THE DAILY CLIPS

March 7, 2008

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 FAX: 252-328-6300
Student's killing leaves campuses stunned

By Jimmy Ryals
The Daily Reflector

A pair of East Carolina University student leaders fondly recalled a slain colleague Thursday.

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Student Body President Eve Carson was "very down to earth, very dedicated, truly a strong leader on her campus," ECU Student Body President Keri Brockett said.

Chapel Hill police identified Carson on Thursday as the victim in a random shooting and carjacking, The Associated Press reported. Police found Carson's body at an intersection in an upscale neighborhood early Wednesday morning. Police found Carson's vehicle, a blue 2005 Toyota Highlander, after receiving a tip Thursday afternoon. Carson, 22, was a senior.

See ECU, A9

---

ECU
Continued from A1

from Athens, Ga.

"It's just a travesty it happened, and it happened to a very good person, a very good leader," said Brockett, a senior child life major from Fayetteville. Brockett attended a memorial for Carson in Chapel Hill on Thursday night.

Brockett and Ashley Yopp, president of ECU's student congress, knew Carson through their work with the UNC Association of Student Governments. They saw her at the group's monthly meetings, held on UNC campuses around the state.

"She was beautiful and equally as intelligent," said Yopp, a senior biology major from Dunn. "She's such a smart girl. She was really going places."

Carson's death should remind students that, though college campuses are fairly safe, the areas around them may not be. Yopp urged ECU students to be cautious downtown and elsewhere in Greenville.

"I don't think students really realize the dangers that are around," she said. "And they're definitely in Greenville."

ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard was unavailable for comment Thursday. He was in Chapel Hill for a University of North Carolina Board of Governors meeting, spokesman John Durham said.

Jimmy Ryals can be contacted at jryals@coxnc.com and 329-9568.
Students gather to mourn

By Joedy McCreary
The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL — Thousands of stunned students gathered Thursday night at the University of North Carolina to mourn their student body president, just hours after police said she was the young woman found shot to death on a city street the day before.

It was the second time a huge crowd of students met Thursday to mourn Eve Carson, whose body was

See STUDENT, A9
Students met again after nightfall for a candlelight vigil at The Pit, a popular campus gathering spot. A campus a cappella group sang Simon and Garfunkel’s “The Sound of Silence” as a slide show of pictures from Carson’s life played on a 10-foot screen.

“If they saw a smile on Eve’s face, they were smiling,” said Carly Swain of Charlotte, a double major in journalism and drama. “If she was having fun, they had fun for a second because that’s the kind of power she had over people.”

Carson was a prestigious Morehead-Cain scholar and a North Carolina Fellow, taking part in a four-year leadership development program for undergraduates. A premed student, she majored in political science and biology, taught science at a Chapel Hill elementary school, studied abroad in Cuba, and spent summers volunteering in Ecuador, Egypt and Ghana as part of a school program.

“I credit my prior experiences, especially my past two Morehead summers, for preparing me to get along with pretty much whatever comes my way,” she wrote in an e-mail posted on the Morehead Web site.

In her position as student body president, she was a member of the university’s Board of Trustees. At inauguration, she said, “This year will be a year of growth and inclusion. ... What an amazing year this is going to be.”

Moeoser said he last saw Carson on Tuesday, at the Tar Heels men’s basketball game against Florida State.

“This is a tragedy magnified and multiplied by the number and depth of relationships, many relationships that Eve Carson had on this campus,” Moeoser told the students. “This enormous throng is a testament to the many and deep relationships.

“Eve Carson personified the Carolina spirit.”

Carson is the daughter of Bob Carson and Teresa Bethke.

A man answering the phone at Bob Carson’s business, Carson Advisory Inc. in Athens, said the family had no comment.
ECU, UNC seek OK to expand schools

By Jimmy Ryals
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University officials are seeking preliminary approval for a medical school expansion this week.

The 32-member University of North Carolina Board of Governors, which sets policy for the 17-campus UNC System, will consider a joint ECU/University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill plan today. The schools propose adding 47 students at the Brody School of Medicine and 70 at UNC's medical school.

A board committee approved "A Plan for Medical Education in North Carolina" Thursday. An early version of the UNC General Administration's 2008-09 budget would send $2 million to ECU to plan the expansion. UNC-CH would receive $2.5 million for planning.

ECU and UNC-CH officials hope the board will see that the plan "is good conceptually, and this will be good for the state," said Virginia Hardy, senior associate dean for academic affairs of the Brody School of Medicine. Hardy and Dr. Nicholas Benson, Brody vice dean, made a presentation to the board education and planning committee Thursday.

That committee unanimously approved the plan Thursday in Durham, said Phil Dixon, vice chairman of the committee.

"It was really a slam dunk," said Dixon, a Greenville attorney and ECU graduate. "I think it went very, very well for us, and I was really excited."

Documents presented to the board this week detailed

See GROWTH, A9

GROWTH
Continued from A1

ECU's expansion proposal, Brody seeks $150 million in startup funds, most of which will build a new facility in Greenville, renovate the current Brody building and pay for the satellite clinics. The expansion will require $31.5 million in new annual funding, two-thirds of which will pay for new faculty and staff.

Sites for the clinics, where third- and fourth-year students would train, will be chosen by early 2009. The satellite sites will have to meet the same standards and offer similar medical training to what the Greenville campus offers, the plan states.

How long the expansion will take isn't clear. Brody officials will determine a timetable by this fall, according to the plan.

While expanding the medical school class sizes is "the backbone" of the universities' proposal, increasing postgraduate training opportunities also is essential, the plan states. To that end, ECU and UNC-CH call for the state to add an Area Health Education Center branch in Elizabeth City and increase support for residency programs, 66 of them in eastern North Carolina.

ECU and UNC-CH also suggest offering incentives to keep doctors in North Carolina after their residencies — student loan forgiveness is one possibility.

Dixon said he'll be "absolutely dumbfounded" if the full board doesn't approve the proposal today. Hardy also was optimistic.

"Based upon today's conversation, I think that it will be supported and voted on tomorrow," Hardy said Thursday. "We're keeping our fingers crossed."

Jimmy Ryals can be contacted at jryals@coxnc.com and 329-9568.
Northern exposure at Classic

By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector

A couple of clubs from heavy-hitting conferences to the north will converge on East Carolina's ClarkLeClair Stadium today to square off with a couple of traditional southern powers in the annual Keith LeClair Classic.

Those milling around the ECU camp Thursday awaiting the arrival of Georgia Southern, Michigan and Pittsburgh were quick to point out these aren't the old days of college baseball anymore, the days when northern clubs normally came to southern tournaments to take their first meaningful swings of spring, and usually their first beatings too.

The era of year-round training in climate-controlled comfort and a later start to the season across the country has changed that forever, meaning this weekend's action could be fierce.

"With the facilities that most people have, particularly now that the season's been pushed back, I think that gap's probably been narrowed and I think that was the goal," ECU head coach Billy Godwin said. "They have good programs everywhere now. Sometimes it just takes them a little time to get cranked up and get it going and play on green grass."

ECU infielder Ryan Wood said there simply is no southern bias in college baseball anymore.

As he tries to add to his team-high 11 RBIs this weekend, Wood said he hopes the tournament will vault the Pirates into the meat of their 2008 schedule, but knows better than to think any of today's teams are still feeling winter's chill.

"Maybe a couple of years ago, or longer than that, it mattered," Wood said of the traditionally faster-starting south. "But now, look at Michigan. They have a full indoor facility where they can practice. So I don't buy into that anymore."

In addition to the strong lineup of teams, the weather could also show some teeth this weekend. The opening game between Michigan (4-3) and Georgia Southern (4-5) has already been shuffled ahead to 9 o'clock this morning. If predicted rain moves through the area quickly enough, the 5 p.m. scheduled start between the host Pirates (5-4) and Pittsburgh (3-3) will remain intact.

Godwin is certainly experienced enough to know precipitation is simply a part of the game in March.

"It always adds stress when you're at home and you've got to pull the tarp," Godwin said of the wet weather, which was an 80 percent likelihood beginning this morning. "The weather is an element that we always battle, so we'll have to figure it out. In baseball, we just wait, and when it stops raining, we play."

The Panthers have been riding the hot bat of Sean Conley, whose 12 RBIs and two home runs are tops on the club, as are his six stolen bases. Jordan Herr leads the team with a .483 average, and Zach Putnam has begun the season on a tirade at the plate, batting .462 for Michigan with three doubles, a triple and 13 RBIs.

The Pirates are 3-0 in their brief history against Michigan, are 9-11 against Georgia Southern and hope to play Pittsburgh for the first time today. They are 10-3 in the previous four Keith LeClair Classics.

The tournament marks the start of 13 consecutive home games for the Pirates.

ECU took two wins away from its trip to Virginia at midweek, a chaotic extra-inning victory at Old Dominion and a tight 7-4 win at Virginia Commonwealth.

Nathan Summers can be reached at nsugamers@coxnc.com, or at (252)339-9595.

CLASSIC

Continued from C1

Danny Lopez has a team-best nine runs to go along with three doubles and six RBIs.

The Pirates will hand the ball to T.J. Hose — still seeking his first win — while Pittsburgh starter Nate Reed looks to build on his 1-1 mark.

While Wood and center fielder Harrison Eldridge have been the most productive ECU hitters with a team-best 14 hits apiece, catcher Corey Kemp has been just as valuable so far, hitting a team-high .414 with two home runs and eight RBIs. Brandon Henderson and designated hitter Kyle Roller each have driven in nine runs.

Georgia Southern has already had a topsy-turvy ride to its early season. The Eagles had a 1-4 start after two home losses to Boston College and two more at Georgia Tech. But GS rallied to win three straight over Towson before settling for a 10-7 loss to Bethune Cookman Tuesday.

The Wolverines have been on quite a warm-weather tear already, sweeping Villanova in a trip to Port St. Lucie, Fla., to open the season, a trip that also included an exhibition 4-4 tie against members of a New York Mets split squad.

Then it was off to Arizona, where Michigan was beaten 14-5 by the top-ranked Arizona State Sun Devils and was also edged 4-3 by Portland at the Arizona State Coca-Cola Classic. The Wolverines rebounded with a win over Hawaii, but lost again to the host Sun Devils later the same day.
Our Views

Fight ALS

LeClair inspires battle against disease

When East Carolina University players take the field at Clark-LeClair Stadium today, weather permitting, high expectations will greet them. While baseball has been a consistent strength at ECU, it does more than annually nurture dreams of Omaha and a birth in the College World Series.

At East Carolina, the baseball team is expected to deliver tireless effort on the diamond and conduct itself with class away from the field of play. Those qualities recall former Head Coach Keith LeClair, whose memory will be honored this weekend at the stadium that bears his name, and the need to wage a relentless fight against the disease that claimed his life.

East Carolina will host the fifth annual Keith LeClair Classic this weekend in Greenville. The University of Michigan, the University of Pittsburgh and Georgia Southern University will also compete in the three-day, six-game event. The tournament features top collegiate talent, with many high-wattage programs participating in years past.

Though the tournament may be about the games — and local fans will be cheering for three more Pirate wins — the event also recalls the memory of LeClair, the former East Carolina coach who died in 2006 following a lengthy struggle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

LeClair remains a beloved figure amid the lore of Pirate athletics. He was a player at Western Carolina University before becoming assistant head coach and, later, head coach. He came to East Carolina in 1997, and captained the Pirates to four straight NCAA Regional berths in his five years at the helm. He ranks second in career wins at ECU and his No. 23 is still bestowed on a senior embodying his qualities.

LeClair was forced into retirement by ALS, the neurodegenerative disease affecting the brain and spinal cord. It progresses throughout the body, robbing a person of voluntary muscle movement. Though it varies tremendously among those it afflicts, most diagnosed with the disease will die within three to five years.

The Jim "Catfish" Hunter Chapter of the ALS Association collects funds for medical research in the hopes of finding a cure for Lou Gehrig's Disease. They need all the help they can get. While finding a cure may be too late for some, it can make a difference for the 30,000 Americans now fighting ALS and thousands who will face similar struggles in the future.

The LeClair tournament annually affords this community an opportunity to pay tribute to a man who devoted himself to improving Pirate baseball. The best way to repay that debt of gratitude is to devote similar energy toward defeating the disease that took him away.
UNC student president found slain

FROM STAFF REPORTS

CHAPEL HILL - A young woman found shot to death on a street in the Hillcrest neighborhood early Wednesday was the student body president at UNC-Chapel Hill, police said today in an announcement that jolted the campus.

Police identified the dead woman as Eve Marie Carson, 22, of Athens, Ga., a Morehead-Cain scholar and a senior. They have made no arrests and have no suspects.

Investigators are looking for Carson's stolen 2005 blue Toyota Highlander with Georgia license plate A1V 6690. They believe the vehicle was taken during the crime.

Town Police Chief Brian Curran said police have no motive for the killing. "At this point what I'm thinking, what it feels like, is a fairly random crime," Curran said.

Carson was last seen alive at 1:30 a.m. Wednesday, Curran said.

As student body president, Carson served on the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees. She spent the spring semester of 2006 on a UNC Study Abroad program in Cuba and later studied in Ecuador. A member of the academic excellence society Phi Beta Kappa, Carson was majoring in political science and biology and hoped to go to medical school.

Officers found Carson's body lying in the intersection of Hillcrest Road and Hillcrest Circle before dawn Wednesday when they responded to a 911 call reporting gunfire.

She had been shot multiple times, including at least once in the head, said Lt. Kevin Gunter of the Chapel Hill Police Department. She carried no identification, prompting an all-out effort by police and university officials to identify her.

The idyllic Hillcrest neighborhood lies east of Franklin Street between downtown and...
University Mall.

Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy said the community was shaken. "We've suffered a tragic loss today, and our community is in shock and grief," he said.

"Eve Carson was a person who touched lives throughout this town and campus. She was happy, vivacious, intelligent, engaged and a presence in our community whose absence leaves a permanent void in our hearts and in our lives."

UNC-CH Chancellor James Moeser called Carson a "wonderful person and great friend."

"We are deeply saddened and numb with grief," he said.

Moeser led a gathering of hundreds of students and faculty at the center of campus this afternoon. Those in attendance held hands and observed a moment of silence in Carson's memory as the Bell Tower chimed "Hark the Sound." Moeser said it was Carson's favorite song.

Students also planned a candlelight vigil at 7 p.m. at the Pit, a student gathering spot.

Police are asking anyone with information that would aid the investigation to call 968-2760.

Return to www.newsobserver.com for more information to be published here as it becomes available.

cheryl.sadgrove@newsobserver.com (919) 932-2005


A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company
Carolina loses a special person

Join A Candlelight vigil in the pit

Message from the Chancellor

March 6, 2008

Dear Carolina Students, Faculty and Staff:

I am so sorry to tell you that Chapel Hill Police have identified the victim of this week’s shooting as Eve Carson, our student body president, trustee, wonderful person and great friend. We are deeply saddened and numb with grief.

I would like for us all to gather this afternoon on Polk Place at 3 p.m. to remember Eve and to grieve together. We will plan a full memorial service at a later time. For now, it is important that we pause, contemplate our loss and give each other support.

We encourage students, faculty or staff who feel they need assistance to contact the Office of the Dean of Students (966-4042) or Counseling and Wellness Services (966-3658). Counselors will be available at the Upendo Lounge at the Student Academic Services Building and Room 2518 A/B in the new addition at the Carolina Union until 11 p.m. this evening (Thursday, March 6, 2008). Resident advisors in campus housing and Granville Towers are also available to be of assistance and support.

I know how difficult it will be to begin to comprehend something so tragic. Please, as you gather your thoughts and prayers, think of Eve’s parents, family and friends.

I hope you will join us this afternoon on Polk Place.

Sincerely,
Eve Marie Carson: Biography

Eve Marie Carson, 22, was elected student body president at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in February 2007. Her term would have ended in April.

A native of Athens, Ga., Eve was born Nov. 19, 1985. She came to Carolina in the fall of 2004 as the recipient of a prestigious Morehead Scholarship. A member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society, she was a pre-medicine student majoring in both political science and biology. As a North Carolina Fellow, she was part of a four-year leadership development program for undergraduates.

While at UNC-Chapel Hill, she was extremely active in both leadership and service roles. As student body president, she was also a member of the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees. She served as co-president of the Honors Program Student Executive Board and as a member of the Committee on Scholarships, Awards and Student Aide; the Academic Advising Program; and the Chancellor’s committee for University Teaching Awards.

Teaching and working with children were key service interests for Eve. In 2006, she taught science at Frank Porter Graham Elementary School in Chapel Hill as part of UNC’s INSPIRE program, whose mission is to encourage young students to pursue science as an interest. In her junior year, Carson was a tutor at Githens Middle School in Durham. She was also an assistant coach in the Girls on the Run of the Triangle, a character development program for girls ages 8-12 that uses running to teach values and a sense of self.

Eve’s service extended well beyond the Triangle, however. In the spring of her sophomore year, she participated in a study abroad in Havana, Cuba, and she spent her summers working and volunteering in Ecuador, Egypt and Ghana as part of the Morehead Summer Enrichment program. "I credit my prior experiences, especially my past two Morehead summers, for preparing me to get along with pretty much whatever comes my way," she wrote in an e-mail posted on the Morehead Web site. On campus, she became involved in Nourish International, an organization started by UNC students in 2002 for hunger relief. Eve served as freshman volunteer coordinator (2004) and co-chair (2005) for the group.

The daughter of Bob Carson and Teresa Bethke, Eve was also the student body president of her high school, Clarke Central, in Athens, Ga. When she ran for the same office at Carolina, she was elected with 55 percent of the vote in a runoff with a bigger turnout than the previous year’s general election.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
UNC student leader's death stuns campus

The body of Eve Carson, UNC-CH's student body president, was found Wednesday.

BY JESSE JAMES DECONTO
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — Police are following leads in the slaying of Eve Carson, the UNC-Chapel Hill student body president, but say they have no suspects or motives they are willing to discuss.

"It feels like a fairly random crime," Police Chief Brian Curran said.

Carson's 2005 Toyota Highlander was found Thursday less than a mile from where she was discovered shot to death early Wednesday, just outside Chapel Hill's downtown.

Curran could not say how long the sport utility vehicle had been there but said police think that in the hours before Carson, 22, died, the vehicle was driven from the cottage she shared with four roommates.

"I can't tell you why I think that, but I'm confident it was," Curran said. "We think that whoever perpetrated the crime was at some point in that car."

A woman reported the car to police about 2 p.m. after seeing it parked on a dead-end stub of North Street, around the corner from Carson's house at 202 Friendly Lane.

"I wasn't even paying attention," said Erin Rice, who was listening to the news on the radio.

SEE DEATH, PAGE 10A
DEATH
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

"And I said, 'Oh, there's a blue Highlander' ... and my heart just starts pounding."

The day before, a report of gunshots had led police to the Hillcrest neighborhood, a collection of architectural gems on a rolling, wooded hilltop northeast of the UNC-Chapel Hill campus. Police found Carson with gunshot wounds, including one to the head, about 5:15 a.m.

Carson was wearing a dark blue T-shirt, gray sweat pants and white athletic shoes but carried nothing that might have helped police identify her. Carson's roommates identified her body Thursday morning. A man at the house later Thursday declined to comment.

They left; she stayed

Police don't know why she would have been out so early Wednesday. Her roommates told police that they'd gone out at 1:30 a.m. Wednesday and that she had stayed home alone to study.

"She was an extraordinarily busy woman, and it wasn't unusual for her to go to the office in the middle of the night," Curran said.

This is the second homicide in Chapel Hill this year.

"We have very few homicides in Chapel Hill," said Curran, who has worked for the department since the late 1980s. "I can't recall any when we didn't know who the person was pretty much from the get-go."

The police chief said the last time a UNC student was slain in Chapel Hill was in 1995, when Wendell Williamson, a law student who had threatened other students and caused disturbances on campus, opened fire on several people on Henderson Street.

He shot lacrosse player Kevin Reichardt, 20, knocking him from his bicycle, then fired again, killing Reichardt as he tried to crawl away.

Curran said investigators were in contact with police in Auburn, Ala., where a university freshman, hailing from Georgia as Carson did, was killed this week. "It appears to be unlikely that they're connected," he said.

Like Curran, District Attorney James Woodall attended an assembly that drew thousands of students to Polk Place on campus Thursday. He said random crimes are often hard to solve, but he thinks the Chapel Hill Police Department can solve this one.

"It takes time and it takes legwork to solve random crimes," Woodall said.

Staff writer Samuel Spies contributed to this report.

jesse.deconto@newsobserver.com or (919) 932-8750
Thousands join in rites of grief

BY MANDY LOCKE, JESSE JAMES DECONTO AND SAMUEL SPIES
STAFF WRITERS

CHAPEL HILL — Candlelight glowed on evening-darkened faces. Friends sat hugging, laughing, sobbing, remembering her as photos flashed across a projection screen. In many, she smiled back.

Thousands of people closed a day of mourning for Eve Carson in UNC-Chapel Hill’s Pit on Thursday night, holding candles and listening to song.

“This is the kind of event that I think shakes a campus to the core,” said Abbey Thompson, a graduate student.

Thursday’s rite of sorrow and remembrance began before dawn.

An administrator woke Chancellor James Moeser at 5:30 a.m. to tell him that Wednesday’s shooting victim might be

MOURNING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

Carson, the student body president.

Moeser collapsed in a chair.

The news trickled slowly across campus by early afternoon. Students huddled in hallways and sat in the sun, tangle in hugs, tears and whispers. Several thousand flocked to Polk Place, a grassy quad that draws students in the best and worst of times.

“This is a tragedy magnified and multiplied by the number and depth of the meaningful relationships that Eve Carson had on this campus,” said Moeser, standing on the South Building terrace. “If we want to respect and remember Eve Carson, we will do it by embracing each other.”

Students sank into one another, clutching flowers and tissues as a television helicopter buzzed overhead. The bell tower played “Hark, the Sound of Tar Heel Voices.” Moeser urged those gathered to drop their daisies and carnations at the base of a lamplless oak.

Each student seemed to have an Eve Carson story. She was that girl on campus, everywhere, into everything, seemingly working around the clock.

Senior Danielle Shapiro, 21, shared a single political science course with Carson, yet she felt she knew her.

“If you needed a favor from her, she would do it no matter what.” Shapiro said. “She had a full plate. Being the student body president was a really tough job, and she never let it show.”

Junior Stephen Vance, 21, met Carson through the Morehead Scholars program that helped them both attend UNC-Chapel Hill.

“She embodies the word beautiful in every shape of the definition, in spirit and mind and heart. ... When she talked to you, she just made you feel like you were something special,” said Vance. “This really is the unimaginable.”

Administrators braced for students needing to talk through their sadness. A team of 30 counselors was on hand. Duke University offered a dozen more.

Gov. Mike Easley issued a statement: “I join the entire UNC community in mourning the tragic death of Eve Carson. There are few other words that can express the sorrow of such a promising life ended so soon and so violently.”

mandy.locke@newsobserver.com
or (919) 829-8927
A CAMPUS IN MOURNING

Other events that have shaken the UNC-Chapel Hill community:

JASON Ray was hit by a sport utility vehicle a year ago.

PHOTO BY JONATHAN D. STOTTS

MARCH 23, 2007: Jason Ray, who portrayed UNC's ram mascot, is hit by an SUV while he is in New Jersey for the NCAA basketball tournament. He suffers head injuries and brain swelling. Ray dies three days later. Two New Jersey men are charged with driving while license suspended, resulting in death.

MARCH 3, 2006: Mohammed Reza Taheri-Azar, 22, a UNC graduate, drives his vehicle into a lunchtime crowd at the Pit, the campus hub, in protest of Americans' treatment of Muslims. Nine people are injured. Taheri-Azar calls 911 and tells police to come get him. He is charged with nine counts of attempted first-degree murder and nine counts of assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury with intent to kill. Taheri-Azar has pleaded not guilty; his case has not yet gone to trial.

MAY 12, 1996: The night before graduation, a fire at the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house kills five people and injures three.

JAN. 16, 1995: Law student Wendell Williamson opens fire near the campus. Lacrosse player Kevin Reichardt and Chapel Hill resident Ralph Walker are killed. Two are wounded, including a police officer. Williamson had threatened classmates and caused disturbances at the UNC School of Law. Williamson is found not guilty by reason of insanity and is committed to Dix Hospital.

JULY 15, 1993: Kristin Lodge-Miller is attacked while jogging on Estes Drive. After trying to fend off her attacker, she is shot five times. Her killer gets life in prison.

AUG. 24, 1985: Sharon Lynn Stewart and her roommate, Karla Kae Hammett, are abducted from UNC's Swain Hall parking lot. Hammett is released by the abductor. Stewart's body, stabbed multiple times, is found almost a week later, inside an oil drum at a construction dump site east of Greensboro. Maxwell Wright, 16, pleads guilty to second-degree murder and other charges and is sentenced to life in prison.

JULY 30, 1965: Sue Ellen Evans is stabbed to death in broad daylight while taking a shortcut to her dorm through the Coker Arboretum. Evans is pulled off the path by her attacker and dragged into bushes. Her attacker cuts her on the neck and then plunges the blade into her heart. Passers-by on Raleigh Street run into the arboretum when they hear Evans scream and see the killer sprinting away. The case remains unsolved.

COMPILED BY NEWS RESEARCHER
BECKY OGBURN
Carson's life was filled with promise

BY ANNE BLYTHIE AND CHERYL JOHNSTON SADGROVE  STAFF WRITERS

Eve Carson, with her top-notch grades, charisma and drive to help others, led a life bright with possibilities.

What escaped her was time.

Carson, the UNC-Chapel Hill student body president found shot to death early Wednesday morning in a quiet, wooded Chapel Hill neighborhood, was only 22. With no ID on her and a scant police description, she was cloaked in anonymity almost a mile from the campus where she was admired by many.

On Thursday, as the somber news spread through Chapel Hill and beyond, students struggled for words. UNC leaders grappled with grief.

"She had a level of commitment, passion, caring for people, that was extraordinarily rare in a person of any age," said Roger Perry, chairman of the UNC-Ch Board of Trustees. "She was a person who, in my mind, was destined for great things. Not only has Carolina lost a lot, humankind, the whole world, has lost a lot."

Eve Marie Carson, a senior majoring in political science and biology, was born to Bob Carson and Teresa Bethkein on Nov. 19, 1985. At her family home late Thursday, people had gathered to grieve on her parents' lawn. Her parents and her younger brother were too grief-stricken to talk, a family friend said Thursday night.

In Athens, Ga., a college town with many similarities to Chapel Hill, Eve Carson excelled at many things — school, sports and community spirit.

"Things just seemed to be charmed for her," said Sam Hicks, a guidance counselor and boys soccer coach at Clarke Central High School, where Carson graduated in 2004. "She was brilliantly intelligent. She was a beautiful young lady. She was fiercely competitive on the soccer field."

Hicks and Ellen Harris, a Latin teacher at the Athens high school, watched video of the former valedictorian and class president on Thursday afternoon. Their voices were hoarse from crying.

"She went through high school at the top of the heap and had not one enemy," Harris said.

In 2004, Carson traded one college town for another.

She had won a coveted Morehead-Cain Scholarship, which covers the full cost of four years at UNC-Ch, as well as summer enrichment activities. Carson immersed herself in campus activities, the N.C. Fellow leadership development program, student committees, mentoring in Chapel Hill and Durham schools, study abroad in Cuba, and summers working and volunteering in Ecuador, Egypt and Ghana.

While juggling all that, Carson earned grades high enough to be inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

In April, Carson stretched her stewardship even wider, winning student body president with 55 percent of the vote.

Not only did she play a key role in deciding how nearly $650,000 in student fees were spent, but Carson automatically became a member of the Board of Trustees, where she argued for student interests such as low and predictable tuition rates.

In a narrated slideshow on the Morehead-Cain Web site, Carson described how she spent eight weeks in Ecuador one summer, living with a family, working in a hospital and teaching children. Two days a week she shadowed a doctor in a rural part of the country.

"Most of the time I was in the back room of the hospital, where their emergency room was and where the overnight patients were. So I saw a lot of surgeries, I saw a few childbirths, I caught a baby," she said with pride. "Working with (the doctor) was my favorite part of the whole summer. We drove all through the countryside. I just really got to know a side of Ecuador that I wouldn't have gotten to see otherwise."

She said she learned an important lesson: that poverty is not pitiable. She saw a respect for a nonmaterial way of life among the people there. And she learned something about herself.

"It just is great to realize that you can take it," she said. "And I learned that over the summer. That I can take it."

Whether it was with the UNC-Ch chancellor, the Chapel Hill mayor or a student she just met, Carson, who happened to live on Friendly Lane, had a way that endeared people to her.

"The thing about Eve is that she was so immediately engaging with people," said James Allred, the UNC-Ch student body president before her. "And she was so eager to meet people and to bring them in as part of a team. She talked a lot about joining the team."

From Georgia to Chapel Hill, Carson spoke often about her love for UNC-Ch. In a video posted on YouTube, Carson, during her candidacy for student body president last year, bubbled over.

"I love this university," she said, "and I feel lucky every day to be here."
Another tragedy to recall

Eve Carson’s death came as a body blow.
A bright, beautiful leader cruelly wrested from a world she plainly held in the palm of her hand.

But even as the mind reeled with details of Carson’s death, almost reflexively, another murder was brought to mind from 15 years ago—a killing perhaps long forgotten by anyone who didn’t live in Chapel Hill at the time.

The date was July 15, 1993, and the victim, Kristin Lodge-Miller, was attacked while taking an early-morning jog on Estes Drive. After trying to Mace her attacker, she was shot five times, the last time in the back of her head as she lay dying on the street. In front of witnesses. Then her attacker pedaled away on his bike.

For those of us who lived in Chapel Hill, it was more than shocking. It cast an indelible stain.

“I don’t think anybody who lived here then will ever forget it. It’s part of what we carry around with us,” Mayor Kevin Foy said.

No one wants to compare one death, or its circumstances, with the other.

“The grief for [Carson’s death] is different,” Foy said. “But the scars from Kristin Lodge-Miller’s murder are still with us.”

Those who were involved in the Lodge-Miller case, which became known simply as the Chapel Hill jogger case, recalled Thursday how the tragedy exploded in the public consciousness.

On that morning, Superior Court Judge Carl Fox, who was district attorney for Orange County at the time, drove his car to the site the moment he heard a woman had been slain on Estes Drive. Arriving just after the stretcher was wheeled away, he quickly saw that this case would be different.

In part, it was because of who the victim was—a lovely, energetic young woman, a speech pathologist whose husband had been accepted to the business school at UNC-Chapel Hill.

She, like Carson, was an angel in what the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce still describes as “the southern part of heaven.”

For years—not months, but years—flowers marked the site of Lodge-Miller’s death. A plaque in her honor was erected at the nearby Orange County Rape Crisis center.

But we who lived in Chapel Hill needed no external marker.

To this day, I cannot turn my car onto Estes Drive without thinking of Lodge-Miller.

It will be this way on Hillcrest Road, too.

After Lodge-Miller’s death, Chapel Hill residents railed against what had happened in their midst.

Even after her killer was sentenced to life in prison, there was an outcry to ban handguns in Chapel Hill, a move the town attorney determined would be unconstitutional. The Town Council went as far as it could, approving the toughest gun restrictions in the state.

The town wanted to do something, anything, to make certain this would never happen again.
If only there were a way to make that so.

Mayor Foy noted that then, as now, even a town as special as Chapel Hill is forced to deal with events it cannot abide.

“There are times when a community is shaken to its core.”

This is one.

The memory of Kristin Lodge-Miller offers the small solace of this certainty: Eve Carson, Chapel Hill will never forget.

ruth.sheehan@newsobserver.com or (919) 829-4828
Big money, the university and public health

BY STEVE WING AND CAT WARREN

Institutions of higher learning are tax-exempt and supported because they are supposed to serve the public interest. However, a recent wave of books and scholarly articles shows how universities are being harnessed to serve the narrower interests of corporations. Their conclusions are clear: Corporate research is aimed at maximizing profits, not necessarily in ensuring the public good. As economist Robert Reich, author of “Supercapitalism,” has pointed out: “The basic reality is that corporations are not charitable or public institutions. They do not exist primarily to advance the public interest but their investors’ interests.”

This is why the planned renaming of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Public Health as the Dennis and Joan Gillings School of Global Public Health, in exchange for a gift of $50 million, raises concerns.

Dennis Gillings is CEO of Quintiles Transnational, which bills itself as “the world’s leading pharmaceutical services company, with annual revenues of $2 billion.” A School of Public Health news release announcing Gillings’ gift noted it would help the school speed approval of new drugs. The first “laboratory of innovation” funded by Gillings conducts research on statistical methods for drug trials.

PUBLIC HEALTH IS CONCERNED WITH PROMOTING HEALTH AND PREVENTING DISEASE. This means clean air and water, nutritious food, safe working conditions, neighborhoods, housing and transportation. Environments that promote physical, social and mental well-being help people remain healthy and reduce the need for medical treatments.

Mass drug therapy as a public health strategy might be the preferred option for pharmaceutical companies. But it can divert efforts from creating working and living conditions that prevent disease. The size of the Gillings gift, which comes with a new School of Public Health policy board that includes both Gillingses, suggests a level of influence that could affect not only individual research projects, but also the character of the school’s approach to public health.

The gift will also be used to increase the “financial literacy” of public health students. Financial literacy is important. However, the curriculum is a responsibility of the faculty. Shaping it to please wealthy donors raises questions about whether the university is up for sale. Both a 2006 UNC provost report and the American Association of University Professors are clear that faculty, not outside donors, have primary responsibility for the curriculum.

Other developments also suggest how the School of Public Health is responding to big money. Recently, faculty were asked to develop a proposal to study indoor air pollution in the United Arab Emirates. That proposal now exceeds $6 million. Although 80 percent of the UAE’s population consists of disenfranchised guest workers, UNC would study only homes of mostly wealthier native Emirati. This appears inconsistent with one of the school’s stated missions, to “eliminate health disparities across North Carolina and around the world.”

The school is also developing new associations in closed, off-the-record meetings, with executives of corporations such as Nestlé, McDonald’s, Pepsico and Kraft Foods. Why seek partnerships with companies that profit from mass marketing of high-calorie foods? The goal, according to one administrator, is to help stem the global obesity epidemic “while improving profitability.” Again, the problem is that the best approach for public health may not be the best recipe for corporate profits.

The pro-industry direction of the School of Public Health is in step with policies of UNC-Chapel Hill and the UNC system. Administrators at Chapel Hill recently explained that the university is falling behind in the race to obtain corporate funding, and that we are in danger of losing the best faculty and students unless Carolina North is developed quickly as a satellite research park that can avoid on-campus restrictions on industry funding.

As Jennifer Wasbourn noted in her recent book “University, Inc.: Corporate Corruption of Higher Education,” state governments increasingly view public universities more as engines of economic development tied to corporate interests than as independent institutions responsible to society as a whole.

CORPORATE DONATIONS ARE AN ACCEPTED PART of the non-state support that keeps universities in business. Industry funding can contribute importantly to public health research, and research faculty are in constant competition for funding. But the question remains: How much influence should industries that put profits before public health have on the university?

The School of Public Health’s mission, like the UNC system’s, is to serve the public. However, even as manipulation of science against the public interest receives more attention (think tobacco, global warming, drug risks, environmental health), our universities risk defining corporate interests as the public interest. If universities are skewed more toward the agenda of for-profit companies, they will be increasingly unable to promote public welfare when it conflicts with industry’s bottom line.

Vigorous public discussion of these issues is critical for maintaining our universities as a public resource. It is indeed our responsibility to have that discussion.

Steve Wing is associate professor of epidemiology at the UNC School of Public Health and vice president of the N.C. State Conference of the American Association of University Professors. Cat Warren is associate professor in the Department of English at N.C. State University and president of the N.C.-AUP.
Sadly successful at shameless slime

BY MARC FISHER

WASHINGTON

J.J. Bateman had never heard of JuicyCampus.com until a friend told him he had been discussed on the Web site, which urges college students nationwide to "give us the juice." Someone wrote, anonymously, that Bateman, a senior at the University of Virginia, is a "pretty cool dude, but I hear he is part robot."

Could be worse, Bateman figures. "I thought it was pretty funny, but then I saw a post on the same page with a couple of racial epithets, and that rubbed me the wrong way. The anonymity lends itself to much more vindictive attacks."

Such as one that names another U-Va. student and says she "will sleep with ANY guy." This sort of post has given JuicyCampus — which features message boards for 50 colleges — instant notoriety and the sadly resulting success.

The subject of that posting, a junior at the Charlottesville campus, didn't know that a thousand people had read the slur against her until I told her about it.

"Initially, I wasn't too concerned about it, although I did get angrier the more I thought about it," she says. "Everyone I know feels that the Web site merely serves as an outlet for petty and immature people who have nothing better to do with their time."

Not wishing to be associated with sexual sleaziness for the rest of her life, she contacted JuicyCampus asking that her name be removed.

Nothing doing. JuicyCampus guarantees anonymity to those who slime others, but disavows any obligation to those who are maligned on its pages. From the site's FAQ:

"Is the site really anonymous?"

"There is no way for someone using the site to find out who you are. And we at JuicyCampus ... prefer not to know who you are."

"How do I remove a comment I posted?"

"You can't. Once it's out there, it's out there."

If the offending post is about you, too bad. "JuicyCampus does not remove content," the site says. "We encourage you to shift your point of view."

Legally, JuicyCampus is protected by a 1996 law that shields Web site operators from responsibility for nasty, defamatory or false material their readers might post. And morally? The founder, Matt Ivester, a 2005 Duke University graduate who launched the site in August, delights in telling interviewers that his business is just "a fun place to hang out" and bears no responsibility for any slanders.

But you'd expect that of the creator of such a business. What's more interesting is this: Not one of the students I spoke to who has been named on the site as sexually promiscuous saw any purpose in trying to silence the site.

The student government at Pepperdine University asked administrators to block the site from school computers, and students at Texas Christian University appealed to advertisers not to buy space on the site. But at most colleges where the site has exploded in popularity, deans recommend combating bad speech with good speech, or just ignoring the site and hoping it will go away.

The content on JuicyCampus is identical to the banter heard in dorm rooms for centuries. But now the whole planet can listen in, including those being maligned, even as the speakers' identities are better protected than ever.

Why are so many students so eager to slimy their classmates? How does this square with the recent emphasis on teaching tolerance and multiculturalism at every level of education? Do some students crave an anonymous forum to vent in ways that have become socially unacceptable in person?

"This generation uses language differently," says Pat Lampkin, U-Va.'s vice president for student affairs. "They think they're communicating to an individual, and they put up an intimate conversation and they don't stop to think that the whole world may be reading this differently. The words may be lewd and cruel, but to them, it is internal joking. When I tell them how their words are being received, they are mortified."

"Maybe, but will they act on their shame?"

THE WASHINGTON POST

Marc Fisher is a columnist for The Washington Post's Metro section.
User-friendly process
floods colleges with applications

Students hedge
bets on schools

BY DAVID PERLMUTT
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

CHARLOTTE — George Alyaateem is a senior at East Mecklenburg High School, a fine student with a 4.5 grade point average in the school’s rigorous International Baccalaureate program and a receiver on the football team.

Yet he can’t quickly rattle off all the colleges where he’s applied for admission.

“There’s too many — nine,” said Alyaateem, who wants to be an orthopedic surgeon. “Applying to more colleges gives me a better chance to go to the school I want.”

Seniors like Alyaateem have admissions offices at Charlotte-area colleges and beyond sorting through stacks of applications. Applicants to Queens University of Charlotte are up 37 percent from last year. The numbers have also jumped at Davidson College (10 percent), Johnson C. Smith University (10 percent) and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (5 percent).

Nationwide, the current high school senior class is the largest in 20 years. They’re applying to colleges in record numbers and the process has never been more user-friendly. The “Common Application” works at 315 schools nationally — including eight in the Carolinas — making it easy for a student to apply to several schools with one online form.

“Where once students were sending three applications, they’re up to five to eight,” said Tina McEntire, UNC-Charlotte director of undergraduate admissions. “I’ve talked to my colleagues, and everybody’s up.”

Casting a wider net

There are pitfalls for applicants. With a bigger applicant pool, schools can be more selective. At schools like Davidson, with no plans to increase enrollment, wait lists could grow.

So could rejections.

“It puts us in the business of having to say ‘no’ more often,” said Chris Gruber, Davidson’s vice president and dean of financial aid.

And application fees aren’t cheap — $50 a pop at Davidson and UNCC. Alyaateem spent nearly $500 to file his nine applications.

The applications increase won’t necessarily translate into larger freshman classes. Since many students are filing multiple applications, they’re applying to schools they have no intention of attending. “These kids want choices, and they can choose only one school,” said UNCC’s McEntire.

Colleges call these students “phantom applicants.”

“The 150 very selective colleges are sending out more acceptances because they’re having a harder time figuring out who’s going to attend,” said David Hawkins, director of public policy and research for the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

“So in a way, these students who send out 10 to 15 applications are shooting themselves in the foot. They’re causing some of the uncertainty in the admission process.”

Sandy Rhinehart, East Mecklenburg’s guidance counseling chairwoman, advises students to apply to three to five schools.

“We tell kids they should have a dream school and the other ones, should be sure schools,” she said.

But this year, half of East Mecklenburg’s senior class has averaged five to seven applications, Rhinehart said.

“They say they’re applying to more places hoping to get into a school,” she said. “These schools have raised their standards, but they haven’t raised the number of students they’re accepting.

“Our kids are competing against the world for seats.”

Queens admits more

Queens has intentionally tried to add students, said Brian Ralph, vice president for enrollment management.

In recent years, the school has increased marketing and recruiting efforts. Its current class of about 360 freshmen and transfers is the largest in 35 years, Ralph said.

Queens expects to enroll 400 freshmen and transfers next fall. To get there, they’ll accept 1,050 to 1,200 applicants — knowing that one in three will choose to enroll.

To date, the school has received 1,881 applications and admitted 873. Of that number, a respectable 190 have paid a $250 tuition deposit, refundable up to May 1.

“The deposit is just a way for them to communicate to Queens their seriousness in coming here,” Ralph said. “But many of these students are depositing at two schools.

“It’s all about choice.”
Poor get more say in LEAF bounty

The foundation that controls half of the state's $4 billion-plus share of the 1998 national tobacco settlement is sharply changing the way it awards grants, giving the state's poorest counties a bigger say in picking many of the projects that will get money.

The Golden LEAF Foundation was formed to help the state's neediest counties and those historically dependent on tobacco income. Its 15-member board is appointed by the governor and leaders in the legislature.

Until now, in an annual cycle of grants, the foundation itself decided which proposals were worthy. The results have sometimes been projects such as experimental crops or unusual tourist attractions that made easy targets for critics, and in recent meetings members of the foundation's board have complained about the quality of some of the proposals.

On Thursday, they voted to add 13 counties to a year-old program that sends foundation staff out to rural counties where they help community leaders assess their needs and develop grant proposals.

The idea is to let the people who know the communities best decide what they need, said Golden LEAF's chairman, J.T. "Tommy" Bunn, of the board.

When entire communities pick projects, he said, the projects are highly likely to be successful.

Valeria Lee, the foundation's long-time president, said that the board's decision could quadruple the $10 million in the current budget for such county-chosen projects, while the $1 million budgeted now for the random proposals could be slashed by as much as half.

Powerful enemies

A year ago, Gov. Mike Easley called on Golden LEAF to extend water and sewer service and to do other things to foster job growth in rural areas. The county-generated proposals often include just such things.

The foundation also makes other types of grants, including some for large one-time economic development projects to lure new employers.

The foundation invests the annual payments it gets from the settlement, and doles out grants mostly from investment income.

It has often been a target in the legislature, with members of both parties often casting covetous glances at those investments, which now exceed $700 million. Members of the Golden LEAF board have long worried that state leaders would take some or all of the money, a fear underlined in 2002 when legislative leaders strong-armed the foundation into funding a $50 million biotechnology initiative.

They have said in recent meetings that relying more on community-chosen projects would reduce the number of sometimes-powerful enemies they have been generating by turning away dozens of proposals each year. They also are trying to boost the visibility of the foundation's good deeds. They hired a larger public relations firm about three months ago, Bunn said.

Legislative target

Conservative leaders in the legislature such as Rep. Paul "Skip" Stam, a Wake Republican, have called it a slush fund controlled by political appointees, and say that it should be abolished and its money rolled into the state's general fund. Stam said Thursday that eliminating the foundation was his first choice, but at the very least decisions about the projects should be made directly by county commissioners rather than the Golden LEAF board.

Not only have Republicans attacked the foundation, but last year Sen. Clark Jenkins, an Edgecombe Democrat, filed a bill that would have killed the foundation and put the money under control of a private not-for-profit group. Golden LEAF, he said, wasn't doing enough to help counties hurt by drops in tobacco income.

Giving the counties more say was probably a step in the right direction, Jenkins said, though he added that he would have to see the specifics before saying much more.

Focus on the poorest

The new program focuses on the 41 so-called Tier 1 counties, which are essentially the state's poorest. Golden LEAF will make grants to about half of them each year. Then, after two years, it will start back through the list for a new round of grants.

Eventually the foundation may bring other counties into the program, but the board hasn't addressed that yet, Bunn said. Also, he said, the new emphasis on the community assistance grants don't mean communities in other counties can't apply for other kinds of grants.

Hertford gets a grant

One county that has already gone through the process is Hertford, which got about $2 million — equal to nearly 10 percent of the annual budget.

Most of it went for education and worker training. Hertford County manager Loria Williams said that the process worked so well that there was little disagreement about the final choices.

"It was the easiest thing I've ever gone through, and I've been in government quite a while," she said.

Jay.Price@Newsobserver.com
or 829-4526
SAD sufferers find therapy in Daylight Savings Time

Abby Stewart  
March 6, 2008 - 9:44PM  
As we “spring forward” and set our clocks up one hour on Sunday, sufferers of the winter blues may have something to smile about.

Seasonal Affective Disorder, sometimes referred to as winter depression, is a subtype of what is known as major depression that is associated with the changing of seasons. Extended hours of light afforded by daylight savings time helps to alleviate and sometimes rid patients of their depression symptoms.

“During winter, when we have more darkness overall, people don’t get as much sun and that worsens their depression,” said Dr. Michael Lang, clinical assistant professor of internal medicine and adult psychology at the Brody School of Medicine in Greenville. “When we have daylight savings time and have more sunlight, symptoms start to resolve.”

SAD, which affects more than 6 percent of Americans, is characterized by depression, an increase in sleep, weight gain, irritability and leaden paralysis, or heaviness in arms and legs.

“Most seasonal affective disorder symptoms stem from daily body rhythms that have gone out of sync with the sun,” according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

The hormone melatonin, also known as “the master biological clock,” is believed to cause symptoms of depression and is produced in the brain at increased levels in the dark. Therefore, during the winter — when days are shorter and darker — the production of melatonin increases.

Treatments for SAD include light therapy with ultraviolet light boxes and prescribed anti-depressants.

Lang, who has seen two cases of SAD during his career, said he follows depression patients closely in the winter and lets them go in the spring and summer when they typically start feeling better.

Abby Stewart can be reached at (252) 559-1075 or at astewart@freedomenc.com.