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Scholars gather in London to discuss Sir Walter Raleigh’s explorations

ECU News Services

Sir Walter Raleigh was the subject of a two-day conference in London in January, which an East Carolina University faculty member helped organize.

At ECU, the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences is promoting research on the original explorations of the North Carolina coast fostered by Raleigh and undertaken by the college's namesake Thomas Harriot.

In pursuit of that goal and following informal discussions between scholars at St. John's College at the University of Cambridge in December 2007 and Thomas Harriot College in April 2008, professors Mark Nicholls of St. John's College and Larry Tise of ECU invited Raleigh scholars from five nations to meet at the Tower of London in January to discuss the status of research on Raleigh and his world.

The Raleigh Research Circle, which includes 24 leading scholars of the period, gathered for a discussion Jan. 9-10 in Tower Hill at the Tower of London, where Raleigh spent the last 15 years of his life as a prisoner convicted of treason, and where he wrote the first volume of "Historie of the World" (1614).

"We were very fortunate that all of the Raleigh scholars we contacted — whether in the U.S., Canada, Britain, Germany or France — were eager to participate in this new endeavor," said Tise, co-organizer of the conference. "This was probably the largest gathering of Raleigh aficionados (in this case, scholars actively researching portions of Sir Walter Raleigh's life and career) since the day he was beheaded in the Old Palace Yard at Westminster in London on Oct. 29, 1618."

Topics of discussion during the conference included sessions on Raleigh's life, beliefs, explorations and writings. A consensus emerged that critical analysis of Raleigh's writings and works is needed. Not since 1829 have Raleigh's works been published as a whole.

With the 400th anniversary of the publication of "Historie of the World" approaching in 2014, the Raleigh Research Circle agreed to collaborate and bring together Raleigh's most important works, digitized, analyzed and critiqued.

Frank Romer, chairman of the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Linguistics at ECU, will serve as general editor of the "Historie of the World" project. Nicholls and Tise will serve as editorial directors. Along with contributions from other members of the group, Romer also will work in close collaboration with Robert Anthony, curator of the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

For more information about the conference or the "Historie of the World" project, contact Tise at tisel@ecu.edu.

Holocaust Awareness Day planned Tuesday

ECU will mark Holocaust Awareness Day on Tuesday with a series of programs to commemorate those who perished during the Holocaust as well as honor those whose faith and courage triumphed over unspeakable horrors.

The activities will begin at dawn with "Unto Every Person is a Name," a public recitation of the names of victims and the death camps at which they were murdered. The international project, in its 18th year, will be conducted at ECU for its fifth consecutive year. Jessica Gagne Cloutier, service-learning coordinator, introduced the project at ECU in 2004 and serves as its coordinator.

Name readings will take place in increments of 1 minute from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the steps in front of Joyner Library. From 3:30-5:30 p.m. the name readings will cease as volunteers prepare and place 1,000 luminaries around the entire campus mall. The luminaries will be lit at 7 p.m. and the reading of names will resume and will continue to 10 p.m. Each luminary is meant to honor a man, woman or child who died during the Holocaust.

At 8 p.m. in Hendrix Theatre, Holocaust survivor Nesse Godin will discuss the Holocaust on a personal level. She has said, "I was a prisoner from the age of 13 to 17. I lived through a ghetto, concentration camp, four labor camps, and a death march. I was not strong, I was not bright, I was a little girl."
Following Godin's presentation, attendees are invited to proceed to the ECU mall to participate in the Reading of the Names and lighting of the luminaries.

Providing an historical, political and personal view of the Holocaust, the touring exhibition, "One Soul: A Project of the Afikim Foundation," will be on display in the Gallery of the Multipurpose Room in Mendenhall Student Center Monday through March 8. Using a mix of archival photographs, film footage, personal audio testimonies, and interactives, the exhibition explores the events that led to the creation of the concentration camps as well as their liberation.

The campus events are sponsored by the Office of Co-Curricular Programs and Cultural Outreach; Campus Recreation and Wellness; Volunteer and Service-Learning Center; Ethnic Studies; ECU Hillel; and the Student Activities Board. All activities are free and open to the public.

Volunteers from the university and community are welcome to participate in the readings, luminary preparation, and lighting, and may contact Cloutier at gagnej@ecu.edu or 328-1554 or Carol Ogus Woodruff at woodruffe@ecu.edu or 328-6050.

Chemistry department receives $10,000 gift

The Department of Chemistry has surpassed 50,000 in donations this year in support of student labs. On Feb. 15, two representatives from Purdue Pharmaceuticals L.P. in West Lafayette, Indiana, presented the department a $10,000 donation.

The funds, delivered by associate director of human resources Josh Thompson and human resources manager Angie Kearney, will be used to fully outfit two undergraduate teaching laboratories with new burettes and stands. This equipment is used to precisely measure and dispense liquids for laboratory experiments.

"We are pleased to support the university's efforts to train the region's next generation of scientists," said David Lundie, Purdue's vice president of manufacturing and supply chain. "The study of chemistry is the foundation upon which young people can build rewarding careers in health care, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and many other areas."

Purdue Pharmaceuticals L.P. operates a 240,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art pharmaceutical manufacturing and packaging plant in West Lafayette, Indiana. The company has two state-of-the-art laboratories and is a leader in the research and development of new therapeutic agents.

"We truly appreciate Purdue's generous support for the university's chemistry program," said Dr. Keith Holmes of the ECU Department of Chemistry. "This support will help us meet our goal to achieve and maintain excellence in the undergraduate education of the region's future workforce."

Upcoming ECU events:

- Today — ECU Symphony Orchestra with Jorge Richter conducting. Ticket: 3 p.m., Wright Auditorium. Guest soloist will be Tom McCaslin, tuba; Works will include "Folksongs of the Vikings for Tuba and String Orchestra" by David Dahlgren; the world premiere of "Exorcisms" by marc faris; and "Two Poems" by Chen Yao. Free. For more information, call 328-6851.
- Wednesday — The annual Ceramics Guild Chili Bowl Sale, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., the lobby of the Jenkins Fine Arts Center. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to community food banks.
- Wednesday through Friday — ECU Opera Theatre will present "Madama Butterfly," sung in Italian, Wednesday through Friday, 7 p.m., additional 2 p.m. performance Friday, A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall, ECU School of Music. For tickets, call 328-4788 or for more information, www.ecu.edu/music.

See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
ECU trustees OK plan to prepare for growth

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Friday, February 27, 2009

The East Carolina University board of trustees approved a plan that will guide the university as enrollment grows during the next decade.

The board approved the strategic enrollment management task force document at its meeting Friday at the East Carolina Heart Institute.

The document addresses issues across the university from the Brody School of Medicine to the English department in an effort to prepare for growth of more than 10,000 students during the next 10 years.

The document was drafted and vetted during the course of the last year. It sets forth a plan to keep the university's future in line with master plans like ECU Tomorrow and UNC Tomorrow.

The board also named Phyllis Horns as vice chancellor for health sciences. Horns has served as interim vice chancellor since 2006.

The board also approved the purchase of three small properties along the edge of campus on 10th Street and one on Ninth Street.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9565.
New policies discussed in wake of frat fire

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector

Friday, February 27, 2009

Fire safety policies and procedures within the Greek system at East Carolina University are about to change in the wake of a near-tragic January fire.

The state has expanded its regulations, and compliance is mandatory, Greenville Fire-Rescue officials told a packed room of fraternity and sorority leaders at a Thursday meeting at fire-rescue headquarters.

Beginning June 30, every fraternity and sorority will be required to submit a written and signed fire life safety plan and emergency evacuation plan, said Doug Branch, life safety battalion chief, and Gary Coggins, the city fire marshal.

Each house already was required to have an annual fire safety inspection performed by city fire officials and conduct an annual fire drill. Now, effective July 1, four fire drills will be required each year, Branch told the audience.

A procedural time line for step-by-step compliance was agreed on between fire officials and the membership of the newly formed ECU Inter-Fraternity Greek Alumni Alliance, which held its second meeting an hour earlier.

In accordance with that plan, Greek organizations will have their annual inspection in March, will submit written fire safety and evacuation plans by June 30 and be ready to begin fire drills and inspections by July 1. The consensus, however, was to have two fire drills at each house during the fall and spring semesters to assure the greatest number of student participants.

Fraternities and sororities may conduct as many drills as they wish beyond the required four. Fire-Rescue officials must be present at each house’s first drill, but will be available for additional consultation and courtesy visits upon request, Branch said.

“We’re not here to make things hard for anybody. Our common goal is to make (the buildings) safe and to get students out of a (burning) house as quickly and safely as possible. It’s about getting kids home for Thanksgiving and Christmas," Branch said.

An important goal of the new code enforcement system is student participation and leadership accountability for maintaining safe conditions, Branch said.

“My biggest fear about fraternities and sororities was that we didn’t know how the buildings were laid out and where the students would be in a fire," he said.

The new safety and evacuation plans, combined with the inspections and fire drills, will provide the information that residents need to make fraternities and sororities safer and to save lives in case of fire, Branch said.

“There are ways to make a home safer without the expense of a sprinkler system. But we’d love to see you have one of those, too,” he said.

Kappa Sigma, at 700 10th St., is one of three fraternities to have sprinkler systems installed, moving it ahead of the university’s compliance standard which requires them by 2012. The house opened the valves of its new system Friday.

It was planned and installed before the Jan. 30 fire that destroyed the Back House of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity on Summit Street. Nine fraternity members and four visitors jumped out of windows and off the roof...
moments before flames gutted the building.

“(The plan) is something we needed to do on our own, but now we have a reason to go ahead and do it. Anything we can do to improve the safety of these houses is important,” said Leonard Reeves, alumni sponsor at Kappa Sigma, who said that some of the older houses would not meet today’s building codes.

Sophomore fraternity member Drew Sullivan was opposed, at first to the construction of the system while he was living in the house, but adjusted well and glad it is installed.

“The Sig Ep fire made the entire Greek community realize how vulnerable every house was. This house could go up like that,” he said, snapping his fingers.

“Since that happened fire is a big issue, and we can live with a safety routine. Yeah, fraternity guys do some stupid stuff, but we do some smart stuff, too,” Sullivan said.

Nick Francis, alumni sponsor for the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity, will act as liaison between the inter-fraternity council and fire officials. He was pleased with the sense of passion for safety he saw in the fire-rescue staff, but wondered how they would be able to instill that into his younger charges.

“They were sort of preaching to the choir tonight. We’re adults and understand these responsibilities. Young men don’t want to be managed by other people. They need to know what’s in it for them. But that’s what we do. We build leaders. It’s a good start for this, though,” Francis said.

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ECU's CyberKnife gives patients another weapon

By Tom Marine
The Daily Reflector

Friday, February 27, 2009

Cancer patients living in eastern North Carolina have a new tool to fight their illness.

The Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center at East Carolina University began operating the CyberKnife earlier this month, a dual robotic system that shoots high levels of radiation with ultra degrees of precision. The device, which takes up an entire room at the cancer center, has the ability to deliver its radiation without harming healthy areas surrounding the tumor.

Dr. Ron R. Allison, professor and chairman of radiation oncology at the Brody School of Medicine and interim director of the cancer center, said the CyberKnife's robotic arms allow the medical staff to hit malignant tumors at any angle, providing more ways to treat patients.

"It's virtually unlimited," Allison said. "It holds beautifully for future cancer care in eastern North Carolina."

For its first patients, the state-of-the-art technology is receiving rave reviews.

Arlene Glisson, a 71-year-old Greenville resident who suffers from cervical cancer, became the first patient treated with the CyberKnife on Feb. 11. Her condition required two previous sessions of radiation, including a five-week stretch of 21 treatments and another inpatient stay for radiation implants.

"There is no comparison," Glisson said. "It was so relaxing, and I wasn't afraid at all. I highly recommend this type of treatment to anyone needing radiation."

Allison said the pain relief in these patients has been dramatic, especially considering their painful tumors. The treatment is an outpatient therapy, he said, that does not cause many side effects.

Still, Allison said one of the machine's most important attributes is its location — in Greenville.

The CyberKnife normally requires between one and five visits, compared to the 10 or 40 visits needed for more conventional treatments. As a result, he said, patients living in rural areas are not forced to constantly travel long distances to get the care they need.

"Fiscally, it can be a cost saver," Allison said. "It also provides better treatment for those who may have not gotten treatment at all."

Each year, ECU expects to complete about 500 treatments with the CyberKnife, the fourth one in North Carolina. Purchasing, installing the machine and renovating the space that it occupies cost more than $5 million, according to ECU.

Allison noted the challenges involved with making this CyberKnife a reality, referring to the tremendous amount work through the state's Certificate of Need process, creating a comfortable space for the patients and financing the project in hard economic times. He said the effort demanded the support of both the university and Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

"It was a team approach," he said. "We are really excited. This is the epitome of our work here, creating a technologically advanced practice."

Contact Tom Marine at tmarine@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9567.

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Duke tuition to rise 3.9 percent

From Staff Reports
Comment on this story

DURHAM - The Duke University Board of Trustees raised undergraduate tuition 3.9 percent Saturday.

Tuition for students enrolled in the Trinity College of Arts and Sciences and the Pratt School of Engineering will be $37,485 for 2009-10, up from $36,065 this year.

The total cost to attend Duke this coming school year, including room, board and fees, will be $49,895.

"We recognize the economic situation for many of our families is difficult this year, and we are doing all we can to hold down tuition and other costs," Provost Peter Lange said in a news release. "Tuition and fees cover only a portion of the true cost of the education Duke provides, but we know that many of our families make significant sacrifices to enable their children to have the benefits of that education."

About 45 percent of Duke undergraduates receive financial aid. Duke guarantees to meet 100 percent of demonstrated financial need for all students. Financial aid packages combine grants, loans and work-study opportunities after assessing what parents and students can reasonably contribute.

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Law locks up endowments

With their nest eggs under water, symphonies, universities and other nonprofits can't tap their own funds

MARTHA WAGGONER, The Associated Press

RALEIGH - The N.C. Symphony has all the money it needs. But in this economy, the orchestra isn't allowed to touch it.

The value of its endowment stands at nearly $6.9 million, a fund the symphony planned to tap this year to help pay its musicians and put on concerts. But because of the slump on Wall Street, the endowment is worth less than the original donations that created it. That means, under North Carolina law, that the money is off limits.

It's a frustrating quandary for universities, orchestras and other nonprofit organizations in two dozen states. They have the money they need to save jobs, offer scholarships and put on a solid schedule of programs. But they face state laws that keep them from using any of it.

"I don't imagine the donors anticipated a situation where the market would fall so dramatically that the money would be held hostage and unable to support the symphony at all," said David Chambless Worters, the symphony's chief executive.

Rules governing how nonprofits in North Carolina and 23 other states use their endowments date to the 1970s, when most states adopted a uniform law that prohibits withdrawing money from endowments that fall below their "historic dollar value" -- the money given to create the endowment, plus any later gifts.

The law is designed to protect endowments by preventing institutions from dipping into the principal. An endowment is supposed to be a perpetual source of revenue, with institutions drawing off only the earnings.

The rule affects newer funds most severely, since they have had less time to invest a gift and build the endowment's value.

Neither the National Council of Nonprofits nor the Council on Foundations, both based in Washington, keeps track of how many of its members are struggling with endowments that are now under water.

But "anecdotally, it is a serious problem. And if the current financial downturn continues, the problem will only get worse," said Harvey Dale, director of the National Center on Philanthropy and the Law at New York University.

Finding another way

The North Carolina Symphony started 2008 with an endowment of $9.3 million, well above its historic dollar value of $7.25 million and enough to allow for a planned withdrawal of $600,000. But with the endowment now under water, the orchestra is looking for new ways to
make money to cover than gap, including scheduling four June performances with the visiting Bolshoi Ballet that should bring in $100,000.

Among the hardest hit are colleges and universities. In the University of North Carolina system, where as many as 70 percent of the endowments at one campus are under water, some of the system's 16 schools are going back to donors and asking them for one-time donations to pay for what would normally be covered by the endowment.

The University of Wisconsin system suspended payments this month from 38 under-water endowments, taking away $700,000 that would have gone for scholarships and other programs at campuses across the state. At New York University, about $10 million of $16 million in scholarship endowments is untouchable.

"Our primary mission is to hold our students harmless," said Martin Dorph, NYU's senior vice president for finance and budget. "As a result, we may have to make choices about other things we may have to eliminate or reduce. By implication, the problem then shifts somewhere else."

That's what happened at Brandeis University, which originally planned to close its Rose Art Museum and sell its more than 7,000 works, including pieces by Willem de Kooning and Jasper Johns. After much criticism, the school backed off.

There are ways to get around the law. In creating an endowment, nonprofits can enter into an agreement with the donor that allows for the use of principal in emergencies. They can also ask the donor to change the endowment's terms retroactively, which requires a trip to court if the donor has died.

Dale said that although some donors may have intended for the principal to remain intact, others may be asking "Was it my intent that the students I want to help won't get any help?" Dale said that most donors, if asked, would probably agree to loosen the strings attached to their gifts.

Since early 2007, 26 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws that give nonprofit organizations more flexibility in using money from endowments that are under water. Because of the economic meltdown, 12 other states, including North Carolina, are considering such laws, according to the National Conference of Commissioners of Uniform State Laws.

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UNDER WATER

The recession's stock market plunges have pulled the value of the N.C. Symphony's endowment so far down that it's now worth less than the original donations.

$7.25 MILLION: the endowment's "historic dollar value"

$9.3 MILLION: the endowment's value in early 2008

$6.9 MILLION: its value today
New Students Face Harsh College Cutbacks

Something to consider as you're sitting through college acceptance letters: Schools are aggressively trimming costs right now, and may be very different institutions when classes begin fall this year.

"This is a game-changing set of circumstances for the overwhelming majority of American institutions," says Molly Corbett Broad, president of the American Council on Education.

As they combat plummeting endowment returns, state budget cuts and anticipated drops in charitable donations, schools are trimming staff and travel budgets, halting construction projects and increasing enrollments. These changes could mean students will be stuck in larger classes, studying in outdated buildings and learning from teachers who haven't traveled to conferences in a while.

To know what your child's intended schools are doing to cut back, check the schools' Web sites (the college newspaper's Web sites can be very helpful) and make calls to get budget updates. Some changes will be meaningful, while others may be less so (so long, cafeteria sushi bar). Here are some top areas of concern:

Financial aid. Sixty-nine percent of private colleges plan to increase tuition next year, according to a survey by the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Many will boost aid accordingly, but some, like Middletown College, may ask families to pay more.

Building projects. Many schools are halting construction of new buildings and facilities. Vanderbilt University is delaying new buildings like dorms and medical-center projects. And Stanford University put $1.3 billion of capital projects on hold.

Graduation rates. As schools increase enrollment to raise money, classrooms become more crowded and student-faculty ratios suffer. If your school is increasing its freshman class size or significantly reducing faculty, your child could be locked out of classes needed to fulfill graduation requirements. That could mean a fifth year, and a lot more money out of your pocket.

—Melissa Korn

Bank of Mom and Dad

So you've figured out the right college for your child. Next question: How will he or she spend your money on campus? Many parents are turning to prepaid debit cards, which allow them to control and monitor how much their kids spend.

Discover Financial Services has become the latest card issuer to launch a prepaid card aimed at teens and students. The card, dubbed the Current Card, works like a standard debit card. Parents can deposit funds directly onto the card at no cost from their credit card or bank account or through recurring deposits.

The cards allow parents to track spending online, block transactions at bars and liquor stores and get alerts when certain limits are reached.

A handful of banks offer the Visa Buxx Card, a prepaid debit card introduced in 2000. A recent entrant is Facecard, a prepaid MasterCard backed by MetaBank, which is promoted on Facebook and allows users to swap money between friends online and monitor spending over the Internet and cellphones.

Sure, most teens could open their own checking accounts, or parents could give them a debit card linked to their own checking accounts. But Discover's Mike Boush says the card eliminates the risk of overdraft fees, since teens can't spend more than is loaded into their accounts. "The spend is limited and the control is established by the parent," he says.

Although the cards are aimed at teens, there are no eligibility requirements, so consumers can use the cards for other people, such as elderly parents or baby sitters.

One drawback: Unlike credit cards, debit cards don't help establish a credit history, which may hurt teens once they leave school and need to shop for a loan. But they also prevent teens from running up debt and bruising their credit at an early age.

—Jane J. Kim

'IRS' Phishing Expedition

Many, many people have received emails purporting to be from the Internal Revenue Service. The messages, which have an @irs.gov address, say that agency "records indicate that you are a nonresident alien. As a result, you are exempted from United States of America Tax reporting and withholdings, on interest paid you on your account and other financial dealing to protect your exemption from tax on your account and other financial benefit in rectifying your exemption status."

The letter then asks recipients to fill out various forms with personal and financial information and instructs them to fax to a New York number.

The messages conclude: "Sincerely, Laura Stevens" of "IRS Public Relations."

Most people have quickly recognized this for what it is: A classic example of a "phishing" expedition—an attempt to trick people into revealing sensitive personal information that thieves can use to steal their identity and raid their accounts.

There are many variations of these schemes. If you get an email purporting to be from the IRS, keep a few points in mind:

■ The IRS "does not initiate taxpayer communications" through email. That warning is right on the real IRS Web site.

■ It doesn't request "detailed personal information" via email.

■ And it doesn't send email asking you for your PIN numbers, passwords or "similar access information" for credit cards, banks or other accounts.

Don't reply to emails claiming to be from the IRS or directing you to some IRS site. And don't open attachments. They "may contain malicious code that will infect your computer," the IRS says.

—Tom Herman

Read The Wallet, The Wall Street Journal's personal-finance blog, at www.wsj.com/wallet. Email: wallet@wsj.com
Recent grads turn to volunteerism

BY DAVID COFFEY, McClatchy Newspapers
Comment on this story

As job prospects thin at home, American college seniors and recent graduates are looking overseas for work, even of the unpaid variety.

Organizations that send volunteers abroad are noticing a significant jump in applications for their programs compared with earlier years.

Applications to the Peace Corps are up 16 percent this year, and late last year twice as many Americans applied to CUSO-Voluntary Service Overseas, Canada's largest volunteer-based international development group, compared with the same period in 2007.

Looking abroad is just one way that the young are trying to cope with the worst economic landscape of their lives.

Volunteers also are traveling nationwide. Teach for America saw a 50 percent increase in applications last year for its program, which sends college graduates to teach in under-funded school districts.

A month after President Barack Obama's calls for more service inspired a flood of volunteering at nonprofit organizations across the country, the lack of paid work at home seems to be inspiring a surge in volunteer service abroad.

When job prospects falter, young graduates gravitate toward "doing something meaningful rather than perhaps doing something menial," said Katherine Stahl, the executive director of American University's career center in Washington.

Students who graduate this spring will find themselves "looking at one of the worst job markets in recent memory," said Tony Pals, a spokesman for the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Because new graduates see volunteerism as a boost to job prospects, they reason that the experience offsets lost income and travel expenses incurred abroad.

Stacey Hollis, a Warren Wilson College graduate and Peace Corps applicant, said that Peace Corps service was "a way to have a one-up" over other job seekers, plugging her into a network of past corps members and demonstrating her passion and commitment to larger goals.

It's a discussion starter in job interviews and a way to avoid gaps in resumes, said Susan Ellis, founder of Energize Inc., a Philadelphia-based volunteer association that coordinates overseas and domestic service.

Young volunteers also earn moral capital by devoting significant time to volunteering.

"There's absolutely a halo effect," Ellis said.

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In ACC land, visitors now our enemies

BY SUZY BARILE

CARY - Like every good UNC-Chapel Hill grad, and as my parents -- both alums -- dutifully taught me as a child, I yell, "Go to hell, Duke" at the end of singing the UNC fight song. I lovingly taunt my other-ACC school friends when the Tar Heels beat them and proudly wear Carolina Blue whether we win or lose.

But I also ask, "What's a Rutgers?" -- thinking of a drubbing one time to an ACC team by this seemingly unknown school -- because I always support ACC teams when they play outside the conference.

I do this even if it's Duke or Maryland, which I have disdained equally since a Terrapin med school graduate made a vertical cut, instead of the favored horizontal one, on my Tar Heel abdomen when my daughter was born 27 years ago.

All these likes and dislikes have been foremost on my mind in recent weeks as Ben McCauley fouled and cried "not in my house" to a bench-warming Tar Heel player with a chance to make a slam-dunk at N.C. State, when Duke players sang an unflattering song to Ty Lawson (forgetting and forgiving, I suppose, the antics of J.J. Reddick), when Maryland's fans chanted the name of one of their hard-hitting players while a Blue Devil player lay motionless on the floor, and when Maryland coach Gary Williams called for his students to raise the noise level in Comcast Center last Saturday.

When, I wonder, did the term "visitor" become synonymous with "enemy"?

Remember the days when scoreboards read "Home" and "Visitor," indicating the other team wasn't native to the court or field, but was there with an invitation?

When guests visit in my home, I ask such questions as "Can I get you anything?" "What would you like to drink?" and "Are you comfortable?" and beg them to "Make yourself at home." Perhaps I'm glad when visitors finally leave, because life can resume some sense of normalcy, but never do I taunt and berate and make life miserable for them.

Now, I must also admit that I have done my share of banging on the bleachers on an opponent's third-down attempt, that I once threw ice at the bald spot on Lefty Driesell's head when the Terps were playing N.C. State and that I let out a loud "booooo" when the poor little boy who agreed to pose as a Duke fan comes on the jumbo screen and talks up the benefits of ACC sports scholarships. That child's parents will think twice the next time they sign a commercial contract for him!

While in Washington, D.C., for Barack Obama's inauguration, I was taken aback by the presence of 2 million people crammed into a tight spot and all getting along, even as we waited an hour to exit a Metro station. How can it be that I am not fearful in that crowd of strangers, but I know how I would be treated as a UNC fan wearing Carolina blue at a Duke or Maryland or Georgia Tech or Miami or Boston College or UVa or Virginia Tech or N.C. State or Florida State or Wake Forest or Clemson home game? Been there, done that, as the old
saying goes.

I so badly want to go to a Tar Heel basketball game, and I have season tickets for UNC football. But the more I see and hear how we as home fans treat the visitors, the more I wonder whether my support is encouraging this unseemly behavior. Where does it stop?

Cary resident Suzy Barile is a writer and teaches at Wake Tech Community College.

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