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252-328-6481
ECU group holds vigil for Trayvon Martin
By Jackie Drake
Thursday, April 5, 2012

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

The familiar words of Martin Luther King Jr. rang true Wednesday night as the Black Student Union at East Carolina University held a candlelight vigil for slain Florida teenager Trayvon Martin on the 44th anniversary of the civil rights leader’s assassination.

The program, titled “A taste of justice,” highlighted the organization’s effort to collect bags of Skittles candy to send to the Sanford, Fla., police department in reference to what the unarmed 17-year-old was carrying when he was shot in late February. Officers have not arrested shooter George Zimmerman, who said he acted in self-defense, causing an uproar across the country.

“We’re incorporating a national campaign that college students have started,” ECU junior Yeani Anthony said. “He still hasn’t had justice, and it’s been over a month that this case has been going on, and people still want answers. This whole protest is to say we have a voice, and we’re not happy with what’s going on, and we want to do something about it. Even though we’re college students and we can’t do much, this is a little taste of what we can do.”

About 50 students attended the vigil, according to outgoing BSU president Joshua Burney.
“I’m happy people did come out to show they care,” he said.
The program was scheduled to coincide with the BSU’s regular meeting, “but it just so happened that it fell on the day (of King’s assassination) which worked out great,” outgoing vice president Olivia Walke said. “We really just felt the Trayvon Martin case is one of several, and in my opinion it’s one too many.”

Before lighting candles outside Mendenhall Student Center, group members held a passionate discussion in their meeting about the case as well as the appropriateness of the focus on Skittles and Arizona Ice Tea, the other item Trayvon was carrying. He also was wearing a hooded sweatshirt or “hoodie” when he was killed, a symbol which has become fraught with double meaning; frequently seen in crime footage, now often worn as a symbol of Trayvon and a statement against stereotyping.

One student pointed out that Skittles and Arizona Tea mostly are operated by white people who would be lining their pockets on such protests. Some suggested boycotting both companies for not commenting on the situation, but others said they weren’t obligated to do so.

“I understand what the BSU is trying to do, but I didn’t buy Skittles,” another student said. “If we really want to show our concern, we would interview each person buying a bag of Skittles and make a video.”

“It’s more symbolic,” sophomore and incoming president Rashaad Toney said. “It’s not about making the companies famous, it’s about sending a message to the Sanford police.”

The group was unified against gun violence in general.

The event was held the same day that four men were arrested for shooting and killing three people, including a 16-year-old student, during a robbery of a convenience store north of Farmville on Sunday night.

“This event is a way to make sure we do our part to demand justice even though we’re way up here in North Carolina,” said ECU alumni and past BSU president Allen Thomas, who is running for N.C. Senate in the Fayetteville area. “Even though we’re here in Greenville, we won’t stand for any of that nonsense here.”

Trayvon was targeted not only because of the clothes he had on, but because of the color of his skin, Thomas claimed.

“This isn’t new,” said senior Marcelle Vielot, reading a long list of other shootings in the United States. “Martin Luther King was shot with a suit on,
Malcolm X was shot with a suit on. What are we supposed to wear? How are we supposed to act?”

“We weren’t there to march with Dr. King or sit on the bus with Rosa Parks,” Thomas said. “But we are still able to make our mark on this world because we do care about how people are treated.”

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567 or follow her on Twitter @JackieDrakeGDR.
ECU graduate shares stories from the links
By Nathan Summers
Thursday, April 5, 2012

Jim Dodson has led one of the more remarkable lives in sports history. The veteran journalist and golf author, in fact, has chronicled arguably the most definitive names in the history of the game — Arnold Palmer, Ben Hogan, Byron Nelson, Jack Nicklaus and Sam Snead among them. Dodson certainly seems to have enjoyed the ride.

The Greensboro native and East Carolina University graduate likely only scratched the surface when he spent an hour speaking to the Greater Greenville Sports Club on Wednesday at the Hilton Greenville, but even those 60 minutes were chock-full of some of the best and more eye-opening details imaginable.

Dodson recounted an infamous phone call from Palmer’s wife, Winnie, when Dodson was living in Maine around 1994 which he incorrectly believed was actually made by some of his drunken friends. She said she and Arnold had read his memoir, “Final Rounds,” and said she hoped Dodson would consider writing Palmer’s autobiography, which he ultimately did, but not before calling out what he thought was a prank.

“I said exactly the following,” Dodson recalled, thinking he was talking to his buddies that he presumed were sitting at Ham’s in Greensboro after a
few pitchers of beer. “Mrs. Palmer, that’s great and I would love to talk with you about this, but the Nicklauses are coming to Maine for Christmas this year and I’m about to pick them up at the airport. Frankly, I’m going to take them to a wild party on Small Point, and usually what happens is we get drunk as bandits and Barbara (Nicklaus) and I make out so I’ll have to call you tomorrow.’ And I hung up on her.”

Luckily for Dodson, Winnie Palmer persisted and what followed was not only three years spent working with his childhood idol and even playing golf with him on his home course in Latrobe, Pa., but a career in retelling the lives of some of the greatest golfers in American history.

Dodson talked about the very different personalities of the men he wrote about, including the squeaky clean image of Nelson, the horrific childhood that shaped Hogan, the infidelity-laced lifestyle of Snead and the arms-length demeanor of Nicklaus.

Dodson recalled shortly after being approached about writing Hogan’s life story that he received a call from Snead asking for the same. Dodson reminded Snead that he’d already had his story told three times previously, but that Snead contended, “Yeah, but I’m not done living yet.”

Dodson admitted to Snead that he’d just signed on to tell the story of Hogan, Snead’s greatest rival.

“You go on down to Texas and ask those boys about Ben and find out all you can about Ben, and you write your book,” Dodson remembered Snead telling him. “Then you come on up to Hot Springs (Va.) and I’ll tell you what the hell really happened.”

Dodson’s many accomplishments include being published in more than 50 magazines, including GQ, Sports Illustrated, the New York Times and Reader’s Digest, along with serving as the editor for Yankee Magazine, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Sunday Magazine and contributing editor for Golf Magazine.

His best-selling books include “Final Rounds,” “Faithful Travelers,” “Beautiful Madness,” as well as the autobiographies of Palmer, Hogan, Nicklaus and more. His most recent work, “American Triumvirate,” details the lives and careers of Snead, Nelson and Hogan, all boyhood caddies.

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or 252-329-9595.
Betty Eileen Petteway

My dearest friend, Betty Eileen Petteway, died on March 17, 2012 at the age of 82 after a brief illness. Betty was born in Virginia, graduated from Pennsylvania State University, and came to East Carolina University in 1962 where she remained a Professor of Art for over 30 years. Incredibly talented, Betty was also an accomplished photographer, writer, and poet. She is survived by family members, former students, her life long friends Betty J. Russell and Emily S. Boyce, and her beloved dog, Buddy.

Shakespeare once wrote "give sorrow words" and, as Betty was fond of saying, "to be sure." But those of us who knew Betty well remember her sense of humor, playfulness, and joy for life. Even as death approached her wit prevailed as she instructed nurses to be careful under threat of forfeiting a tip. When asked if she knew why she was in the hospital she responded, "Because I'm too good looking to be in the outside world." And while not exactly in the chronological order of events that took place over a two month period, at one point the doctor said, "You can sleep now" and Betty, characteristically, responded "It's about damn time."

Donations in Dr. Petteway's name may be made to Alzheimers North Carolina at http://www.alznc.org.

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Memphis finally to name street after King

By Joe Sutton, CNN

(CNN) -- Forty-four years after the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was gunned down on the balcony of a Memphis hotel, the Tennessee city is overcoming what some call protracted guilt and embarrassment, and naming a street in his honor.

A nearly 1-mile stretch of Linden Avenue will be renamed Dr. M.L. King Jr. Avenue on Wednesday, the anniversary of the civil rights leader's assassination.

The honor has been a long time coming.

More than 900 U.S. cities have streets named after King. The largest concentration is in the South, led by Georgia, which has more than 70 roads named after the Atlanta native, according to an article by Derek H. Alderman of East Carolina University in the New Georgia Encyclopedia.

But in the city where he died, the omission has been, to many, glaring.

"We never wanted to address losing Dr. King's life here," said former Memphis City Councilman Berlin Boyd, who helped lead the street-naming effort.

Born and raised in Memphis, Boyd, 34, said he always wondered why there was no official street tribute for King. During his brief five-month term in a vacated council seat -- from August to January -- Boyd decided to get the ball rolling.

"I had the opportunity to do something, and we got it done," Boyd said.

The east-west Linden Avenue, while less famous than Beale Street with its many blues clubs and restaurants just a block north, was selected because that was where King marched in support of striking sanitation workers.

The avenue also was a pivotal location during the strike. A photo shows the civil rights leader on Linden, Boyd said.
The council proposal was approved earlier this year by a land-use control board.

"He marched along this street; we wanted something that had a real nexus to this city," said Mayor A.C. Wharton.

One of Dr. King's associates during the 1968 sanitation workers' march was the Rev. James Netters, a former city council member.

Netters advocated for an intersection in honor of King in the early 1970s; The council decided to rename a portion of Interstate 240 as a substitute, he said.

"Naming Linden is better than nothing," Netters said.

The downtown thoroughfare is close to the historic Clayborn-Ball Temple, a focal point for many meetings of the sanitation strikers.

King was scheduled to speak there on April 3, 1968, but, because of a large crowd, the rally was moved to Mason Temple. It was there that he delivered his famous "I've Been to the Mountaintop" address.

Linden Avenue is a busy downtown thoroughfare and is on one side of FedExForum, home of the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies.

The area around the street is undergoing a significant transformation, Wharton said.

"This is the right time" to rename the street, the mayor said.

Demolition of a public housing project is making way for a mixed-use development, and other projects will change the landscape.

Long-term plans include naming up to 5 miles of Linden Avenue for King.

King was killed April 4, 1968, by James Earl Ray. The National Civil Rights Museum, located at the Lorraine Motel where he was killed, will sponsor a commemoration on the anniversary date.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, who was with King at the Lorraine, said the assassination left Memphis with a deep sense of pain and guilt.

He contends the city could "do more to memorialize Dr. King's legacy."

For the city, the street naming is a large symbolic step in honoring King.

"There is no way we could do enough for him ... that would measure up to what he gave up the United States of America," Wharton said.
At the State Personnel Act rally, Nick Wood, left, a local attorney and founder of the local chapter of Jobs With Justice, speaks to a packed gathering of community organizers, UNC faculty and staff and UNC students in the lobby of the Campus Y at UNC on Wednesday afternoon, April 4, 2012. Wood was giving the history of SB 575, a bill under consideration in the state legislature that would cut thousands of UNC system employees from the protections of the State Personnel Act.

**Lawmaker says legislation will include protections for UNC workers**

By Katelyn Ferral - kferral@newsobserver.com

CHAPEL HILL The sponsor of state legislation that would transfer thousands of UNC system workers to a new UNC-led personnel system says the bill would include guidelines protecting workers’ rights and benefits.

Sen. Richard Stevens, a Wake County Republican who introduced Senate Bill 575 last April, said Wednesday that if the personnel change is voted on this year, he would add eight “guiding principles” to the legislation.

The principles direct UNC’s Board of Governors to consider feedback from employees, implement a fair grievance process and preserve state health care benefits, as it creates a new system.
“If anything, employees’ benefits rights would be enhanced under an arrangement from the university system, rather than a big amorphous state government system,” Stevens said. “I think they may be concerned about something that doesn’t exist.”

SB 575 would move 22,000 employees currently subject to the State Personnel Act to a new, unified employee system created and directly managed by UNC’s Board of Governors.

The bill failed to meet the deadline for consideration this legislative session, but the personnel change could be inserted into a final budget bill. Stevens said it’s too soon to tell if that may happen, but the Board of Governors is asking lawmakers to act on it.

Opponents of the bill say including eight principles in the legislation isn’t enough. The Board of Governors would still have the final say, said Nick Wood, an attorney with Triangle Jobs With Justice, a labor rights group.

“They’re so vague, they can’t be adequately interpreted,” he said. “I wouldn’t feel any better if they were codified.”

Wood and about 60 others gathered for a teach-in at UNC-Chapel Hill on Wednesday sponsored by the Coalition for Workplace Democracy.

The bill would replace laws with words, which isn’t good enough in a state that bans public unions and has reneged on workers’ rights before, said David Zonderman, a history professor at N.C. State University.

“The lesson of history in this state is when workers’ rights are withdrawn, they are very rarely given back,” he said.

During an Employee Forum meeting Wednesday morning, Brenda Richardson Malone, vice chancellor for human resources at UNC-CH, emphasized the UNC system’s commitment to employees.

“It is not my interest to take way somebody’s rights,” she said.

It’s too early to discuss exactly what the new worker system would look like, Malone said, but it would allow UNC-CH to control its own compensation structure and establish new classifications for pay and benefits, rather than trying to pigeonhole university jobs into a broader state system that doesn’t always fit the needs of a higher education institution, she said.

Stevens said he introduced the bill last year to help the UNC system managing its money during budget cuts but that the universities have been talking about making the move for a long time.
The bill also includes provisions giving campuses more flexibility in how they spend money, negotiate contracts, sell property and build new facilities. Most of those provisions were passed last year and are already in effect, Stevens said.

“Together we’re looking for ways to streamline and make things more efficient, and operating two personnel systems was just not very efficient,” he said.

Higher education employees in North Carolina fall under two employee systems, he said. About 60 percent of them, including community college employees, already are not subject to the State Personnel Act, he said. UNC Hospitals employees also fall outside the act.

Ferral: 919-932-8746

**What's next**

A Board of Governor’s committee updated eight guiding principles for a new personnel system in March. The board’s personnel and tenure committee will discuss the draft principles April 12 at a meeting in Chapel Hill.

1. The university will develop the new unified system in accordance with best practices in public higher education.

2. University employees will have substantive input in the development of the new unified system through their peer-elected representatives in the UNC Staff and Faculty Assemblies.

3. The university will adopt policies and procedures that maintain and strengthen the existing practices for the fair evaluation and treatment of all employees in all areas of employment, including employee development and performance.

4. Upon implementation of the unified system, employees currently identified as “SPA” will not be required to become “at will” at their current jobs. Employees may choose to apply for and accept transfers or promotions to “at will” positions.

5. For those categories of employees currently identified as “SPA,” adverse employment actions will be subjected to fair processes and reviewable through structured procedures that provide for fair notice and the opportunity for the employee to be heard; grievance panels will include employee peers. A reasonable and lawful standard ("just cause") will apply.
6. The university will use compensation policies and procedures that recognize the contribution, experience, performance and service of university employees. In keeping with best practices and to the extent allowed by law and funding, such policies and procedures will be market-based. Legislatively appropriated funds for pay increases will be allocated to faculty and staff job categories.

7. At minimum, university employees will continue to be eligible for State of North Carolina benefits (such as approved retirement programs, the State Health Plan, the existing number of paid holidays and leave and disability insurance).

8. The university will continue to refine, develop and implement policies, procedures and practices that are consistent with these guiding principles and in ways that will enhance its ability to be an employer of choice.
UNCW graduating seniors Melissa Poteat and Brooke Conner pick look through an assortment of graduation rings they can choose from through Balfour Ring Company during UNCW's Graduation Fair Tuesday at the Burney Center. Photo By Jeff Janowski

**UNCW students pay up to graduation industry**

By Pressley Baird
Pressley.Baird@StarNewsOnline.com

When it came to the trappings tied to graduation, Alexandra Berndt didn't mind the costs.

The senior finance major at the University of North Carolina Wilmington had already spent about $600 on a class ring. She still needed graduation announcements, about $70, and a diploma frame, about $200.

Berndt mulled her options at Tuesday's Seahawk Salute, an annual event where soon-to-be graduates can get all the accoutrements. Graduation marks the end of funding the degree, but the celebration comes with a cost – one that students like Berndt are embracing.

For companies in the graduation industry, that's priceless.

Barry Waseleski is a Herff Jones representative for about 50 colleges in North Carolina, selling class rings and diploma frames. He said graduation industries were driven by what he called feel-good products.
"It's very important to these people," Waseleski said. "In more cases than not, they're not asking what the price is."

Those prices can be high. Waseleski estimated that his customers could spend as much as $1,200 on announcements, diploma frames and a class ring.

UNCW student Berndt, who planned to buy all three, expected to spend about $870. The number didn't surprise her mother, Sandra Berndt, who was with her Tuesday. She'd dealt with the costs when her son Daniel graduated from N.C. State University.

"We already knew," Sandra Berndt said. "It's not going to get cheaper."

The Berndts were searching for less expensive options. They'd heard about a company called Signature Announcements, which gives students a hefty discount if they purchase both frames and announcements.

But Signature Announcements isn't one of UNCW's official vendors, said Sam Quigley. He's a representative for Balfour, which sells the school's authorized graduation announcements. He said the popularity of the graduation industry, leading to the rise of companies like Signature Announcements, has hurt his sales.

"We used to sell over 100" announcements at events like the Seahawk Salute, said. "But then this other company came in."

Buying with school-sponsored vendors makes sure part of the profit goes back to the school, said Stephanie Garay, manager of UNCW's bookstore.

"They also have our customer service behind it," she said. "If it's a third party, it's really just a student and that company."

Whether UNCW students decided to buy from official vendors or go their own way, there was one expense they didn't have to worry about: a cap and gown. The black robes and mortar boards were free for all graduates – and Alexandra and Sandra Berndt thought they looked it.

N.C. State "spends more money to look nicer," Sandra Berndt said.

Fingering the black material, Alexandra Berndt agreed.

"My biggest disappointment is the gowns," she said. "I graduated from a community college, and my community college gown was nicer than this."

Pressley Baird: 343-2328
On Twitter: @PressleyBaird
To Newt Gingrich, North Carolina is the ideal spot for his campaign. "If (North Carolina) wants to send a signal that it wants a more conservative approach to the presidency, I think this is the perfect place," he told reporters at an event at the University of North Carolina Wilmington on Wednesday. "This is the place in 1976 where Reagan turned his whole campaign around for that very reason."

Several hundred supporters packed UNCW's Lumina Theater to see the presidential hopeful and former House speaker, who said he had no plans of dropping out of the GOP race despite his lagging third-place position. His goal, he said, was to get to an open convention in August. But he said he would support the eventual Republican nominee.

"It's a straightforward choice," he said. "Who is better for the American future: the Republican nominee or Barack Obama?"
Gingrich used analogies comparing consumer credit card bills to the debt of the nation to tell the students, faculty and Wilmington-area residents in attendance about his goal to get the country to think differently.

The comparisons gave his speech the feel of a college professor's lecture, and he often nodded to students in the audience in the middle of his points on energy and foreign oil, saying, "Many of you who are taking economics can try this out."

Gingrich highlighted just two major platform planks, as he termed them, during the speech. Creating an American energy dependence program to produce oil in the country would limit terrorism, create jobs and bring gas prices down to $2.50 a gallon, he said. He also proposed a brain science initiative to work on finding cures for diseases like autism and Alzheimer's.

"We've got to become an innovative country again," he said. "We've got to develop new technology and new science."

The technology focus was part of what brought Andrew Brennan, a freshman at UNCW, to Gingrich's speech. Brennan, who's thinking about a major in physics, said he especially liked Gingrich's ideas about space exploration. He also liked the name recognition.

"To see the former speaker of the House, that's monumental," he said.

For Ryan Budd, also a UNCW freshman, the speech was about more than just a boldfaced name.

"I've been a Newt supporter since September of last year," he said. "He's how American democracy should be run."

But Michael Coleman, a first-year graduate student studying public international affairs at UNCW, thought the audience didn't understand the issues Gingrich presented, he said. He wasn't sure if Gingrich understood them, either.

"He oversimplifies the issue," Coleman said. "And people clap for that."

Coleman said he came to hear what Gingrich had to say, but he didn't support him. He cited his brother, a Marine who just returned from Afghanistan, as the reason.

"I can't actively vote for a person like Newt Gingrich who's going to send my brother to war without understanding it himself," he said.

Gingrich is the first of the Republican hopefuls to hold a public event in North Carolina in 2012. He said he'd be back in the upcoming weeks, telling
reporters he was "trying to cover the whole state." But he's one of the least popular candidates in N.C., according to recent surveys.

Gingrich came in third with 19 percent in North Carolina among the Republican candidates, according to a March 27 poll by Public Policy Polling. Romney and Santorum were tied for first with 30 percent each.

Gingrich's visit came a day after primaries in Wisconsin, Maryland and Washington, D.C. Gingrich finished third in Maryland and D.C. with about 11 percent of the vote and fourth in Wisconsin with about 6 percent, falling further behind pack leader Mitt Romney and second-place candidate Rick Santorum.

North Carolina's primary is May 8.

According to counts by the Associated Press, Gingrich had 135 delegates as of Wednesday. Romney had 658 delegates, and Santorum had 281 delegates. Ron Paul had 51 delegates. A candidate needs 1,144 delegates to win the nomination, a point Gingrich made when answering another question about his position in the race.

"I'm not going to beat Romney head to head. But it's conceivable that between Ron Paul, Rick Santorum and me that we'll have enough delegates to have an open convention," Gingrich said. "If we have an open convention, the truth is, nobody knows what would happen."

Pressley Baird: 343-2328
On Twitter: @PressleyBaird
Campus robberies give students pause

By R. DARREN PRICE
dprice@thestate.com

Three people have been robbed at gunpoint around the USC campus in the past six weeks, and it has some students worrying about safety.

“It’s definitely a concern,” said Maurice Lanier, a senior. “Especially for some of the freshmen and female students.”

Late Saturday, two men pointed a gun at man walking by the Swearingen Engineering Building in the 300 block of Main Street. The men hit him in the head, took his iPod and left in a red Honda Accord.

Maggie Gladstone, a freshman, was out walking with friends that night when the university sent out a text message on the Carolina Alert notification system warning students of the robbery. She and her friends don’t like
walking at night to begin with, and knowing a crime had just occurred nearby spooked them.

“We were running behind trees every time cars passed by,” she said.

And on March 15, a student was also robbed at gunpoint in the 1900 block of Pendleton Street, just east of Capstone and Columbia halls. In that incident, men in a black car pulled up next to the student and asked for change for a $10 bill. When the student said no, the passenger pulled out a gun and the man took his iPod.

Three men and one juvenile have been charged in that incident, and were both linked to an armed robbery March 24 in nearby Five Points. Columbia Police are still looking for a fifth suspect in both incidents, department spokeswoman Jennifer Timmons said.

Another female student walking at Whaley and Pickens streets was robbed at gunpoint Feb. 29. A man stole her iPad before running away. There were two other armed robberies on campus during the fall semester.

Because of the incidents, USC Police have dispatched extra officers to patrol the campus, according to a statement released this week. The university will continue to provide information to the community, the statement said, and will continue to assist in looking for suspects in the three robberies.

In each incident, students could have done things to help protect themselves from becoming victims, according to Columbia Police crime prevention officer Scott Stover. He said that students should avoid walking alone at night. If students have to walk alone after dark, they should stay alert by ditching the ear buds.

“Criminals look for an easy target,” he said. “You’re not going to be as alert as you could be with headphones on.”

Students make for easy targets for would-be criminals, he said, because they usually aren’t paying attention and might be carrying nice phones, electronics, jewelry or bags that they could sell. Students can protect themselves by making common-sense judgments and staying alert.

“Don’t get that false sense of security even though USC PD and CPD do a great job patrolling around the area,” he said.

Amelia Lewis, a junior, and Liz Kenney, a sophomore, both said that the recent robberies haven’t changed the way they get around after dark. But that’s probably because they’ve always stayed alert.

“It’s the same as everywhere else,” Lewis said. “But you have to be aware.”
They both learned about campus safety in their semester-long freshman orientation class, University 101, and try to make sure they don’t go out at night alone. They said the university does a fair amount to make sure they don’t have to walk home alone, providing shuttles and late-night buses, and giving them plenty of ways to get help if they are ever victims in crime by using the dozens of call boxes around campus.

Lanier’s iPhone has been buzzing with text message alerts from the university’s Carolina Alert system since late January, when police were investigating firebombings around campus. He said he’s gotten alerts for crime on campus before, but he can’t remember a semester where more alerts had to be sent out.

“I’m a senior, and it’s the first year I’ve been texted this much,” he said. Carolina Alert blasts out emails, texts, tweets and Facebook posts whenever there is an emergency on campus, according to the university website. Typically, the university will send out alerts when there is an immediate threat or risk on campus or if there is need to notify the public of an incident that has already been contained. This year, there have been nine Carolina Alerts listed for crimes, five of which relate to the robberies the last few months.

Lanier said he doesn’t feel unsafe on campus, and appreciates that the university gets information out quickly when incidents occur. But he said he’d like to see more done to prevent crimes from happening.

“I like that we’re being informed,” he said. “But I don’t hear a lot about getting the crimes solved.”
Faculty Gives Yale a Dose of Dissent Over Singapore

By TAMAR LEWIN

NEW HAVEN — Yale announced a year ago that it was creating the “first new college to bear the Yale name in 300 years” at the National University of Singapore, and last week, after reviewing 2,500 applications, it sent out the first handful of faculty job offers for Yale-N.U.S. College.

So it is distinctly awkward timing that members of the Yale College faculty, which never voted on the plan, are now raising concerns about joining their storied institution with an autocratic city-state where drug offenses can bring the death penalty, homosexual relations are illegal and criminal defamation charges are aggressively pursued.

On campus, there is a whiff of a Yale Spring, a slow awakening — at a university with no faculty senate — to faculty discontent. Many Yale professors are unhappy about the absence of a vote on the Singapore project, while some go further and attack it as a dangerous collaboration with a government that does not support the broad freedoms they believe are central to liberal arts education.
“The faculty is feeling disempowered, that it has no voice in what is going on,” said Seyla Benhabib, a political science professor.

Richard C. Levin, the university’s president, said the faculty had no vote on the project because it would not affect the college. It was approved by the Yale Corporation, the governing board. Yale officials take pains to explain that Yale-N.U.S., which will be paid for entirely by Singapore, will not be Yale but a distinct institution with its own president and its own diploma.

Of course, some faculty support the project, and some are deeply involved in it: Charles Bailyn, an astronomy professor, will be the dean of Yale-N.U.S. when the first 150 students arrive next year, and other professors helped develop the plan and are working on hiring.

At last month’s faculty meeting, about 150 professors, an unusually high turnout, debated Professor Benhabib’s resolution calling for a formal commitment to broad freedoms. A vote was postponed until the next meeting, this Thursday evening, when an even larger turnout is expected, along with an attempt to amend the resolution to include a statement of support for the project.

With the globalization of higher education, such delicate cross-cultural partnerships are increasingly common. In fact, the National University of Singapore already has, among other collaborations, a medical school venture with Duke, a partnership with Johns Hopkins’ conservatory and a New York University Law School master’s program.

New York University has a liberal arts campus in Abu Dhabi and is starting another in Shanghai, each offering the same degree granted in New York. Yale has been unwilling to grant its own degree abroad, either in Singapore or at an arts institute in Abu Dhabi under discussion five years ago.

The Yale administration says the faculty has had ample opportunities to weigh in since the September 2010 prospectus outlining the Singapore project, including two poorly attended town-hall-style meetings.

But many professors said they had paid little attention early on, assuming the project would come to a vote.

“I was stunned by the announcement that we’d hooked up with this university,” said Mimi Yiengpruksawan, an art history professor. “My first question was, ‘Who’s ‘we’ — and why are ‘we’ involved in developing a campus paid for by a national government that is not the United States?’ ”
Even apart from Singapore, there had been mounting faculty discontent about university decisions on the budget, the graduate school and shared services. The complaints coalesced this winter at a gathering at the home of an English professor, where 20 senior faculty members discussed their frustrations.

Now the Singapore debate is heated, with a stream of commentary from students, faculty and alumni — including, this week, a glowing vote of confidence in a sophisticated model of education blending East and West by Fareed Zakaria, a Yale trustee, and a blistering attack calling Yale’s plan “poorly informed, reckless and sultanistic” by Michael Montesano, an alumnus in Singapore.

The resolution creating all the buzz is rather mild, expressing “concern regarding the recent history of lack of respect for civil and political rights in the state of Singapore,” and urging Yale-N.U.S. “to respect, protect and further principles of non-discrimination for all, including sexual minorities and migrant workers; to uphold civil liberty and political freedom on campus and in the broader society,” ideals “at the heart of liberal arts education.”

Professor Bailyn, who radiates enthusiasm about the chance to design a new college, is uncomfortable with the resolution, worrying about the implied “us versus them” attitude of faculty members “at a safe distance of 9,000 miles, telling Singaporeans how to live.”

Furthermore, he said, the timing could hardly be more awkward: “It could have been a huge conversation a year ago, before we actually signed the agreement. Now we’re right in the middle of making faculty offers.”

Timing aside, faculty supporters say, the resolution is important both symbolically, to support civil liberties, and practically, to bolster the faculty voice.

“Thursday will be the first vote ever taken on anything related to Singapore,” said Christopher L. Miller, a professor of French who is gay. “It would be a very positive step, saying that the Yale College faculty is taking back some ownership of the issue, but it’s only the first step.”

Plenty of questions remain, faculty members said, about what the agreement between Singapore and Yale contains, how it would work and what made Yale choose Singapore.

Some Yale trustees have long ties to Singapore. In recent years, three have held important positions at the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation, which handles Singapore’s more than $100 billion in assets, or
at Temasek Holdings, which the Finance Ministry owns. As those ties have become known, some on the faculty have expressed frustration that Yale has not been forthcoming about them.

In an interview Sunday, Mr. Levin said there was no impropriety. “Two of the three individuals with connections to Singapore were not serving as Yale trustees at the time the agreement was under discussion, and the third recused himself from voting,” he said.

Specifically, he said, Charles Ellis, the husband of the Yale vice president Linda Lorimer, retired from the Yale Corporation in 2008, before the discussions began, and retired as an adviser to the Singapore corporation in June 2009, when the talks were under way. Charles W. Goodyear, who was Temasek’s chief executive-designate from March until August 2009, did not become a Yale trustee until after the Yale-Singapore agreement was signed. And G. Leonard Baker, a Yale trustee and leading fund-raiser since 2000, who served on the board of a subsidiary of the Singapore corporation from 2001 to 2011 and held other Singapore advisory positions, reported them on his annual disclosure forms. Mr. Levin said Mr. Baker had recused himself from voting on the agreement.

Mr. Levin said it had not occurred to him to disclose Mr. Baker’s recusal. In a statement Sunday night, Mr. Levin said a review of Yale’s online information had revealed that Mr. Goodyear’s and Mr. Baker’s Singapore involvements were not in their biographical summaries, an omission that has been corrected.

Mr. Levin first considered the project, which he called one of the most exciting of his long presidency, at the 2009 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. There, he had tea with the president of N.U.S., who had previously sought a liberal arts collaboration with Britain’s University of Warwick and California’s Claremont Colleges.

If the collaboration hits some bumps, Mr. Levin said, they may be smoothed by a governance committee, with equal representation from both universities, that will advise the Yale-N.U.S. president on conflicts of values or principles.

The prospectus includes negotiated language promising that faculty and students at the new college “will be free to conduct scholarship and research and publish the results, and to teach in the classroom and express themselves on campus, bearing in mind the need to act in accordance with accepted scholarly and professional standards and the regulations of the college.” It
also says the new college’s nondiscrimination policy will be “fully consistent” with Yale’s.

Still, Michael J. Fischer, a computer science professor, has urged Yale to pull back. “I ask that the Yale name be removed from the new college, that the Yale administration make clear to all that Yale’s role in Yale-N.U.S. is only as consultants and that the Yale collegium has no control, responsibility or affiliation with Yale N.U.S.,” he wrote in The Yale Daily News.

In Singapore, an article in an independent student newspaper criticized Yale professors as trading in stereotypes — and suggested that if Americans obsess about the illegality of homosexuality, Singaporeans might obsess about Guantánamo Bay and “dubious ‘antiterrorism’ laws.”

The Yale Daily News offered a measured view: “The truth remains that Yale will henceforth be closely linked with an authoritarian regime, and the university will have to find a way to balance partnership and pushback.”