THE DAILY CLIPS

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East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481
ECU student robbed on campus

Thursday, February 25, 2010

An ECU student told campus police he was assaulted a robbed early Wednesday morning near Mendenhall Student Center, according to an university safety alert.

The student, who was not identified, told police the incident occurred about 2 a.m. near the north side of Mendenhall. He said a black male, about 30 years old, approximately 6 feet 5 inches tall and weighing approximately 250 pounds attacked him and stole several personal items.

The man was reported to be wearing baggy style jeans, a white shirt, black Timberland boots, and having shoulder length dreadlocks, according to the alert, which was posted about 5 p.m. Wednesday. The victim further reported that three to four other people were with the attacker.

Anyone with additional information is asked to contact the ECU Police Department at 328-6787. Information can also be provided through the ECU Police Web site at www.ecu.edu/police.

The alert reminded students, staff and faculty to avoid walking alone at night and to avoid areas with poor lighting. It said be mindful of surroundings at all times and report suspicious persons or activity as soon as possible.
ECU trustees to discuss housing
By JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector
Wednesday, February 24, 2010
East Carolina University officials will address the problem of campus housing shortages when the ECU Board of Trustees holds committee meetings today. The board will meet in committees at the East Carolina Heart Institute this morning.
As enrollment continues to grow, ECU faces the problem of losing its Carnegie designation as a residential campus. The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education provides a framework for classifying or grouping colleges and universities. Officials have been exploring ways to increase housing capacity on campus during one of the tightest budget periods in state history.
The board also is investigating potential public-private partnerships to build more residence halls.
The facilities and resources committee of the board will discuss a comprehensive facilities master plan that will address the need to house 25 percent of the student population to maintain the residential university designation. According to agenda items, ECU staff recommends 5,600 beds to support continued growth and more amenities in residence halls that college students have come to expect.
A market analysis included in the agenda indicates that students want more living and storage space and privacy.
The board will continue discussions from previous meetings on possible residential hall plans.
In other committee meetings, the audit committee will be visited by State Auditor Beth Wood, and the health sciences committee will hear an update on the dental school and discuss a cancer program partnership with Pitt County Memorial Hospital.
Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
The ECU/Loessin Playhouse will present “Play It Again, Sam” by Woody Allen at 8 p.m. today through Tuesday, except Sunday when the show will be at 2 p.m. Tickets are $8-$12. Call 328-6829 or visit www.ecuarts.com.

The history of Somerset Plantation, a North Carolina State Historic Site, will be the focus of a lecture today by the former director at the antebellum slave plantation near Creswell.

Dorothy Spruill Redford, author, historian and former executive director of Somerset Place, will lead a presentation titled “Somerset Plantation: A Case Study of Why We Should Study History,” at 6:30 p.m. in Room 207 of the Science and Technology Building at ECU. The lecture is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences African and African-American Studies Program and the ECU Ledonia Wright Cultural Center.

Redford has managed Somerset Place and overseen the reconstruction of the plantation’s former slave community since 1988. Over the years, she has lectured extensively on topics including African-American genealogy, antebellum history and slavery’s legacy. From 1993 to 1996, and she served as a visiting lecturer at Elizabeth City State University teaching oral history methods. She has written “Somerset Homecoming: Recovering a Lost Heritage” and “Generations of Somerset Place: From Slavery to Freedom.”
UNC-CH to dedicate Eve Carson memorial garden

CHAPEL HILL -- UNC-Chapel Hill will dedicate the Eve Marie Carson Garden at 4 p.m. March 4.

Named for UNC-CH’s slain student body president, the garden is on Polk Place, off Cameron Avenue behind the Campus YMCA.

A tribute to Carson, the garden also is intended as a place of honor for all students who die before they graduate, according to a university news release.

Two men are charged with killing Carson, whose body was found in March 2008 in a neighborhood near campus. Investigators say she was shot several times by Laurence Lovette before Demario Atwater fired a shotgun blast to her head.

Within a few months of Carson’s death, a group of students and staff members began to design both a scholarship program in Carson’s name and a permanent physical remembrance of her on campus.

Every aspect of the garden was chosen intentionally, said Jill Coleman, university landscape architect. The seating area features a blue stone seat set in a traditional campus Chatham stone wall, and the inscription wall is made of Georgia marble in honor of Carson’s home state.

The wall features a quote from Carson: "Learn from every single being, experience, and moment. What joy it is to search for lessons and goodness and enthusiasm in others."

"One of the nice things about a garden is a sense of nature and order," said Carson’s father, Bob Carson of Athens, Ga. "It’s a great place and, as you’ve envisioned, it will nurture many wonderful friendships, ideas, laughs and thoughtful moments."
UNCP meeting to focus on new doctoral programs

A staff report

PEMBROKE - The University of North Carolina at Pembroke has scheduled an informational meeting Thursday for prospective students interested in two new, joint doctoral programs offered through a partnership with East Carolina University.

The meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. in the curriculum lab of the college's education building. The two doctoral programs in higher education and K-12 administration are scheduled to begin in August, according to a news release. Classes will be held on the Pembroke campus.

Prospective students must have a Level I supervision or administrative license to be admitted to the K-12 program. GRE and MAT scores, leadership experience, references, transcripts, a writing sample and a 3.5 GPA for graduate work are required. Prospective students will be interviewed.

As part of the 60-semester-hour program, students will complete a dissertation and an internship. About 80 people have already expressed an interest in the program, according to the release.

For information, contact David Siegel at (252) 328-2828 or siegeld@ecu.edu.
The Unused Cellphone App: 'Calling'

By JOSEPH DE AVILA

Cambridge, Mass.

Harvard University senior Drew Robb is so attached to his cellphone that he keeps it by his bedside at night and in his front jeans pocket every day. He uses the Apple iPhone to check email, text his friends and play games, pretty much for everything—except phone calls.

Calling "really slows you down," says the 22-year-old physics and math major from Honolulu.

The way Mr. Robb and his friends use their phones offers a glimpse of where consumer technology is heading. Their phones are used non-stop for their social lives and their group project to design a mobile guidebook to Cambridge. The friends also show how quickly change is happening: When Mr. Robb's friend Winston Yan, a 21-year-old physics major from Alexandria, Va., arrived as a freshman in 2006, he had a phone that couldn't send or receive email.

Interest in smart phones has attracted a new universe of students to computer science classes, says David Malan, a computer science lecturer who teaches Computer Science 50, the introductory class at Harvard. Mr. Malan gave his students a number of options they could focus on for their final projects, including writing traditional computer software and Web-based applications. Many chose to make cellphone apps. It has become easier for students to create Web and mobile applications thanks to the proliferation of Application Programming Interfaces, or APIs, which help developers share data and content. And ever since Mark Zuckerberg famously launched Facebook from his Harvard dormitory room, computer science—and dreams of it—have grown here. All this helped rebuild enrollments which had fallen after the dot-com bubble burst. The current semester-long introductory course has 337 students, compared to 283 in 2007 and 132 in 2006.

Mr. Robb and four classmates have been developing an iPhone application called Rover, named because cellphones rove. Most nights, the friends are in a small office near campus where a pyramid of empty Diet Coke cans sits in the corner. They huddle around laptops and desktop computers, often writing code until 7 a.m.

Rover began when seniors Alexander Bick and Winston Yan decided to make a mobile application for a guidebook to Cambridge restaurants and services. Mr. Bick built the initial application for his final project in Computer Science 50.

"The Unofficial Guide to Life at Harvard" had been published by the Harvard Student Agencies for since the 1970s, but students didn't want to carry a book when they wanted to find out where to get Chinese food, Mr. Yan says.

Last year, Mr. Yan and Mr. Bick released their first version of their iPhone application. The free guidebook has
been downloaded about 2,500 times. Users can read about 900 different restaurants, cafes and other businesses in Cambridge and find deals offered by local merchants.

They won a $10,000 prize from an AT&T-sponsored competition and $2,500 from a Harvard competition. The Harvard Student Agencies, a student-run, non-profit that helped sponsor the Harvard competition, continues to provide aid and funding to the Rover group. Last summer, the team added Joy Ding, Cameron Spickett and Mr. Robb to work on improving the application and new projects.

They all had been programming for years. Mr. Spickett, a 22-year-old computer-science major who grew up in Golden, Colo., began creating Web sites in fourth grade. Ms. Ding, 21, a computer-science major from Del Mar, Calif., created her first Web site in seventh grade. It was a blog "with garish colors" where she wrote and posted pictures of herself and her friends, she says. "Over-sharing was the thing to do, even before there was Facebook." Mr. Bick, 21, an engineering sciences major from Short Hills, N.J., made his first Web site in sixth grade so people could order the plants his Boy Scout troop was selling.

Today's twentysomethings "grew up interacting with people in a certain way, by typing things and sharing photos. And that's what they are comfortable with," says Drew Bamford, director of user experience at HTC Corp., a cellphone manufacturer. Mr. Bamford works at HTC's "innovation office" which studies usage of cellphone features and applications that go far beyond voice calling. "One-on-one interaction may not be as relevant for this generation," he says.

The Harvard friends' days begin by reaching for their phones to scan email as soon as they wake up. Mr. Bick spends about half an hour before classes answering emails and scanning headlines on Google News on his Lenovo ThinkPad x200 Tablet PC. During class, he uses the tablet to take notes and to record lectures so he doesn't have to type everything the professor says. That frees him up to check email during class and send instant messages to friends in class, often asking questions about the lecture, or just chatting. In engineering classes, he uses a stylus to draw diagrams directly on his laptop screen.

"I record the audio of the lecture, which feeds my bad habit of checking email," Mr. Bick says. During the afternoons, Mr. Bick and the others spend a lot of time catching up on email, reading blogs and chatting with friends over instant messaging.

Mr. Yan spent about $3,000 on electronics in 2009, including computer monitors, keyboards, a digital camera and a television that he shares with his roommates in his dorm. Still, when they do want to watch TV, they'll catch "30 Rock" or "The Daily Show" on YouTube or Hulu.

"There is an expectation that people have instant access to email," Mr. Yan says. "You expect replies from people pretty quickly."

The friends hardly call each other. "People resist protocols that call for verbal communication," Mr. Robb says. Translation: People don't like using their phones to make calls or listen to voice mails.

Phone calls are usually reserved for friends and family who don't live in the Boston area. Ms. Ding frequently talks with her long-distance boyfriend on the phone or video chats with him using Skype. She also has a few friends who don't text message. One recent Friday night, she and some friends were meeting up to go to a school basketball game. Ms. Ding had to remember to call her friends—and not text them—to set up a time and place to meet up for the game.

The Rover team is currently working on adapting their Harvard guidebook application for other guidebook publishers. In the next several weeks, the team plans to launch applications for Moon travel guides published by Avalon Travel. They are releasing apps for Moon's guide on Cabo San Lucas and Baja California, the Yucatan and Puerto Vallarta.

Write to Joseph De Avila at joseph.deavila@wsj.com