THE DAILY CLIPS

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GREENVILLE

Auction raises money for charity

As a part of Coaches Vs. Cancer Suits and Sneakers awareness weekend, the East Carolina men's basketball team hosted a silent auction on Saturday and raised more than $9,000 for Beau's Buddies Cancer Fund.

The auction featured memorabilia, travel packages, gift certificates for local goods and services as well as 'experiences.' It included autographed sneakers worn by ECU men's coach Jeff Lebo during the Pirates' win over Houston on Saturday, an autographed ECU football helmet signed by coach Ruffin McNeil and a jersey autographed by Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback David Garrard. The top selling item was a framed Tennessee Titans jersey autographed by former ECU running back Chris Johnson, which brought a high bid of $825.
Booster reneges on gift

BY WILLIAM C. RHODEN - The New York Times

In the past week, Robert G. Burton has been portrayed as the flawed face of highly commercialized intercollegiate athletics.

In a scathing letter to Jeff Hathaway, the University of Connecticut athletic director, Burton demanded the return of $3 million because he felt he had not been sufficiently consulted in the hiring of Paul Pasqualoni as the Huskies' football coach. He demanded that his family's name be removed from the team's training complex.

Now Burton, the chief executive of Burton Capital Management based in Greenwich, Conn., has been cast as a spoiled booster who feels that a $7 million contribution to the football program over the years gives him the right to be included in decision-making. Criticize him all you like, but Burton is the face of UConn's new reality. The university embraced big-time football; now it must deal with the attendant big-time headaches.

Philip E. Austin, UConn's interim president, and Lawrence D. McHugh, the board chairman, have privately tried to mend fences with Burton, their largest sports donor.

If the incoming president, Susan Herbst, who takes over in July, is wise, she will phone Burton now, assuring him that no disrespect was intended. If Burton insists that Hathaway be fired, Herbst should gently tell him that $7 million is not nearly enough to influence personnel decisions.

The question raised by Burton is whether large donors have the right to call the shots.

"In almost any area of life, yes, but not in the university," said James W. Earl, a professor of medieval literature at the University of Oregon. "A general rule is that your money does not win you influence. When word gets out that the donor is pulling this string, it's a scandal."
Earl has been a voice of resistance at Oregon for years, protesting in particular that the presence of Phil Knight and Nike, the company Knight helped found, has injured the university even while elevating the football team into national title contention. During a telephone interview Thursday, Earl said he had raised the white flag.

"I've given up the fight," he said. "We're so deep in this that we can never go back. A professor can only do so much, and money talks. Phil Knight is a major donor. You really don't want to get in his way or cross him. It does not take much to get him to walk away."

Richard Lariviere, the university's president, defended the relationship with Knight, pointing to the library that Knight and his wife, Penny, have renovated, the numerous academic chairs they have endowed and an estimated $230 million they have invested in the university, most of it for sports facilities.

"They want what is in the best interests of the university," Lariviere said. Burton's Jan. 19 letter to Hathaway outlined his reasons for supporting Huskies football. He wrote that having grown up in coal mining country, he might never have gone to college. But he received a scholarship to Murray State, where he played football and earned a degree.

"Without that scholarship," he wrote, "I would have worked in the coal mines all of my life. I made a pledge that because of that scholarship, I would repay that money many times over by helping other people and contributing to programs that promoted higher education."

That is commendable. Burton's misstep was a lack of style coupled with a runaway ego. In his letter to Hathaway, posted on the Web site of The Day newspaper of New London, Burton referred to himself three times as UConn's No. 1 football donor.

This is UConn's new reality.

Intercollegiate athletics is a cash-and-carry business, and if an aspiring program does not have a sugar daddy or mommy, its chances of reaching the big time are slim. Oregon has Knight and Nike; Auburn has Bobby Lowder; Oklahoma State has T. Boone Pickens.
UConn had Burton.

The folks at the University of Connecticut can talk about ethics, but they let that horse out the barn in 1998 when they embraced football and moved up to Division I.

If they want to be competitive, they had better ask Burton to bring his ball -- and his millions -- back to Storrs.
Duke OKs hospital pact

BY ALAN M. WOLF - Staff Writer

The Duke University Health System has joined forces with a for-profit hospital manager based in Tennessee to buy and run community hospitals across North Carolina.

Duke and LifePoint Hospitals on Monday announced that they've signed their first deal: to run Maria Parham Medical Center in Henderson, a 102-bed hospital about 45 miles north of Raleigh. The agreement is expected to be final in April.

The goal of the joint venture is to add other community hospitals across the state, said William Fulkerson, executive vice president of the Duke health system. By partnering with Duke and LifePoint, smaller hospitals will be able to improve care and reduce costs, such as by getting better rates with insurers and suppliers, he said.

The move signals a new strategy for Duke, which is seeking affiliations with community physicians and hospitals as the federal health overhaul reshapes the medical industry. The partnership gives LifePoint, a publicly traded company that operates 52 hospitals in 17 states, its first foothold in North Carolina.

The joint venture represents a powerful new competitor as other health systems in the state also move to expand, including the UNC Health Care System in Chapel Hill, WakeMed in Raleigh and Novant Health in Winston-Salem.

"We need to redesign how we care for patients," Fulkerson said. "There's going to be less money in the system. The hospitals that can deliver the strongest quality and operate efficiently are the ones that will be successful." Maria Parham has had a relationship with Duke for decades, with Duke physicians helping train its doctors, and the hospital referring serious cases to Durham.
About a year ago, the board of the nonprofit hospital began talking with larger health systems about a potential partnership.

The deal with Duke and Life Point "has the potential to bring a powerhouse of clinical and operational resources that could enhance our ability to grow and provide more services to patients," said W. Beverly Tucker, chairman of Maria Parham's board.

Under the proposed deal, Maria Parham would retain 20 percent ownership of the hospital, and Duke/LifePoint would control 80 percent. Proceeds from the transaction would repay Maria Parham's debt, and about $30 million would be used to create a foundation that would pay for new community programs and services. Exact financial terms weren't disclosed.

Duke and LifePoint will help recruit physicians, add new technology and services, and look for ways to reduce expenses. The new ownership could allow Maria Parham to offer more advanced cardiology and cancer care. LifePoint's facilities include Danville Regional Medical Center in Danville, Va., where Duke has helped improve the hospital's cardiovascular services.

"Duke/LifePoint has the ability to help hospitals not only weather the months and years ahead, but also prosper and offer their communities even better care," said LifePoint CEO William F. Carpenter III, in a prepared statement. "This joint venture will provide community hospitals in North Carolina and the surrounding area with Duke's outstanding clinical leadership and resources plus the strong financial and operational experience of LifePoint."

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N.C. group rallies for immigrant access to higher ed

RALEIGH With more restrictions possible for illegal immigrants seeking to attend college in North Carolina, one group is rallying across the state in support of easier access to higher education.

The Adelante Education Coalition plans to hold vigils Tuesday in Raleigh, Greensboro, Charlotte, Greenville and Asheville.

The group says it wants to rally support for policies that don't bar illegal immigrants from higher education.

Last year, the state community colleges board voted to accept illegal immigrants if they graduated from a U.S. high school, pay out-of-state tuition and don't displace a citizen.

And a Republican state lawmaker has introduced a bill that would bar them entirely from public colleges in North Carolina.
More college freshmen feeling overwhelmed, survey finds
Emotional health is at a record low, with many students reporting stress over tuition and a high rate of unemployed parents, annual UCLA study says.

By Larry Gordon, Los Angeles Times
January 27, 2011

This year's college freshmen report feeling higher levels of emotional and financial stress than their predecessors did, according to a national survey conducted by UCLA researchers.

The annual "American Freshman" report, released Thursday, showed that only about half of current first-year students, 51.9%, rated their emotional health above average or higher, down from 55.3% last year and the lowest since the question was first asked 25 years ago. Just 45.9% of women in the class described themselves as emotionally strong, compared with 59.1% of the men.

In addition, nearly two-thirds of this year's freshmen, 62.1%, said the recession had affected their choice of college, and 73.4%, up from 70% last year, are depending on grants and scholarships to help them through. The young people, interviewed just before they started classes in the fall, also reported relatively high rates of parental unemployment.

"What it means is that going into college, students are already feeling more stress and feeling more overwhelmed and have lower emotional reserves to deal with that stress," said John H. Pryor, lead author of the report and managing director of UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute, which operates the survey.

First given in 1966, the annual survey is considered the nation's most comprehensive assessment of college students' attitudes. This year's report was based on the responses of more than 201,000 incoming freshmen at 279 four-year colleges and universities around the country.

Pryor said he was struck this year by the gap between young men and young women in discussing whether they frequently felt overwhelmed by all they had to do at school, home and jobs as high school seniors. Nearly 39% of women said they were often overwhelmed, more than twice the share of the men. Overall, more than 29% said they had felt such stress, up 2 percentage points from the year before.

The gender gap, Pryor speculated, may be attributed to what young people do at home. "The guys are spending more time in stress-relieving activities, like watching TV and
playing video games. The girls are more likely to be helping out with chores at home," he said, citing responses to other questions in the survey.

But on the positive side, record high proportions of the freshmen said they expected to participate in clubs and community service in college and to receive good grades. A strong majority, 57.6%, said there was a "very good chance" they would be satisfied with their college experience, the highest share since 1982. Pryor said he found that optimism to be heartening.

The report also looks at political attitudes of students, finding that 46.4% describe themselves as middle-of-the-road, 30.2% liberal or far left and 23.5% conservative or far right. Researchers say that shows a modest shift from the liberal and left side of the spectrum to the middle, and may indicate a slight waning of the enthusiastic youth activism surrounding President Obama's election in 2008.

In a new question this year, the survey found solid support among students for the legal right of gays and lesbians to adopt children, with 76.5% agreeing strongly or somewhat. That included a majority of freshmen who described themselves as conservative or far right politically.