THE DAILY CLIPS

March 18, 2010

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

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The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
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Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
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The Daily Reflector

Hundreds of East Carolina University students gathered information on the housing options in Greenville and the surrounding areas on Wednesday at an apartment fair on campus.

The Office of Off-Campus Student Services hosts the fair every spring semester for students to explore companies that offer apartments and other rental properties in Greenville.

The event is marked by games, music, discounts and free items, one of the biggest attractions for college students, Lucia Brannon, coordinator for off-campus services, said.

Local housing companies gather information about students and what they want in terms of amenities while marketing the offerings of complexes around town.

Also represented were the Greenville and ECU Police departments, ECU Dining Services, Career Services and other campus agencies.

This year’s apartment fair was the fourth of its kind.

The event has grown every year, Brannon said.

Off-campus students can find more information at www.ecu.edu/studentlife/offcampus, by calling 328-2847 or stopping by Off-Campus Student Services office at 1704-B Arlington Blvd. in Greenville.
By Derrick Z. Jackson
THE BOSTON GLOBE

The shameful score on grad rates

Early this basketball season, when the National Collegiate Athletic Association released its 2009 Division 1 Graduation Success Rate report, interim president Jim Isch boasted how the overall graduation rate for basketball had risen nearly 10 percentage points over the past eight years. "Be assured, the NCAA's commitment to academics is as strong as it has ever been," Isch said.

Walter Harrison, president of the University of Hartford and chairman of the NCAA's academic performance committee, added, "At the ground level of academic reform on our campuses, there has been monumental change. There is no assurance of monumental change until the NCAA finally grounds its worst programs. However, there is no sign of that as top-power Kentucky made the Division 1 tournament with a Graduation Success Rate of only 18 percent for its black athletes and 31 percent overall.

This program single-handedly betrays the NCAA as toothless on the exploitation of athletes. Kentucky's graduation rate scorecard for its black players for the past six years reads like this: 18, 17, 9, 17, 17, zero. Over the last 10 years, its black player graduation rate has never risen above 29 percent. Its overall graduation rate passed 50 percent only once, in 2001.

Yet, who do we see hawking March Madness on Direct TV? Why none other than Kentucky's $32 mil-

lion coach, John Calipari. He remains one of the faces of college basketball despite Final Four appearances at UMass and Memphis that were struck from the record books for violations that damaged the reputations of the schools and its players, but somehow not him.

This is particularly outrageous as the NCAA no longer penalizes schools in graduation-rate reports for players who leave early for the pros, as long as they were in good academic standing. Between that statistical adjustment and the schools that on their own elevated their game in the classroom, renegade programs are more exposed than ever.

The NCAA says 56 percent of black basketball players now graduate from Division 1 teams, continuing a slow increase. White players have an 81 percent graduation rate. There is plenty of praise to go around among the 65 teams that made this year's tournament. Top-tier seeds Kansas, Duke, Villanova, Pittsburgh and Georgetown have black player graduation rates between 67 and 100 percent. Marquette, Wofford, Brigham Young, Wake Forest, Utah State and Notre Dame had a 100 percent graduation rate across the board.

But until the NCAA bans the likes of Maryland, Texas, Nevada Las Vegas and Kentucky, the concept of "student-athlete" is corrupted beyond repair. At these schools, the athletes are semi-pros who should be paid.

Maryland is in the tournament with a zero black graduation rate and 8 percent overall. It has been at zero for black men the last three seasons. Over the rest of past decade, it has been at 11 percent four times and never cracked 25 percent.

Texas is in the tournament with black graduation rates the last three seasons of 29, 14 and 22 percent. Nevada Las Vegas is in the tournament with five consecutive years of black player grad rates of: 13, 10, 10, 14, and 17 percent. And then there is the maddening University of California at Berkeley. The campus graduation rate is 85 percent, including 62 percent for black students. But the graduation success rate for both its black and white players is zero.

There is a huge gap between those teams and the teams that take graduation seriously. Of the 65 teams, there were 24 with black graduation rates of 67 percent or higher. But there were also 26 teams with black graduation rates of 44 percent or lower. Other teams under 30 percent for black players were New Mexico State, Washington, Missouri, Arkansas-Pine Bluff and Baylor.

In his commercial, Calipari says, "To survive in the big dance, you can't study just one team at a time. You've got to be ready for anything. I prepare my team with NCAA Mega March Madness." Until the NCAA demands studies of another sort and starts banning the programs that do not heed the demand, March Madness will remain a national indictment of how we let college sports drive us stark raving mad.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Derrick Z. Jackson is a columnist for The Boston Globe.
Duke says man tried to grab gun, was shot

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

DURHAM - The man shot dead by Duke police outside Duke Hospital last weekend had tried to grab an officer's gun, the university said Wednesday.

Aaron Lorenzo Dorsey, 25, of Durham, died after being shot early Saturday morning.

Two Duke officers, Larry Carter and Jeffrey Liberto, had gone to the front of the hospital on Erwin Road after being called about a "suspicious person," according to a Duke news release.

Dorsey then attacked one officer and tried to grab his gun, the release said.

"After other options failed to stop the individual, the other officer discharged his firearm one time, fatally wounding Mr. Dorsey," it said.

The statement does not specify which officer was attacked and which fired the shot that killed Dorsey.

Duke said it could not elaborate while Duke Police and the State Bureau of Investigation are investigating.

The two officers have been put on paid administrative leave, said David Jarmul, a university spokesman.

Carter has been on the Duke police force for 23 years; Liberto, for two years.

Dorsey was not a university employee or student, a university spokeswoman said.

The incident temporarily restricted access to the hospital's main entrance Saturday morning. Patient care was not interrupted, officials said.

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Broken pipes lead to spill at UNC

CHAPEL HILL -- State regulators have issued UNC-Chapel Hill a second violation notice for a treated wastewater spill at its animal holding and research facility in rural Orange County.

The March 3 notice comes after broken pipes spilled 1,800 gallons of treated wastewater onto the ground of the Bingham Facility in late February.

It follows a notice and possible fine for a December spill of an unknown amount of treated wastewater into Collins Creek, a tributary to the Haw River and Jordan Lake. In that case, the wastewater leaked from a holding pond, where treated waste water was stored before being sprayed onto fields.

"Not as serious as the first one, but it is still a failure of their system," said Jay Zimmerman, environmental program supervisor with the state Division of Water Quality. "It does seem with UNC every time we turn around, something else is happening out there."

The Bingham Facility houses about 85 dogs used in hemophilia research and is scheduled for more dogs and hogs under a $27 million expansion plan.

There have been four discharges at the facility. Although the wastewater had been treated, neighbors note that the process doesn’t measure for pharmaceuticals and certain other residue and that no testing was done of the treated water that reached the creek.

UNC-CH, which reported the recent spills to the state, has since shut down its treatment systems and is hauling wastewater to the OrangeWater and Sewer Authority treatment plant.

Neighbors recently asked the Orange County Board of Commissioners for staff help monitoring the facility. The commissioners are reviewing the request.

UNC-CH sent neighbors a copy of the violation notice Friday night.

UNC-CH has until the end of the month to give the state more information on the wastewater treatment system, Zimmerman said.

A fine would depend on such factors as whether the system was poorly designed, whether the university deviated from the original design and whether the spills could have been foreseen, he said.

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Barriers Found to College Degrees for Hispanics

By JACQUES STEINBERG

The percentage of Hispanic students who graduate from college in six years or less continues to lag behind that of white students, according to a new study of graduation figures at more than 600 colleges.

In the study, the American Enterprise Institute, a nonprofit research organization, examined graduation rates for students who entered college in 1999, 2000 and 2001, and found that 51 percent of those identified as Hispanic earned bachelor’s degrees in six years or less, compared with 59 percent of white students.

The researchers also found that Hispanic students trailed their white peers no matter how selective the colleges’ admissions processes.

For example, at what the researchers considered the nation’s most competitive colleges — as a yardstick, they aggregated institutions using the same six categories as a popular guidebook, Barron’s Profiles of American Colleges — the institute calculated that nearly 83 percent of Hispanic students graduated, compared with 89 percent of white students. Among colleges identified as “less competitive,” the graduation rate for Hispanic students was 33.5 percent, compared with 40.5 percent for whites.

In some ways, the report, sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, echoed a study prepared seven years ago by the Pew Hispanic Center. Using census data, it described how only 16 percent of Latino high school graduates earned a bachelor’s degree by age 29, compared with 37 percent of non-Hispanic whites and 21 percent of African-Americans.

Like their counterparts at Pew, the American Enterprise Institute scholars found barriers of language and culture as impeding students from Hispanic backgrounds. The institute’s researchers specifically noted that such students’ “familial and social ties to home are
particularly strong,” and that university administrators sometimes described white students as “better prepared academically and financially for college.”

But in a statement, Andrew P. Kelly, one of the lead authors, said, “This data shows quite clearly that colleges and universities cannot place all of the blame on students for failing to graduate.” (The researchers note one caveat: the federal data does not account for students who change colleges and then graduate.)

The authors cast their research as a cautionary tale for President Obama, who, they note, “has called for the United States to reclaim its position as the nation with the highest concentration of adults with post-secondary degrees in the world.”

“Given the changing demographics of the United States,” the researchers write, “this target cannot be achieved without increasing the rate at which Hispanic students obtain a college degree.” (In employing the designation “Hispanic,” the researchers note they are following the lead of both the National Center for Education Statistics and the Census Bureau, from which they drew their raw data. The center defines Hispanic as people of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central American, South American or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.)

The study recommended that colleges adopt an “institution-wide commitment to insuring that all their students graduate,” that college counselors and others disseminate “information about schools that have a successful track record with Hispanic students” and that the government tie aid to colleges “more closely to how well schools serve their students, not simply how many students they enroll.”