THE DAILY CLIPS

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A doctor prepares for high-tech surgery at East Carolina University, once considered just a teacher training school.

N&O FILE PHOTO

Medical school reshapes Greenville

BY JERRY ALLEGOOD STAFF WRITER

GREENVILLE — No one envisioned a sprawling medical center in Greenville when East Carolina University began its quest for a medical school 40 years ago.

Back then, Greenville was a quiet college town with a booming tobacco market and a small county hospital. Local doctors took turns working nights to make sure someone was on call at the emergency room.

But through the years, the medical school has transformed Pitt County Memorial Hospital and the surrounding area. Not only did the school boost health care in Greenville — now there are about 500 doctors and 1,200 nurses on the hospital staff alone — but it also fostered a far-reaching regional health care system serving 1.2 million people in 29 counties.

Once the focus of long-running opposition from the state’s higher education and medical establishment, the school is now benefiting from cooperation between former rivals ECU and UNC-Chapel Hill that is fueling even more growth in Greenville, state and local officials say.

With tobacco’s decline and the slow extinction of small-town hospitals, this latest development boom underscores the medical school’s role as both a primary economic engine and the prime source of high-end medical care for rural counties that are hard-pressed to attract and keep doctors, particularly specialists.

“If you took East Carolina University — and especially the medical school — out of the east we would look like a developing nation,” said former U.S. Sen. Robert Morgan, an ECU graduate and longtime political supporter.

The medical complex on the west side of the city is already a bustling mix of university facilities and those of Pitt County Memorial Hospital, a 761-bed facility that is the university’s main teaching hospital. Towering nearby is ECU’s Brody Medical Sciences Building.

Joining the skyline is a six-story, $150 million tower, part of the new East Carolina Heart Institute, which will soon add 120 more beds. A separate four-story building behind the hospital will house offices and labs for cardiologists, surgeons and scientists as well as outpatient clinics. And nearby, construction is just getting under way on ECU’s new dental school.

The scope of facilities and services surprises even the most ardent ECU supporters. They sought a medical school simply to boost the number of doctors in rural communities. Instead, the hospital has become one of the area’s largest employers, with 6,300 employees and an annual payroll of $344 million.

The hospital has grown from a building worth $12 million in the mid-1970s to an $800 million facility with $600 million in expansion projects planned. About 33,000 patients are admitted annually, and the hospital serves about 266,000 outpatients. More than 3,000 babies are born at Pitt each year.

Bitter fight for respect

Morgan, then a state senator, was on the front lines in the early legislative struggles of the 1960s when ECU sought approval for a medical school. The idea was widely regarded as a pipe dream by an upstart teacher training school.

Opposition was formidable. Officials and supporters of the existing state-supported medical school at the UNC-Ch argued that it would be better to expand UNC or private medical schools. Others wanted a medical school in Charlotte. Critics charged that a new school would be unnecessary and expensive.

Study commissions agreed with critics. Major state newspapers, including The News & Observer and Charlotte Observer, weighed in with editorials and cartoons opposing the new school. Much of this criticism targeted the late Leo Jenkins, the feisty ex-Marine who led ECU for 18 years.

“It was bitter,” recalled Dr. Edwin Monroe of Greenville, a retired ECU vice chancellor.

Monroe, who was a physician in Greenville before joining the school in 1968, said he entered the fray because not enough was being done for underserved areas, including Eastern North Carolina.

Others offered counterproposals after ECU began pushing, he said.

But partisans and politicians, tapping regional pride and resentment against rival schools, built a coalition that prevailed by the 1970s. The legislature authorized a medical school as well as other programs aimed at the physician shortage. The first four-year class of 28 students enrolled in 1977. ECU was graduating physicians by 1981.

Rivalry subdued

Despite a history of rivalry, officials at ECU and UNC-Ch say they are now working together on projects to improve health care, especially in rural areas. ECU is building a new dental school while UNC expands its existing dental school.

In December, officials of ECU’s Brody School of Medicine and its Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center, UNC-Ch and its Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center in Chapel Hill, and the UNC system signed a memorandum of understanding to work together on cancer care.

The schools are even working together on medical school expansion. The UNC Board of Governors earlier this month endorsed a $450 million plan to expand medical education at the state’s two public medical schools.

House Speaker Joe Hackney of Chapel Hill, who attended the groundbreaking for the ECU Dental School last month, said ECU receives widespread support because of its accomplishments.

“The folks across the state have paid attention to what the Brody School of Medicine has done,” he said.

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SEE HOSPITAL, PAGE 11A
Community project promotes arts, matey

By Mike Grizzard
The Daily Reflector

Pirates have taken over a front room at the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce. They hang out quietly, not disturbing the daily flow of business except for an occasional peek by a curious visitor.

Some 16 of them have gathered, eye patches in place, swords in hands and decked out in full gear. Purple and gold are the colors of choice for nearly half the crew, but hues of blue, green, orange, red, brown and black are in abundance, too.

Soon they will stake out strategic spots in downtown Greenville. But don’t hide the women and children — they’re only statues.

The Painted Pirate Community Art Project will roll out its models on April 12 as part of the second annual PirateFest. The finished products are nearly a year in the making, from soliciting sponsors to commissioning artists to delivery to the chamber office, and project organizers are ready for their unveiling.

PAINTED PIRATES: Check out the photo gallery with this story on reflector.com to see more of the Painted Pirates.

“It’s very exciting to see the project actually coming together because we’ve been looking at drawings and dreams for many months now,” Susanne Sartelle, president of the chamber of commerce, said. “To actually see the almost finished products — they still have to be clear-coated and mounted on their bases — is just amazing. It’s going to definitely meet the goal of creating community spirit. That’s one of the very things you hope to accomplish with a public art display.”

Although the number of sponsorships for the 6-foot, 60-pound fiberglass molds fell short of the target — the committee wanted at least 20 — the painted versions have revived enthusiasm for those involved. The pirates will be on public display for one year before being auctioned off, and all proceeds will benefit the East Carolina University Alumni Association.

“I’ve seen it done in a couple of different places,” said artist Mike Litwin, referring to art projects featuring crabs in Washington and Pegasus horses at the Outer Banks, as well as others in Louisiana.

“I thought it was great that Greenville was doing something like that,” he said. “I thought it was a great idea to raise funds and promote the arts at the same time, which I’m always in favor of.”

See PIRATES, A7
PIRATES
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Litwin, an ECU graduate who works in the university's publications department, painted a purple-and-gold pirate for the alumni association, accenting it with images of significant faces and places in ECU's history. His wife, Glynis, also an ECU graduate, painted a purple-and-gold version for University Book Exchange, adding in black pants.

Sponsors had the option of selecting from submitted renderings or commissioning artists for specific designs they wanted. Katherine Wetherington, owner of Dulcinea in downtown Greenville, painted purple-and-gold pirates for the Pitt-Greenville Airport Authority and Rock Springs in a "family project" that included husband, Lance, and children, Ashley, 20; Alea, 16; and Hayes, 12.

"To do two at once was real daunting at first, but it was a wonderful family project," she said. "... it seems like a really simple project, but it's the materials that really take the time. They have to be put on very smoothly and in very thin layers and then built up. I think there are about five layers of each color on each pirate."

Wetherington didn't just pick any purple and gold. She consulted with experts at a local paint store and also used a special bonding primer.

"They did so much research, and then they created all those enamels and mixed all those enamels for me," Wetherington said. "They were really involved. They also got me the exact ECU formula colors because it was real important to both sponsors that their pirates be very ECU-indicative."

Ties to eastern North Carolina or ECU hooked most of the artists, but the intrigue stretched across the border to Canada thanks to the power of the Internet.

Marilyn Busko came across the pirate project while surfing, and she and her 18-year-old son, Rick, each painted colorful renditions.

Marilyn had painted three tigers for an art project in her hometown of Detroit, Mich. She now lives in Essex, Ontario, Canada, about 30 miles from the U.S. border.

"I was just looking online to see if there were any other projects available that were open to the public, and I found that one," Busko, a mother of 11, said in a telephone interview. "All my kids are really into pirates. They love pirates, anything pirates. I just thought it would be a neat idea. I just like the form of the statue that they made."

Marilyn's beach-themed pirate, which is sponsored by the Greenville Convention Center & Visitors Bureau, is arguably the most extravagant. She carved out three parrots from expandable insulation foam and attached them to the pirate. The back is graced by a ship and treasure chest.

"I was honored that they liked it," she said of the rendering she submitted.

The painted version took nearly two months to complete, she said.

Rick Busko's pirate with leopard and zebra skins is sponsored by the chamber of commerce.

Marilyn personally delivered the pirates to Greenville, driving from Canada with her sister, Carol Gury.

"We left at 5 o'clock on a Sunday, got there at 1 o'clock on Monday, and we turned around about a half-hour later and drove back home," she said. "But it was fun. It was a nice ride."

Only a few pirates were there to greet her, however.

"There were only three," she said. "I wish I could have seen them all. It's fascinating with all these different artists and their ideas."

Wetherington said she has plenty more ideas and would like to see the project continue. Sartelle said she didn't anticipate another round of sponsorship sales but does expect the pirates to create quite a buzz when they hit the streets.

"I am just amazed at the creativity," she said. "... They are absolutely of the highest quality of art. I think that our community can be very, very proud to display them."

"They'll be a draw for people to come into the uptown area where several of them will be displayed. I think they will be great points of pride for several businesses at which they will be displayed, and everybody in the community can be excited about it. It's just one more reason to feel good about our pirate heritage."

Mike Grizzard can be contacted at mgrizzard@coxnc.com and 339-9590.
ECU trustee speaks to Cypress Glen club

The Daily Reflector

Bob Grezyn was the keynote speaker at the Cypress Glen East Carolina University Club meeting Feb. 20. Grezyn is the chairman of the ECU Board of Trustees and the president and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC. He has been a member of the ECU board for four years and is a 1975 ECU graduate.

Grezyn's remarks included an overview of his role as the board president, as well as the growth and challenges at ECU.

"We need to keep our faculty fully engaged and to actively manage our growth and quality," he said. "We do an amazing job."

He said ECU currently has about 26,000 students and about 6,000 Distance Education students, more than many of the other North Carolina campuses combined. "It's entirely possible to get a degree completely online, taught by the same professors as in the classroom," he said.

Approximately 105 Cyprus Glen residents and guests attended.

Entertainment was provided by the ECU Magnolia Belles, a group of nine female vocalists.

The group sang several Pirate favorites such as the ECU Fight Song, the ECU Alma Mater and some familiar pop music standards.

The Cypress Glen ECU Club is open to all residents and their guests who have an interest in East Carolina University.

Many Cypress Glen residents have close ties to the university and are ECU graduates, family members of graduates or former employees of the university.
Our Views

Pull together
ECU, UNC cooperate on common problem

North Carolina residents are fortunate to enjoy one of the premier university systems in the nation, 16 campuses determined to expand knowledge, education and research across the state. Yet, there are times when it seems those schools operate at odds and move in opposite directions, rather than a common one.

A plan to expand the medical schools at East Carolina University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill demonstrates the preferred, cooperative approach, especially among these leaders of the state’s education community. The resulting effort promises to serve this state well and should be commended.

However, the winners here are not the universities themselves or the officials who are working together, but the people of North Carolina.

Advocates of the plan battled those who believed the medical school at UNC Chapel Hill was sufficient for the state, and that a medical school in the East would be a waste of limited resources.

North Carolina now knows the error inherent in that opposition, and that the Brody School of Medicine is a tremendous benefit to the state. Health care has dramatically improved in the state’s rural communities, particularly in eastern North Carolina, where access to medical care has been historically sparse.

For East Carolina, the fight for the medical school is an indelible memory. And many subsequent battles for programs or funding are viewed through that lens.

That makes the proposed expansion of the medical school such a compelling and exciting endeavor. The proposal to increase enrollment by 47 students in the coming years comes in concert with a plan to add 70 additional students to the medical school at Chapel Hill. Officials from both schools worked to forge the proposal and have advocated for it together. The UNC Board of Governors responded to the united front and the shared vision, and gave the plan tentative approval this month.

As the push for funding moves to the General Assembly, East Carolina can be bolstered by having UNC Chapel Hill as a partner in the fight, and vice versa. Both should find heavy lifting far easier with the other involved.

However, the winners here are not the universities themselves or the officials who are working together, but the people of North Carolina. The need for practicing physicians should be met with a comprehensive and cohesive initiative, as in this case.

The university system is expected to focus on service to the residents of this state and to cooperate on ideas that achieve that goal. In this case, it appears they have done so, and North Carolina has cause to celebrate it.
Basketball unnecessary drain at ECU

For the last 40 years at East Carolina University we have experienced winning programs in football, baseball and track — programs the athletes, students, alumni and supporters have been proud of.

Basketball is the exception. It stinks, to put it mildly. What people need to realize is ECU does not need a basketball program. To qualify for Division I-A, we could replace basketball with sports such as soccer, marksmanship, crew, wrestling and a host of other sports.

Basketball at ECU has been an embarrassment and a financial drain on the athletic department's budget. The basketball facility could be turned into an indoor track and field facility, indoor marksmanship ranges and an indoor soccer practice field. The money we have dumped down the basketball toilet for the past 40 years could be used to develop the best track program in the eastern United States.

High School basketball players worth their salt are not coming to ECU with four ACC teams in the state. Would you? From a business point of view, we do not need a basketball program that has for 40 years embarrassed everyone associated with ECU and that has spent countless millions of dollars to remain on the bottom.

Hiring a new coach or athletic director will not change things. We have tried that.

Let's put our ECU money in other sports where we can prevail.

STEVE COCHRAN
Pinehurst
Two pediatricians join faculty at Brody School of Medicine

Dr. John Wells Logan III and Dr. Kristina Simeonsson have joined the faculty of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. Logan is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics. A native of Chattanooga, Tenn., he has a bachelor's degree from N.C. State University and a medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina. He completed residency training at the Medical College of Georgia and a fellowship in neonatology at Duke University. He also worked in private practice.

Logan is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics. His research interests are optimizing care for infants born with congenital diaphragmatic hernia, the failure of the diaphragm to completely close during development, and reducing death among low birth-weight infants.

Logan sees patients in the neonatal intensive care unit at Pitt County Memorial Hospital and in the ECU neonatal follow-up clinic.

Simeonsson is an assistant professor of pediatrics. From 2000-02, she was a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics at ECU.

Simeonsson has a bachelor's degree, medical degree and master's of public health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She completed residency training at PCMH and ECU and is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics. Before coming to ECU, Simeonsson was a medical epidemiologist with the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. Her clinical interests are maternal and child health, pandemic influenza preparedness and infectious disease epidemiology and surveillance.

Simeonsson sees patients at the ECU Pediatric Outpatient Center and the Greene County Health Department.
Two professors recognized for their creativity

The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University has named two recipients of the 2008 Research and Creative Activity Awards.

Margaret Bauer, the Rives Chair of Southern Literature in ECU's English Department, and Ron Cortright, professor of exercise science and physiology, received the five-year awards from the Division of Research and Graduate Studies.

Along with their 2007 counterparts, they will each deliver lectures of their research as part of ECU's Research and Creative Activity week, March 31 through April 4.

"Bauer will deliver her lecture at 6:30 p.m., April 1. Cortright will deliver his lecture at 6:30 p.m., April 2. Both will take place in Mendenhall Room 244.

Deirdre Mageean, vice chancellor of research and graduate studies, said she was proud of the accomplishments of these researchers.

"These individuals are recognized for the originality and excellence of their research and creative activities, as evidenced by sustained high quality work performed at ECU," Mageean said. "Congratulations to them for their exceptional research accomplishments."

Bauer, who came to ECU in 1996, also is the editor of the North Carolina Literary Review, and the author of books examining the work of Ellen Gilchrist, William Faulkner and a forthcoming publication on the playwright Paul Green.

Since 2002, she has orchestrated five annual Literary Homecoming events.

Cortright came to ECU in 1995 to complete a post-doctorate in biochemistry and joined the faculty in 1998. He has received more than $1.3 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health to study the causes of obesity, type II diabetes, and metabolism malfunction. Most recently his work has focused on health disparities.

The 2007 Research and Creative Activity Award recipients will deliver their lectures as well. Michael Van Scott, professor of physiology, will present at noon, March 31; Erik Everhart, professor psychology, will present at 6:30 p.m., on March 31. Lifetime Achievement Award winner Jeffery Johnson, professor of sociology, will present at noon, April 1. All lectures will take place in Mendenhall Student Center Room 244.

ECU hosts housing fair

ECU Center for Off-Campus and Community Living is hosting a Housing Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Mendenhall brickyard. More than 30 vendors will be on-site, as well as the ECU and Greenville police, who will be available to discuss safety issues. Refreshments are free.

Students funded to study abroad

Two ECU biology doctoral students have received funding from the National Science Foundation to conduct research in a biology laboratory this summer in a foreign country. Nhu Nguyen will travel to Singapore and Richard Hanna

See ECU, B3
Speech disorder event scheduled

A reception and information session about aphasia, a language disorder that results from a stroke, will be held at 6:30 p.m. March 25 in Room 1120 of the Health Sciences Building on N.C. 43. A documentary, "Inside Aphasia," will be shown. The even is sponsored by the Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Call 252-328-6102 for more information.

Jarvis Lecture is March 31

A biblical archeologist will speak at the 18th annual Jarvis Lecture on Christianity and Culture, 7:30 p.m., March 31 at the Harvey Banquet Hall at ECU's Murphy Center.

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

‘Dating Dahling’ visiting

An ECU alumna and “Dating Dahling” will return to Greenville March 27.

Candace McKenzie, author of “Be a Dating Dahling: Confessions of a Princess and how She Left Fairyland for the Real Dating World,” (Authorhouse, 2006), will visit the Taylor-Slaughter Alumni House, 901 E. Fifth St., at 3 p.m. to talk about dating tips and the search for love.

McKenzie is part of the new Alumni Association series, Published Pirates. The event is free, but registration is required by March 26. Call 1-800-ECU-GRAD, or visit www.PirateAlumni.com.

Political visions will be on exhibit

The political visions of 50 artists will be on display at Mendenhall Student Gallery Thursday through April 18.

The exhibition, "Another Voice," will feature more than 150 political illustrations that challenge and celebrate politics and political differences.

Three exhibit artists, Sue Coe, Stephen Kroninger and David McLimans will hold a panel discussion with curator Patrick Flynn, at 6:30 p.m., April 3 at Hendrix Theater in the Mendenhall Student Center.

The panel discussion will address the importance of image and politics, and the relationship between editors and artists, and the challenge of creating works for a political forum.

Flynn is the former art director for "The Progressive" magazine. Coe will also be giving an artist talk at 1 p.m., April 4 in the Speight Auditorium at the Jenkins Fine Arts Center.

Alumni to host Road Race

Registration is under way for the April 12 East Carolina Alumni Association Pirate Alumni 5K Road Race and mile Fun Run.

Proceeds will benefit East Carolina Alumni Association scholarships. The Alumni Association annually awards $1,000 scholarships to students.

Entry fees are $15 until March 31 and $25 thereafter. On-site registration available at Reade Circle. Contact 252-328-5557 or Liz.Bellebe@PirateAlumni.com to register.
Despite an overall decline in campus homicides, recent deaths put students on edge.

By Justin Pope
The Associated Press

Three murders in less than a week have sent three Southern college campuses into grief, and brought renewed attention to campus safety — a topic already on the minds of parents and students after recent mass killings at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois.

While the latest available figures show college slayings have declined, many students are still on edge.

"I definitely have to say looking out for your surroundings is something I'm doing a lot more," said Rebecca Simon, an Auburn University freshman who lived in the same off-campus residence hall as Lauren Burk, the Auburn student whose body was found last week on a roadside about 5 miles from the university in one of the recent high-profile killings.

"I'm actually aware of who's around me," she said.

After rising from 1999 to 2002, campus homicides dropped substantially between 2002 and 2006. But that was before the April 2007 murders of 32 people at Virginia Tech. The final numbers from 2007 will likely show a substantial uptick, according to Daniel Carter of the group Security on Campus.

It's unknown whether the latest killings mean violence affecting college students is worsening. The latest Department of Justice figures showed campus violent crime declining 9 percent over the last 10-year period, but those numbers go up only to 2004.

Though it's hard to measure, experts generally agree college campuses are substantially safer than the society at large when it comes to crimes like murder — though not necessarily sexual assault. An informal estimate based on the total number of college students puts the average on-campus murder rate in recent years at less than one-fiftieth the national average.

However, it's important to remember most crime affecting college students occurs off-campus. None of the three recent murders would likely be reported under the federal Clery Act, which would cause them to show up in national campus crime figures, experts say.

Overall, there were just eight cases of on-campus homicide and non-negligent manslaughter in 2006 — the year before the Virginia Tech slayings — according to federal figures collected by Security on Campus, down from 11 in 2005.

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CAMPUS
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2005 and 23 in 2002. That compares to an estimated 1,000
annual student fatalities from suicide, and even more from
accidents.

Still, the apparent randomness of two of the latest kill-
ings is particularly scary.

The first came last Tuesday night, when Burk was found
fatally wounded on the side of an off-campus road, her car
burning in a campus parking lot.

The 23-year-old man charged in her killing told police
he tried to rape her before he shot her, according to docu-
ments read in court Monday.

Last Wednesday, University of North Carolina student
body president Eve Carson's body was found in the street
in a wealthy Chapel Hill, N.C. neighborhood, about a mile
from UNC's campus. Police have said she was shot in the
temple and apparently targeted randomly.

Police charged a 21-year-old with first-degree murder
in her death Wednesday and a second suspect, a 17-year-old
who also faces murder charges, surrendered to officers
early Thursday. The 17-year-old was also charged with the
January killing of a graduate student at nearby Duke Uni-
versity.

The University of Arkansas was grieving following the
death Monday of senior Katherine Wood at an off-campus
apartment. A man whom friends and relatives said had
stalked Wood was arrested in Oklahoma.

The attention surrounding the killings appears to have
grounded some students' atten-
tion. Keith Sims, of the gro-
Safe Campuses Now, expect-
mored demand for self-defen-
classes the group runs with
the University of Georgia po-
lice department once students
return from spring break.

"I think we are going to be inundated with requests," Sims said. "Parents are very frightened right now."

Some campuses are re-
minder students of services
providing late-night ride ser-

Auburn has increased its
department. UNC used a
new emergency text-messaging system for the first time
after the shooting there.

UNC spokeswoman Lisa
Katz said parents have been
in touch with the university
about a range of issues related
to the killings, including
security, but most were not
generally worried about the
overall safety of the campus.

"Certainly whenever something like this happens, students probably call their parents to say, 'I'm OK,'" she
said.

And almost certainly parents are responding with re-

Karen Smith said she reg-
ularly calls her daughter, a
University of Georgia senior,"
to remind her to check under
and inside her car before get-
ing in, and to lock her door
when she leaves the house.

"She's in that young single
stage and lives by herself," Smith said.

"Everytime something hap-
pens, I say, 'See. That's why I
fuss at you. Be careful.'"

Associated Press writers
Errin Haines in Atlanta and
Desiree Hunter in Auburn, Ala.
 contributed to this report.
Public Forum

Med school expansions serve all of N.C.

The decision March 7 by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors to expand medical education at UNC Chapel Hill and ECU Brody School of Medicine by 117 medical students annually should be greeted with enthusiasm and excitement by eastern North Carolina. The ECU saga of bringing modern medicine to our communities in eastern North Carolina continues and indeed accelerates.

It did not just happen. A plan was well along to only expand UNC Chapel Hill until Chancellor Ballard learned of ECU’s nonparticipation. He was wise in encouraging and supporting David Brody's volunteer leadership chairing an ECU committee to advance the Brody Medical School program and bring renewed direction to the Practice Plan.

Jointly, they approached President Bowles, Vice-Chancellor for Health Affairs at UNC Bill Roper and UNC Chancellor James Moeser to include Brody/ECU in that expansion. Rather than the old animosities and jealousies ruling the day, the parties joined together to make this dynamic growth serve all of North Carolina.

All of the participants should be congratulated, but we in eastern North Carolina should recognize the skillful and dedicated leadership of Ballard and Brody. Brody is an unsung hero with leadership, guidance and hundreds of hours of hard work in support of our medical school. We owe them both a debt of gratitude.

One word of caution. Research and study demonstrate that just increasing the number of physicians does not necessarily increase the quality of health care or the health of citizens. If that increase in physicians consists of primary care physicians, research shows a resulting benefit and improved quality of health of the people they treat. UNC Chapel Hill needs to take that reality in consideration as it plans its expansion and Brody/ECU needs to stay focused on the historic mission it has honored so well, of providing primary care physicians.

Tom Taft
Greenville
Holland not rushing decision on coach

The Daily Reflector

East Carolina Director of Athletics Terry Holland doesn't appear to be in any hurry to make a decision regarding the coaching staff for the Pirates' men's basketball program.

Holland reiterated Friday that he isn't planning to announce a decision on whether he will retain Mack McCarthy or hire a new coach until he has evaluated ECU's season and had a meeting with the coaching staff. He said much the same thing when McCarthy was introduced as the Pirates' acting head coach Aug. 10, 2007.

"Our position has not changed in that we plan to let the dust settle on the past season, both the good games and the bad games," Holland said in an e-mail. "Then we are going to sit down with the coaching staff and go over every part of the basketball operation as it currently exists with a focus on what the administration can and should do to help insure a competitive basketball program for ECU in (Conference USA)."

McCarthy went 11-19 this season, which ended Wednesday after a 69-49 loss against Tulsa in the C-USA tournament. The 11 wins were five more than ECU had the previous season and the Pirates tied a school record with five Conference USA victories.

But while ECU pulled off upsets against George Mason, N.C. State and Houston,

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ECU

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the Pirates also lost to NAIA program Les University and dropped games against Memphis, UCF and Marshall by 41, 35 and 34 points, respectively.

ECU fans who wanted a quick decision on who will coach the Pirates next season appear to be out of luck.

"I do not feel there is a reason to rush the process at this time and this will be a methodical evaluation of the whole operation," Holland said.
Judge sends 'SOS'

The call for a special Legislative session came as a surprise in a hearing on murder charges in the slaying of a graduate student.

By Mike Baker
The Associated Press

DURHAM — The judge presiding Friday at the first court appearance of a teenager charged with killing two North Carolina college students pleaded with state lawmakers to meet immediately and address gang violence.

"I'm sending an 'SOS' to Raleigh," said Durham County District Court Judge Craig Brown. "I expect them to hear it."

Brown's call for a special Legislative session came as a surprise in the courtroom where Laurence Lovette made his initial appearance on murder charges in the slaying of Duke University graduate student Abhijit Mahato.

Police have not said that Lovette, 17, of Durham, was a member of a gang, or that the deaths of Mahato and University of North Carolina student body president Eve Carson were gang related. In both cases, robbery appears to be the primary motive.

Lovette arrived in nearby Hillsborough later Friday to make his first court appearance in Carson's death. He didn't respond to reporters' questions as he walked through the courthouse wearing an orange jumpsuit with his wrists and ankles shackled.

Authorities have also charged Demario Atwater, 21, of Durham, in Carson's death, and Stephen Lavance Oates, 19, of Durham, in Mahato's killing.

Durham police chief Jose Lopez did not immediately return a call Friday seeking comment, and assistant prosecutor Tracey Cline declined to answer questions about the judge's remarks after the short hearing.

Mayor Bill Bell said he's been given no indication the deaths are tied to gangs, but he said he supports the judge's call for more help from the state. He said a recent city study found that roughly 1,000 people in the city of about 190,000 people have a gang affiliation.

"We're trying to get a handle on it so that we can manage it," Bell said. "But it's not limited just to Durham. We're finding gangs in small cities, mid-sized cities and the large

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HEARING
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cities."

Bell said he worked with lawmakers to pass a bill late last year in the state House that would raise criminal penalties for gang-related activity. It is now in the Senate, and Bell said he feels the issue can wait until lawmakers return to work as scheduled in May.

Brown — a graduate of both North Carolina and Duke — promised Lovette that he will get a fair trial. But as he ordered the teen held on a $3 million bond, he said that Gov. Mike Easley, House Speaker Joe Hackney, Senate leader Marc Basnight and Attorney General Joy Cooper need to take immediate action to fight gangs. He asked Easley to call a special session.

Bill Holmes, a spokesman for Hackney, said a House committee already is meeting on other gang-related proposals the speaker hopes the full chamber will consider in May.

"The speaker realizes the need for attention to this issue and so do many House members," Holmes said.

Cline said she asked Brown for the high bond because Lovette is already facing trial on numerous other charges. Court records show that between Mahato's slaying in January and Carson's death in March, police arrested and changed him with felonies ranging from burglary to car theft to resisting arrest.

Lovette wasn't a suspect in Mahato's death until after police in Chapel Hill began investigating Carson's slaying.

Cline said detectives linked Lovette to Mahato's death through phone records, a vehicle and items taken from his home. He was arrested in the Carson case after police released surveillance photos that they said show him using Carson's ATM card while driving what appeared to be her Toyota Highlander.

Police found Mahato's wallet, cell phone and iPod missing after discovering his body in January. The 29-year-old doctoral student in computational mechanics, originally of Tatangar, India, had been shot to death inside his apartment a few blocks south of Duke.
Distraction or benefit? It's tourney time

By Jimmy Ryals
The Daily Reflector

For employees of Grady White Boats, building seaworthy vessels tends to be the top priority.

But as the college basketball season winds down in late March, do their minds wander — as many workers do — from the task at hand to baskets and slams?

"I hope not," said Grady White President Kris Carroll.

COMPLETE COVERAGE of today's action in the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament.

"At least not while they're working."

Employers may share Carroll's hopes, but there's evidence afternoon starting times and tournament pools are too much for workers to resist. The two-week NCAA Tournament, which begins in earnest Thursday, costs U.S. businesses $1.7 billion in lost productivity annually, according to a survey by Challenger Gray & Christmas, an outplacement firm, Bloomberg News reported earlier this week.

The Atlantic Coast Conference basketball tournament, which began Thursday, commands attention in North Carolina. At Grady-White, company rules keep the games from dominating the work day, Carroll said. Policy bans computer usage unrelated to work. Most of Grady White's 450 employees work on the manufacturing floor, where cell phones and other potential tournament-watching tools are banned, she said.

Carroll said she doesn't recall any employee being disciplined for watching games on the clock.

"I haven't ever found it (the

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ACC

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tournament) to be a problem," she said.

Rick Niswander, dean of the College of Business at East Carolina University, said a little basketball could help business. In moderation, workplace commuting over the postseason tournaments can build office morale, he said.

"It's not Joe or Suzie in the next desk over, that all you know of them is just the business side of them," Niswander said. "You talk about something else other than business. It's a common, shared experience that can help provide some team-building or cohesiveness in an office."

The benefits diminish when basketball banter turns personal or when tournaments take too much attention from work, he added.

Niswander's point seems reasonable to Ron Elks, general manager of the Greenville Utilities Commission. But college basketball falls well behind repairing late-night power outages among GUC's favored team-building exercises, he said.

In GUC offices, basketball doesn't leech away productivity, he added.

"Actually, we're very busy keeping electricity and other services on so maybe consumers can enjoy those games," Elks said with a laugh.
NCSU's shopping center

Students and university employees are lifeblood of Mission Valley

BY DUDLEY PRICE
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — First Citizens yanked Mission Valley Shopping Center’s only bank late last year. Last month, the shopping center’s biggest restaurant, Rockola Cafe, served its last cheeseburger.

Losing such high-profile tenants might cripple many small shopping centers, but Mission Valley is a different breed.

“It’s an N.C. State shopping center,” said George York, executive vice president of York Properties, which manages the 35-year-old center.

Mission Valley doesn’t even have a supermarket anchor, but storefronts at one of the city’s oldest shopping centers stay mostly filled, thanks to thousands of students, faculty members and other N.C. State University workers that guide — and constrain — its development.

Neighborhood centers historically rely on customers attracted to groceries and banks to generate business for their other retailers. At Mission Valley, it’s customers from NCSU that support most stores.

The 70-acre shopping center has 34 tenants, including a bookstore, coffee shop, liquor store, Blockbuster movie rental and a cinema. But nearly half the tenants are bars and restaurants, twice as many as in other centers, and reflecting heavy reliance on its young customers.

“Cloos’ Coney Island hot dogs and Mission Valley Cinemas attract people from all over, but generally it’s drawing people from that neighborhood,” York said.

NCSU’s influence is a mixed blessing.

Mission Valley “is going to find it’s level but it’s never going to explode,” said Stan Lisle, a Cary real estate broker who helps tenants find shopping center space. “The university will never move. It’s their anchor and will be there forever.”

But students “don’t have a lot of money,” Lisle said. “You’ll never have a really dense residential population to support more varied types of retail because of the university and Centennial Campus.”

A lack of nearby family-based households helps explain why Kroger passed on opening a grocery in 2005. The supermarket chain never elaborated on its decision, which York described at the time as an 11th hour-call.

Still, a location between North Carolina’s largest university and the mushrooming Centennial Campus would seem ideal for retailers. There are 34,250 students and employees on NCSU’s main campus across Western Boulevard from Mission Valley, and 6,350 more are based on Centennial Campus to the south. The student population is expected to swell by 9,000 by 2017.

But the customer base exists only part time because most of the staff and students live off campus. There’s demand for lunches, but less of a need for retailers like a large clothier or a supermarket.

Students and NCSU employees are reluctant to walk to stores, even though they are nearby. And the center’s layout makes it difficult for drivers to access Mission Valley’s upper level, nearest Western Boulevard.

“If you’re trying to get out of Mission Valley and make a left onto Avent Ferry, you could be there for days,” said Bob Wilkerson, 48, a university employee on Centennial Campus.

Wilkerson, who brings his lunch to work, said most of the people in his office avoid Mission Valley because of access problems and because stores are aimed at a younger clientele.

Papa John’s pizza has replaced First Citizens, but the Rockola space remains empty, leaving the 122,562-square-foot center with a 10 percent vacancy rate. That compares to a 4 percent vacancy rate in West Raleigh in the second half of 2007, according to Kanes Research. For the entire Triangle, shopping center vacancy was 6.6 percent for the period.

Mission Valley’s vacancy rate would drop to 4.9 percent if the 6,000-square-foot Rockola space is filled. York, who said a half-dozen regional and local restaurateurs have looked at the space in the past week, expects to lease the building quickly.

Retailers who cater to the students appear happy with their location. At Mission Valley Cinema, revenue increased 4.1 percent in 2007, said owner Bill Peebles. “We’ve become a destination,” said Peebles, who recently installed new seats, curtains and carpet in the theater.

Sammy’s Tap and Grill is adding a $200,000 enclosed deck to handle more customers and its BaDa Wings has doubled its business since opening in late 2006.

Nighttime deliveries from BaDa Wings now are as strong as the lunch business, said manager Michael McCoy. “If they don’t come to us, we go to them,” he said. “It counteracts the people we can’t shoehorn out of their cars.”

dudley.price at newsobserver.com or (919) 829-4525
OUR VIEWS

Spreading the gold

Poor counties will get more say in picking projects to benefit from the state's tobacco settlement. The move makes sense.

When North Carolina landed its $4 billion share of the 1998 national tobacco settlement, the Golden LEAF Foundation was established to spread the money around to stimulate the state's economy. The long-term decline in tobacco, it was reasoned, would need to be balanced by sturdier, more reliable industries, particularly in places that would be hard hit by the drops in income from tobacco.

The foundation hasn't exactly taken its eye off the ball, and has made some useful grants from the investment income it gets from the settlement. But some projects, aimed at economic stimulation through investments in start-ups or experimental crop programs, have been questioned, as has the idea of the foundation's 15-member board (appointed by the governor and the legislature) doing all the selection of projects based on what comes before it.

A change is coming, and it appears to be for the better. Now, more counties will join a program in which foundation staff members go to poor, rural counties and talk to leaders about what those places need to bolster their economies and of course, create jobs. Then, with input from local leaders, grants will be developed. More money will go toward these "county-chosen" projects and perhaps less to proposals that one board member characterized as "coming in over the transom."

The foundation also needs to focus on infrastructure for counties, rather than economic development ideas alone. That means money for decidedly unglamorous things such as putting in sewer systems, and perhaps not as much for one-time investment in projects designed to draw new industry.

The foundation's shift here is a smart move politically, and the foundation does indeed need to deal with politics. State lawmakers doubtless have ideas of their own about what could be done with hundreds of millions of dollars. Some would even like to spend the settlement money exclusively through county commissioners, or just put the money in the state's general operating fund. It's not time to do that — not until the foundation's changes have a chance to demonstrate some more visible accomplishments for the poorer counties that are supposed to be helped.

When the tobacco settlement was reached — compensating states for health-related expenses — those places in rural North Carolina that knew they were going to be hit, one day or another, by a decline in a long-favored industry were worried, and no wonder. The Golden LEAF Foundation offered them hope that the state would give them a hand, point them toward new ways to make a living and invest in the effort to get them there.

Ten years later, the hope is still there, and so is the money. The key is in getting it where it needs to be.
‘Boot camp’ tackles pain

Program consolidates care, teaches patients to cope

BY CARLA K. JOHNSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Ballet teacher Gayle Parseghian thought she might never dance again after a back injury while moving heavy furniture left her with unrelenting pain.

But an intensive, four-week "boot camp" got the 55-year-old dancer from Toledo, Ohio, back to the barre. The program at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago taught her to manage the chronic pain that had tormented her for more than a year.

"It affects your relationship with your spouse, your family, your friends, your boss," she said. "It's like you're trapped in your body and you can't get out. It's a feeling of being completely out of control."

New research suggests chronic pain affects the brain's ability to rest, disrupting a system that normally charges up some brain regions and powers down others when a person relaxes.

"I ask a patient who has had chronic pain for 10 years to put the mind blank, don't think about anything," says Dr. Dante Chialvo, a researcher at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine who is not involved with the boot camp. "MR images show the pain sufferer's brain lighting up but not as a normal brain at rest would, he said. "There is an objective biological difference in the brain."

The early findings could explain the sleep disturbances, decision-making problems and mood changes that often accompany chronic pain, he said.

And they could explain why the boot camp approach worked for Parseghian.

The Chicago program, affiliated with Northwestern's medical school, attacks pain on three fronts — biological, psychological and social. It doesn't claim to cure chronic pain but instead gives patients tools to lessen its hold on their lives.

Patients spend Monday through Friday stretching, exercising and moving in new ways. They meet with a physician, an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, a biofeedback therapist, a clinical psychologist and a movement specialist. And they learn from the other patients.

Getting all of these things under one roof differs from most approaches to treating chronic pain, said Dr. Steven Stanos, the program's medical director.

Patients know the drill. In the fragmented world of health care, they bounce from internist to chiropractor to massage therapist to surgeon — with none of the experts sharing information.

Two weeks into the boot camp, Parseghian's husband visited her in Chicago for the weekend. Later, he phoned her with an observation.

"You didn't say one thing about your pain or the back. That used to monopolize our conversations," her husband told her.
Universities balk at provision aimed at illegal downloads

BY BEN DUBOSE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON - College and universities that take part in federal financial aid programs will be under new obligations to take steps to prevent illegal downloads of music, movies and other copyrighted material if legislation passed by the House last month becomes law.

The two-page portion of the 800-page bill has raised alarms in the higher-education community, which contends that individuals using campus computer networks are responsible for only a tiny proportion of such unlawful behavior.

The legislation would hold schools disproportionately responsible for activities that largely take place off campus, education groups say. "More than 80 percent of students live off campus and use commercial networks," said Steve Worona, director of policy and networking programs for Educause, a nonprofit association that focuses on the use of information technology in higher education.

Universities go well past the minimum requirements in the current law to dissuade piracy by requiring students to read and sign documents informing them of copyright legalities, he said.

The main purpose of the legislation is lowering tuition for students. The anti-piracy provision, however, would protect the entertainment industry and thus could have the opposite effect, possibly increasing student costs.

The arguments of the educational institutions do not sway representatives of the artists. "Piracy hurts ordinary working musicians, but it also will hurt our nation's culture and its music fans if enough talented and hard-working musicians cannot survive in the business," American Federation of Musicians president Thomas Lee said.
Teens pick stylish, gently used gowns

Cinderella Project fits them for proms

BY SAMANTHA THOMPSON SMITH
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — It was the power of a perfect dress.

To audible gasps, Wakefield High School senior Aja Lewis walked out of the dressing room Sunday in a black and white beaded cocktail dress.

She did a spin. More gasps. The dress had just the right balance of sophistication and chic for her age. It was the perfect fit for her tall, slender frame.

And it showed on her smiling face. The selling point was the back, which had black and white beads swirling down the spine from the neck to middle back.

"I love it," she said. "The beading is ridiculous."

Her mother, Gwen Lewis, beamed from off to the side.

It was a scene repeated at least 200 times this weekend at Crabtree Valley Mall. Teenage girls from all over the region came to Meredith College's Cinderella Project in search of the perfect prom dress. They came with mothers, sisters, friends — even a few boyfriends tagged along — for that all-important second opinion.

Each year, Meredith students in the fashion design and merchandising programs collect gently used prom dresses from the community and set up a makeshift dress shop at an area mall to distribute the dresses to high school students.

In some cases, without the Cinderella Project, they could not go to the prom because the cost of a new gown and accessories would be too steep for their families. With the Cinderella Project, they get a free gown — sometimes by a designer such as Vera Wang, Cache or Jessica McClintock — that often has been worn just once.

"It's fun when there's someone who finds something they really like," said Brie Sherman, a Meredith sophomore studying fashion design. "They have a big smile on their face. They just feel really pretty."

For others, like Lewis, it's a way to trim costs so she can splurge on something else — like a pair of high-heeled shoes to go with the dress.

Project's appeal widens

The program, in its seventh year, has become so popular, Ellis said, that more than 65 gowns were given away in the first hour Saturday. Some girls waited as long as 20 minutes to get into the community room at Crabtree. One girl even drove in from Emerald Isle to look through the selection.

More than 50 students from Meredith's fashion program were available throughout the weekend to help the teens pick out dresses.

It's grown beyond just a Meredith event. Dresses were donated from as far away as Tennessee. One local bridal shop, Alexa's Bridal Boutique in Cary, gave about 50 Vera Wang dresses. Belk loaned the dress racks. And Hertzberg Furs donated the hanging dress bags.

Diane Ellis, who oversees the fashion programs at Meredith, said the selection was the best ever this year. Almost all the 400 dresses on the racks were fewer than five years old.

And many were on trend with 2008 dress styles, in popular metallic gold, bronze or silver fabrics, with heavy beading or embroidery, with spaghetti straps or strapless tops or with open backs or other back detailing.

The top picks were red dresses, Ellis said, a change from recent years when most girls wanted lavender or pale pink. She said it's not a surprising trend: Red tends to be a popular dress choice during election years, as shown by the number of stars in red on the red carpet last month at the Academy Awards show.

Anika Sabin, a junior at Cary High School, originally planned to go in red before finding a flowing strapless knit gown in blue.

"I just like the way it fit me," she said. "Plus, it was something different."

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Head-on crash kills Campbell professor

Lewis Fetterman's wife hurt, other driver killed

BY SAMUEL SPIES
STAFF WRITER

A close-knit university community on Sunday mourned the death of a professor in a Sampson County car wreck that also injured his wife and killed another driver.

University officials remembered Lewis M. Fetterman Jr., a professor at Campbell University's School of Pharmacy, as a dedicated colleague with high expectations of his students. "I know the students were challenged by him," said Tom Holmes, associate dean for academic affairs in the School of Pharmacy. "He was considered a demanding, but fair, professor. He did a great job, and this is a terrible loss for us, losing him as a person, and his expertise."

Fetterman's family have been benefactors of Campbell, where he taught for about eight years, colleagues said.

"He was very personable, very caring," said Emanuel Diliberto, chair of the pharmaceutical sciences department. "He was intimately involved with the students and making sure they were appropriately prepared."

The accident happened around 8 p.m. Saturday, the State Highway Patrol said. Fetterman and his wife, Joni-Fay Fetterman, were traveling south on U.S. 701 near Newton Grove in their 2002 Chrysler minivan when a Ford Taurus driven by Alejandro Rivas crossed the centerline and struck the Fettermans' car nearly head-on, said Sgt. Joel Siles.

Rivas, 47, of 264 Preston Lane, Newton Grove, also was killed, Siles said. Troopers

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suspect Rivas had been drinking, he added.

"About a half-second before the collision occurred ... it appeared that Mr. Fetterman had tried to veer to the right to avoid a collision," Siles said. "That probably saved his wife's life, because he turned away from the impact."

Joni-Fay Fetterman was taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, the trooper said. She is a member of the Meredith College Alumni Association board of directors and is a 1978 graduate of the Raleigh school, according to the school's Web site.

The Fettermans' daughter, Charlotte, is a student in the pharmacy program. Holmes said Fetterman and his wife also have a son.

A woman who answered the phone at Fetterman's residence referred questions to officials at the Harnett County school, with its main campus at Bubbles Creek.

"There's going to be a real sense of loss tomorrow," as classes resume, Holmes said. "We're pretty close family down here in Bubbles Creek."

The Lundy-Fetterman School of Business at Campbell is named after Fetterman's mother, Annabelle Lundy Fetterman.

In 1987, Annabelle Lundy Fetterman took over as chairwoman and CEO of the family meat-processing company, Clinton-based Lundy Packing Company. In 2000, the firm was bought by Premium Standard Farms, according to online information from the N.C. Business Hall of Fame.

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Judge Marcia Morey, a Durham district judge who presides over juvenile court, had just sent the troubled youth to lockup at one of the state's five detention facilities reserved for children who commit serious, violent or chronic offenses.

"I just looked at him, and he looked me in the eye as I talked," Wisler said. "I said, 'Alvin, a lot of people really care about you. You've got to choose better friends and make your dad proud of you.' I told him, 'You've got some skills, some talents. Use those that God has given to you.'"

Lovette was released early from the youth detention center, but now he is behind bars in two homicide cases that have exposed problems with the state's watch over its tens of thousands of convicts on probation.

CARSON
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Demario James Atwater, 22, a Durham resident also charged with first-degree murder in the Carson case, was in a Wake County courtroom two days before the popular student leader was found dead in a wooded Chapel Hill neighborhood.

But a scheduling mixup set Atwater free on a probation violation charge, with a new court date on March 31.

As the state Department of Correction and the Wake County district attorney conduct internal investigations into what went wrong, Durham court officials are reviewing records, too.

Jim Connell, whose wallet was stolen from a Cary gym in June, wants police in Raleigh and Cary to look at his complaints again because he thinks one of the suspects is the same man who used his credit cards in several Wake County convenience stores.

Law enforcement officers throughout the Triangle are combing their investigative files to see if there are any clues to tie the suspects to any unsolved robberies or other crimes.

"That's something we always do," said Jim Sughrue, spokesman for the Raleigh police department.

Suspects' similar paths

It was unclear how Lovette and Atwater came to know each other. Durham school records show that each dropped out of Jordan High School as a sophomore (Atwater in 2002 and Lovette in 2007), but their path would not have crossed in the hallways there.

Each has a criminal record in the adult courts.

And on Friday, Tracey Clinch, the Durham assistant district attorney who presided over Lovette's first hearing for the first-degree murder charge in the Mic...
Lovette to a youth detention center, got permission from his lawyer in the juvenile cases to talk briefly about that time. She recommended that Lovette be detained until his 19th birthday — almost a year and a half from now — but another judge granted early release.

Morey would not say what Lovette's offenses were, but she specified that no weapons were used in any of them.

Chain of events

Wisler, a resident of south Durham, recounts thefts from her home that mimic a pattern of robberies that link the suspects to similar incidents throughout the Triangle.

In April 2006, according to Wisler, the teen broke into her car and snatched her purse and a set of car keys that gave him access to her then-husband's Ford Focus and their home. Nearly two weeks later, Wisler said, her Jeep was stolen, and five days after that, after the couple changed locks at their home, someone broke in while the family was sleeping.

Through cell records from her stolen cell phone, Wisler was able to lead police in 2006 to the same Durham street that police searched several days ago as part of a statewide manhunt for Lovette.

Wisler followed the case through the juvenile courts. There was mention then of the boy's distress over the death of his father. The youngster apologized.

"He said the typical line of 'I have no right to take what you have worked hard for,'" Wisler recalled.

Nevertheless, the incidents have haunted her. In addition to the hassles of canceling credit cards, closing bank accounts and getting new identification cards, Wisler has worked through the lingering vulnerabilities that such thefts leave.

She had just filed away police reports and notes from that time when a friend called to see how she was handling the news that Lovette was a suspect in the Carson homicide.

"This was very unnerving to say the least," Wisler said. "I had been under the impression that he was still locked away. Then to read in the paper that he's out, and he's not only out, but he's been charged with killing, that just shakes you up."
Well-versed in violence

In several articles during the past week, N&O reporters have casually referenced a perception of invulnerability among college students. Your March 14 article “Killing jitls NCSU, Duke” claimed that we “generally don’t think so much” about safety. Your March 9 article “Campus deaths teach cruel lesson” wrote of a “wrenching adjustment for the young who think they’re immortal.”

What rubbish.

Those of us graduating this year have witnessed a homicidal former student plow a car through our campus. We’ve absorbed the tragic deaths of a student who fell from a dorm window and a beloved mascot killed by a car. We’ve seen our dance clubs and our neighborhoods become scenes of senseless gang violence, and we’ve quietly seethed as the Apple Chill street festival became a casualty of violent intimidation. We’ve grieved deeply for our peers at Virginia Tech.

To be certain, Eve Carson’s murder is a gut-wrenching blow to the entire student community. But what we’re feeling is not the shock of some new realization. It is the anger of yet another “lesson” we didn’t need.

Eric Johnson
Senior, UNC-Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill
Hidden cameras capture public dramas

BY LORENZO PEREZ
STAFF WRITER

Security cameras spotted the two men charged with killing UNC student leader Eve Carson, but their watch extends well beyond the random sightings of criminal suspects.

We all are being watched.

A string of surveillance cameras keeps us under observation throughout the day — driving to work on Interstate 40, parking in garages, trudging up the steps to school or our office buildings, not to mention the lunchtime treks to the ATM or the sub shop.

Passers-by rarely identify or acknowledge the discreetly domed cameras tucked in the corners of convenience stores or mounted on the corners of public buildings. But their grainy security videos and snapshots have to come defined many public dramas.

Cable news networks fill the 24-hour cycle with clips of convenience-store clerks who fight back and accidents caught on tape. The crucial video image of a highway bridge collapsing last year in Minnesota came from a security camera, while an ATM photo helped a Duke lacrosse player establish his alibi in a discredited sexual assault case.

The images and the cameras that capture them are inescapable, yet few people stop to think about their own performing roles.

Take the tiny camera mounted in the back corner of a Quizno's sandwich shop off downtown Raleigh’s Fayetteville Street. It didn’t even register with bondman Shondda Ryals as she stepped

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CAMERA
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up to pay for her Caesar salad Thursday.

“I don’t really think about it, but in the back of your mind you know it’s there,” Ryals said.

Ryals said she accepts surveillance as the price of safety. In her bond agency’s office, at the jail where she escorts charges and elsewhere, she assumes she’s under watch.

‘Cameras are everywhere’

London set the lofty standard for public surveillance, erecting in the 1990s a “ring of steel” featuring a collection of barriers and a reported 500,000 cameras. U.S. cities such as New York, Washington and Chicago have followed suit.

In the Triangle, the cameras are spreading.

N.C. State has installed 400 cameras and plans another 100. Associate Vice Chancellor David N. Rainer said. Durham installed 13 “Eye in the Sky” video-monitoring cameras in the northeast central part of the city last year, while public and commercial Web cams offer Internet users birds-eye views of Triangle sports arenas and downtown areas.

“Cameras are everywhere, and you can still see them. In 10 years, they’ll be so small you can’t see them,” said Bruce Schneider, author of “Beyond Fear: Thinking Sensibly about Security in an Uncertain World.”

Critics question where the demands of public security overstep into violations of privacy. The bank machine and convenience store photos that helped identify Carson homicide suspects Demario Atwater and

A bank ATM camera snapped one of the suspects in the Eve Carson slaying.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CHAPEL HILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Laurence Alvin Lovette are not the type that concerns groups such as the Center for Democracy and Technology.

“At some level, all that’s good for law enforcement, obviously,” said Jim Dempsey, the Washington center’s vice president for public policy.

“On the other hand, we know that the people monitoring the cameras often will zero in on attractive women. We know that they will use racial and other unacceptable forms of profiling in zeroing in on people. ... The very fact that this data is so easily copied, transmitted, manipulated, means that increasingly these images leak out in non-law-enforcement contexts,

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Do surveillance cameras invade our privacy?
Tell us what you think at shar.es.triangle.com.

in contexts where they do embarrass people.”

Orange County District Attorney Jim Woodall said security videos are more important as an investigative tool than as courtroom evidence. “They help police departments narrow down leads if they have a case where, in a sense, the whole world is a subject,” Woodall said Friday.

Zooming in

Walking the length of Fayetteville Street in downtown Raleigh on Friday morning, Carolina Video Security President Brad Silvernail spotted at least a dozen cameras keeping track of bank entrances and the sidewalks outside federal and state government buildings. That’s not counting the four cameras with zoom capabilities he saw mounted under the roof of the N.C. Museum of History. All four appeared to offer clear views of the busy plaza between the history museum and the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences.

“A lot of kids come through here, so that’s a good thing to have more cameras,” said Silvernail, whose company installs commercial and industrial surveillance security systems.

“Standing right here, those dome cameras probably could zoom in and almost read what you’re writing in your notebook,” he told a reporter.

Poking his head inside a downtown Port City Java coffee shop, Silvernail quickly noted two domed cameras mounted atop the counter.

“Man, you can’t even have a cup of coffee,” he said.

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