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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 FAX: 252-328-6300
Mandela's grandson to speak to students

The Daily Reflector

The grandson of former South African President Nelson Mandela will speak at East Carolina University today.

Cedza Dlamini, also descended from a king of Swaziland, will speak at 5 p.m. in the Great Rooms at Mendenhall Student Center. The event is free.

Dlamini will address "problems such as HIV/AIDS, poverty, hunger and illiteracy and his vision of creating a unified global world," according to a university announcement. He'll also offer ideas for engaging students.

A speaker and entrepreneur, Dlamini founded the nonprofit Ubuntu Institute for Young Social Entrepreneurs, according to his Web site. He's also a spokesman for a United Nations program dedicated to ending poverty and hunger in Africa.
Police: Radeka had been missing since Saturday

The Daily Reflector

Authorities located the body of a retired East Carolina University professor Tuesday morning after a search of a large area off West Fifth Street at Arlington Boulevard.

The body of Nickolas Radeka, 71, was located at about 11 a.m. after an extensive search of woods, marsh and fields from Fifth Street to the Tar River, according to the Greenville Police Department.

He had been missing since Saturday.

The search began Monday afternoon when construction workers developing a large plot adjacent to Brighton Park Apartments found Radeka's Mazda pickup truck on a dirt road, police said.

Authorities and personnel from several agencies had been searching the area on foot, with dogs and using helicopters and ATVs. His body was found a short distance from the truck.

Police offered no details that indicated a cause of death. More information will be forthcoming once a medical examiner and investigative team complete their work, said Cpl. Kip Gaskins, Greenville Police Department spokesman.

Radeka had no reported health problems or family strife, Gaskins said.

He left home around 8 a.m. Saturday and didn't return. He was reported seen between 2-3 p.m. on Saturday walking on Red Banks Road and at a nearby grocery store.

On Saturday at 2:47 p.m., police responded to his home at 1036 W. Rock Spring Road in reference to a report of a missing person. Barbara Radeka told officers her husband was missing.

John Swope, interim dean for the College of Education at ECU, remembered Radeka as a highly respected faculty member in the college. Radeka began teaching there in September 1973 and retired in 1998, Swope said.

"Students were the reason Dr. Radeka came to work every day. He worked hard to make sure they were prepared to be quality educators," Swope said.

He described Radeka as a man with a good sense of humor who was always there for ECU's education students.

"He was the kind of person every university needs," Swope said.

The police offered no time frame for the release of further details on Radeka's death.
NCCU plan put on pause

A master design for the university will get more airing before trustees vote on it.

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

DURHAM — N.C. Central University’s Board of Trustees will not vote today on a proposed master plan that has rolled some community members whose homes are in the cross hairs.

Chancellor Charlie Nelms had hoped to bring the plan to trustees today for a vote, but he recently decided to continue forums and meetings with concerned community groups. The plan calls for the demolition of 19 buildings, the creation of more than two dozen new ones and the purchase of at least 136 homes and other properties in neighborhoods abutting campus.

"I want to make sure that people are clear about what we are trying to achieve," Nelms said Tuesday. "They may still not agree with us, but they will be informed."

Nelms has held four forums with students, faculty and community members, and he plans additional meetings. But he doesn’t expect community feedback to lead to substantial changes to the plan, he said Tuesday.

That doesn’t surprise Carolyn Green Boone, a neighborhood activist and great-granddaughter of James Shepard, NCCU’s founder. Boone has been a vocal critic of the master planning process and is still wary of the university’s intentions.

"Right now what they’re doing is damage control," she said Tuesday. "I think they’re having the meetings to placate the community. Nonetheless, it is hopeful that they are willing to meet. I think it is a good sign that they put it off. The vote was being pushed, and the community and alumni had not been given adequate time for for review."

For many, the master plan — devised by Lord, Aeck, Sargent Architecture — is a lot to digest. While the university has distributed summary copies at public forums, the whole document is a cumbersome 103 pages. Many residents in the neighborhoods around NCCU are elderly and have said they don’t have computer access.

Nelms said Tuesday the university is printing more copies to distribute at future meetings.

The master plan is proposed in stages and would break the campus into nine precincts. In the first phase, which the plan would see finished by 2010, the university would buy 36 properties north of campus between Lawson and Dupree streets. By phase 3, NCCU would have bought 136 properties.

The first phase is driven by several immediate campus needs — a new nursing building, a parking deck near Latham Hall, and a new residence hall. Headed the need for speed, Nelms explained to trustees Tuesday why he has moved away from the decision-by-committee format that had been used earlier. Too many committee members, he said, were giving the architecture firm too much conflicting information. Nelms said, acknowledging that he’s taking a public relations hit by essentially saying the university no longer needs the committee’s input.

"It is not a politically expedient process," he said. "It is one driven by the needs of the institution."

Nelms, who came to NCCU from Indiana University last summer and has been criticized by some as having a tin ear for local history, seems to have the backing of trustees.

"There are going to be those who disagree," said Ed Stewart, a trustee from Durham. "But I think there is a large voice in the community who you haven’t heard, who support you."
State short on lawyers, report says

BY JANE STANCILL
STAFF WRITER

North Carolina needs more lawyers, according to a report released Tuesday by the Pope Center for Higher Education Policy.

The report says North Carolina has fewer private-sector lawyers per capita than any other state (758 people for each lawyer).

The report said state restrictions keep new lawyers from coming here. The state allows only graduates of American Bar Association-approved law schools to take the state bar exam. Also, lawyers from other states must have been licensed for four of the past six years in order to "waive" in to the North Carolina bar.

The report, which compares key factors such as tuition, bar passage rate, debt after graduation and starting salaries, found N.C. Central University's law school the only truly low-cost option for legal education in North Carolina.

The state has seven law schools. Two, Elon University and Charlotte School of Law, opened in 2006.

The report, available online at www.popecenter.org, also found:

- Forty-six percent of UNC-Chapel Hill law graduates leave the state for their first job.
- The median starting salary for a Duke law graduate is $110,000; for UNC-Ch graduates, it's $100,000; for Wake Forest grads, it's $70,000.
- N.C. Central law graduates have a low debt load of $17,215, compared with $90,929 for Campbell law grads.

The Raleigh-based Pope Center is a higher education watchdog group that promotes accountability and diversity of ideas on campus.

The legal education report was written by Andrew Morriss, law professor at the University of Illinois, and William Henderson, law professor at Indiana University.
School gives 4 zeros on test

Cheating also draws suspensions

BY CHERYL JOHNSTON SADGROVE
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL - Four students caught cheating on a social studies midterm exam received a zero on the test and were suspended, a punishment that typically lasts one to five days, a Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools spokeswoman said Tuesday.

The students used a master key to enter the school after hours and steal answers to the test, but the school and district have not pursued criminal charges, spokeswoman Stephanie Knott said.

When asked why, Knott said school officials have focused on the students’ breach of academic integrity and not on pursuing trespassing or breaking and entering charges. The possibility of criminal charges remains, she said.

Knott held a news conference Tuesday afternoon, facing questions about the discovery that some students had a master key to the school and claimed that other students had used it to cheat in years past. Superintendent Neil Pedersen did not attend the news conference or return a phone call Tuesday.

Principal Jackie Ellis, who is leading the investigation, also did not attend the news conference or return a phone call and an e-mail message Tuesday.

Ellis sent e-mail messages to parents Thursday night sharing that the school had discovered that some students were passing

the master key from year to year. She also wrote that a larger group of students knew about the key and kept silent.

At the news conference, Knott said only four students had been disciplined. She couldn’t say why students and a teacher at the school said they thought as many as 20 to 30 students were involved.

Knott said she wasn’t aware of the school trying to contact former students about the accusations of cheating in prior years.

“If students have graduated at this point, there’s little probably that can be done about it,” she said.

The school can’t prove what students are saying had happened in the past, Knott said. Security cameras, which implicated

the four students, were only recently installed, she said. And her own five-year review of grades at the school did not show any spike in test scores.

College implications

Other students and faculty have identified the disciplined students as seniors taking an advanced placement government course. Knott wouldn’t corroborate that.

She said that if they were seniors, she didn’t think school officials had discussed contacting the universities that may already have accepted them.

UNC-Chapel Hill obligates incoming freshmen to notify the admissions office of any disciplinary action taken after they’ve submitted their college applications.

“Your failure to do so will be grounds to deny or withdraw your admission, or to dismiss

you after enrollment,” the policy says.

Both the student and the school are required to provide a statement to the admissions office when a student is suspended, Stephen Farmer, vice provost and director of undergraduate admissions, wrote in an e-mail message.

Knott offered few details at the news conference. She couldn’t say how many years students had the master key, whether all four students disciplined broke into the school or even when the incident occurred.

She said that the school is now discussing the possibility of setting up an honor court.

A year ago, Jane Hannon, then a senior at Chapel Hill High School, wrote an article for the monthly school newspaper headlined “Cheating Plagues Chapel Hill High.”

She wrote that cheating had become commonplace in her classes and that students were getting away with it.

“Somewhere along the line, between parents and teachers, administration and fellow students, ethics have collectively fallen through the cracks,” Hannon wrote.

After her article ran across the top of the front page, Hannon said no teacher or administrator asked her about the cheating problem she was describing.

“I feel that it was seen and it was just neglected,” she said.

cheryl.sadgrove@nowobserver.com or (919) 932-2005

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Mock gunman terrifies students

Elizabeth City State drill sours

BY JERRY ALLEGOOD STAFF WRITER

An armed man who burst into a classroom at Elizabeth City State University was role-playing in an emergency response drill, but neither the students nor assistant professor Jingbin Wang knew that.

"I was prepared to die at that moment," Wang said Tuesday.

The drill took place on campus in which a mock gunman threatened panicked students in the American foreign policy class with death, prompted university officials to apologize this week to Wang and other students who had been kicked out of school and that he needed a lung transplant.

At one point, Wang said, the man threatened to kill the student who had the lowest grade. Wang offered to let him sit in his class, he said, but the man rejected attempts at negotiation.

Wang said some students thought the gun was fake, but they were not sure. "I was the guy who was feeling the gun on my back," he said.

After about 10 minutes, the class heard people talking outside the door, and campus police rushed in and subdued the man.

"Even after this was over, nobody explained it," Wang said.

He said colleagues told him that students in another classroom blocked a door with a table and chair — just as students did in Norris Hall at Virginia Tech in April, when 32 students were killed by student gunman Seung-Hui Cho.

During ECSU’s drill, some students sent text messages to their parents, Wang said. Another staff told Wang that students said they were prepared to jump out of a window.

The Virginia Tech shooting has led universities across the United States to re-evaluate safety and implement new procedures for identifying troubled students and notifying people in the event of an emergency. Many campuses have conducted safety drills.

In January, UNC-Greensboro held an active shooter exercise that was attended by law enforcement and university officials from around the state. But that drill was planned for winter break, when students were not on campus.

"Factor in the safety"

Will Morehead of EnviroSafe Inc., a private company in Mebane that specializes in planning and evaluating emergency response, said he could not speak in detail about the ECSU drill without knowing details of how it was carried out. But he said there should be safeguards in place to protect participants.

"The realism needs to be there, but you need to factor in the safety," he said.

John Pierce of Bristol, Va., a spokesman for a pro-gun Internet group called OpenCarry.org, said the university’s drill was poorly planned and dangerous. He said people in the class could have been killed or injured trying to escape or could have harmed the role player.

He called for the state to make it legal for individuals to carry firearms for self-defense. He said North Carolina is one of 16 states that make it a crime for people to carry firearms on campuses.

University Chancellor Willie J. Gilchrist said in a prepared statement that the drill was a learning experience. He said the university needed to increase the usual scope of scenarios, which generally involve hurricanes, tropical storms and evacuations.

"Unfortunately, we learned lessons from frightened students that result when live scenarios are carried out," he said in a news release. "However, we want our campus to be ready in case of such an event."

Jerry.allegood@newsobserver.com or (252) 752-8401