THE DAILY CLIPS

February 23, 2011

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
Time

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@.ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481
A Virginia Beach native paralyzed at her bachelorette party in May got a "handicapped-accessible" makeover of her home, courtesy of the "Today" show.

Rachelle Friedman, who uses a wheelchair, and her fiance, Chris Chapman, lived in a hotel for 12 days while their home outside Raleigh, N.C., was remodeled. Tuesday morning, they were shown the renovations during a live segment of the NBC morning show.

"I was totally flabbergasted by everything," Friedman said afterward. "I still haven't really taken it all in."

The most helpful addition: a new elevator.

Their bedroom is on the second floor. After her accident, Friedman and Chapman turned the downstairs living room into a makeshift bedroom. He would carry her on his back to get to the second-floor shower.
"I thought they would put a metal lift in the middle of my foyer," said Friedman, 25, who attended Cape Henry Collegiate and Ocean Lakes High schools. "But they put in a wood-lined, state-of-the-art elevator, probably the nicest elevator a home can have."

Among the other new features: a lift system allowing her to get out of bed by herself, a handicapped-accessible shower and a spacious closet, which Friedman said was formerly a "junk room."

"This will make her more self-sufficient and independent," said her father, Larry, manager of M&G Sales Co., a military surplus store in Norfolk. "That's all she cares about."

The home improvement was a joint project for "Today" and NBC's "George to the Rescue" makeover show, which Rachelle Friedman said will air a segment about her remodeled home in April.

She graduated from East Carolina University and worked as a program coordinator at a senior citizens center. At her bachelorette party in Virginia Beach in May, she was playfully pushed by a friend into a pool. Her head hit the bottom, and she suffered a spinal cord injury.

Friedman cannot walk and has limited use of her arms and hands. She was interviewed on "Today" in November. "When we first met Rachelle," substitute anchor Willie Geist said Tuesday, "it was her positive spirit that stuck with us."

Now she is the only female player on the Raleigh Sidewinders wheelchair rugby team, her father said. "It keeps her physically active," he said. "That's the reason her arms have gotten a lot stronger."

Friedman said she and Chapman plan to marry this summer.

Philip Walzer, (757) 222-3864, phil.walzer@pilotonline.com

Source URL (retrieved on 02/23/2011 - 09:23):
Rachelle Friedman and Chris Chapman have their every move recorded by television cameras as they climb the new deck on their home to greet well-wishers.

 Volunteers rally for couple

BY JOHNNY WHITFIELD - Staff Writer

KNIGHTDALE—Rachelle Friedman and Chris Chapman were celebrating their impending wedding when something went horribly wrong: A playful push sent Friedman tumbling into a swimming pool causing permanent paralysis.

Her injuries forced the couple to put wedding plans on hold, and they found themselves living mostly on the first floor of their two-story home.

On Tuesday - nine months after the accident - nobody seemed focused on wheelchairs and injuries.

Instead, shortly before 8 a.m., Friedman and Chapman were surprised by extensive renovations - completed in just 10 days by a group of volunteers - that transformed their Knightdale home.
The couple had planned on a few minor tweaks - wider doors, a new shower and a lower vanity.

When they arrived Tuesday, all that work had been done - and more. Bathrooms were fully remodeled. There was a remodeled master suite. A new deck and long ramp had been built, with a newly poured sidewalk. And there was an elevator - an elevator - installed to help her get to the second story.

All the work and most of the supplies had been donated by local contractors. "We had no idea of the scope of what they were going to do," Friedman said. "It feels really good that all these people would take time out of their lives to help us. We feel truly loved"

The makeover came about after Friedman and Chapman were interviewed by the "Today Show" after Friedman's accident.

While they toured the inside of the home a crowd of builders, neighbors and friends grew in the backyard.

A television cameraman kept the spectators apprised of what was happening as Friedman and Chapman toured the inside of their newly remodeled home with "George to the Rescue" host George Oliphant and camera crews from NBC's "Today Show."

Eddie Casanave, with his hands stuffed deep into his pockets, was among the volunteers who worked on the house. He is a member of the Remodelers Council, which is part of the Wake County Homebuilders Association, one of the groups which sponsored the home makeover.

**Crowd of helpers**
"I expect they are pretty moved right now," Casanave said as the couple toured the home under the glare of television lights and cameras. "I'm sure they are a little overwhelmed by it all. It's really going to give her more independence to move around the house." Casanave estimated that 150 to 200 volunteers worked on the project.

It wasn't uncommon to see as many as 60 people working at one time.
"That's a lot of people crawling all over each other to get this done," Casanave said.

Neighbor Lori Dupree was also in the crowd waiting patiently for the couple to make an appearance. She didn't help work on the project, but she volunteered by taking food to the workers.

"I'm overjoyed," Dupree said. "This is such an outpouring of neighbors and people who didn't even know this sweet couple who have come out and helped them."

When the moment arrived for Friedman and Chapman to greet well-wishers, there weren't many words to be said.

The crowd clapped and cheered. Oliphant praised the couple for the way they dealt with their adversity.

Friedman and Chapman beamed from ear to ear.

And the wedding? It's back on for this summer.

johnny.whitfield@newsobserver.com or 919-829-4823
Chris Rupp thinks he knows the habits of East Carolina University students.

As a 23-year-old who graduated from the school in December and spent two years of that college experience working downtown, he makes a pretty good case for it.

He knows many like to spend time in bars and clubs. He knows that often involves drinking. And he knows thousands of them live too far away from downtown to walk home.

Backed by his family, The Rupp Group launched an evening bus service last week that provides rides from downtown to eight major student apartment complexes scattered across the city.

“It was slow the first two nights, and we expect that to be true for the first couple of weeks,” Rupp said Tuesday. “We feel like there's potential. We want students to know it runs on a route and is a reliable service that will always be there.”

The DD Express consists of only one bus for now, running Sunday through Wednesday nights from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. The Ds stand for “Designated Driver,” Rupp said. A round trip costs $3, and a one-way ticket is $2, but Rupp has expansion plans.

His business plan entails adding another bus by summer, incorporating private rentals, and eventually running seven days a week. Rupp would like to enter contracts with the apartment complexes to help decrease student costs to $1 per trip.
That's what Pirate Express does. It's a free-ride service run by East Carolina University, funded by student fees and subsidized by those contracts which are intended as an amenity for off-campus students.

Pirate Express operates Thursday through Saturday nights, and it is well-utilized, said ECU Transit Director Wood Davidson. Ridership numbers approach and sometimes exceed 7,000 passengers weekly during the spring and fall semesters.

Davidson said he hasn't spoken with Rupp, but the transit expert did send an e-mail to Greenville city staff before the City Council was asked to authorize The Rupp Group's request for a bus franchise. His concerns centered around ensuring mechanical safety of the buses and security concerns.

Each of the 12 ECU buses used for Pirate Express feature security cameras and a radio system linked to the ECU Police Department. Even so, Davidson said they considered discontinuing Pirate Express last year if behavior problems persisted. It's not a money-maker for the university and it doesn't serve core academic aims, he pointed out.

Rupp said this week that his bus was purchased with only 26,000 miles on it from a college in New York. At 31-feet long, it seats 30 and can accommodate 50 with people standing. It was tuned up, painted and the interior improved, he added.

The youth was also aware of security concerns, declaring that he would hire security if problems arise. In the meantime, he has full confidence in his driver, Danny Keen. Keen has 12 years experience and is also a trained paramedic, Rupp said.

For now, the two bus lines aren't in competition. They operate on separate nights, and as state budgets tighten, it's unclear whether Pirate Express will operate during summer sessions. They didn't last summer — another void in service Rupp hopes to fill with the DD Express.

“The bars are still open,” he said of weekdays and summers. “There are still a lot of kids down there.

More information about the DD Express can be found on its website: www.ddexpressbus.com. Look for the bus at its downtown stop at the intersection of Fifth and Reade Streets, next to Sup Dogs restaurant.

Routes include stops at The Bellamy, Copper Beech, The Landing, North Campus Crossing, Pirate's Cove, SunChase Apartments, Tar River Estates, and University Manor.

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.
A little more than six years ago, George W. Bush won re-election to the presidency, the Boston Red Sox celebrated the team's first World Series title in 86 years and a Pitt County resident served in the state Senate. Since then, the nation elected Barack Obama and the Red Sox won the title again, but the voters of this community have yet to elevate another of their neighbors to that chamber.

Such an effort is complicated by the district lines that divide this county as well as a lack of competitive candidates willing to put forth time and energy toward victory. With legislative redistricting set for this year, the General Assembly has the opportunity to remedy that first issue so that Pitt County residents can commit themselves to addressing the second.

The Greenville City Council made the smart move politically when it declined to take a stance on whether Pitt County should seek to be included in a single district when the General Assembly draws new lines for representation in the N.C. Senate. There is no need to inadvertently antagonize either member of the county's Senate delegation, on whom this community relies.

There is, of course, nothing fundamentally flawed about either man representing Pitt County. Sen. Clark Jenkins has done quite well during his eight years in Raleigh and has proven himself a committed voice to the fortunes of East Carolina University, among other institutions here. And Sen. Louis Pate took office with the high hopes of his constituents and great promise to serve this community attentively in his new position.

However, there is no denying that having a senator focused exclusively on Pitt County could prove a tremendous benefit. There is a clear value to having someone in that position who is acutely aware of the challenges faced by communities like Grimesland, Bethel, Farmville or Grifton. Pitt County needs someone intimately familiar with the aspirations of city government, the school board and the county commission, and who will fight for measures sought by local officials without requiring those office holders to prostrate themselves for support.

When the General Assembly last created legislative maps, it saw fit to divide Pitt County between the Third and Fifth Senate districts, despite the protestations of this community. Lawmakers can rectify that folly by consolidating voters under one district, providing more direct representation for one of the state's largest and fastest growing counties.
Former ball players switch to javelin
By Ronnie Woodward

When East Carolina track and field throws coach David Price notices one of his unique javelin throwers is frustrated, he busts out his best confidence-building tool — a video of javelin legend and world-record holder Jan Zelezny awkwardly pitching a baseball in 1996 while he was in Atlanta for the Summer Olympics.

Price uses the video to show ECU's Matthew McConaughey, Spencer Barrick and Niki Tozzi that they are good at something that Zelezny isn't, as all three have used their prior experience in baseball or softball as a building block for successful collegiate careers throwing the javelin.

The process hasn't been easy — Barrick admitted that he held the javelin backwards the first time he picked it up — but all three finished third or better at the Conference USA championships last season after coming to college without prior experience in the sport.

Barrick was handpicked by Price after walk-on baseball tryouts, and the same happened with Tozzi after softball tryouts. McConaughey was convinced by Barrick and Price to join the track team after a successful high school career as a pitcher in Myersville, Md.

Price said the common denominator with all three is arm speed.

“'I figured there's 28,000 students at East Carolina University and somebody has a fast arm,” said Price, who added that there is more math involved in throwing a baseball or softball than a javelin. “The nice thing about javelin is there's no real target you have to hit. It's just about picking something up and throwing it as far as you can.”

Barrick, a senior, is the prototypical athlete Price was seeking. He was a strong-armed outfielder in high school who didn't have the best accuracy.
A couple of days after trying out for the Pirate baseball team as a freshman, Barrick got a phone call, and the coach on the other end of the line surprised him.

“I thought I had made the baseball team but the guy said he was coach Price and he wanted me to throw the javelin,” Barrick said. “It threw me off a little bit but javelin has kind of become my new baseball.”

The outdoor track season begins March 12 and all three will be looking to build on last year's success. McConaughey won the C-USA championship last year as a freshman, and Barrick finished second. Tozzi finished third on the women's side and recorded four first-place finishes in 2010.

McConaughey earned a spot in the NCAA championships, which is something he didn't think was possible after a standout prep career in baseball and football, but no experience throwing a javelin.

“It's been crazy,” he said. “I had no idea what I was doing (at first) and it was probably one of the most awkward things I've ever done.”

ECU's javelin throwers devote much of their fall and winter to practice, while most of their track teammates participate in the indoor season. They spend plenty of days working on technique on a field — ironically — not too far from the school's baseball and softball complexes.

“There's a lot repetitive practice on technique out here,” said Tozzi, a junior who played shortstop in high school. “We practice year-round for about two and a half months of competition.”

Price can relate to the inexperienced javelin throwers, as he described himself as a self-taught javelin thrower who has a background in baseball, football and track.

East Carolina track and field coach Curt Kraft called Price one of the best throws coaches in the country, partly because of his ability to think outside of the box, of which Tozzi, Barrick and McConaughey are prime examples.

“This did not happen by mistake,” Kraft said. “When coach Price saw Matt, Niki and Spencer, he recognized immediately that they have the ability to throw something far. ... He knew there was a correlation and he had a plan in his head of where he was going with it.”

Contact Ronnie Woodward at rwoodward@reflector.com or (252) 329-9592.
A benefit to grad students

BY AMANDA GENGLER
CARY–As a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison 10 years ago, every month a few dollars of my stipend went to pay dues to the TAA; a unique union that represents and protects graduate employees working in the UW-System. In return, I worked under a contract that ensured full health care benefits and basic dental care (with no out-of-pocket premiums), and tuition remission (without which my education would not have been possible) as well as other fair labor protections.

At the time, I took these rights for granted. I have consistently struggled to pay high health insurance premiums for far less coverage in other positions in other states since.

Difficult economic times have already meant the erosion of some of these rights for Wisconsin's graduate employees. The TAA negotiates a new contract every two years, and has made concessions in pay and health care premiums in an attempt to work with the state government while struggling to maintain basic levels of care and fair compensation for graduate student workers.

Gov. Scott Walker's proposal would end the TAA's collective bargaining rights rendering it unable to fight for any of these protections, all of which could be immediately revoked.

Undergraduate students are just as outraged as graduate students, recognizing that this is a direct threat to their education by damaging the university's ability to recruit and support the graduate students who teach so many of their classes. Under the rallying cry "Hands off our Teachers," undergraduates have taken to the streets in recent days alongside their graduate student instructors.

Wisconsin's 3,000 graduate student workers are but one of the many constituencies that will be directly harmed by the state government's attack
on unions and workers' rights. As Wisconsin's unions offer up economic concessions in terms of pay and premiums, only to be completely rebuffed by state lawmakers, it is clear that this issue is not about the budget: it is about ending workers' collective bargaining rights.

Those of us who have been fortunate enough to have those rights know what they are worth, and the thousands who continue to flood Madison's streets make it clear that the right to fight is one thing they will not concede.

*Amanda Gengler earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2003. She lives in Cary and is completing a Ph.D. in sociology at Brandeis University.*
A University of Virginia student has a bright idea: 'Flash seminars'

By Daniel de Vise
Washington Post Staff Writer
Sunday, February 20, 2011; 10:43 PM

CHARLOTTESVILLE - Flash mobs assemble in public spaces to dance, protest or do battle with lightsabers.

And at the University of Virginia, thanks to Laura Nelson, they gather to learn.

Once or twice a week, students at the state's flagship public university collect in some idle classroom or lounge for a "flash seminar," an ad hoc performance of pedagogy.

The time and place, professor and students are always different. But the goal never varies: "to find learning outside the classroom," said Nelson, 22, a senior from Westwood, Mass., who is majoring in political and social thought. "To find other people who really value being a student."

With flash seminars, Nelson has found a solution to a hot-button issue in higher education: the dwindling time American students spend engaged in actual learning outside class. Research shows a steady decline in weekly
study time, from about 25 hours in the early 1960s to 15 hours today. One influential study is provocatively titled "Leisure College, USA."

Nelson's idea - new to higher education, as far as university officials can tell - helped her win one of the nation's 32 Rhodes Scholarships last year. "What I love about it is, it's purely for the love of learning," said Teresa Sullivan, university president.

Nelson turned down Yale to come to Charlottesville as an Echols scholar, part of an honors program that freed her to study pretty much what she wished. Before long, though, she and some like-minded friends grew frustrated with how little time their classmates spent pursuing the life of the mind when not in the lecture hall.

"I found it difficult to find an intellectual community here," Nelson said. U-Va. is one of the nation's top public universities, a campus of overbooked overachievers, well-rounded students pulling down good grades even as they juggle busy schedules filled with athletics and nonacademic extracurricular activities. It's a routine of resume-building shaped by the elite high schools that provide many of the university's incoming students each year.

"Participating in extracurriculars is an important part of U-Va., but sometimes it's a distraction," said Lily Bowles, a junior from Northwest Washington who helped Nelson launch the seminars.

Nelson was a product of the same culture. She played varsity field hockey in her first year at U-Va. and took leadership positions in various student organizations. But she came to view those activities as a digression. She quit field hockey because it required too much time and started searching for ways to tap the university's rich intellectual capital.

In fall 2009, she launched a weekly e-mail called Engage UVA. It was a simple list of scholarly events on campus, sent every Monday to a group of about 20 friends. A classmate, senior Anna Duning, built it into a newsletter with a subscriber base of 1,500.

Nelson doesn't take sole credit for the idea of flash seminars, which she says evolved "collectively"out of conversations among friends. She seized on it, though, and mapped it out in a series of online documents last summer: Nelson and her friends would seek out their favorite professors. Faculty
would choose topics, assign any readings and set enrollment limits. Students would find teaching space.

She thought about approaching university leaders for approval, but she couldn't think of anything in her plan that required approval.

"It's so simple, and I think that's what caught people off guard at first," she said.

On Sept. 13, U-Va. anthropologist Richard Handler taught the first flash seminar, "Liberal Arts in the Era of Late Capitalism," to an audience of 16 gathered inside Pavilion VI, part of the Academical Village designed by Thomas Jefferson. To populate the seminar with students, Nelson simply placed the event in the weekly e-mail blast.

Dozens of seminars have followed, typically with a few days' notice. They always fill up and often have a sizable waiting list, creating the sort of buzz that might affix to a trendy new restaurant.

Participants say the freewheeling format has spawned some inspired topics, from "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" to "The Death Penalty and Victor Hugo" and "To Be Modern and Completely Dependent on Money."

Seminars have touched on matters as sensitive as the homicide last year of U-Va. senior Yeardley Love and the school's involvement in slavery during the 1800s. Sullivan, a sociologist, will lead a seminar this spring on "Living the Good Life."

Historian William Hitchcock led a Veterans Day seminar called "Soldiers and the American Imagination" and found it "one of the highlights of my fall semester." Students, drawn not by a quest for credits or grades but from pure curiosity, arrived with "a sort of open mind and an enthusiasm that teachers just love," he said.

One evening last week, students gathered for a seminar, "How Do Americans Understand the Civil War," led by historian Gary Gallagher. The setting was casual - a circle of couches and easy chairs in a lounge on the ground floor of an academic building, with 15 students and two plates of cookies.
Nelson started the session by asking students to tell "what caught your eye about the seminar." One student said she liked "to get my liberal arts in when I can." Another said her adviser had cited Gallagher as "a must-hear lecture." A third remarked, enigmatically, "It's personal in my family."

Gallagher held the group in thrall with a primer on common misperceptions about the war, such as the notion that Southerners and Northerners held dramatically different views on racial matters.

"By our standards, all Americans were racists in the middle of the 19th century," he said. "It's an American problem, not a Southern problem."

He implored students to seek out the memoirs of Ulysses Grant and the major speeches of Abraham Lincoln. "And if you can read all of that and still not be interested in the Civil War, then you should move to New Zealand."

© 2011 The Washington Post Company
Randolph-Macon offers 'degree guarantee'

By Daniel de Vise

Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va., today announced a Four-Year Degree Guarantee: Students who follow a few institutional policies are promised a degree in four years, or else the college will waive tuition until the student has finished.

With the guarantee, the liberal arts school effectively puts its money behind its reputation for producing timely college degrees. Already, 95 percent of Randolph-Macon graduates complete their degrees in four years.

The pledge speaks to a broader effort among private colleges to emphasize value, especially at a time when many parents are balking at college costs. Tuition, fees and living expenses at Randolph-Macon total about $40,000, which puts them nowhere near the top of the list in college sticker price, although it's significantly higher than comparable in-state prices at the University of Virginia or College of William and Mary.

The guarantee will apply to any full-time student who follows the rules, as stated in the Randolph-Macon catalogue at the time of their enrollment.

They include meeting all academic requirements on course load, GPA and declaring a major, meeting regularly with one's adviser, registering for courses on time, paying tuition on time and staying out of disciplinary trouble.

"The very nature of a Randolph-Macon College education allows us to make this four-year commitment with confidence," said Robert Lindgren, the president, in a statement. "This program underscores the value and benefits of the liberal arts education we provide."

The guarantee is somewhat reminiscent of a pledge by Albion College, a liberal arts school in hard-hit Michigan, that every graduate will be gainfully employed.