THE DAILY CLIPS

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Public Forum

Hospital’s caregivers ‘attending angels’

Recently, I was hospitalized at Pitt County Memorial Hospital due to complications from a chemo treatment for breast cancer. I was admitted through emergency services and later moved to the third floor, room W338. In addition to being very sick, I was also scared and very anxious. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and publicly thank the caregivers who attended me during this time. They truly became my attending angels.

In addition to the miraculous medicine they administered, they helped calm my fears and made me feel cared for and protected. They were such a blessing to my tired and weary body.

So many times today, we hear negative things regarding hospitals and caregivers; however, I would like to thank each caregiver who attended me and gave me such good care, wise understanding and comforting reassurance. May God richly bless PCMH and the many caregivers who serve so unselfishly everyday. You certainly made a difference in my life. Thank you.

GAIL L. JORDAN
Greenville
School of Music friends holding gala

The Daily Reflector

The Friends of the East Carolina University School of Music's annual Scholarship Gala will be held Saturday at Rock Spring Center. The theme for this year is "A Night in Old Vienna."

The gala will include a Viennese inspired dinner with wine and dessert of a traditional Sachre Torte, along with musical performances by East Carolina University students.

Gala chairwomen are Friends of the School of Music President Julie Dietrich, FSM Membership Chairwoman Melanie Moll and past-president Nancy Sturgis.

Dinner tables will be adorned with silver candelabras embellished with crystals and Mozart chocolates commemorating the composer's birthday, which falls the day after the event. A Champagne toast will be given with custom-designed souvenir Champagne classes.

The event will feature performances by the ECU Symphony, and Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble A, Chamber Singers and a number of smaller ensembles, including a guitar ensemble. The orchestra is planning to play the music of Johann Strauss Jr. and will join forces with the opera theater for a scene from Mozart's "Magic Flute" (which will be performed in full on March 5-7). The Wind Ensemble is planning to perform Schubert's "Little Symphony for Winds." The Chamber Singers will perform selections from Brahms' "Liebeslieder Waltzer." The Jazz Ensemble is planning to play Duke Ellington's "Take the A Train."

"Formal gowns and black tie are, of course, optional, but most welcome for this truly spectacular event inspired by the great Balls of Vienna," Dietrich said. "I am hoping everyone will feel like Waltzing to their cars as they leave the gala!"

Tickets are $100 per person and are available by calling ECU Central Ticket Office at 328-4736.
E.C. U. UNC experts seek ideas for research

Cancer specialists from the two universities are on a listening tour to gather ideas on how to improve prevention, screening and treatment of the disease in North Carolina.

**The Daily Reflector**

Representatives from the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center in Chapel Hill and the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center are holding an event Thursday to learn what are the needs of eastern North Carolinians with cancer.

The event will begin with a reception at 4:30 p.m. followed by a discussion from 5-7 p.m. at the Monroe Eastern AHEC Conference Center, 2000 Venture Tower Drive.

Cancer specialists from East Carolina University, home of the Jenkins Center, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, home of the Lineberger Center, will speak and answer questions.

Last year, the North Carolina General Assembly established the University Cancer Research Fund to accelerate and advance discoveries and treatments for North Carolinians with cancer.

Established at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Medicine and its Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, the research fund received $25 million in 2007-2008 and is slated to increase to $50 million a year beginning in 2009.

In 2006, cancer passed heart disease as the leading cause of death in North Carolina. The American Cancer Society estimated that in 2007 more than 34,000 North Carolinians were diagnosed with cancer and nearly 17,000 would die from the disease.

Greenville is the first stop on a statewide listening tour Lineberger is hosting. Other stops are in Asheville and Wilmington with other sessions to be scheduled soon.

The public is invited to share its thoughts about how research can improve cancer prevention, screening and treatment in their communities.

For more information, call the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center at (919) 966-3036, e-mail lccc@med.unc.edu or visit cancer.unc.edu/ucrf.

**Two-day health meeting planned**

A two-day symposium and health fair focusing on minority issues is scheduled for Feb. 15-16.

The Feb. 15 event will be held 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Hilton Greenville. Dr. Thomas C. Ricketts, deputy director of the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research and professor of health policy and administration and social medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is the featured speaker.

The symposium will describe programs and research designed to promote wellness and reduce health disparities.

On Feb. 16, a free health fair will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Greenville Convention Center.

Exercise and fitness programs, cooking demonstrations, health-related literature, nutrition information, recipe exchanges and health screenings will be held. The public is encouraged to attend.

The event is sponsored by the College of Allied Health Sciences in collaboration with the ECU Medical and Health Sciences Foundation, Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation and Eastern AHEC.

To exhibit, contact Wayne Scott at 252-744-8243 or e-mail scottw@ecu.edu.

Reduced advance registration will be taken through Feb. 9.

Go to www.eahc.ecu.edu or call 252-744-5231.
ECU honors players and coach at halftime

By Tony Castleberry
The Daily Reflector

Despite the threat of winter weather, there was a tropical theme in Minges Coliseum on Saturday.

East Carolina's football team, with several players decked out in Hawaiian shirts and wearing leis, was honored at halftime of the ECU-UCF men's basketball game. Head coach Skip Holtz and his Pirates proudly hoisted the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl trophy they won in Honolulu on Dec. 23, 2007, drawing thunderous applause from the 5,541 fans in attendance.

"To the student body, you guys have been awesome all year," Holtz told the rowdy student section. "The atmosphere, the excitement and enthusiasm you helped create. We can't thank you enough."

Holtz made sure to thank another group of ECU students as well — his team.

"I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you to these guys," Holtz said of his squad, which beat Boise State 41-38 for the Hawaii Bowl title. "Their commitment and focus over there was incredible."

Tony Castleberry can be reached at tcastleberry@coxnc.com or at 329-9591.
East Carolina fraternity sets its sights on 50 more years of growth

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Current and former members of East Carolina University’s Theta Chi marked the 50th anniversary of the school’s first social fraternity by planning for the future.

The group met Saturday to determine ways that the fraternity can continue to work with the university and the community.

“This is all about a group of men who value the concept of fraternities,” said Chandler Nelms, chairman of Epsilon Iota Alumni Leadership Council. Epsilon Iota is the ECU chapter name.

“We have a deep and lasting regard for Theta Chi as alumni. We are meeting to continue the legacy and insure the future of the fraternity,” said Nelms, a 1968 graduate and contractor in the Washington, D.C. area.

Bill Wallace, an original member, said the Greenville chapter, which currently has about 30 members, has produced a three-star general and leaders of national and international companies.

“We believe that this fraternity can once again be a true partner with East Carolina University and the community,” Wallace said. “We are beginning to plan an even stronger future, including a new house.”

Dale Taylor, executive director of Theta Chi based in Indiana, visited with Greenville’s members to discuss building a new house. The original house was on Fourth Street. The current house, located on 11th Street behind the Swiss Chalet restaurant, has been occupied by the fraternity since 1988.

Nelms said the fraternity plans to tear down the house and build a larger one to hold more members.

“This fraternity is sitting on the spring board of really taking off,” said Gene Hunter, one of the founders.

The local chapter of Theta Chi originally was Phi Gamma Pi, the university’s first social fraternity. Nelms said it became associated with Theta Chi in 1958 at the urging of Hunter and others.

Hunter, along with Wallace, class of 1960, Larry Bailey, class of 1960, and Kirby Branch, class of 1962, visited the current Theta Chi house with current and former brothers Saturday during a break from the group’s business meeting. Hunter left college early to join the military after helping to found the fraternity.

The fraternity became national in 1958 after announcing plans at a banquet attended by the late North Carolina Secretary of State Thad Eure, himself a Theta Chi alumnus, and then East Carolina College President John Messick.

“Nowhere in the width and breadth of this land is there a better institution for national fraternities to lean toward than East Carolina College,” Eure said in The Daily Reflector in January of 1958.

Eure and Messick’s support of fraternities allowed Phi Gamma Pi to go national.

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at a time when social fraternities were controversial, members said.

The group is forming permanent committees to determine ways for the fraternity to continue to work with the university and the community.
Public Forum

‘Less efficient’ financial aid was better

My letter is in regards to poor bureaucratic structure of the financial aid department at East Carolina University. Since ECU refuses to give its students the opportunity to voice concerns, opinions, compliments or complaints, I am forced to voice my own concerns elsewhere.

Currently, I am a second-semester graduate in the English department. My first semester I went without funds for two weeks, simply because the financial aid office felt indifferent to my cause. Now this semester, I will go three weeks without receiving my money, which has been in ECU’s hands since Jan. 8. The reason? The counselor doesn’t feel it’s important enough to authorize the money to be released to the cashier’s office.

Last semester, I e-mailed the dean of students and the chancellor with no success. I am a poor college student who comes from a poor family. I have nothing to fall back on except my assistantship. Many other students are in the same boat and are ignored and denied.

A few years ago, ECU signed a contract with a bank outside of North Carolina to make disbursement easier and faster. Before this method of disbursement, students had to wait in line for 30 minutes to receive a check. Now, students must wait weeks for funds to be transferred into a debit account that is supposed to take a few minutes. Does that seem efficient?

I know many students would agree when I say this: One would much rather wait in line for 30 minutes to get one’s money than wait three weeks for some counselor (who only knows students by ID number) to finally obtain the motivation to release one’s money.

KIMBERLY THOMPSON
Greenville
N.C. officials learn about climate ills

I am delighted to discover how focused N.C. Reps. Marian McLawhorn and Alice Underhill are in learning about problems impacting eastern North Carolina. They gave up their evening on Jan. 14 to attend a scientific presentation by ECU distinguished professor Stanley Riggs on the challenges caused by climate change and development to our Outer Banks.

With an accelerating sea-level increase already reaching 20 inches per century, the important tourist industry of the Outer Banks cannot be responsibly sustained with massive bridge and road expenses for the current highway system. The inevitable movement and disappearance of many sections of the islands mandate a whole new look at how the Outer Banks and Inner Banks can best be developed for long term economic benefit.

Legislators currently face extreme lobbying pressure for Outer Banks road and bridge funding and for regulatory changes to allow hardening of the beaches with groins and sand bags — processes which simply shift erosion problems and compromise public beach access.

McLawhorn and Underhill may not have yet decided how to vote on these critical issues, but I am grateful that they commit the research time, which allows them to make informed decisions.

ART LANGRISH
Grimesland
Duke dean blows his horn for campus culture

By Jane Stancill
Staff Writer

DURHAM — Steve Nowicki is an evolutionary biologist who analyzes the delicate sounds of songbirds. He’s the author of 75 scientific publications, and his research appears in the weightiest academic journals.

But on game nights, he’s just one of the Cameron Crazies. A trombone and tuba player in the Duke University pep band, he has been known to roll on the floor during a timeout stunt that features the Blue Devil mascot surfing the backs of the trombonists to the tune of “Wipe Out.”

The professor first joined the band a few years ago when one of his students, the drum major, invited him for what he thought was a one-night gig. At the first game, she held a sign over his head, with an arrow pointing down: “This is Steve. He is cool.”

His dual reputation as a respected scientist and one of the gang makes Nowicki suited to his new challenge, which is far more complicated than picking up a tuba.

He is the university’s first dean of undergraduate education, a position created last year by Duke leaders who realized that no one was paying attention to the totality of students’ lives, from academics to social activities to dorm life to sports.

Nowicki’s new role comes at a pivotal time for Duke, still smarting from the anger and negative fallout of what Nowicki calls “the Nifong affair.”

But he refuses to consider Duke through the lens of the lacrosse case that grabbed international attention and unearthed divisions and dissatisfaction on campus. Culture wars and rifts between students and faculty have been greatly exaggerated by outsiders, he said.

“I don’t care what the blogosphere says,” he said in a recent interview. “I’m moving on. I’ve got things to do.”
UNC's Smith has complications after surgery

BY A.L. CARR
STAFF WRITER

During his basketball coaching career at North Carolina, Dean Smith orchestrated many memorable comebacks. Now the Hall of Fame coach, who will be 77 next month, is trying to stage another comeback—from physical problems after knee replacement surgery last month.

"I'm fine," Smith said late Friday. "I'll be cheering like mad tomorrow" when UNC plays Maryland.

Smith's wife Linnea said his husband's knee is "great," but that he had "cardiological and neurological complications" after the Dec. 3 operation. He was discharged, later readmitted for rehabilitation, then discharged again Jan. 11.

"It was a big insult [to his body]," Linnea Smith said. "He's working on physical therapy; he's better, and he's looking forward to playing golf again.

Linnea Smith, a psychiatrist, would not give details about the cardiological and neurological issues. Smith is a private man who doesn't want his medical matters publicized, his wife said. Smith also said he didn't want people to make a big deal of his recovery.

UNC director of sports medicine Dr. Timothy Taft was not involved at Smith's surgery but said common known risks of knee replacement include blood clots, infections and p

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sible heart difficulties. The vast majority of patients do not experience severe complications, he said.

Smith has been out and about recently, going to his office at the Dean Smith Center for short periods this week and showing eagerness to spend more time on campus.

"We are trying to get him to do that more gradually than he wants," Linnea Smith said.

Smith took a team-only tour of a new campus basketball museum Thursday night with Tar Heels coach Roy Williams.

"One of my favorite parts was I called Coach Smith, and he and Linnea came up and went through it with me for a while," Williams said. "And that was nice. Coach looks good, feels good. ... I had to listen to he and Bobby [Frasor] both complain about how tough the therapy is on their knees."

Frasor, a UNC guard, tore his anterior cruciate ligament last month and is out for the season.

An avid golfer, Smith wants to get back on the links, but Linnea Smith said it will probably be spring before he tees it up again.

Smith was more optimistic. "Hope to play in a month or so," he said. "The weather should be pretty by then."

Linnea Smith said her husband continues to closely follow Carolina basketball on TV and still chart the action, just as he has done since retiring 10 years ago.

"He watches and takes notes," Linnea Smith said.

Will he pass his observations to Coach Williams?

"Oh, no, he doesn't intrude," Linnea Smith said. "But if Roy asked, I'm sure he would be glad to share them."

In 36 seasons as the Tar Heels' coach, Smith built a model program and led Carolina to two NCAA championships, 13 ACC Tournament titles, 11 Final Fours and 879 victories.

Staff writer Robbi Pickeral contributed to this story.

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UNC student's death nets charges

A New Jersey father and son are accused of lying to investigators about what really happened.

By Marlon A. Walker
Staff Writer

Two New Jersey men face serious charges after authorities say they lied to cover up their roles in a car accident that killed a UNC student at last year's NCAA tournament in the Meadowlands.

Jason Ray, 21, who dressed as the school mascot, died when he was hit by a sport utility vehicle while walking back to a hotel from a convenience store last March. The Tar Heels were in the New Jersey Meadowlands to play Southern California in the Sweet 16 round the night Ray died.

Armen Hoospeyan, 25, of 222 Howland Ave. in Paramus, N.J., is charged with one count each of driving while license suspended resulting in death and hindering apprehension. Gagik Hoospeyan, 52, also of 222 Howland Ave. in Paramus, was charged with one count each of hindering apprehension, obstructing the administration of law and making a false statement under oath.

Initially, police were told Hoospeyan was driving and his son, Hoospeyan, was a passenger in the Mercury Mountaineer. A witness came forward, saying Hoospeyan was seen getting out of the car from its driver's side. Hoospeyan had a suspended license.

Ray family members said they had been skeptical of the driver's story all along. "We always thought it was something weird about the explanation about what's happened," said Emmitt Ray II of Davidson, one of Jason Ray's three older brothers. "We were glad to hear at least that the truth has come out."

Emmitt Ray II said his family received phone calls Thursday night from New Jersey authorities informing them of the arrests. He said he was told information received from the two men did not hold up.

"They were told that the son was asleep in the passenger seat," he said. "And they were only supposed to be traveling a short route. Through a bunch of different ways, the story didn't hold up."

The father was released from jail Friday morning on $10,000 bond. His son remained in the Bergen County jail Friday night.

Emmitt Ray II said his family has established the Jason Kendall Ray Foundation, dedicated to promoting community service and education, among other things. His parents, Charlotte and Emmitt Ray Sr. of Concord, have been all over the country talking about Jason and his impact on those who knew him. Jason Ray's organs also helped saved lives, as documented by ESPN in the show "Ray of Hope."

"[Jason's death] is still hard on them every day," Emmitt Ray II said Friday night. "They're still just devastated. [The arrests] stir all the emotions back up for everyone. They say time heals all wounds, but it's not been enough time. We're all just trying to get through."

Clune R. Wootson Jr. of The Charlotte Observer contributed to this report.

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Money flows to health centers

Dole gets funds for research, services

BY JEAN P. FISHER
STAFF WRITER

U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole was in the Triangle on Friday, making stops in Raleigh and Chapel Hill to tout her work to secure funding for health care services and scientific research.

Dole, a Republican from Salisbury, was at WakeMed Raleigh Campus on Friday morning. Dole led efforts in the U.S. Senate to get a special appropriation of $170,000 for the health system’s Hospital Emergency Operations Regional Call Center, according to Christine Craig, WakeMed’s director of government affairs. The center coordinates communication among first responders and hospitals in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency.

Later in the day, Dole visited UNC Hospitals’ Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. She announced nearly $4 million in federal funding for three research initiatives at UNC-Chapel Hill. The funding was approved as part of the federal budget appropriation bill signed by President Bush on Dec. 26.

The N.C. Cancer and Genomics Research Center, which is leading a national research effort to better understand the genetics of cancer, received $2.4 million. The Collaborative Initiative in Biomedical Imaging, a joint effort with UNC-Charlotte, will get $984,000 to continue its work in developing noninvasive techniques to follow disease progression in patients with cancer, diabetes and other illnesses.

Finally, the Program in Racial Disparities and Cardiovascular Disease, a collaboration among researchers at UNC-CH and East Carolina University, received more than $560,000. That effort seeks to better understand how race contributes to differences in health care.

Katie Hallaway, communications director for Dole, said the senator met with UNC-CH officials last year to discuss the work its research centers do. She said Dole advocated for UNC-CH to ensure its programs got the appropriate funding.

"I am proud to support the tremendous work being done at UNC and other research institutions in our state," Dole said in a statement.