THE DAILY CLIPS

March 10, 2008

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Slain UNC student remembered

By Errin Haines
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Eve Carson had already lived a lifetime at 22, and on Sunday those who knew her celebrated that life and grieved the promise that was cut short by her sudden death.

Hundreds of mourners filled the Athens First United Methodist Church, spilling over into the church’s fellowship hall. It was a crowd of all ages and backgrounds, both from her hometown of Athens and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was student body president.

During the service — which lasted nearly two hours — there were just as many references to her beauty, intelligence and leadership as to her kindness, dedication to service and concern for others.

Senior minister Bill Britt remembered Carson as someone who made a difference and saw the good in others. He shared the crowd’s confusion and heartbreak over her death.

“We should not be here this afternoon,” Britt said, angry that Carson was not instead celebrating spring break, or getting ready for the Atlantic Coast Conference basketball tournament. “It is too soon to

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be remembering the life of Eve Marie Carson."

Many wore Carolina blue ribbons in her honor, a tribute also made on Saturday night at the North Carolina-Duke men's basketball game.

Most in the crowd were people who Carson impacted during her short life and many helped make her into the dynamic young woman she was still becoming when she was killed.

Carson, the daughter of Bob Carson and Teresa Bethke, was found Wednesday morning lying on a street about a mile from the Chapel Hill campus. She had been shot several times, including once in the right temple. Her sport utility vehicle was discovered Thursday, a few hours after police positively identified her as the victim. Police said she likely was the victim of a random crime.

Detectives have been searching for a man photographed using Carson's ATM card, releasing photos on Saturday of the suspect at an ATM machine in Chapel Hill.

Meanwhile, The News & Observer of Raleigh reported Sunday evening that police now think there may have been a second person in the vehicle driven by a man they say was trying to use Carson's ATM card.

"We believe there may have been a second person in the vehicle," Chapel Hill Police Chief Brian Curran said.

Black and white photographs distributed at a Saturday news conference show what looks to be a large, shadowed figure behind the driver's side head rest. What looks like someone's shoulder can be seen between the driver's seat and head rest.

Police have said the SUV in the surveillance photo could be Carson's blue 2005 Toyota Highlander. If there was a second person in the back seat, it could explain how the killer or killers got away and the SUV was found parked around the corner from Carson's downtown Chapel Hill home.

Neither Curran nor his spokesman, Lt. Kevin Gunter, immediately returned a message seeking comment Sunday.

During the service, mourners searched soul and scripture for comfort and answers to the tragedy. Carson's high school principal, Maxine Eason, choked back tears as she shared memories of the vibrant girl she met as a freshman at Clarke Central High School.

"I don't think Eve ever really knew just how special she was," Eason said. "We're all better in some way because we knew Eve Carson."

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Chancellor James Moeser also gave remarks, thanking the Athens community on behalf of the college for sharing Carson with them. He said that the university was more caring, committed and compassionate as a result of her example.

"Eve Carson was truly a gift to Chapel Hill," Moeser said.

The school's Board of Trustees, of which Carson was a member, has offered a $25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest in her death.

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.

More than 5,000 people from her alma mater participated in a candlelight vigil for Carson on Thursday, and hundreds shared memories of her at her high school on Friday night. Carson graduated as valedictorian from Clarke Central in 2004 and was also student body president there.

Meanwhile, in Marietta, Ga., a rabbi asked more than 500 people who gathered on Sunday for the funeral of Auburn University freshman Lauren Burk to turn their anger at her senseless slaying into something positive and let the justice system handle her killer.

Britt said a prayer for Burk and her family at the beginning of Carson's service.

Burb, 18, a freshman at Auburn and graduate of Marietta's Walton High School, was found Tuesday night on the side of a road about five miles from campus, suffering from a gunshot wound. She died later at a hospital.

Her 2001 Honda Civic was found that night burning in a campus parking lot. On Friday, Phenix City, Ala., police arrested 23-year-old Courtney Lockhart, who has been charged with murder, along with kidnapping, robbery and attempted rape — although authorities said Burk was not sexually assaulted.

Auburn will hold a campus-wide memorial service in Burb's honor on Monday, to include school President Jay Gogue and Alison Pennel, president of her sorority, Delta Gamma.
Local man aids Iraq rebuilding effort

By Brock Letchworth
The Daily Reflector

William "Doc" DeLeo knows about starting over.

In 1990, he closed the doors of his Florida-based engineering business following the 1987 collapse of a Connecticut high-rise apartment building. The ensuing settlement left DeLeo — a partner and developer of the project — no choice.

The passion for construction he inherited from his father was waning, but a friend's recommendation prompted DeLeo and his family to visit Greenville later that year.

"My kids fell in love with it, and they started asking if we could move," DeLeo said. "They had no idea we were probably losing the house and all of that at the time."

He moved his family here during the summer of 1990, and soon after, he had established himself in the construction industry again.

But DeLeo has spent much of the past three years giving others a fresh start.

The 67-year-old has served two civilian tours in Iraq in that time, reconstructing towns and villages destroyed by the ongoing war. By providing basic utilities and building health-care facilities, DeLeo says his help gave the Iraqi people a life many had never seen.

"We're winning the hearts and minds of the people over there one light bulb and one bathroom at a time," he said.

DeLeo returned from Iraq last month pleased with what he accomplished. He says he will not return because of a promise made to his family, thus ending the latest chapter in his second-chance story.

Early days

The experience in Iraq wasn't DeLeo's first as a combat engineer.

After graduating from the Virginia Military Institute in 1963, the New Haven, Conn., native served the U.S. Army for two years in Africa where he installed an underground
DELEO
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satellite-monitoring network.
In 1968, DeLeo partnered
with one of his brothers to
form Dellewood Development
International. The business
began developing properties
in Florida and Louisiana be-
fore expanding to Australia.
“We were an international
success,” DeLeo said. “I be-
came a very successful, in-
dependent person over the next
20 years or so.”

Tragedy hits

One of Dellewood’s larg-
est projects was Bridgeport,
Conn.’s LaAmbiance Plaza, a
10-floor, high rise which was
to include 218 apartments and
five levels of parking.

Officials broke ground
on the $17.5 million project
in 1986, and it was about 60
percent complete when it col-

The cause of the accident,
which left 28 workers dead
and 16 others injured, was
determined by the Occupational
Safety and Health Administra-
tion to be the failure of a lifting
system for concrete slabs.

Some contractors had taken
shortcuts, officials said, and
DeLeo had to join them in
paying the price. Just before
Christmas of 1989, Dellewood
was part of a $71 million settle-
ment between contractors and
families.

“We ended up with two or
three million dollars out of it,
but we needed at least six or
seven million to keep the busi-
ness going,” DeLeo said.

New life

After establishing himself
in Greenville’s construction
industry, DeLeo, decided to try
his hand at teaching.

In 1994, he obtained a mas-
ter’s degree in occupa-
tional safety from East Carolina
University, and he started teach-
ing at the university soon af-
after. By 2002, DeLeo had earned
a doctorate in technology edu-
cation from North Carolina
State, and he was teaching
colleagues at ECU how to put
course content online.

WILLIAM DELEO discusses a project with a group of Iraqi
men during one of his two civilian tours in the country.

Not long after leaving ECU
in 2004, DeLeo was notified
that a college friend, Gen. Carl
Strock, had been named the
51st chief of engineers at VMI.

“I sent an e-mail saying if I
could help him in any way to
let me know,” DeLeo said. “The
next day someone called and
asked if I would be willing to
go to Iraq. I told them I couldn’t
shoot straight anymore, but
they, of course, said they didn’t
need that. They needed some-
one for reconstructing the
area, and that, I knew a little
bit about.”

Helping hand

Months passed before a call
for duty came.

After passing a physical and
background check in July 2005,
DeLeo left his wife and four
kids for Iraq’s Diyala Prov-
ince.

He started restoring water
and sewer systems, and helped
construct a central mail distri-
bution facility. DeLeo also was
responsible for training Iraqi
engineers to manage the projec-
tos when Americans are no
longer around.

“There are no words that can
describe how much has to be
done over there,” DeLeo said.
“Long after I’m gone, they’ll be
building infrastructure.”

While DeLeo describes most
Iraqi people as “very, very hap-
py” to see American soldiers
during his tours, not everyone
was so hospitable.

DeLeo recalls going to a
sewer lift station in northwest
Baghdad early in his second
tour. The city streets were
desolate, he said, although the
area was home to millions.

While leaving the station, a
young boy set off an explosive
between DeLeo’s vehicle and
another Humvee.

“It just missed us,” DeLeo
said. Nobody was killed in the
incident.

DeLeo’s crew eventually re-
paired the lift station, and he
returned to the area late last
year to see the results.

“I went back to the same area
where soldiers were telling me
not to get out before, and not
only was I getting out, but resi-
dents were opening doors for
me, and coming up to us like
we were rock stars,” DeLeo
said. “It is nothing short of re-
markable what the best of the
best are doing over there. Not
only can they shoot straight,
but they are the same guys who
are winning hearts and minds
by being who we, Americans,
are at our core.”

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ECU alumni efforts, magazine earn top awards

By ECU News Bureau
Special to The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University's Alumni Association received top honors Feb. 20 from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education at the District III conference. The alumni association received the Grand Award for Overall Alumni Relations Program during the CASE III conference in Atlanta.

"Being selected for this prestigious award by our peers for the work we do on behalf of the alumni of East Carolina is a great honor," said Paul Clifford, associate vice chancellor for alumni relations. Other finalists in the category were the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill General Alumni Association and the University of Miami. The alumni association also was recognized with a Special Merit award for its Constituency Organization Program, "Freshmen Sendoffs."

ECU’s University Publications also received special merit awards for its “ECU Tomorrow: A Vision for Leadership and Service” and the "Family Feud" illustration, designed by Mike Litwin, in "East" magazine.

Nursing research winners named

Mary Ann Rose and Dan Drake were named winners of the Collaborative Research Award during the 17th annual Collaborative Nursing Research Day held Feb. 29 at the Edwin W. Monroe AHBC Conference Center.

The $1,000 award supports a research project between a nurse faculty member and a Pitt County Memorial Hospital clinician and is sponsored by the ECU College of Nursing and University Health System of Eastern Carolina.

Rose is a professor in the ECU College of Nursing and past president of the National Association of Bariatric Nurses. Drake is a peri-operative and bariatric clinical nurse specialist at the hospital and president of the National Association of Bariatric Nurses.

Their project, "Safety Concerns in Caring for the Morbidly Obese: The Nurses' View," will enable them to survey nurses on safety risks inherent in caring for morbidly obese patients and on ways to improve safety. More than 20 research posters were presented by nurse faculty, graduate nursing students and clinical nurses.

Celebration to be held March 27

ECU will continue its centennial celebration March 27 with a focus on spirit and service.

The 10 a.m. convocation at Wright Auditorium will be led by Robert J. Grezyn (See ECU, B3)
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Jr., chairman of ECU Board of Trustees, who will speak on the topic of "spirit." The convocation will also hold its inaugural induction for members of the Servire Society — a recognition of ECU students, staff and faculty who have performed 100 or more hours of volunteer service, followed by a presentation for the Centennial Awards for Excellence. The Centennial awards, now in their second year, recognize outstanding university leaders or leadership teams in four categories: leadership, service, spirit and ambition.

Lunch on the university mall will be held from noon-1 p.m. The unveiling of the Greenville Quilters Guild's Centennial Quilt at the J.Y. Joyner Library will occur at 1 p.m., followed by a 2 p.m. ribbon-cutting for the reopening of the Carol G. Belk Building on Charles Boulevard, the new home for the College of Health and Human Performance.

Joyner library hosted summit

The Teaching Resources Center at Joyner Library hosted the third Librarian to Librarian Networking Summit on Feb. 23. The summit, titled "Reshaping The Past, Embracing Our Future" enabled more than 170 educators and school media personnel to consider their role in student academic success. The summit was also hosted by the Mackin Library and Classroom Services and the Scholastic Classroom and Library Group.

Ballard to speak at lecture series

Chancellor Steve Ballard will speak at a new Construction Management Leadership Lecture Series at 6:30 p.m. March 18 at Hendrix Theater at Mendenhall Student Center.

Mark Tipton, an ECU alumnus, trustee and former National Association of Home Builders president, will moderate the event. The Department of Construction Management, partnering with the National Housing Endowment, will host the free lecture to help students understand the importance of leadership in business and industry.

ECU hosts Jarvis Lecture

A biblical archeologist will speak at the 15th annual Jarvis Lecture on Christianity and Culture at 7:30 p.m. March 31 at the Harvey Banquet Hall at the Murphy Center.

William G. Dever will present "Did God Have a Wife?: Archaeology and Folk Religion in Ancient Israel."

"Dr. Dever has exceptional credentials as an archeologist and is a major player in the debate about the historicity of the biblical narratives," said Calvin Mercer, co-director of the ECU Religious Studies Program. Dever will illuminate the multi-faceted role of religion and cult in the everyday lives of the ancient Israelites.

The free lecture is sponsored by the East Carolina Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Religious Studies Program and supported by a contribution from Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church. Free parking.
Chapel Hill police release 3 photos of suspect in killing of UNC student

By Mike Baker
The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL — Detectives are searching for a man photographed using the ATM card of the University of North Carolina student body president found shot to death on a city street, police said Saturday.

Chapel Hill Police Chief Brian Curran released two surveillance photos of the suspect taken at an ATM machine in Chapel Hill, but declined to say when or exactly where the photos were taken. Police also released a photo of a baseball cap the suspect appears to be wearing in both of the surveillance pictures.

"This is our biggest break so far in this case," Curran said.

Eve Carson, 22, of Athens, Ga., was found Wednesday morning lying on a street about a mile from campus. She had been shot several times, including once in the right temple. Her sport utility vehicle was discovered Thursday, a few hours after police positively identified her as the victim.

She appears to be the victim of a random crime, Curran said.

Curran said police have circulated the picture with police departments in North Carolina, hoping their offices can help identify the suspect. The ATM photos show a young man in a baseball cap and hooded sweatshirt driving a sport utility vehicle that resembles Carson's Toyota Highlander.

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er, Curran said. There does not appear to be anyone else in the SUV.

Carson was last seen around 1:30 a.m. Wednesday, when she stayed behind at home to study while her roommates went out for the night. She was known to work late at her campus office, and Curran has said Saturday that "she may have mentioned something about needing to print off papers later that night." But Curran has said police don't have any evidence that she made it to her office. There were no signs of forced entry to her home and police said they are not aware of anyone who might have been angry with Carson. There are no indications she had been sexually assaulted, and police have yet to find her wallet or keys.

Along with the photos, authorities remain focused on Carson's truck, found illegally parked a few blocks from her home. They have said the killer had access to her vehicle, but have declined to provide other details. They again asked Saturday for the public's help, asking anyone who might have seen it between early Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoon to come forward.

Curran said investigators have also received Carson's cell phone records, and are using them to help construct a timeline of her final hours.

Police found Carson's body shortly after 5 a.m. Wednesday, after two callers to 911 reported hearing several gunshots. One of the callers also heard a woman scream as the shots were fired.
UNC med school
Charlotte backed

CHAPEL HILL — The UNC Board of Governors has endorsed a plan by the state's two public medical schools to add students and create regional campuses. That would include a campus at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

It calls for UNC Chapel Hill to expand its first-year medical school enrollment from 160 to 230, starting in 2009. The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University would expand its first-year class from 73 to 120.

Fifty of the new UNC students would complete their last two years at Carolinas Medical Center. Twenty would train in Asheville.

The Charlotte Observer reports that the medical center plans a $62 million, 110,000-square-foot building near the hospital.

Dr. James McDeavitt, senior vice president for education and research, said the building will house a medical library, classrooms, an auditorium and a simulation lab.
Fred Irons Jr.

Dr. Fred Irons Jr., 95, a devoted servant to his patients, family, and community and a deeply committed Christian, died Saturday, March 8, 2008 at Cypress Glen Retirement Community.

A memorial service will be conducted Monday at 11 a.m. in the Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church. A private committal service will be conducted at Pinewood Memorial Park.

Dr. Irons, a native of Pickaway, W.Va., grew up in Rockbridge Baths, Va. He was a graduate of Washington and Lee University, and The Medical College of Virginia. He served in the United States Army in World War II and spent 29 months in the European Theater and was awarded a Bronze Star for valor. He made his home in Greenville in 1946 where he began the practice of medicine, and began his service as Chief of ECU Student Health Service. He served as Chief of Staff for Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Dr. Irons was a member of the Greenville Rotary Club for over 50 years and received an honorary Lifetime Rotary Membership. He was a member of Jarvis United Methodist Church and served as chairman of the Administrative Board and was a Sunday school teacher.

He was preceded in death by his two sisters, Evelyn Lynn, and Sarah Williams.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Dr. Malene Grant Irons, to whom he was devoted until the last day of his life; sons, Dr. Thomas Grant Irons and wife, Carol F., of Greenville, Ben Gibson Irons II and wife, Susan P., of Greenville, and Dr. Cary Frederick Irons, III, and wife Susan H. of Chapel Hill; eight grandchildren, Tom Irons Jr. and wife Paige, Sarah I. Marques and husband, Carlos, James Irons and wife, Tiffany, Gib Irons, Laura Malene I. Johnson and husband, Chris, Charles Irons and wife, Dana, Costen Irons, and Creighton Irons; great grandchildren, Grant Irons, Janie Irons, Caroline Irons, Sam Marques and Katie Marques; and brother, Ben Gibson Irons and wife Mary Ellen, of Santa Cruz, Calif.

Memorial contributions may be made to Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church, 510 S. Washington St., Greenville, NC 27834 or to the Cypress Glen Benevolent Fund, 100 Hickory St., Greenville, NC 27838.
Mourning a life cut short

Hundreds gather at funeral in Eve Carson's hometown

BY ERRIN HAINES
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATHENS, Ga. — Hundreds of heartbroken mourners searched soul and Scripture on Sunday to understand why someone would fatally shoot Eve Carson and cut short a life with such promise.

For the hundreds gathered at Athens, Ga., First United Methodist Church, Carson should still be at school, studying political science and biology, teaching science to grade schoolers and planning her next trip abroad.

"We should not be here this afternoon," senior minister Bill Britt said. "It is too soon to be remembering the life of Eve Marie Carson," he told the mourners who gathered in her hometown. Many wore Carolina blue ribbons in her honor.

During the nearly two-hour service, there were just as many references to her beauty, intelligence and leadership as to her kindness, dedication to service and concern for others.

"Eve Carson was truly a gift to Chapel Hill," UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor James Moeser said.

Carson was in a four-year leadership development program for undergraduates, taught science at Chapel Hill elementary schools and spent summers volunteering in such places as Ecuador, Egypt and Ghana.

Carson was found Wednesday morning lying on a street about a mile from campus. She had been shot several times.

A SECOND FUNERAL: In Marietta, Ga., the hometown of slain Auburn University freshman Lauren Burk, a rabbi asked hundreds of people gathered at her funeral Sunday to turn their anger into something positive and let the justice system handle her killer.

Rabbi Steven Lebow said Sunday at Temple Kol Emeth that mourners should give blood or donate to charity in her memory.

"It would be easy to give way to our emotions this afternoon because there is a spectrum of feelings broiling and unsettling our souls," Lebow said. "The right thing isn't vengeance. The right thing is justice.

Burk, 18, was found shot on the side of an off-campus road Tuesday night. Iraq war veteran Courtney Lockhart has been charged in her death.

Lebow said the person who took Burk's life committed two unpardonable sins — murder and theft.

"He stole from Lauren's family the trust that all of us have that this is a good world," Lebow said.
New lead in Carson killing

Police say ATM surveillance photos seem to show a second person in what may be the slain student’s car.

BY SAMUEL SPIES AND MARK SCHULTZ
STAFF WRITERS

CHAPEL HILL – Police now think a second person may have been in the vehicle driven by a man they say was trying to use slain UNC-Chapel Hill student Eve Carson’s ATM card.

Black-and-white photographs distributed at a Saturday news conference show what looks like a figure in dark clothing in the back seat of the vehicle. What looks like a person’s chest and right shoulder can be seen between the driver’s seat and head rest.

“We believe there may have been a second person in the vehicle,” Chapel Hill Police Chief Brian Curran said Sunday evening.

Police received the surveillance images electronically and are waiting for the actual footage to be sent by FedEx, Curran said.

“We’re looking for original source video,” he said.

Tips came in over the weekend after police released the photos of the driver in what they said could be Carson’s 2005 Toyota Highlander, authorities said. But as of Sunday night, no arrests or other developments had been announced in Wednesday’s slaying of the student body president.

“There’s somebody out there, probably more than one, who knows who this guy is,” Curran of the driver in the photos.

“Those are the people that we’re depending on right now.”

Police have described the driver only as a black male in his late teens or early 20s, wearing a hooded sweat shirt, gloves and a cap with a star on it.

They have said the photos were taken

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by a surveillance camera at a Chapel Hill area ATM, but they have not said where the machine was or when the pictures were shot.

The UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees has pledged a $25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest in the case.

District Attorney Jim Woodall, whose jurisdiction includes Orange County, said he’d gotten regular updates from investigators.

“Most people, their first and their natural reaction in a case [is], ‘Oh, you’ve got a photo, you’ve got something great,’ ” Woodall said.

“You’ve always got to remember, somebody’s got to come forward and say, ‘Oh, I know who that is’ and be right about that.

“Oftentimes a reward is the thing that more people react to, frankly,” he added.

Woodall emphasized that tips can be made anonymously.

“It would be obviously much better if a person is willing to come forward and give their name to the authorities,” he said. But investigators “would rather have anonymous information than no information at all.”

Police have called the man they say was using Carson’s ATM card “a person of interest.” They have stopped short of calling him a suspect in her death.

The body of Carson, 22, was found in the Hillcrest neighborhood northeast of campus about 5:15 a.m. Wednesday with gunshot wounds, including one to the head.

A memorial service was held Sunday in her hometown of Athens, Ga.

Police ask anyone with information in the case to call Crime Stoppers at 942-7515 or to go to www.crimestoppers-chcunc.org.

samuel.spies@newsobserver.com or (919) 932-2014
Hospitals battle bid to rein in Medicaid

The Bush administration's new rules could cost N.C. hospitals thousands of jobs and millions of dollars.

By Barbara Barrett
Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON - As the last months of the Bush administration dwindle away, the White House might yet face another showdown with the Democratic Congress, this time over changes in Medicaid rules that could affect millions of low-income children and adults.

In the past year, the administration has tried to change the rules in a way that would reduce Medicaid spending by $15 billion over the next five years. The federal-state program pays for health care for the nation's poorest citizens.

The rule changes have brought objections from health-care leaders across the country. But the Bush administration says the changes represent tighter controls on Medicaid's rising costs.

Some rule changes, which would be enacted around Memorial Day, would reduce payments to North Carolina by an estimated $150 million next year alone. Hospital leaders and local government officials across the country say that if Congress doesn't block the regulations, patients will lose, particularly the uninsured, who may be turned away.

The state hospital association says workers will be hurt, too. It estimates 3,000 to 6,000 hospital jobs could be lost, up to a thousand of those in rural areas.

Hospital leaders have enlisted among their champions Sen. Elizabeth Dole, a Republican running for re-election. Though one of Bush's closest allies in the Senate, Dole is challenging the White House over its plans for Medicaid.

"This was a hastily made change," she said.

The Bush administration says that the changes aren't all坏事 and that they come as part of a needed examination of a program suffering from what federal Medicaid chief Dennis Smith called

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"mission creep." The phrase refers to the expansion of Medicaid coverage to populations and services that the administration thinks a program for poor people should not cover.

"What really is the role of Medicaid? Raising these areas of concern is something everyone should be aware of," said Smith, director of the federal Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services. He pointed to past Government Accountability Office reports showing waste or shoddy oversight in various programs.

Examples of waste can be found in many states. In North Carolina, state officials realized in 2003 they had overpaid hospitals by hundreds of millions of dollars through the same payment program now being tackled by Smith's proposed rule changes.

Still, around the country, hospital administrators are meeting in boardrooms, calling on lawmakers and worrying about how to handle expected cuts from the latest rules. In Congress, members are holding hearings about the changes' impacts. Dole has been lobbying peers on the Senate floor.

Rural red ink foreseen

In North Carolina, half of the state's rural hospitals could find themselves running a deficit because of the Medicaid program.

"When you're trying to stretch, it's just crazy," said Laura Easton, chief executive officer of Caldwell Memorial Hospital in Lenoir. "It hurts bad."

Easton said her hospital would lose $1 million next year — more than her $800,000 net operating income. These days, she walks the hallways of her hospital in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains and wonders: Will she have to cut jobs when her emergency room is already full of flu patients? Will she have to trim obstetrical services when 70 percent of her new babies arrive on Medicaid?

"It's something I'm struggling with," Easton said. "On every delivery, I lose $744. That's before the million-dollar cut. I did 485 of those last year."

Some rural hospitals could close, said Thomas Galligan, deputy director for budget and finance within the state's Division of Medical Assistance.

The rule many hospitals fear most would change the definition of a "public" hospital and all but eliminate reimbursements to the state for many uninsured patients.

North Carolina has drawn money from the federal government by using matching funds from about 40 of its public hospitals, including many county hospitals, that treat uninsured patients.

The Bush administration has occasionally proposed Medicaid changes as part of the president's annual budget request, but Congress declined to enact his ideas.

Clash with Congress

Now, with less than a year left in his presidency, Bush doesn't have the Democratic-controlled Congress on his side. But he has the power to change regulations. Many of the new rules came in the past year.

"This is the administration disregarding the will of Congress," said Lynne Fagnani, senior vice
WHAT IS MEDICAID?

Medicaid is a federal-state partnership to pay for health care for low-income residents. About 50 million adults and children now receive Medicaid services.

WHAT'S GOING ON? The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has several new rules that cut into various programs used by states. It hopes to save $15 billion over five years. Many hospitals and advocacy groups don't like the changes.

WHAT DOES THE GOVERNMENT WANT TO CHANGE? Several things. Through a series of regulations, the federal government would:

- Cut funding for the education of medical residents, who often work in teaching hospitals that serve low-income patients.
- Narrow the definition of a public hospital.
- Restrict some reimbursements to “cost only,” which doesn’t take into account equipment and overhead costs.
- Clarify the reimbursements on some outpatient services.
- Cut payments for transportation and administrative costs for health services at schools.
- Clarify the meaning of rehabilitative services.

WHAT'S AT STAKE? The Bush administration says it wants to restore the integrity and accountability of a Medicaid program that has become an umbrella for too many programs.

Hospitals and advocacy groups worry the cuts will hurt health care for low-income patients because of cuts to jobs and programs.

WHAT'S BEING DONE? A lot of lobbying. A bipartisan bill in Congress would put off two of the rule changes until May 2009. North Carolina hospitals fear a $320 million cut if the rules go into place. Sen. Elizabeth Dole and Rep. Sue Myrick have been leaders on the Republican side in the effort to get the bill passed.

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Smith said.

Some observers say the rules come as part of necessary changes to a bloated entitlement program that finds itself paying for services unrelated to Medicaid's purpose.

"It's important to start to bring about more accountability. These are just small steps," said Nina Owcharenko, a senior policy analyst at the Heritage Foundation and a former Jesse Helms staffer.

"Congress should really let these regulations go through," Owcharenko said. "By doing another moratorium, Congress is saying we're going to keep the mess because we don't have the fortitude to address the underlying problems."

Last year Congress imposed a moratorium on two of the rules — including the one that many hospitals in North Carolina worry about most.

But the congressional stopgap expires May 25.

Sen. Dole steps in

Dole signed on as the lead Republican cosponsor of legislation from Sen. Jeff Bingaman, a New Mexico Democrat. The bill would extend the moratorium one more year — beyond Bush’s tenure as president. It has the support of the majority of the Senate and more than 200 members of the House.

Still, supporters of the legislation say Bush would veto any freestanding bill.

So Bingaman must instead tack his moratorium onto “must-sign” legislation such as the supplemental war-spending bill. Because Congress passes few major bills in the spring, only a handful are bound for the president’s desk in the coming months.

"The sense of urgency is that both the Senate and Congress need to act now," said John Bluford, chief executive officer of Truman Medical Centers in Kansas City, Mo., and chairman-elect of the National Association of Public Hospitals.

If the rules go through, he said, his hospital could lose $37 million. He fears he might have to restrict health care for indigent patients to only the poorest.

"They're very hurtful to us," Bluford said of the rule changes.

Politics aside, hospital administrators and county health officials nationwide are worried.

Lauren Reichelt, health and human services director for Rio Arriba County in northern New Mexico, said she has spent 15 years working with villages in the rugged agricultural region, where women sometimes delivered babies with only their husbands as attendants.

"I feel like we've reversed that and gotten ambulance coverage to most parts in our county," she said. "I'm terrified, actually, that these rules changes would reverse that progress."

State looking at losses

Duke University Medical Systems would lose a quarter of its net operating income, said Ken Morris, senior vice president and chief financial officer. The hospital system may have to increase costs to insured patients or look to cuts in areas such as pediatric care that don't pay for themselves.

WakeMed lobbyist Judy O'Neal said the rule changes, which could cut $17 million from the hospital, have become her top priority.

"I just see our emergency department ... and you say, 'My gosh, we've got enormous demands,'" O'Neal said.

In Charlotte, Carolinas Health Care System — the state's largest Medicaid provider — warns that it would lose $62 million.

"It's the state's most vulnerable citizens," said Russ Guerin, the system's executive vice president for business and planning. "I really believe that it is our legislators' responsibility to continue to protect these folks."

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The University of North Carolina Board of Governors gave preliminary approval Friday to an expansion of the Brody School of Medicine. The board unanimously endorsed an expansion plan submitted by East Carolina University and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

The proposal would add 47 students at ECU and 70 students at UNC-CH.

UNC and ECU leaders praised the decision. "We were just very happy that the board was supportive and very interested in every detail," ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard said Friday afternoon. "This was not something where we had to convince them of the quality of the ideas."

UNC System President Erskine Bowles said the plan "is a milestone for our medical schools, as well as the people of North Carolina."

"We have recognized for some time the threat of a physician shortage in our state," he said. "This coordinated plan for expansion positions us to better fulfill our mission to serve the medical needs of North Carolinians."

Bowles also applauded Ballard and UNC-CH Chancellor James Moeser for their institutions' collaboration.

The next step is to secure funding for the enrollment bump, Ballard said. The expansions would cost the state $389 million in startup funds and $71.5 million for operations.

ECU proposes expanding to 120 students by some time in the next decade. Accompanying the growth would be a new facility on campus, a renovation of the Brody Health Sci-

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ECU
Continued from A1

ences Building and construction of clinical sites elsewhere in eastern North Carolina.

The satellite clinics, where upper-level students would study, will be chosen in early 2009, according to the plan submitted by ECU and UNC-CH.

ECU's growth would cost $150 million to start and $31.5 million a year thereafter, according to the joint plan.

UNC-CH would add 70 students. Fifty of them would do upper-level clinical work in Charlotte; 20 would study in Asheville in their third and fourth years.

A preliminary version of the UNC System's 2008-09 budget request includes $4.5 million to plan the medical expansions. ECU would receive $2 million, UNC-CH $2.5 million.

Ballard's said he's "very optimistic" the legislature will fund the venture, but added that securing money "will take a lot of work."

The ECU/UNC-CH partnership is modeled on their joint venture in dentistry, which resulted in a massive expansion of the dental school in Chapel Hill and creation of a new program at ECU.

Unlike the dental school plan, the medical expansion will likely come before the UNC board again, Ballard said.

Jimmy Ryals can be contacted at jryals@coxnc.com an 329-8588.
ECU to hold founder’s day events at later time

The Daily Reflector

With few students or faculty members on campus, East Carolina University will celebrate its founding a little later this year.

Today is the 101st anniversary of the legislation that created ECU. It's also a Saturday and the first full day of spring break, so the university will hold no events to mark the occasion today, university spokesman John Durham said.

Instead, ECU will hold a series of events on March 27:

- An invitation-only breakfast for community leaders, 7:30 a.m., Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church.
- A centennial convocation, 10 a.m., Wright Auditorium.

Bob Grecezyn Jr., chairman of the ECU Board of Trustees and president of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Carolina, will give the keynote speech.

Chancellor Steve Ballard also will speak, and the university will announce a series of awards.

- Dinner on the grounds, 11:30 a.m., the ECU mall.
- Centennial quilt unveiling, 11 a.m., Joyner Library.
- Rededication of the Belk Building, 2 p.m.
- Organizers also are planning a March 26 student birthday party featuring music and food on the mall.

Founder's Day recognizes Thomas Jordan Jarvis, the North Carolina governor who pushed the legislature to create East Carolina Teachers Training School. Jarvis is buried in Greenville's Cherry Hill Cemetery.

This year's events are part of a two-year celebration of ECU's centennial. It began March 8, 2007, and will run through March 8, 2009.
Slain student leader at UNC recalled as selfless, smart

By Mike Baker
The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL — You couldn't escape Eve Carson's presence at the University of North Carolina.

The student body president welcomed all incoming freshmen — each and every one — to stop by her office for a chat. She was a member of the school's Board of Trustees and a tournament-winning intramural flag football team.

She had friends in the chancellor’s office, friends on the school’s top-ranked basketball team and more among the school’s 28,000 students.

“She was a bright spot in anybody's day,” said Seth Dearmin, a former student body president who met Carson during her freshman year. “She took time to talk to people, to listen to them. She cared about what they were interested in. That's what drove her. She was a completely selfless person.”

And for it, North Carolina loved her back.

Twice in the hours after learning the 22-year-old Carson had been shot to death.

See STUDENT, A11
early Wednesday on a city street not far from campus, thousands of students, staff and faculty gathered to mourn her death. The tears continued to flow Friday, and it's likely the school will hold another memorial service after students return from next week's spring break.

University Chancellor James Moeser plans to lead a delegation of senior administrators to services this weekend for Carson at her home in Athens, Ga. The Board of Trustees, meanwhile, has offered a $25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest in her death.

"She touched so many lives over the period of four years that she was here," Moeser said. "Kids who didn't even know her felt they were touched by her."

The many memories make the mystery of her death that much harder to accept on the campus of the nation's first public university. Detectives know Carson was killed by a shot from a handgun to her right temple but said Friday they still have no suspects in what they still consider a random act.

"It's just a huge blow. It's a blow against everything we assume about ourselves, about being a peaceful, safe place where kids come," Moeser said. "She was a joyful person. She loved this place. She loved being here."

For now, police are looking for clues in her car: Officers believe the killer had access to her vehicle, but aren't sure of the circumstances. They are canvassing the neighborhood where Carson's body was found but don't know what she was doing there. Two callers to 911 reported hearing several gun shots, and one heard Carson scream.

"We've been getting a number of leads that we're trying to follow up on," said Chapel Hill Police Chief Brian Curran.

Carson was last seen a few hours before, when she stayed behind at home to study as her roommates went out for the night. There were no signs of forced entry to the home, but Curran said authorities have yet to find her keys and wallet. There are no indications she had been sexually assaulted.

Curran said Friday police had been in contact with authorities in Alabama investigating the killing of Lauren Burk, an 18-year-old Auburn University student from Marietta, Ga., who was found shot and wounded Tuesday night.
Laurels — To Dental Access Days, a free dental clinic taking place this weekend in Rocky Mount that is believed to be the largest in state history. As residents in eastern North Carolina are aware, finding accessible and affordable dental care can pose a challenge here, and this clinic aims to provide it for those who lack the means to pay. Kudos to local dentists volunteering their time and energy to that worthy effort.

A tragic loss

The Associated Press

Darts — To the sad and senseless killing of Eve Marie Carson, the student body president at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Anyone who attended college probably knew a student like Carson — talented, motivated, selfless and eager to make a difference in the world. They are the people who make college campuses special places to learn and live. The death of every promising young man or woman is a tragedy, and the sorrowful response in this case is more than justified.

Darts — To the rain storms that postponed the first day of the fifth annual Keith LeClair Classic baseball tournament in Greenville. The heavy rainfall certainly serves the needs of this community and the region, which have been struggling with an on-going drought, but the tournament is a terrific event and an annual highlight for East Carolina University. Let’s hope the weather breaks and blue skies afford a chance to play ball.

Laurels — To early plans that would see the new dental school at East Carolina become the first certified green building on campus. School officials and project architects hope to win approval from the U.S. Green Building Council for an eco-friendly design when they finalize plans for the 112,500-square-foot facility. That represents a positive approach, and the type of progressive planning ECU, Greenville and Pitt County should embrace.
Campus deaths teach cruel lesson

Grieving for their peers, students grasp life’s fragility

By Anne Blythe and Josh Shaffer / Staff Writers

These are the blissful days of the college calendar, the days when students squeeze into cars for spring break adventures and basketball fans are infected with the first giddy waves of tournament mania.

But at UNC-Chapel Hill, a place all about preparing for the life ahead, students must now come to grips with a sudden finality.

The slaying of Eve Carson, the popular and accomplished student body president, has united a campus in grief and forced students to reckon with mortality at a time they might be flinging Frisbees and toasting their favorite team.

It is a wrenching adjustment for the young who think they’re immortal, and it is becoming more common.

In just the past four years, a number of schools within a day’s drive of Chapel Hill have suffered the violent deaths of students. The mass killings at Virginia Tech last April jolted a generation into the realization that even on college campuses there is no invincibility. At UNC-Wilmington, N.C. Central University and Duke University, students have recently fallen victim to fatal assaults.

At all these places, students recall feeling blind-sided. They were busy being 20, rushing to finish a paper, excited about football season, getting ready to graduate, when the rhythms of campus were halted by bloodshed.

For the first time, they knew a victim, a dead person their own age.

Death

Continued from Page 1A

Etched into class identity

“Our class now is defined by the murder of one of our classmates,” said Adam Rhew, a UNC-Chapel Hill senior from Charlotte who has been covering the story for student TV and the local radio station. “It’s one of those things, it’s going to define a lot of people at this university.”

Aaron Nelson, executive director of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, remembers all too well how it feels to have such a dark, seminal moment define his college experience. He was the UNC-Chapel Hill student body president 12 years ago when an early-morning fire at the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house ended the lives of five students on graduation day.

“I can smell that morning,” Nelson recalled Friday. “I remember every detail.”

He also has vivid memories of the fear that gripped students in 1995, when Wendell Williamson, a UNC-Chapel Hill law student, terrorized the campus and the town during his slow, deadly shooting rampage.

“The students will never forget where they were when they heard about Eve,” Nelson said.

This weekend, on a campus once brimming with life as full as Carson’s, an eerie quiet pervades. The students who turned out by the thousands to grieve have scattered, some for Carson’s funeral today, some for spring break beach parties, others for the warmth of home.

“It may be a good thing that it’s spring break,” said Steve Allred, UNC-Chapel Hill executive vice provost. “Every parent of every kid is going to want to hug their daughter or son.”
'A wake-up call'

In 2004, UNC-Wilmington students trickled home for the summer in a daze after the campus was rocked by two unrelated stalker slayings within weeks. Jessica Faulkner, 18, was wrapping up her freshman year when she was raped and strangled inside her dorm room by a classmate. A few weeks later, 22-year-old junior Christen Najarok was shot and killed outside her Wilmington apartment by a jilted boyfriend. Both suspects ended up committing suicide.

"Someone was actually murdered in the dormitory," said Kiara Jones, a 2004 graduate who covered the story for the student newspaper. "All around me the talk was, 'Wow, I can't believe this happened.' I was in the campus ministry, and I remember the minister saying young people think they're invincible. That's what it was. It was a wake-up call."

The Wilmington students had the summer to digest the murders, talk with their parents, let the loss sink in.

But in South Carolina last fall, students faced horror in the middle of the semester. In late October, seven students died when their weekend vacation house caught fire in Ocean Isle Beach, N.C. Six victims came from the University of South Carolina; a seventh attended Clemson. Back on the Columbia campus, sophomore Artisa Ricks didn't know the victims personally. But her friends did, and watching them mourn was just as painful.

"They're you're age," said Ricks, who majors in broadcast journalism. "That's a scary thought. We bonded. We realized life was short. There are no guarantees."

The seven students died in the middle of football season, and team spirit suddenly felt inappropriate. "You wonder," Ricks said, "should I feel excited about that?"

Students find themselves joined by grief for people they didn't know and the idea that anyone so young could die so soon.

MORE ONLINE

Hear a 911 call from the shooting, see video, a photo gallery and share your remembrances and condolences for Eve Marie Carson at newsobserver.com/news

Grieving for strangers.

At Virginia Tech last year, 33 of the university's 25,000 students died, including the emotionally troubled gunman, in the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history.

Kelly Barber, a Virginia Tech sophomore from Chapel Hill, recalls how everyone scattered after the killing, leaving the campus empty and silent for a week.

They returned to 36,000 condolences sent by people around the world, and they lent each other their shoulders even when the dead were strangers. Next month, on April 16, the one-year anniversary, classes will be canceled. In the lull, students will remember what they weren't supposed to know.

The news about Carson reminded Beverly Washington Jones, the N.C. Central University provost, of Denita Smith, an NCCU graduate student found slain at the base of a stairwell at an off-campus apartment last year.

The sadness over such a death never disappears, Jones said, but the shock eventually subsides.

"There are lessons that young people have to learn — that we take every day and live them to our fullest," said Jones, who called UNC-CH Chancellor James Moeser on Friday offering a shoulder of support. "We need to say to the individuals that we love, that we love them. ... It took a time in which we came together and reflected upon a life and then we began to celebrate a life."

Staff researcher Becky Ogburn contributed to this report.

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Photos are break in Carson case

Police won't call the man a suspect but say he used the slain UNC student's ATM card.

BY STANLEY B. CHAMBERS JR. AND JESSE DECONTO
STAFF WRITERS

CHAPEL HILL — Police are looking for a young man who used an ATM card belonging to slain UNC-Chapel Hill student body president Eve Carson, but they have stopped short of calling him a suspect in her homicide.

Chapel Hill Police Chief Brian Curran said investigators have not identified the man whose photo was captured by a surveillance camera as he used the ATM. They can only say that he appears to be black and in his late teens or early 20s.

In photos released Saturday, the man appears to be wearing gloves, a hooded sweatshirt or parka and a ball cap with a star on it. Chapel Hill police also released a photo of a Houston Astros baseball cap that looks similar. Experts say the vintage Astros cap with an H superimposed on the star is popular with some gangs.

Curran said the ATM photos were taken in the Chapel Hill area but would not say specifically where or when.

“This is our biggest break so far in this case,” he said at a news conference Saturday morning. “I know we’re still in the

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first couple of days of this. But this is our strongest lead right now, and we’re hopeful that we’re able to get this guy identified.”

Curran said the ATM camera captured images of the man in a sport utility vehicle with a rooftop. The SUV may be Carson’s 2005 Toyota Highlander. He referred to the man in the photos as “a person of interest.”

Curran said police are putting together a timeline using Carson’s cell-phone records but said they have not found her keys or her wallet. He repeated that investigators have no evidence to suggest Carson was specifically targeted.

“We believe, at this point, it feels like a random crime,” Curran said.

Carson, 22, was found in the Hillcrest neighborhood northeast of the UNC-Chapel Hill campus about 5:15 a.m. Wednesday with gunshot wounds, including one to the head. She was carrying no identification, and it was not until Thursday that police announced that they had confirmed her identity.

Carson’s Toyota Highlander was discovered Thursday afternoon on North Street, around the corner from her house at Friendly Lane.

The Associated Press reported Friday that Carson was shot in the right temple, something Curran did not confirm or deny Saturday.

“Those are questions we would like to ask the suspect,” he said.

Carson’s roommates told police that they had gone out at 1:30 a.m. Wednesday and that she had stayed home alone to study. Curran said Saturday that police think Carson might have left her house later to make copies for school.

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**THE NEWS & OBSERVER**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2008**

**REMEMBERING EVE**

The memorial service for Eve Carson will be held at 3 p.m. today at the First United Methodist Church, 327 N. Lumpkin St. in Athens, Ga.

Memorial donations may be directed to the Clarke County Foundation for Excellence in Public Education, P.O. Box 1708, Athens, GA 30603, or any other charity of your choice.

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**FIND MORE ONLINE**

Hear a 911 call from the shooting, see video and a photo gallery, and share your remembrances and condolences for Eve Marie Carson at newsobserver.com.

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**POLICE SEEK TIPS**

Police are still interested in speaking with anyone who thinks they saw Eve Carson’s Toyota Highlander between 1:30 a.m. Wednesday and midday Thursday. The blue SUV has Georgia license plates AIV-6690.

The UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees has pledged $25,000 to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill-UNC Crime Stoppers program for a reward for information leading to the arrest of a person or persons responsible for Eve Carson’s death. Police ask anyone with information about the case to call Crime Stoppers at 942-7515 or visit www.crimestoppers-chnlnc.org.