including a circular puzzle, Wynne eventually settled on a rectangular pattern.

It was not until some time later

Poetry Corner

Imprisoned Soul

It's hard for her to walk with her head held high
When the child within does nothing but cry.
For years of pain and suffering
Has left her feeling like her soul is dying.
Always the rotten apple of her mother's eye
Who wished not for her children to succeed but for them to die
And the forbidding, wandering hands of her father
Caused her to end her childhood and take the role of a mother.
Though still young, she was the mother and protector
Of her younger sister and brothers.
Giving them the love not given by their mother
And sacrificing her body to keep her sisters from being raped by their father
Such a heavy load to carry upon her young shoulders
The misery led her to commit murder.
But never was she seen as a murderer.
For her genius mind devised a killer
Who could never be caught
Since he could not be sought.
But this woman is still not free.
Her life is still filled with misery.
For the blood of that night stains her memory.
Holding her soul in captivity.

~Kimberly Hockaday~