Greenville Police are handling at least 100 complaints so far from East Carolina University students who say they lost money after their accounts were compromised in a recent security breach at the University Book Exchange.

The breach is believed to have occurred between Jan. 5 and Jan. 25 and the case is under a comprehensive forensic investigation, according to U.B.E. owner Don Edwards.

Students who shopped at U.B.E. began reporting missing funds in recent weeks after noticing suspicious transactions in their bank accounts, most of those being university-issue debit accounts.

While it is unknown how many cards were compromised, Edwards said, police have added at least 99 related complaints as of 5 p.m. Friday as supplements to the first student report filed.

“We've never had anything like this happen before,” Edwards said of his family-owned business that has been accepting cards shortly after it opened in 1968. “We felt secure initially but we have taken steps to increase security. We've been on top of this.”

It is unknown how exactly the breach occurred, but investigators are fairly sure it came from overseas, Edwards said.

The Greenville Police Department is the lead agency collecting reports, not ECU Police, since U.B.E. is a private business separate from the university. Local police, however, do not actually have jurisdiction in this case, explained department spokesman Carlton Williams.

“Even though this started from the breach at U.B.E., the people who hacked the system are not in North Carolina and neither are the fraudulent transactions,” Williams said. Greenville Police will continue to take reports, Williams said, but agencies with larger jurisdictions, possibly up to the federal level, will have to be brought in to investigate.

“We do this so the student can take the report to their financial institution, aiding them in getting their money back,” Williams said.
Officials say how students go about getting their money back depends on what cards they've used at U.B.E. Those who used a private bank account need to contact that bank. The majority of the fraudulent transactions have occurred for students with accounts issued by a company called Higher One that provides financial aid account services for ECU.

Higher One helps university business offices operate more efficiently, said Don Smith, vice president of corporate and sales communications.

“Higher One is a third party agency that ECU contracts with to get financial aid refunds to students,” Julie Poorman, director of financial aid, said.

The student's financial aid money is put toward the amount owed to the university, and any surplus is refunded back to the student through the Higher One debit account. Higher One does not issue any means of credit, Smith said.

“This is not really an ECU issue, it's a Higher One issue, but my understanding is that we're all working closely together to get this fixed,” Poorman said.

Officials at ECU and Higher One are encouraging students to keep a close eye on their accounts and immediately report any fraudulent transactions to Higher One or their own bank as well as Greenville Police.

Smith declined to say how many reports of fraud Higher One has received. He said, “We are working with students who have experienced any unauthorized transactions to cancel their cards and reissue new ones and working with them to get their money back.”

Higher One cards have a zero-liability policy against fraudulent transactions that are signature-based, according to Smith. Each transaction is handled individually.

“The process is set up so that if there are unauthorized transactions, we work with them to get that money back,” Smith said. “I am unaware of any instance where a student has not gotten their money back.”

Higher One's policy is to provide an update to students within 10 days after a report is made.

“We know how scary it can be to see money disappear,” Smith said. “We want students to know they have a support mechanism behind them.”

ECU spokesman John Durham said that the university always tries to protect the safety and well-being of its students.

“Even though the university was not directly involved with the debit card account information issue, it has tried to assist students who have had problems with their cards,” Durham said. “We have worked with Higher One officials to provide information to our students about how to report problems and how to protect their accounts in the future.”
Edwards said U.B.E. continues to upgrade its security with additional software and other measures and it is now safe to shop at U.B.E.

“We felt just like most businesses that we were very secure before the breach,” Edwards said. “Since then we've upgraded security to an even higher level. We are very, very sorry for the inconvenience, and we appreciate everyone's business.”

Williams, who worked white-collar crime for 14 years before becoming the spokesman for Greenville Police, said, “A lot of these companies where this happens have extremely high security systems, but every now and then someone is able to hack in. This could have happened anywhere.”

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or at (252) 329-9567.
The cost of an education at East Carolina University is one step closer to increasing. The University of North Carolina system Board of Governors on Friday approved increases for undergraduate resident students at all 16 university institutions for the 2011-12 school year.

Tuition and fees at ECU would increase by $567 or 11.9 percent. The ECU Board of Trustees approved ECU's increase at its November meeting and sent the proposal to the governors board, as did the other institutions. The proposed increases next go to the legislature for final approval.

“The North Carolina General Assembly is the ultimate authority on tuition for the UNC system,” Philip Rogers, the chancellor's executive assistant, said. With the state facing a shortfall in the billions, the legislature is looking closely at all areas of the budget and can direct changes as it sees fit, Rogers said.

The governors approved a total $5,317 for a year's tuition and fees at ECU. Once $197 in standing fees, not subject to the governors, are included students could be paying $5,514 next year, compared to $4,947 this year.

In addition to a $263 supplemental increase approved by the legislature in 2010, ECU tuition is increasing by $204 and fees by $100.

The package of increases approved by the governors raises costs by an average of 8.2 percent or $5,275. The largest jump next fall will come for undergraduates at Fayetteville State University, at nearly 18 percent to $4,084.

While all 16 campuses sought to increase tuition by the 6.5 percent maximum set by the governing board, the effect differs based on the size of fee increases and whether administrators elected to spread out last year’s supplemental increase over two years. ECU elected to do so, resulting in the extra $263 this year.

“At this stage in the game, we're in a holding pattern for tuition,” Rogers said. “If these increases go through, we hope it is reinvested and the benefits stay on campus.”

UNC System President Tom Ross told the Associated Press that the top priority of university leaders remains keeping education affordable through low tuition and adequate financial aid. Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or (252) 329-9567.
An ECU fraternity has been suspended after two people were arrested and more than 60 cited for alcohol violations, authorities said.

All activities have been halted on an interim basis at Pi Kappa Phi at 803 Hooker Road to allow the national organization based in Charlotte to look into the matter, Christian Wiggins, assistant executive director, said.

“It puts the chapter on pause, which will allow us to investigate,” Wiggins said Friday.

Earlier this month, Dylan Maxwell Baker, 19, of 1920 Exchange Drive, Greenville, was charged with aiding and abetting underage possession of alcohol, selling and possessing for sale alcohol without ABC permits and underage consumption of alcohol.

Stephen Charron, 23, who lives at the house on Hooker Road, was charged with aiding and abetting underage possession of alcoholic beverages.

The arrests stem from a Feb. 5 search by agents with the Division of Alcohol Law Enforcement, officers with the Pitt County Alcohol Beverage Control office and the Greenville Police Department, who executed a warrant at the fraternity house, tucked back into the woods off Arlington Boulevard near J.H. Rose High School.

ALE agents seized alcohol, marijuana, drug paraphernalia and a poster that read: “$1 shots of tequila, rum and vodka. Party ’til you pass out, Drink ’til you’re dead.”
“Alcohol consumption can lead to tragic consequences such as alcohol poisoning,” said John Ledford, director of ALE. “The poster was too close to the truth when it comes to underage drinking.”

Members could not immediately be reached for comment. Someone was present at the house, parting a curtain in an upstairs window to look out, but did not answer knocks at the door.

Founded in 1963, the chapter has the only house at East Carolina University that was originally built to house a national fraternity, according to the group’s website. While grades and membership numbers could be improved, the house has not been in trouble before, fraternity officials said. There are about 30 members.

“They’ve been a pretty good chapter; they have a lot of alumni support,” Wiggins said.

Contact Jennifer Swartz at jszwartz@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
June Long, left, talks with Dr. Paul Cunningham about the kidney transplant surgery he performed on her 14 years ago. (Cliff Hollis/ECU News Services)

Kidney match a special gift on Valentine’s
By Doug Boyd
ECU News Services
Monday, February 14, 2011

June Long was with her daughter browsing Valentine's Day cards when she received the call.

A match to replace Long's failing kidneys had been found and was on its way to North Carolina. If the new kidney and Long passed the final matching criteria, she would undergo a transplant the following day, Feb. 14, 1997.

“It was very emotional,” Long, now 62, said. “It's just overwhelming when you know something that means so much to you has cost a family so much.”

The transplant surgeon on call that day at East Carolina University was Dr. Paul Cunningham, now dean of the Brody School of Medicine at ECU.
“He said, ‘It's about a perfect match. We're going to the O.R.,’” Long said.

Feb. 14 isn't just Valentine's Day at the Cunningham household. It's also the Cunninghams' wedding anniversary, and that year was their 10th.
“Our plans usually involve not doing a whole lot other than spend time with each other,” Cunningham said. “Typically, I cook a meal.”
When Cunningham told his wife, Sydney, their anniversary and Valentine's Day dinner would have to wait, her response was warm.

“She felt this was the best Valentine's Day gift we could give one another — to help somebody,” Cunningham said.

Long was prepped for surgery, and the operation proceeded. After Cunningham made all the connections, the new kidney began working before his eyes.

“From a surgeon's viewpoint, it's so exciting to be able to do that and see the thing run,” Cunningham said. “It's like a kid at Christmas; you put the battery in the toy and see it work.”

Long, who worked at the ECU medical school in 1997 and still does as an executive assistant, has enjoyed 14 years of normal life. She said anti-rejection medication is far better than 10 hours of dialysis each night.

“I was pretty much tied to the dialysis machine,” she said. “All you do is take a handful of pills, and that's so much better than being on dialysis. “This has been a real good match,” she said. “I've never had any rejection episodes. It's been a great kidney.”

In addition, new anti-rejection medications have fewer side-effects and are less damaging to the kidneys and body, Cunningham said.

While the job of dean leaves no time for surgery, that's OK with Cunningham. “There's a time for everything,” he said. “My job now is to support those who are doing transplants now.”

More than 280 eastern North Carolinians are awaiting a kidney transplant, according to ECU experts.
ECU surgeons performed 73 kidney transplants in 2010.

For more information about kidney transplants at ECU, call 744-2620.
Rex Anne Davis, standing, played matchmaker when she introduced Alan Joyner and his wife, Janet, seated, to each other. Rex Anne is Alan's cousin, and the couple have been married for 13 years. (Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector)

**Matchmaking is sparking love**

*By Kim Grizzard*

The Daily Reflector  
Monday, February 14, 2011

If the Valentine's Day ads are to be believed, modern love is sparked electronically.

Online dating sites claim as many as one in five relationships now begins online. But despite recent gains of the Internet, more couples who are looking for love still find it the old-fashioned way.

Even research funded in 2009 by the 15-year-old online dating site match.com show that while 17 percent of couples who married in the previous year met online, more than a quarter were introduced by friends and family.

When Janet and Alan Joyner of Fountain learned they could make beautiful music together, it was not because of e-harmony.com. It was because Janet started teaching piano lessons to the daughter of Alan's cousin.

Growing up in Grifton, Rex Anne Davis never considered herself to be a matchmaker. But when she introduced friend and co-worker Beth Hardy to her cousin, Alan, Beth wondered aloud if Alan and Janet might hit it off.

Rex Anne, then a school nurse at H.B. Sugg Elementary School, where Janet taught second grade, agreed but then forgot all about it.
“Six months or more later, I was driving down old (U.S.) 264 from Farmville, thinking of absolutely nothing,” she said, laughing. “It (introducing Janet and Alan) just came into my mind. That's one time I think God might have spoken to me.”

She came home, called her cousin and gave him Janet’s number. That first night, Alan and Janet stayed on the phone for hours. They had much in common, including their Christian faith and their love of music. Both had experienced divorce. Alan had a daughter, and Janet had always wanted one.

Two nights later, they talked again. They had a first date on Groundhog Day in 1997. By the fall of that year, they were married.

“I just knew it from the very beginning,” Janet said, “that he was the one.”

The same thing happened when Ruth Clifton introduced her co-worker, Deborah, to her nephew, Doug Davenport.

Ruth had overheard co-workers at East Carolina University's Dowdy Student Stores teasing Deborah about needing a matchmaker.

“I said, ‘Well, Deborah, next time my nephew comes to town, how about I introduce you to him?’” Ruth recalled.

Two weeks later, Doug drove from Nags Head to Greenville to pick up his Aunt Ruth for a family trip to Atlanta to visit his sister. Ruth arranged to have Deborah join them for dinner.

“When we were out eating, I began to wonder, ‘Well, why am I here?’” Ruth said, laughing. “They hit it off.”

So much so that when Doug's sister in Georgia told him she had someone she wanted him to meet, Doug declined. Back in Greenville a few weeks later, Doug took Deborah to a summer theater production at ECU. By early the next spring, the two were married.

“Later, he sent me a card and told me I was definitely his favorite aunt,” Ruth said, laughing. “He told me he was the happiest he had ever been in his life.”

More than five years later, that's still true.

“I want them to stay happy,” Ruth said, “because I don't want them to come back and say, ‘You did this to me.’”

Fear of rejection and failure often keeps would-be matchmakers from pairing up prospective couples. Almost anyone who has done a little matchmaking knows what it's like when the couple just doesn't click or, worse yet, when two people who seemed destined to be together end up divorced. If everyone's not going to live happily ever after,
then it would be better to be able to say it was “computer error” than to have to share the responsibility for the broken heart of a friend or family member.

The only ill effect Ruth suffered from her time as a matchmaker was the loss of a co-worker, who moved to the coast once she married Ruth's nephew.

For Rex Anne, it was a similar story. Once Janet and Alan were married, Alan decided to pursue a job in ministry. With her additional responsibilities as a pastor's wife, Janet stopped giving piano lessons.

“My daughter still teases me about she wished she could play the piano,” Rex Anne said, “but I married off her piano teacher.”

Still, Rex Anne has no regrets. The minister and the ex-music teacher are perfect for each other, and her daughter is old enough now to find another piano teacher, if that's what she wants.

“Love is a gift,” she said. “If you see a chance for someone, you just need to go ahead and take that because it's worth it.”

Contact Kim Grizzard at kgrizzard@reflector.com or (252) 329-9578.
ECU Notes: Past offers lessons on health
By ECU News Service
Sunday, February 13, 2011

A small group of people can make a difference in fostering better health in a community and often have the most success in creating change, said Dr. William “Bill” Jenkins, keynote speaker for the Jean Mills Health Symposium held Feb. 4.

Jenkins, adjunct associate professor of epidemiology at Morehouse School of Medicine and senior fellow with the Institute for African American Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, spoke about the myths and realities of community participatory research.

It begins at the grassroots level, with the endorsement and support of those living in the community. That means practicing cultural humility and not assuming you know what’s best for a community, he said.

Jenkins served two decades as supervisory epidemiologist in the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and managed its Minority Health Activities Program. He managed the Participant Health Benefits Program, which assures medical services to the survivors of the Tuskegee syphilis study.

Jenkins also served as an expert on minority issues in disease transmission as chief of the research and evaluation statistics section in the Division of Sexually Transmitted
Diseases Prevention and as manager of the National Minority Organizations HIV Prevention Program.

His role in caring for the survivors of the Tuskegee syphilis study gave him a great appreciation for and understanding of best practices for community research.

The study, which ended in 1972, followed 600 men with syphilis for 40 years. Medical students, nurses and CDC physicians took samples in the field, collected and recorded data. Wherever the men they went, they were followed to make sure they did not receive treatment so results could be documented. “It was one of the best managed programs in public health history,” Jenkins said.

Many returned from World War I with the disease.

“Syphilis is the great imitator,” Jenkins said, since the disease can mimic heart disease and other ailments. “It’s a fascinating disease as much as most people think HIV is today.”

While the syphilis study eventually was condemned, it was landmark in its methodology. “How you do community research can be taught by this method,” Jenkins said.

As a result, researchers have changed practices that include institutional review boards, voluntary informed consent and federal policy for the protection of human subjects. The basic tenets of bioethics are do no harm, be fair, allow autonomy and beneficence.

How a community benefits must be kept at the forefront. “Drug companies will pay a lot of money for community participatory research,” Jenkins said. “Just because you’re doing research in a community doesn’t mean you’re doing research for the community.”

In its seventh year, the Jean Mills Health Symposium drew 150 participants and had a waiting list, said Dr. Stephen Thomas, dean of the ECU College of Allied Health Sciences, which sponsors the event in collaboration with the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation, Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation and Eastern Area Health Education Center. The event coincides with Black History Month.

Jean Elaine Mills earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1977 and a master’s in public administration with a concentration in community health from ECU in 1984. She died from breast cancer in 2000.

Amos T. Mills III, Jean’s brother, created the symposium in an effort to keep her spirit of discovery and community outreach alive.

“How health care is the most important thing in people’s lives,” Mills said in recognizing professor emeritus Donald Ensley, who spearheaded the creation of the event and taught Jean Mills while she was a student at ECU. “If you don’t have good health, you don’t have a good quality of life.”
Video from the event will be shown on ECU’s Ch. 99 and will be posted on the College of Allied Health Sciences website at www.ecu.edu/ah.

The symposium featured more than 20 recognized experts on the principles of community engagement: mutual benefits, collaborative relationships and empowerment. Presentations focused on the scholarship of engagement and on service to the community with an engagement model addressing health disparities and minority health.

**Rare WWII map on display Saturday**

On Saturday, the 66th anniversary of the landing of the U.S. invasion on Iwo Jima, historians and conservators from ECU will hold a public viewing of a rare rubber topographic map depicting Iwo Jima during WWII.

The map illustrates several airstrips and roads on the island and was used for training naval intelligence officers. After the event, the map will return to the Battleship North Carolina collection in Wilmington.

Over the past six months, conservators have preserved the map by removing previous restorations that caused deterioration of the rubber. During the conservation process, conservators discovered never before seen stenciling on the reverse site of the map, as well as unique construction details.

The Director of Conservation at ECU Susanne Grieve said, “We are excited to show the results of our work on such a unique historical object with the public. This is truly a rare opportunity to view the map before it is returned to the Battleship North Carolina collection.”

The map will be stored in an oxygen free environment to ensure the rubber does not deteriorate further.

The public viewing will be held at ECU’s Joyner Library conference room 2409 from 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday and will feature presentations by Grieve on the process of preserving the map.

Other presenters will be Department of History Professor Dr. Michael Palmer on World War II; Department of History Professor Dr. John Tucker on Japan in World War II; and Joyner Library Special Collections Curator Jonathan Dembo on the Joyner Library World War II special collections.

Dembo said about the event, “I will also take the opportunity to display several digitized items from a few of many manuscript collections in Joyner Library that document the Battle for Iwo Jima. The items range from original letters and action reports to maps showing the landing beaches on Iwo Jima and the Western Pacific theater that give a first-hand account of the battle.”
This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Susanne Grieve at 328-4407 or by email at grievances@ecu.edu.

**Downeast Sculpture coming to ECU**
The 2011 Downeast Sculpture Exhibition, featuring artists from across the Southeast, will return to ECU and Greenville March 4.

The exhibition, which will run through April 1, will feature indoor artwork at Emerge Gallery, while outdoor artwork will be displayed in front of ECU’s Mendenhall Student Center and at the corner of Cotanche and Reade streets. Three new sculpture pads are being prepared between Joyner Library and Mendenhall Student Center for new artwork.

An opening reception to kickoff the exhibit will be held on March 4 from 6-9 p.m. at Emerge Gallery. On April 1, a closing reception from 6-9 p.m. at Emerge will include the awarding of cash to entry winners.

Digital entries were due on Feb. 5 to be showcased in the monthlong exhibit.

The Mendenhall Gallery on the second floor of Mendenhall Student Center will feature this year’s juror, Shawn Morin.

Morin, who is head of the sculpture program at Bowling Green State University, will also be demonstrating stone carving for the Sculpture Guild at ECU.

For more information about this exhibition, contact the ECU Student Activities Board at sabvisual@ecu.edu or Alex Davis with Student Activities and Organizations at 328-4713.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Monday:** Science Café: Valentine’s Day Sweetest Treat, 6-8 p.m., The Tipsy Teapot, 409 Evans St., Greenville. The Science Café brings together scientists and engineers with the public to discuss current research and its implications. Guest speakers will be Dr. Kathryn Kolasa and Dr. Mary Farwell. Free and open to the public.

**Saturday:** Eighth Annual TALGS Conference, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Bate Building. Graduate students and educators will offer papers, discussions, and workshops on language use, learning and teaching, including the teaching of English to speakers of other languages.

See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Nancy Ballard: Grad work inspires pride
Sunday, February 13, 2011

A former East Carolina University student has found a place in my heart.

It was on a trip to New York City that I met Nichole, an ECU Communications grad from Raleigh who moved to New York in pursuit of a graduate degree. But that is not her whole story.

Marcy Romary, an ECU Senior Major Gifts officer and director of Women's Philanthropy, set up my introduction to Nichole at the 92nd Street YMCA, a truly vibrant place. Nichole had invited us there to learn about her project.

We got to witness a lot that day. We saw a determined young woman in action, setting up an operation of humanity in an open lobby of a buzzing downtown location that housed a myriad of valued resources. She came prepared. She had to be.

You see, Nichole single-handedly runs a swim program affiliated with KEEN (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now) a grassroots, nonprofit, volunteer-led organization that provides one-on-one recreational opportunities for children and young adults with mental and physical disabilities at no cost to their families.

As we sat and talked, Nichole took numerous breaks to hand out supplies and brief a stream of new volunteer coaches as they arrived for duty. Those interruptions were followed by Nichole jumping up to greet a parade of wide-smiling parents and kids flowing out of the adjacent elevator, all eager to be there. I was struck by one father who leaned over to accept his daughter's arms tightly around his neck, without hesitation, every single time she reached up, which was many.
On the days when kids, facing some of life's hardest challenges, come to swim and splash around in the pool with water toys, they learn confidence and self-esteem. They become athletes getting lots of high-fives from their individual coaches for the skills they develop. Convinced the kids are in competent hands, the parents and other siblings are able to leave and perhaps enjoy a break, special time together or, of course, stick around and simply watch as Marcy and I did.

Later, Nichole spends countless hours fundraising, and cultivating and maintaining critical board support necessary to sustain the swim program.

Encounters with ECU students who inspire like Nichole, who make a difference, and who lead with passion are a frequent privilege.

When I told Nichole I would take her story back to my husband, that I was sure he would be enormously proud, with sudden tears she said, “I want my university to be proud.”

Nichole is a member of the ECU Women's Roundtable (WRT) and continues to network with other alums in the NY region. Through WRT a growing number of women alums and others, locally and beyond, with strong interests in the university are staying connected. Every day they are involved and representing our university and communities in significant and meaningful ways.

Nancy Ballard, a former public relations professional, is married to ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard. Her column about ECU and community people and events appears here on an occasional basis.
Poetic tales communicate an era before the age of the iPhone

Liza Wieland's new collection of stories offers the reader a spirited tour of the mid-20th century, a world fast receding into the digital haze.

You will find neither a euro nor a smart phone in "Quickening." There is hardly even a computer in this universe, which stretches from World War II France ("La Fenêtre," "Out of the Garden") to the attack on the Marine barracks in Beirut in 1983 ("Visions," an Eastern North Carolina family saga), to the bombing of the PanAm jet in 1988 over Lockerbie, Scotland ("First, Marriage"). The protagonist's grief-scarred love interest in that story still uses a typewriter to write his graduate school papers.

"Quickening" thus distances itself from the run of short story collections that chase after the changing light of present-day life. Wieland's stories are learned as well as literate, as she seeks to capture emotions and motivations acted on decades in the past with the poetic immediacy of what happened just the other day.

A professor of creative writing at East Carolina University and two-time Pushcart Prize winner, Wieland is a poet as well as a fiction writer, and it shows. Controversial 20th-century poet Ezra Pound appears in two stories ("Pound in Venice," "The Girl with Radium Eyes"), as does a gem-like
description of Olga Runge, Pound's lover: "She was very small, white-haired now, with fine, chiseled features, as if she were halfway turned to stone."

Wieland can also speak convincingly in the voice of a person who's not quite as good a writer as Wieland herself. "Quickening" sometimes feels as if the same shy, romantic and reflective woman is narrating every story. Perhaps the archetype of this narrator is the nun of "Some Churches," who finds herself catching a baby thrown by its mother from a window in New York City ("The baby was long and light, like a loaf of bread") and dancing with a homeless man in Paris. Voice aside, Wieland has committed a bewitching alchemy here: She has taken the historical touchstones of our age and used them to "quicken" her characters - as well as the imagination of her readers.

David Frauenfelder blogs at Breakfast with Pandora (myth.typepad.com).
Members of the audience listen as interns from the Center for Family Violence Prevention read poems about abusive relationships written by victims of domestic violence at the Tipsy Teapot Friday, Feb. 11, 2011. February is domestic violence awareness month and the center is trying to raise awareness with the poetry reading. (Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector)

Event focuses on domestic violence
By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector
Monday, February 14, 2011

Valentine's Day celebrations will, for most, inspire expressions of tender love, the tie that binds two hearts in peace and happiness. For others, it will evoke painful emotions connected to acts of physical or emotional abuse that often bind and scar hearts for life. The latter also is recognized in February through National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

A group of professionals and volunteers at the Center for Family Violence Prevention hosted a poetry reading Friday at the Tipsy Teapot on Evans Street to remind people that many, including children and teens, are victims of abuse and violence, a center spokeswoman said.

The idea came to Chelsey Waters, a case worker at the center, after receiving an e-mail about the upcoming holiday.

Titles including “Abuse: The way we were,” “Lost Innocence,” and “Sealed with a Fist” covered topics of emotional and physical abuse, child abuse and male privilege.

The poems were gathered from the Web and e-mails after Waters and interns from various related courses of study at East Carolina University distributed flyers throughout campus.

They were read by the interns and made an instant impression on the audience, Waters said, particularly by being presented in advance of Valentine's Day.
Releasing the emotions by sharing them through poetry is helpful for abuse victims as well, Waters said, but also a powerful message for those not aware of the effect of abuse on young lives.

Waters shared statistics about teen violence with the audience. “Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide suffer abuse from a dating partner,” she said.

It is difficult to gauge the local effect accurately, Waters said, because so many incidents go unreported. She acknowledged last week's alleged sexual assault of a female student at Farmville Central High School is a reminder that it happens locally.

The combination of poetry and abuse statistics that were shared made one man who listened look at domestic violence in a new way, she said.

“He said it opened his eyes to a whole new world,” Waters said. “He realized that not only are abuse victims exposed to physical harm, emotional pain and loss of trust, but they also realize it comes from people they love and often continue to love.”

The new awareness is what Waters and her colleagues at the center were hoping for, she said.

“It's very shocking and alarming to many people who don't know that abuse extends beyond a black eye to include financial and emotional abuse and the sense of isolation that abusers create for a victim,” Waters said.

The center hopes that the shared emotional experience of abuse expressed through poetry will inspire more victims to seek assistance and draw back the curtain of isolation. For more information about the services offered at the Center for Family Violence Prevention, call 758-4400.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or (252) 329-9571
Perkin & Ramsey: Respiratory virus season
Sunday, February 13, 2011

Respiratory virus season is here.

As we move forward into the next few months of winter, we need to remember that the coughs, sneezes, runny noses and fevers of respiratory viruses are all around us. North Carolina and Pitt County had a number of people become sick with the H1N1 influenza virus during 2009.

People are once again coming down with influenza and other viruses since everyone returned to work and school from holiday vacations.

Other respiratory viruses may mimic influenza-like illnesses, including the common cold, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). To date, influenza cases are increasing, and have not yet peaked in Pitt County, and the strains identified, the H1N1 and H3N2 strains of influenza A, are included in the vaccine for this year. If you have not received your influenza vaccine this season, it is not too late to consider getting one.

Here at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, we owe it to our patients, families, visitors and employees to do all we can to limit the spread of infections within our hospital and clinics. This is why we have signs at each entrance, discouraging guests from visiting their families and loved ones if they are sick with colds and flu-like symptoms. This is a necessary step to protect our patients from respiratory viruses that may cause them to become seriously ill.

We also ask that you be proactive at home and out in the community. To preventing the spread of viruses: wash your hands frequently keep your children home from school when they are sick, do not share cups or utensils.

One other way to prevent the spread of illnesses is to keep your hands away from your face. Just rubbing your eye and touching a child can spread your virus to that child.

At the Children's Hospital, we typically see the smallest of infants and the sickest of children. Respiratory viruses may be innocently carried into the hospital by family members. We cannot risk having our smallest and sickest children become inadvertently exposed to visitors with respiratory infections.
Please help us protect these patients and do everything possible to keep away viruses. While you might not exhibit any of the symptoms, you never know if you could have been exposed to one of these viruses. We know no one intentionally wants to make someone sick. These viruses, especially RSV, are easily spread by physical contact.

Touching, kissing and even shaking hands with an infected person can spread the virus. The viruses are also spread through the air by sneezing and coughing and can live for hours on countertops, bed rails and even on used tissue.

As you might guess, infections like RSV spread rapidly in crowded households, day care centers, schools, churches and hospitals.

All of us at PCMH appreciate your help in keeping our hospital germ-free.

Dr. Ron Perkin, medical director, UHS Children's Hospital and chairman, Department of Pediatrics, Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

Dr. Keith Ramsey, medical director for infection control at PCMH and professor of medicine at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU.
Do you ever get the feeling that someone is watching you? You might be right, according to a new study released today by East Carolina University.

The study, which survey over 800 students, showed that a third (33%) of female respondents had broken into or read their partner's emails on more than one occasion. And although men were less likely to break into their partner's email accounts, they were more likely to use spy cameras, GPS devices, and spyware to monitor their partner's whereabouts and activities.

“I've casually looked at my partner's emails before,” said Shelby Burke, an engineer in Torrance. “I don't feel like he should be worried unless he has something to hide – in which case, I want to know about it.”

The survey also showed that women were more likely than men to check on their partner's Facebook activities and cellphone records. However, 3% of men responding to the survey admitted to hiding a camera in their partner's room, while 5% use cell phone tracking software to monitor their lover's location. "Only a small fraction of men used GPS technology in this way, but we were still shocked," said Dr. Sloan Burke, the study author.
Gene Tippits, a IT security consultant based in Los Angeles, is less surprised. “Guys tend to be gadget hounds, so it's not surprising they are using technology more than women to spy on their partners.”

LA Business Tech Examiner
WASHINGTON., N.C. — On Friday night, business at the Turnage was in full swing. Emerging from the quiet street lit with the neon lights of downtown Washington's famous marquee, guests came to the historic landmark to watch something a little different from the typical Turnage show: nationally recognized comedienne Maria Bamford.

Thirty minutes before the show, the double doors opened like a gateway from the lobby and the renovated venue. Stepping into the theater is like stepping into the past, with clean paint enhancing the old plaster work and red velvet curtains matching the red seats, the carpet and even the thin line of red tape wrapped around the single microphone at center stage.

Soon Bamford, a veteran of two Comedy Central specials and most recently seen as the Target Lady during last year's Black Friday ads, was on stage and ready to unleash her award-winning routine, including a bit of crude humor and a lot of high-decibel gibberish.

Bamford is part of the new life the Turnage Theaters Foundation is springing onto West Main Street in Washington. The group officially formed in 1996 and landed the Turnage on the National Register of Historic Places. They raised money through the late 1990s and early 2000s to complete a $3.1-million renovation project that would bring the theater originally built by C. A. Turnage back to the residents.

“It's gorgeous,” Bamford said backstage after her performance. “The sound was really good; it's really nice. I can't imagine it being any nicer.”

On a night like Friday, it's hard to imagine that nearly 30 years ago, the people of Washington thought they had closed the doors of the Turnage Theater forever. Even today, the future of the Turnage remains uncertain.

C.A. Turnage built his first theater in 1913. The venue, which is still located about the current lobby and box office, began as a vaudeville theater, a place where they showcased variety shows. About the same time, silent films came into popularity, and Turnage's theater lived well through the era.

When the “talkies” came to town, Turnage Theater encountered its first real predicament. Without air conditioning, the windows to the theater were left open during shows, and the sounds of Main Street Washington often interfered with the audio of the movies.

To resolve this problem, Turnage built his “palace” below, creating a sanctuary for talking films — but he also included a stage and an orchestra pit, lest the talkies were just a fad.

The Turnage thrived and occasionally welcomed celebrities. It was so successful that Turnage built the Reita Theater across the street, where they played mostly Westerns and B movies.

However, as the years passed, the Turnage Theater became an elaborate ongoing project, box office manager Katherine Buchholz said.

“What actually killed the Turnage Theater was the inability to maintain the building they had,” Buchholz said. “All of the money from your ticket price goes back to whoever made the movie and theaters are required to basically subsist on their concession stand sales. Because at the time that it was built, it was this elaborate building with all of this lovely plasterwork and velvet seats and all of that, they weren't able to fix things as they went wrong. When structures became untenable, they just closed them off. They closed off the balcony. When the plaster started to crumble, they put curtains in front of it. When the ceiling started to show give, they put in a drop ceiling. Just basic cosmetic work.”

Still, the theater went through many incarnations throughout the ’70s to stay relevant, even having its own blue period, Buchholz said.

“There were some questionable films,” Buchholz said and added with a laugh: “Films we wouldn't show now.”
Then, in the late '70s, competition arrived in the form of a Carmike multiplex, and attendance at Turnage dropped. The Reita Theater closed.

“When they built the new theater in the Washington Square Mall, the Cineplex in 1979, it was brand new and sparkly and pretty as where the Turnage was old and kind of smelly, and clearly dated,” Buchholz said.

In 1980, after showing its final Kung Fu film, Turnage Theater closed for what the residents of Washington thought would be for good. For more than a decade, people with fond memories of the Turnage began discussing reopening the landmark.

“They couldn't tell that it was worth while to open,” Buchholz said. “You had the drop ceiling, you had the rickety balcony area, it smelled of mildew because there was leakage; it didn't look like anything you'd want to salvage. When they shut it down, there was never any indication they were going to renovate.”

“It really became dilapidated for a period of time and had been inhabited more by pigeons and other varmints than anything,” said Jon Tinglestad, president of Turnage Theaters Foundation's Board of Trustees. He's been on the board since 2005. “And then some very energetic local citizens decided they wanted to renovate and redecorate.”

The Foundation, after being officially formed in 1996, began a large fundraising campaign and with extra funding from the National Historic Trust, they began work on the theater.

“One of the requirements, which conveniently went with what we wanted to do anyway, was to restore (the theater) back to its original finish,” Buchholz said. “And so conveniently, because they could never go in and remodel or repair, that meant everything that had been there originally was still there in some form or another.”

The Turnage Theater reopened in the fall of 2007, with a performance by theater students from East Carolina University.

“It was a great feeling of accomplishment and gratitude because so many people had made contributions,” Tinglestad said. “So many businesses had made contributions, including banks. It was a major community effort, and I think it was a realization that this was coming to a successful point in time when all of these efforts and contributions were coming to reality, and that we could open the theater and make it available to the citizens and our guests. So it was really a great feeling. I'll never forget the opening night and the performance that we had. It was fantastic.”

Since that grand re-opening, the Turnage has spent the last three years bringing entertainment of all kinds to downtown Washington: children's shows, comedians, musical theater, blue grass, country, and they even tried a rock show.
“We can bring them in when they're on their way up or on their way down,” Buchholz said. “We can't really afford to bring them in when they're at the peak of their career. So, like Maria Bamford, she's on her way up.”

Scotty Henley, now executive director of the Turnage Theaters Foundation, joined as technical director in 2005 and said he feels a great deal of responsibility to keep the tradition of the Turnage.

“It's a respectful energy,” Henley said. “It's daunting at times but it's respectful and I think it sort of speaks to a wide variety — across the nation — to small towns like this that are trying to have a theater like this, or a school, that others have a long history or memory of that they want to see that memory revived in some way.”

As a theater graduate and former employee of ECU, Henley is also the main link between Turnage Theater and the university. It had started when he brought technical production students over and began discussions with John Shearin, director of the School of Theater and Dance, who suggested bringing over performers, as well. With faculty willing to work with the theater, too, the university started scheduling regular shows in Washington.

Now, ECU shows are some of the most successful performances Turnage has. “(Turnout) has been very high,” Henley said. “What ECU has done, especially with their musical theater department, is they know their genres and they know that the era that their constituents over there are pretty much the same as my constituents over here. And that's what they want to hear and what they like to see. And the audience here gets really encouraged by what they consider ‘the kids,' the youthful college students coming out and doing these performances.”

In an economic climate full of uncertainty, the foundation can't be certain how long the doors of the Turnage will remain open, and Buchholz said their main mission is to keep “Phase I” afloat. “Phase II,” the old vaudeville theater — Turnage's original theater — still stands untouched above the palace.

“It would cost a bundle to get that renovated and redecorated,” Tinglestad said. “But I think the issue of finances is an important one. A nonprofit institution such as a theater cannot make it on ticket sales alone, there's just no way it can be done. So we are dependent on the good grace of the members of the foundation. We're dependent on corporate gifts, business gifts and this sort of thing and the board right now is working diligently to secure grants which might provide one potential funding. It's a constant challenge and obviously the dire economic situation has not helped a bit.”

“You hope that this (closing) will not happen,” Tinglestad added, “and you do your very best to make sure it does not. So I can't say with any degree of certainty that this place will be alive and running in five years, but it is our goal and objective to be sure that it's going to around for a good long time. Because we really think it's such a precious commodity. It's such a jewel for the city and the county.”
“This theater is very unique in the realm of North Carolina itself,” Henley said. “Most theaters of this style are either associated with a university or a college, a city or a municipality and we're not. We're owned by a foundation so we don't have some of the financial backings that maybe the state-run institutions and the city provide. So we're trying to diminish our expenses by bringing down our operational expenses by bringing down our mortgage debt. And so we struggle. But we have good constituents and good sponsors, and we persevere on. But we're always in need of the next big business that would like their name put on the side of this theater as well.”

Those interested in donating to the Turnage Theaters Foundation can visit its website, www.turnagetheater.com, or write the Turnage Theater Foundation, 150 W. Main Street, Washington, NC 27889.

Contact Kristin Day at kday@reflector.com or (252) 329-9579.
Dr. Wafa Badwan, a kidney specialist, has joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Badwan joined ECU as a clinical assistant professor. Born in Raleigh, she has a bachelor's and medical degree from ECU and completed residency training and a fellowship in nephrology at ECU. She is board-certified in internal medicine and nephrology. Her clinical and research interests are critical care nephrology and renal transplant.

Badwan sees patients at the ECU Nephrology and Hypertension Clinic at 2355 W. Arlington Blvd. Appointments are available by calling 744-2545.
Vickie Stowe retires from administrative support specialist job with ECU Central Stores
Monday, February 14, 2011

Vickie Stowe of New Bern has retired from East Carolina University. She was an administrative support specialist with Central Stores and Receiving.

The Central Stores staff honored Stowe with a party in December and presented her an ECU blanket and a plaque commemorating her 10 1/2 years of service. Her last day was Dec. 30.

Stowe spent her entire career at Central Stores, where she was responsible for billing, data entry and inventory control. In 2007, she was honored with ECU's Quest for Excellence Navigator Award for Behind the Scenes efforts.

“Vickie was an outstanding employee and will truly be missed,” Tim Daughtry, Central Stores manager, said. “You could always count on her to do her very best.”

Stowe's plans for retirement are to spend more time with her family.

“I really enjoyed my work at ECU, but there was very little time for family due to the commute,” she said. “My plans are to spend as much time as I can with my family. So far I have been quite busy.”
Stowe has two children, five grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and two great-grandsons with another due in May.

Stowe has also started an e-commerce website, VeeGee's Gifts & Home Décor. The website is [www.veegeesgifts.com](http://www.veegeesgifts.com).

Stowe is a 1966 graduate of New Bern High School and attended Craven Community College. She and husband, Gerald, live in New Bern.
NCSU bookstore building likely to fall

BY JAY PRICE - Staff Writer

RALEIGH–The building on N.C. State University's campus most likely to evoke doo-wop harmonies, hot rods and drive-ins is months away from demolition - unless a long-shot preservation effort by a local blog succeeds.

University officials plan in June to tear down the 50-year-old student bookstore, with its distinctive wavy "folded-plane" walkway canopies, to make way for a major expansion of the Talley Student Center.

The blog Goodnight Raleigh!, which covers local architecture, history and art, has started a campaign to persuade the university to save the building.

Its modernist charms are subtle for some, including many current students. But blogger John Morris said several of its design elements - notably the canopies, floor-to-ceiling glass in some areas and its unusual brickwork - are unique on campus.

Also, it's an important connection to a landmark period in the history of the NCSU College of Design. The architect, Milton Small, was highly regarded for his modernist designs, and was part of a talented group of professors who lifted the college to national prominence.

"It's an interesting building on a campus full of mostly uninteresting buildings," said Morris, 30, a software engineer who has lived in Raleigh for seven years. "It has unique features, and it's one of the few buildings on campus that represent that era of architecture."

Small's office building, not far away on the corner of Hillsborough Street and Brooks Avenue, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Talley Student Center was built in 1972, when the university had just 14,000 students, compared with more than 34,000 now. Many say it was too small from the beginning.
The university plans to spend $120 million to give it a major makeover and expand it by two-thirds, to 283,000 square feet, and to restore its status as a crucial centerpiece for the campus.

Green space and a small part of the addition will be built where the bookstore stands now, along with an underground loading dock, said Lisa Johnson, the university architect.

Morris said he's not trying to stop the expansion of the student center, or to keep the university from moving the bookstore operations to a more suitable facility.

The building, though, could be saved and used for something else, such as studio space. Worst case, he said, the student center expansion could be modified to let one of the two canopies remain as part of the planned green space.

Johnson said university officials explored the idea of saving part of the concrete canopy, but it's not in a good location and would be hard to move. NCSU alumni have posted comments on Goodnight Raleigh! supporting the effort to save the building. Students of the iPad-text message-Facebook era, though, don't seem particularly concerned with the plan.

"I don't have a problem with tearing it down," said Brett Anderson, a junior from Wilmington, stopping under the distinctive canopy. "Whatever would be more efficient."

Durham freshman Nia Darby, 19, was of like mind: "If they think it will help make the [student center] better, I don't have an issue with that," Darby said. "I'm all for State improving and renovating things."

Is the bookstore too attractive to be demolished?

Darby wrinkled her nose.

"Uh, no."

The College of Design dean, Marvin Malecha, said that there's no question the bookstore has some architectural value.
Not enough, though, to outweigh the importance of expanding the woefully undersize student center or the fact that the building has outlived its suitability for a bookstore.

"I've never seen the bookstore as an iconic structure that absolutely should be saved," Malecha said. "It certainly represents an architectural period in which the school was important, and it was a statement when it was built. But if it had been a really iconic structure, I'd have weighed in."

He said he might have been more skeptical if the university hadn't chosen a great architect for the Talley project, Turan Duda, who himself is a product of the design school.

"Time goes by, and when it does, some things come and some things go," Malecha said.

Morris' fight to save the bookstore is about a month old, and he's starting to fear it will fail. It doesn't seem to be generating the kind of outcry it would take to save the bookstore.

All might not be lost, though. Johnson, the university architect, said she and Morris have scheduled a meeting and that they'll brainstorm some ideas about how to remember the bookstore and Milton Small.

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