THE DAILY CLIPS

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Billy Nunn Warren

FARMVILLE - Billy Nunn Warren passed away after a long illness on December 31, 2007.

He was a loving and devoted husband of 52 years to his wife, Edith; father to three, as well as “Daddy” and “Granddaddy” to countless others.

He was born in Robersonville, on February 7, 1935, one of ten brothers and one sister. He was a graduate of Robersonville High School, where he was an outstanding athlete, earning the nickname “Ace” and lettering in football, basketball, baseball, and tennis. He attended East Carolina College, where he was intramurals tennis champion. He later played semi-pro baseball and tennis.

He was a tobacconist for over 45 years during a time when the Golden Leaf was at the heart of North Carolina life. He spent many years walking the auction warehouse floors across the South, and later worked in Asia and South America. He began his career with Southeastern Tobacco Company in Robersonville, and spent most of his career with A.C. Monk & Company of Farmville, from which he retired in 1998.

Although his career carried him all over the world, he loved Eastern North Carolina more than any place on earth, saying it was the best place to live and raise a family. He loved the ocean, and cherished his time with family and friends, sunning on the sand and surfing the waves at his beloved Emerald Isle and Salter Path.

He was a lifelong athlete who loved children and loved to play. He was an avid golfer and supporter of ECU athletics. He could often be found on the golf course or at area ball games. He also coached little league baseball, and was a mentor to many young people he met along the way. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Farmville.

He courageously battled heart disease for over 26 years, and his was the story that helped secure funding for the new cardiovascular center at East Carolina University’s Brody School of Medicine.


He is survived by his loving wife, Representative Edith Doughtie Warren of Farmville; son, Steve and wife, Kendra Warren of La Grange and their children, Steven Jr., Matthew, and Jessica; daughter, Cathy Warren and husband, Les White of Wake Forest; daughter, Lynn Owens and her daughter, Caroline of Greenville; brothers, Dennis Warren of Greenville, Dixie Warren of Locust Grove, GA; brother, Jasper Warren of Chesapeake, VA, Tony Warren of Williamson; sisters, Pat Bryant of Askeville and Hilda Hughes of Merry Hill; many nieces and nephews; and extended family including Sarah and Eric Massey and their children of Farmville, Nancy Ayers and her son of Washington, and Becky Mercer of Durham.

The family wishes to thank his doctors Carlson, Frazer, Hinson, Pippin and staff, the Farmville Rescue Squad; and the doctors, nurses and staff at Pitt Memorial Hospital.

Visitation will be at Farmville Funeral Home from 8:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

A memorial service will be held at First Baptist Church of Farmville at 2:00 p.m. Thursday.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to First Baptist Church, 205 E. Wilson St., Farmville, NC 27828; and Farmville Rescue & EMS, Inc., 4414 Belcher St., Farmville, NC 27828.

Arrangements by Farmville Funeral Home.
‘UNC TOMORROW’

Misguided agenda for universities

BY JAY SCHALIN

RALEIGH

Last February, UNC Board of Governors Chairman Jim Phillips convened the UNC Tomorrow Commission to determine how the 16-campus university system can best meet the needs of the state and people over the next 20 years. The commission’s executive director, Norma Houston, and Deputy Director Tony Caravano served that mission well — they traveled the state and discovered what a great many North Carolina residents and businesses would like from the University of North Carolina.

There is an inherent problem in using a vast number of sources as input to a project, however. When you delve into every corner of the state to determine its needs, you are apt to get a very long list, far more than the state’s limited resources can handle. Once a request for action is acknowledged, it becomes difficult to eliminate it, due to compassion, political expediency, popularity or need. Thus, many needs that are inefficient, too costly, unworkable or conflicting wind up as recommendations.

That seems to be the case with the UNC Tomorrow Commission’s final report.

For instance, a critical objective of the commission was to explore how the university system can prepare a competitive workforce in the emerging global economy. The commission strongly recommends improving the high school graduate rate. On the surface, this is a laudable goal — upward mobility has historically been a strength of our economy and culture.

Yet it conflicts with the anticipated job market. According to UNC Tomorrow’s own projections, 40 percent of the future job creation will consist of low-skilled jobs that do not require high school graduation. The report states that “the fastest expanding jobs have been those at the high end and the low end of the pay scale. Jobs with moderate rates of pay have been growing at the slowest pace.”

The high school dropout rate is about 32 percent. The number of new jobs requiring only basic skills far exceeds the number of dropouts. Thus, kids who quit school because they aren’t interested academically might actually have job opportunities commensurate with their skills. Reducing the high school dropout rate means pushing marginal students into competition with better-prepared high school graduates for a shrinking percentage of medium-skilled jobs.

Furthermore, the report recommends exploring an increase in the compulsory schooling age from 16 to 18. Dropouts often leave school because they are uninterested in learning; forcing them to remain in school will not change their inclinations. The presence of more disengaged students will only lessen a high school’s ability to focus on students who are interested in learning.

ANOTHER REASON MENTIONED AT UNC TOMORROW SESSIONS for reducing the dropout rate is the idea that increasing high school graduates will result in many more college graduates. But it is unrealistic to expect those least inclined to perform academically in high school to raise their performance to that of a college graduate.

The commission also indicates that North Carolina will need a significant increase in college students studying the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), considered key to economic growth. Only 16 percent of U.S. students major in these disciplines, while half of Chinese students do so.

Yet the report offers recommendations likely to suppress the number of highly skilled scientists and engineers. For example, it calls for “integrating the soft skills throughout the curricula.” Soft skills are skills pertinent to most professional jobs: communication, teamwork, leadership, etc. But time is scarce for STEM majors. Any additional material will reduce their focus on the demanding core studies, lengthening the time it takes to complete their degrees.

The report even suggests that UNC “target scholarships to STEM majors to encourage them to major in education.” If there is a shortage of scientists, reducing their number in order to produce K-12 science teachers is self-defeating. Perhaps education majors should be encouraged to study science instead, or experienced scientists seeking a career change should be allowed an easier path to become teachers.

The UNC Tomorrow Commission calls for many things. It wants high schools to reduce the dropout rate by concentrating on the lowest achievers, while increasing the number of students ready to tackle the most demanding college disciplines. It wants to increase college attendance among those least likely to graduate, while increasing the percentage of college students graduating with degrees in the most rigorous subjects. To achieve those conflicting goals simultaneously will require a large infusion of resources. And that clashes with a proven way to ensure prosperity: a low-tax, low-regulatory business environment.

Jay Schalin is a writer for the John William Pope Center for Higher Education Policy in Raleigh.
Public Forum

Bowl trip an experience of a lifetime

I recently returned to Greenville after an ECU-induced trip of a lifetime to Hawaii. With the announcement of the bowl location, it was quickly decided that my 8-year-old son was old enough and my 65-year-old father-in-law was young enough to embark on creating a family memory.

The Pirates and Hawaii did not disappoint. While in Hawaii, every purple- clad fan acknowledged a fellow Pirate. Whether it was a nod of a Pirate hat, a North Carolina “hey” or simply a low grumbled “aarrgh,” it was always genuine. Magically, Oahu had become as comfortable and familiar as Greenville.

At the game, the Pirate faithful were all one for all and all for one. That’s not a surprise. But what was a surprise were all the native Hawaiians who saw the purple and wished us good luck and way to go. What came next, though, was amazing. The good wishes were followed with a simple and sincere, “thank you for coming.” What great ambassadors of the spirit of aloha, and what a great lesson on how to be a gracious host.

As for the family memory, the three men of the family had a non-stop amazing time. Hawaii was spectacular and the game was simply amazing, but they both paled to the camaraderie and bonding that the three of us experienced. That we now get to share for the rest of our lives.

So, thank you to the young men of the ECU football team, the ECU coaches and all the ECU athletic support staff who made this trip of a lifetime possible. It was about football and the university, but even more so it was about family and the togetherness that is created by sharing the love of the Pirates. Mahalo and Aloha.

STEPHEN BRODY
Greenville

Pirates get kudos for bowl win

As a citizen of Boise, Idaho, and a Boise State Bronco fan, I wanted to take a moment and congratulate the ECU coaches and players on their Hawaii Bowl win. I can honestly say the better team won, and everyone in Greenville should be very proud of their Pirates.

This was a well-deserved and earned Christmas present. You have very talented players and coaches, and I hope our teams get to play again in the future. I hope you had a very merry Christmas and have a happy new year.

TODD VAN HORN
Boise, Idaho
Zapping cancer, at huge cost

As a race to build $100 million proton accelerators heats up, critics wonder whether the results justify the expense.

BY ANDREW POLLACK
THE NEW YORK TIMES

There is a new nuclear arms race under way — in hospitals.

Medical centers are rushing to turn nuclear particle accelerators, formerly used only for exotic physics research, into the latest weapons against cancer.

Some experts say the push reflects the best and worst of the nation's market-based health care system, which tends to pursue the latest, most expensive treatments — without much evidence of improved health — even as soaring costs add to the nation's economic burden.

The machines accelerate protons to nearly the speed of light and shoot them into tumors. Scientists say proton beams are more precise than the X-rays now typically used for radiation therapy, meaning fewer side effects from stray radiation and, possibly, a higher cure rate.

But a 222-ton accelerator — and a building the size of a football field with walls up to 18-feet thick in which to house it — can cost more than $100 million. That makes a proton center, in the words of one equipment vendor, "the world's most expensive and complex medical device."

Until 2000, the United States had only one hospital-based proton therapy center. Now there are five, with more than a dozen others announced. Still more are under consideration.

Some experts say there is a vast need for more proton centers. But others contend that an arms race mentality has taken hold, as medical centers try to be first to take advantage of the prestige — and the profits — a proton site can provide.

"I'm fascinated and horrified by the way it's developing," said Anthony L. Zietman, a radiation oncologist at Harvard and Mass-

SEE PROTONS, PAGE 12A
achusetts General Hospital, which operates a proton center. "This is the dark side of American medicine."

Once hospitals have made such a huge investment, experts such as Zietman say, doctors will be under pressure to guide patients toward proton therapy when a less costly alternative might suffice.

Similar cost concerns were expressed in the past about other new technology such as MRI scanners. While those have become accepted staples of medical practice, there is still concern about their overuse and their impact on medical spending.

Zietman said that protons are vital in treating certain rare tumors, but they are little better than the latest X-ray technology in dealing with prostate cancer, the common disease that many proton centers are counting on for business.

"You can scarcely tell the difference between them except in price," he said. Medicare pays about $50,000 to treat prostate cancer with protons, almost twice as much as with X-rays.

Proponents, however, are adamant that proton centers provide better treatment.

"It all comes down to the physics," said Dr. Jerry D. Slater, the head of radiation medicine at Loma Linda University Medical Center in Southern California. "Every X-ray beam I use puts most of the dose where I don't want it." By contrast, he said, proton beams put most of the dose in the tumor.

Loma Linda built the nation's first hospital-based proton center in 1990 and has treated about 13,000 patients. Its success has inspired others.

Not just at hospitals

Companies have sprung up to help finance, build and operate the proton centers. In some cases, local and state governments, seeking to attract medical tourists, have chipped in. Such financing is allowing proton centers to be built even by community hospitals or groups of physicians.

One of the biggest and most costly projects, with a price tag exceeding $140 million, is being undertaken by Hampton University in Virginia, a historically black college that does not have a medical school.

"Here at Hampton we dream no small dreams," said William R. Harvey, the president. He said a proton center would help black people, who have higher rates of some cancers than whites. And he said a medical school is not needed — doctors will be hired to run the outpatient center.

Some of the planned centers will be very close together, raising the odds of overcapacity. Two proton centers are planned for Oklahoma City, for example.

The institutions building the centers say there is a need for many more of them. The existing centers, which collectively can treat only several thousand patients a year, are turning people away. And patients who are accepted often have to spend weeks in a city far from their homes.

Proponents say that more than 800,000 Americans — representing nearly two-thirds of new cancer cases — undergo radiation therapy each year. If only 250,000 of them could benefit from protons, they would fill more than 100 centers.

Men flock to protons

The head, spine and childhood cancer patients who can benefit most from proton therapy are rare, though. Most people undergoing proton treatment are men with localized prostate cancer.

Proton therapy can help avoid the worst side effects, such as impotence, by exposing the bladder and rectum of a prostate patient to less radiation than X-rays. The stray radiation, though, from the newest form of X-rays, called intensity-modulated radiation therapy, is already low, diminishing any advantages from proton therapy.

"There are no solid clinical data that protons are better," said Dr. Theodore S. Lawrence, the chairman of radiation oncology at the University of Michigan. "If you are going to spend a lot more money, you want to make sure the patient can detect an improvement, not just an 'exchange of stock.'"

An economic analysis by researchers at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia found that proton treatment would be cost-effective for only a small subset of prostate cancer patients.

Lack of data aside, men are flocking to proton treatment. "I'm 67 years old, and the last thing I want to do is wear a diaper for the rest of my life," said Pete Freeman of Spokane, Wash., who was undergoing treatment at Loma Linda.

Doctors are also learning how to use protons to treat lung and breast cancer. And over time, doctors say, costs should come down as the technology improves and it becomes more routine to build and operate proton centers. One company is trying to develop a $20 million proton system and has received orders from several hospitals.

On the horizon is therapy using beams of carbon ions, which are said to be even more powerful in killing tumors. Touro University says it will build a combined proton and carbon therapy center outside San Francisco, to open as early as 2011. The Mayo Clinic is also seriously considering one. Such centers will cost even more — as much as $300 million.
Pummeling Cancer with Protons

Proton radiation therapy is potentially a better way to treat cancer because it has fewer side effects, but the technology is still very expensive. The University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute took eight years and $125 million to build, and it can serve up to 150 patients a day.

1. Cyclotron
   Using magnetic fields, the cyclotron can accelerate the hydrogen protons to two-thirds the speed of light.

2. Electromagnets
   The magnets focus the proton beams toward the gantry.

3. A 21,000-pound magnet guides the beam to the patient through a nozzle.

4. Gantry
   The gantry can rotate 360 degrees around the patient to position the nozzle.

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The nozzle

The brass aperture and the Lucite compensator are designed to squeeze the proton beam to the size and shape of the area being treated.

Proton radiation therapy

By adjusting the speed of the protons, a physician can control how deep their penetration will be. The protons then release their energy at the tumor and cause less damage to the surrounding tissue.

Conventional X-ray therapy

Because conventional radiation doesn't release its energy at a specified depth, it can cause more damage to the tissue surrounding the tumor.

Source: University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute
ECU supporters greet team after bowl win

By T. Scott Batchelor
The Daily Reflector

ECU fans converged on an airport, stopped along the highway, and greeted their triumphant football Pirates in the shadow of Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium as the team returned home Monday, 12 hours after beating Boise State in the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl.

About 250 Pirate faithful waited at Kinston Regional Jetport for the chartered plane carrying the team back from Honolulu after the 41-38 win over No. 24 Boise State.

After some handshaking and cheers there, the team buses headed north on N.C. 11 to Greenville, where other fans waited to heap praise on the champions.

"It was a fantastic game. I was right by myself, screaming and hollering," said Faye Ewell of Greenville, a Pirate Club member for 28 years who greeted Coach Skip Holtz and his team.

"It's been fantastic," she said of the win and the game broadcast nationally on ESPN. "We couldn't pay any amount of money for the exposure that we've gotten here."

Acknowledging the venue for the game - Hawaii - Charlotte Jarman-Douglas said, "I know it's been the trip of a lifetime for most of (the team)."

The see-saw contest Sunday night was an experience of a lifetime for fans as well.

"It was tough; it was heart-pounding," Jarman-Douglas said.

"If I could do an "Arrrgh" I would do one, but I can't, so - Go Pirates! Glad you're home safe." ECU graduates Rob and Christie Heubel brought their children, 5-month-old Anna and 3-year-old Jackson - whose room

ECU'S CHRIS JOHNSON takes photos with fans at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium after the trip from Hawaii. He is decked out in purple-and-gold to see the Pirates.

"I think it's the biggest victory in the history of the program," Rob See TEAM, B3
Heubel said of the game, which he called a “showcase game of the night.”

“No one gave East Carolina a chance. I think this is a springboard onto bigger and better things.”

Coach Holtz reflected praise back at the fans gathered at the stadium on a windy Monday afternoon.

“Thank y’all so much for being here,” he said. “We appreciate it tons.”

The victory was “huge for the fans that have supported this program the way that they have, through the hard times, through the lean times,” Holtz said.

“Your pride shows,” he said. “Just being here means the world to these players.”

In the parking lot, players signed autographs and paused for photos with fans and their kids.

Senior cornerback Travis Williams said the fan base helped motivate the team.

“We just wanted to get a win for the Pirate Nation, and for Greenville, period,” he said.

The fans’ show of support for the returning team “feels great.”

“We got that win for everybody, and we hope the win will do a lot for the upcoming program.”

Running back Chris Johnson, who set an NCAA bowl record with 408 all-purpose yards, said “fans showed great leadership,” especially the ones who made it to the game in Hawaii.

“They just came and helped us,” said the senior.

“It feels good,” he said, surveying the scene at Dowdy-Ficklen. “It just shows how much support that the Pirate fans have got for the ECU football team.”

About 14 hours after defeating Boise State in Honolulu, Johnson and his MVP trophy were facing a drive to Orlando, Fla., for Christmas with his family, he said.

T. Scott Batchelor can be contacted at sbatchelor@coxnc.com and 329-5557.
EAST CAROLINA 41, BOISE STATE 38

Purple in paradise

EAST CAROLINA OVERCOMES A LATE TURNOVER TO WIN IN HAWAII

Ben Hartman’s field goal in the final seconds lifts East Carolina past Boise State.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

HONOLULU — Heartbreak turned to elation for East Carolina in the Hawaii Bowl.

Ben Hartman kicked a 34-yard field goal as time expired to lift the Pirates to a thrilling 41-38 victory over No. 24 Boise State on Sunday night.

The Pirates had bolted to a 31-14 halftime lead on the running of Chris Johnson, who finished with 224 yards rushing and scored a rushing and receiving touchdown.

But Johnson fumbled in the final minute with the Pirates up 38-31 and running out the clock.

Boise State’s Marty Tadman picked up the fumble and ran 48 yards for the tying touchdown.

Rob Kass completed a 36-yard pass to Jamar Bryant to move the Pirates to the Boise State 16-yard line.

After a run by Kass to put the ball in the middle of the field, Hartman drilled the 34-yarder to set off a Pirates celebration.

Johnson, a senior who had more than 2,000 all-purpose yards this season for the Pirates (8-5), put on a show in his collegiate finale.

Johnson had 224 yards on 28 carries, including a 66-yard TD run in the first quarter. He also caught a touchdown pass and had 153 yards in return yardage.

“I’m the president of the Chris Johnson fan club,” East Carolina coach Skip Holtz said at halftime after Johnson had run for a Hawaii Bowl first-half record 181 yards. “He’s a special young man.”

East Carolina won eight games in this season for the first time since 2000 when the Pirates went 8-4. Sunday gave Holtz his first bowl win as a head coach. Holtz is 20-17 in three seasons at ECU.