THE DAILY CLIPS

April 16, 2008

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

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
Time

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481 FAX: 252-328-6300
Campus shooting prompted ECU to review policies

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

The shooting rampage at Virginia Tech a year ago lead East Carolina University officials to review and update their own safety procedures.

Seung-Hui Cho altered the perception of college campuses as very safe places to be when he chained the doors of a building at Virginia Tech and killed 30 people one year ago today.

Administrators all over the country responded by increasing security on campuses and parents expressed new concerns for their children's welfare.

"It (the shooting at Virginia Tech) has made everyone more sensitive to it," said Bill Koch, associate vice chancellor of environmental health, safety, parking and transportation at ECU.

"This heightened the issue for everyone, especially on a national basis."

The University of North Carolina system has long had a safety task force. After the events of last year, the task

See ECU, A11

Continued from A1

force pushed many efforts on campuses in North Carolina to increase security.

ECU has had an emergency operations plan for decades to respond to any crisis that may occur on campus including a shooter, a flood or hurricane.

"It changes with the times," Koch said.

"We keep making it better. We review plans on a regular basis and conduct drills. All of these things help us flesh out where our plans are."

Koch said he often receives phone calls from concerned parents. Every time, after he explains what the university is doing, the parent says they feel better about sending their student to ECU, he said.

"We try to give them as much information as we can," Koch said.

"We try to make them comfortable with what we do and where we are headed."

Students, faculty and staff of ECU can be immediately contacted by e-mail in the case of an emergency. The e-mail from the university pops up on the computer screen, no matter what the person might be doing.

Also, more than 5,000 people around the ECU community have signed up to receive text messages in the event of an emergency. The PIER program sends out a mass text message to anyone who signs up. It was successfully tested in February. The program also can send voice mails.

"We are talking about random acts of violence that you can't predict, but we are trying to stay in front of them," Koch said.

Faculty and staff have been trained to recognize students who may be experiencing a crisis and direct them to the school's counseling center. The center has increased the number of counselors over the last year.

Training for everything from recognizing signs of emotional instability to exercises in responding to an active shooter on campus have increased at ECU.

The ECU Police Department has trained in rapid deployment, conducted active shooter drills and increased its the number of officers.

The university will continue to find the best ways to keep its students safe, Koch said.

"A lot of effort is going into this and we know that it is necessary."

Josh Humphries can be contacted at jhumphries@coxnc.com and 329-9565.
OBAMA VISIT

East Carolina University will host Sen. Barack Obama at a free campaign event Thursday in Minges Coliseum.

- Doors open at 4 p.m., but the time of Obama's appearance has not been announced.
- Tickets are not required but campaign officials recommend going to the candidate's Web site to make reservations, www.nc.barackobama.com. Entrance will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis.
ECU running back Williams charged with DWI

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector

An East Carolina University running back has been charged with drunk driving, according to a Greenville Police Department report.

Sophomore Jonathan Edward Williams, 19, 318 Haven Drive Apt. 1, was arrested April 5 and charged with driving while impaired and driving after consuming by a person under 21.

The J.H. Rose High School graduate was stopped at the intersection of 16th Street and East Rock Springs Road just before 11 p.m. He refused a Breathalyzer test, so the officer obtained a warrant, and blood was drawn at a Pitt County Memorial Hospital lab.

The results of the analysis have not been reported.

Williams was confined to the Pitt County Detention Center on a $25,000 unsecured bond that night and is scheduled to appear in court May 9.

---

He has a separate court date Monday for a charge of driving while license revoked.

"We have been made aware of the situation and are still in the process of gathering additional information," said head football coach Skip Holtz in a statement Tuesday. "We have discussed the matter with Jonathan and have been in contact with the police. In order to determine an educated and fair course of action, we will continue to investigate the situation internally."

Williams did play in the spring game April 12, leading the team in yards rushed before bad weather prompted officials to cancel the second half.

Williams is the second ECU football player charged with DWI within the past year. Quarterback Rob Kass pleaded guilty March 31 to charges stemming from an incident in August. He was sentenced to one year without his driver’s license, 12 months unsupervised probation and 24 hours of community service.

Kathryn Kennedy can be reached at kkennedy@coxnc.com or 339-9566.
PCMH making financial headway

For the third consecutive month, PCMH's operational income surpassed the projected budget.

By Tom Marine
The Daily Reflector

Pitt County Memorial Hospital continued to make financial progress during March. The University Health Systems' Board of Directors were told Tuesday that, for the third consecutive month, PCMH's operational income surpassed the projected budget.

Last month, the hospital earned $5.4 million on operations, $1.7 million above expectations.

PCMH President Steve Lawler opened the board's regular session by giving a brief update on the financial status of the hospital and an overview of the strategic planning for 2009.

"We feel pretty good as a management team on where we are right now," Lawler said. "Like any good team at halftime, we are making adjustments to make sure the second half is just as good as the first."

David Hughes, vice president of financial services at PCMH, said the hospital's strong performance can be attributed to the type of patients being treated and a rise in the total number of patients seen each day.

"We've been working very hard to make that happen," Hughes said, referring to the recent financial success.

At the midpoint of the fiscal year, the hospital's operating income stands at $9.6 million, which is $500,000 above plan.

Hughes said PCMH is budgeted to make $30 million this year, with more than two-thirds of that being earned in the next six months.

The biggest constraint, Hughes said, is that the hospital doesn't have enough beds to meet the demand of eastern North Carolina.

See PCMH, A11

PCMH

Continued from A1

Presently, PCMH has 761 beds, but is scheduled to open 100 additional beds next year.

Hughes said the first quarter was "out of the norm" in terms of experiencing a trend of patients not normally seen during that time period.

Also at Tuesday's meeting:

Phyllis Horns, interim dean of the Brody School of Medicine, updated the board on the searches to find deans for both the medical school and the new dental school.

"The dean search is going extremely well," Horns told the board members. "We have top-notch people in our pool."

Horns said once all applicants have visited campus, the school will then bring back some for two-day interviews.

The board voted in favor of a resolution to restructure a portion of UHS's 2006 bonds and create an ad hoc bond financing committee.

The Building Committee reported the relocation of Moye Boulevard is scheduled to be done April 28, with new stop lights and crosswalks.

At the end of the meeting, Dick Adams tendered his resignation as a board member after 7 years of service.

Next month, the board will meet at Bertie Memorial Hospital in Windsor, instead of the usual PCMH location.
Gunfire near center inspires peace rally

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector

Last week’s gunshots fired near the Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Center in west Greenville have prompted a “community peace rally” today from 4-7 p.m., sponsored by the Greenville Police Department and Citizens United Against Violence, a center official said.

“Devinda Culver, of the police department, and officials from Citizens United Against Violence said they wanted to put together a rally to show their support of the center’s programs and let people know the center is not in jeopardy of closing,” said Deborah Moody, an East Carolina University outreach worker.

Capt. Cecil Hardy (ret.), community activist Christopher Taylor, and the Rev. Donald Cherry met with some of the ECU students who were at the Little Willie School on the center’s campus when the shots rang out, Moody said.

Together they planned a strategy, to rally community support for the center’s continuing efforts to provide services to neighborhood residents, she said.

“The rally is a last-minute result of that meeting. It’s difficult to put together, especially on a Wednesday, but we’re hoping for a big show of support from everyone in the Greenville community,” Moody said.

None of the lengthy daily activities at the Gorham Center have changed, Moody said.

“We’re here for a much larger purpose than the shots of that one foolish person,” she said.

Greenville police detained three men on Contentnea Street shortly after the shots were fired near West Fifth Street and confiscated a handgun, but could not connect the men or the gun to the shooting, a department spokesman said. No suspects have been identified in the incident.

Jimmye Jones, a neighborhood resident and chairwoman of the Lucille Gorham Center’s advisory board, described the center as the focal point for

See PEACE, B2

PEACE
Continued from B1

all the positive efforts of the neighborhood.

“This place is going to change the community, and hopefully the whole city of Greenville,” Jones said.

The East Carolina students who attend classes and work at the center spent Tuesday printing flyers and knocking on doors to pass the word about today’s rally, Moody said.

Taylor, a grass-roots organizer who heads “Save Our Children In Time,” described the rally as a special occasion that should attract wide support.

“This is a time for elected officials, law enforcement and court officials and the city of Greenville to come out and show that we are one Greenville. Violence is not a just west Greenville problem, it’s the whole city’s problem,” he said.

Michael Abramowitz can be contacted at mabramowitz@coxnc.com and 329-9571.
Our Views

One year

Virginia Tech honors memory of 32

Silence — stark and sorrowful — will descend on Blacksburg, Va., this morning to mark one year since a gunman killed 32 students and faculty at Virginia Tech. The names of the dead, now etched on limestone blocks at the center of the picturesque campus, will be mourned far beyond the mountains of southwest Virginia, ripples from that tragedy that continue to reverberate.

The brutal murders prompted extensive and valuable discussion — about mental health and gun control, the university's response and the need to bolster security at colleges across the nation — but those are best set aside today.

This anniversary should be reserved in memory of the lives lost and their families, a time for remembrance and, hopefully, for healing.

This anniversary should be reserved in memory of the lives lost and their families, a time for remembrance and, hopefully, for healing.

Jamie Bishop was a Georgia native who taught elementary German. Austin Cloyd was a freshman who helped build houses for poor families in Appalachian communities. Waleed Shaalan was a doctoral student in civil engineering who came to the United States from Egypt. And Ryan "Stack" Clark was a resident adviser who played baritone in the Marching Virginians, the university marching band.

They were four of the 32 lives cut short by Seung-Hui Cho, a 23-year-old English student with a history of anxiety disorders and depression. Armed with two handguns and hundreds of rounds of ammunition, he killed two students at a residence hall the morning of April 16 before heading across campus.

At Norris Hall, two hours after the initial attack, Cho chained the doors and, in the span of nine minutes, methodically fired at least 174 rounds in four classrooms and the second-floor hallway. He killed 30 students and faculty, and wounded 17, before killing himself.

Employing hindsight became a popular exercise in the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy, which stands as the deadliest school shooting in American history. It sparked considerable discussion, and prompted East Carolina University, like many schools, to examine security practices and procedures.

Before that, however, East Carolina moved to help the stunned and shaken Virginia Tech community, joining with hundreds of institutions and communities at that time of need. East Carolina held a candlelight vigil and pledged $100,000 to the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund. Those who attended the Pirates' season-opening football game in Blacksburg are unlikely to forget that emotional experience.

Those expressions of support and sympathy will be a valuable, steadying influence again today as the names of the victims are read, as a moment of silence is respected and, later tonight, as the Virginia Tech community gathers to remember the 32 lives lost last year. We can only hope that healing and strength can be found somehow amid the tears.
Lie-ins evoke mixed feelings
Some object to timing of gun protests

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

In groups of 32, protesters around the nation will lie on the ground for three minutes today in an attempt to bring light to gun laws they say are too lax.

This will occur at least 80 times in 33 states, and the choice of the day — one year after a mentally ill gunman killed 32 people on the Virginia Tech campus — is a matter of some disagreement.

Some lie-ins are coordinated by friends or families of gun violence victims at Virginia Tech or elsewhere. But some gun rights advocates say the timing is in poor taste. At Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, a lie-in today organized by the friend of a shooting victim was met with opposition but is expected to take place.

Locally, lie-ins are scheduled at Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill. At each event, the 32 protesters symbolize the 32 Virginia Tech victims and do not include the shooter, Seung-Hui Cho.

See Lie-ins, Page 68.

LIE-INS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Hui Cho, whose suicide ended the carnage a year ago. Protesters will lie prone for three minutes because that's about how long a licensed gun seller takes to conduct a computerized background check on a customer.

No such backgrounding is required at gun shows, a central complaint of the protesters.

Each of today's lie-ins can be traced to Abby Spangler, 42, who one year ago was an apolitical mother of two living in the Washington suburbs. Horrified by the Virginia Tech shootings, she hastily organized the first lie-in on April 22, 2007, in Alexandria, Va.

The snowball's pace quickened as others latched onto the idea:

- Falls Church, Va., May 19.
- In late May, the lie-in movement hit Times Square in New York City. Mayor Michael Bloomberg attended.

Suddenly, Spangler, a cellist with the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, went from political neophyte to the unlikely leader of a national cause. Before the Virginia Tech shootings, she knew essentially nothing about gun control.

"I'm just a mother who doesn't like to see other mothers and fathers lose their child because a dangerous individual can buy a gun in three minutes," said Spangler, who grew up in Charlotte and is the daughter of C.D. Spangler, the billionaire businessman and former UNC system president. "This movement has overtaken my life."

Culture shift begins

Spangler's protest was just one of many reactions to the Blacksburg shootings. Across the nation, universities are changing the way they monitor students who show signs of serious mental illness. Campuses have also revamped emergency response plans to notify students with cell phones, text messages and campus sirens.

In Virginia, mental health information is now part of background checks for gun purchases.

In North Carolina, Attorney General Roy Cooper has recommended a similar law.

The fallout from Virginia Tech comes at a time when the gun control debate has reached the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court will rule soon on whether Washington's ban on handguns is constitutional.

Spangler wants to strengthen laws governing the purchase of guns at gun shows. She says she does not oppose gun ownership by law-abiding citizens. Still, her movement has some detractors.

The organization Students for Concealed Carry on Campus thinks Spangler's lie-ins exploit a
LIE-INS IN N.C.

In North Carolina today, five lie-ins will be held on college campuses.

UNC-CHARLOTTE: Noon, corner of Tryon and East Sixth streets.
DUKE: Noon, on the front steps of Duke Chapel.
UNC-CHAPEL HILL: Noon, Polk Place.
WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY: 10:30 am, Clock Tower.
UNC-WILMINGTON: Noon, Clock Tower.

Support in Blacksburg

In Blacksburg, Virginia Tech officials were reluctant to grant the lie-in group a permit to protest today but eventually acquiesced, reports in the Virginia Tech student newspaper show.

An editorial last week in that paper, The Collegiate Times, said in part, "This is not the day to push an agenda, even if it has relevance to Tech."

But Spangler says she has the support of one important constituency — the families of many of the victims and some survivors of the shootings. Many participate in lie-ins and some have organized them. The friends of 15 Virginia Tech victims are leading lie-ins today, Spangler said.

"They are strongly supportive of me, personally, and of the social movement," she said.

Matt Foreman, a Virginia Tech senior from Durham, isn't sure today's lie-in planned for his college campus makes sense. People have dealt with grief at their own pace and in their own ways, Foreman said, and today's anniversary and planned memorials are personal, he said.

"I think adding a protest is beyond the scope of what anyone at Virginia Tech is concerned with," said Foreman, a graduate of Durham's Jordan High School. "I think it kind of misses the point."

- eric.ferrer@newsobserver.com
  or (919) 956-2415
Acting against gun violence

BY RICHARD H. BRODEHEAD AND JAMES MOESSER

A year ago today, a gunman took the lives of 32 students and faculty at Virginia Tech. Our nation looked on in horror, and those of us who lead universities prayed that such senseless killings would not strike our campuses again.

But they did. In February, five members of the Northern Illinois University community died at the hands of a gunman. Violence also came to our own campuses in North Carolina, with the senseless murders of Duke’s Abhijit Mahato and Carolina’s Eve Carson. Their deaths touched our communities deeply, just as fatal shootings had earlier at N.C. Central University, UNC-Wilmington and elsewhere in the state.

Today, as we join the rest of the country in remembering the Virginia Tech tragedy, we have learned to regard campus gun violence not as a television drama but as a life-and-death issue that directly affects universities across North Carolina. We need to do more than light candles and ring bells to remember the students we and others have lost. We must act to prevent such tragedies from recurring.

UNIVERSITIES HAVE MUCH TO OFFER IN THIS PROCESS, serving as a source of research, expertise and new ideas for reducing this toll. Indeed, our two campuses and others have many faculty members who could help in this process.

At Duke, for instance, Phil Cook has conducted extensive research on the costs and consequences of the widespread availability of guns. Ken Dodge is an expert on guns and gangs, and Kristin Goss’ recent book examines the politics of gun control.

At UNC-Chapel Hill, Carol Runyan and others are experts on youth violence and handgun violence. Jonathan Kotch and Jon Hussey have studied the relationships between child neglect, aggression and crime. Jack Richman and social work faculty have shown how school performance and community and family concerns relate to risk factors for violence.

They and other faculty members would welcome opportunities to apply their expertise more actively on behalf of the people of North Carolina. We stand ready to help make this happen.

One good place to start would be with the deep systemic problems in our criminal justice system that have been highlighted with the murders of Abhijit Mahato and Eve Carson.

Technology exists to permit law enforcement agencies and the courts to share information about criminals virtually at the press of a button. It is appalling that North Carolina has not invested in systems that would help enable judges, district attorneys, probation offices and police departments to easily share this information. Such problems must not be allowed to persist. They demand immediate action from state and local officials.

A common theme in all these tragedies has been that guns were in the hands of people who shouldn’t have had them.

Hear us clearly: we are not advocating the elimination of Second Amendment rights. But we do advocate for the responsible use of and access to guns.

OUR COUNTRY AND STATE MUST GET SERIOUS about keeping guns out of the hands of people who shouldn’t have them, whether it’s a troubled student at Virginia Tech or people with criminal records such as those accused in the recent murders on our two campuses. Issues of gun violence aren’t simple in their solutions, but we must engage them with far greater urgency.

Over the past year, our schools have undertaken extensive efforts to strengthen their emergency response and communications systems, and to better identify and assist students who may pose a threat. In the end, however, there is only so much we can accomplish while guns remain so easily accessible.

We have had far too many anguished conversations with students who seek to understand why a bright and promising classmate has been shot dead, and with parents who worry whether their own children are safe. The best way to honor the memories of the students we have lost is to change this situation. This is why we pledge to focus our faculty expertise on these challenges and, more important, to engage with others in our communities to work together for a solution.

It is also why we believe that we, as a country, need to embrace common-sense laws about guns. This is not about politics. This is about liberals and conservatives, Republicans and Democrats, joining together in a reasoned and dispassionate conversation about gun violence on our campuses and across America.

Richard Brodehead is the president of Duke University. James Moeser is the chancellor of UNC-Chapel Hill.
Researchers join forces for AIDS vaccine

International group to work with Duke

BY SARAH AVERY
STAFF WRITER

AIDS researchers, frustrated by efforts to develop a vaccine against the human immunodeficiency virus, announced Tuesday they would join forces in a worldwide collaboration that merges the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative and the Center for HIV/AIDS Vaccine Immunology at Duke University.

The groups would work to answer basic biological questions that have puzzled scientists in the more than three decades since AIDS was identified, thwarting an effective vaccine. Last year, according to the United Nations, 33 million people worldwide were living with HIV/AIDS, and 2.1 million people died as a result of the virus.

Despite huge investments in research from governments, private foundations, corporations and international aid organizations, a vaccine to guard against infection has remained elusive. Last month, a vaccine being tested by the pharmaceutical company Merck & Co. was pulled from use because it did not protect against the virus and, instead, tended to increase the risk of infection.

Other experimental drugs have also shown little or no benefit in preventing the illness or reducing the virus in people who are already infected. By joining forces, researchers hope to pool their expertise, resources and know-how.

“Solving the HIV vaccine puzzle is a scientific challenge that can only be solved through fundamental and applied research, collaboration and transparency. The work that will be done by IAVI, CHAVI and their networks of partners will rapidly enhance our understanding of HIV and help lay the groundwork for new vaccine approaches,” Dr. Barton Haynes.

SEE VACCINE, PAGE 4B

VACCINE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

CHAVI director and professor of medicine at Duke University Medical Center, said in a prepared statement.

The collaboration will focus on four key areas, including the virus’ genetic sequence, how other genetic factors control infection and why some people who are exposed to the virus don’t get sick. In addition, the groups will work to develop standard ways of sampling body tissue where HIV gains entry.

CHAVI, established in 2005 by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is based at Duke University, but includes a consortium of 70 investigators at 37 institutions, including UNC-Chapel Hill. Its mission was to bring leading AIDS researchers under a single organization, to share research findings and focus on specific areas of inquiry.

The global, not-for-profit IAVI works to develop a vaccine for use throughout the world. It was founded in 1996 and is funded by foundations, individual countries, corporate donors, world aid groups and private donors.

sarah.avery@newsobserver.com
or (919) 829-4882
UNC campuses cooperate for good of state

President Erskine Bowles wants more responsiveness to future economic needs.

By Eric Ferreri Staff Writer

It isn't unusual for a member of the UNC system's governing board to hear from a campus official lobbying for funding.

But the call from Hannah Gage got a few months back from the head of UNC-Wilmington's marine science program was odd because it was a request for money for UNC-Chapel Hill.

Huh?

The Chapel Hill campus needed money for a marine research vessel, and Dan Baden, the UNCW official, felt he could help, recalled Gage, a UNC-system Board of Governors member who lives in Wilmington.

"That was just a significant change from how it was five to eight years ago," Gage said. "It's a different culture now."

Relations among UNC-system campuses have not always been so collegial. But university system officials say the ability of campuses to work together rather than compete is more important now than ever as money for higher education becomes increasingly tight. It is the central theme of a new policy in the works that will change the way public universities are granted new academic programs.

"In essence, it will ask individual campuses to check their competitive instincts at the door and look broadly at the state's needs."

"From a selfish standpoint, N.C. State could propose, ad infinitum, new areas we could work in," NCSU Chancellor James Oblinger said at a recent UNC-system meeting on the issue.

"Now, he said, the thought process is: "How do we shore up high quality programs on behalf of the state?"

The policy emerged from the UNC Tomorrow planning exercise by UNC-system President Erskine Bowles, who wants universities to be more responsive to North Carolina's future economic needs.

A campus hoping to add, for example, a new master's degree may find there are too many similar master's programs across the state already. Or, perhaps, its proposal is too costly but a joint venture with professors at another public university is a better option.

A recent three-page draft of the policy uses the word "collaboration" six times. It says that planning processes should be "nimble, efficient and responsive," but also proposes a new layer of vetting. A committee of representatives from each of the system's 16 university campuses would consider every proposed program, determine whether it fills a statewide or regional need, and ensure the right campuses or faculty members are involved.

John Bardo, chancellor at Western Carolina University, asked recently whether that new layer of scrutiny would slow the process too much.

"I'm not clear this will produce nimble results," he said. "When [employers] want something, they want it now."

The policy does include a "fast-track" mechanism to approve some programs quickly. It will also compare every proposed degree program to other existing programs, evaluate the need for it, look out for duplication, track employment opportunities for graduates, and assess whether the program can be done better if other campuses add to it. Currently, academic program proposals don't receive quite the same broad examination.

"I look at it like it's an editing mechanism that lets us turn things down if they don't make sense," Gage said.

Since the UNC system was formed in 1972, about 600 new programs have been created, said Alan Mabe, vice president for academic planning. But programs are assessed every two years, and about 500 programs have been discontinued, Mabe added.

UNC officials say the payoff will be in efficiencies gained, money saved and goodwill created.

"I think the people who fund us will be appreciative," said Fred Mills, a UNC-system board member from Raleigh. "Unnecessary duplication is unnecessary."

Historically, campuses have competed for state money, and the Chapel Hill campus has ruffled its share of feathers. Just a few years back, it tried, unsuccessfully, to convince legislators to give it and N.C. State the autonomy to set tuition rates. Critics said that sort of autonomy could crack the foundation of the 16-campus system.

And decades ago, UNC-CH supporters unsuccessfully tried to fight off a proposed medical school at East Carolina University. Now, those two institutions are working together on a medical expansion effort that university leaders point to as an example of improvement already under way.

"It's good for every campus, big or little," Roger Perry, chairman of UNC-CH's board of trustees, said of the new policy. "I think it will make the whole system leaner, meaner and more accountable."

eric.ferreri@newsobserver.com
or (919) 956-2415