THE DAILY CLIPS

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News, commentary, and opinion
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Time
Some of the Wright stuff turns up a century later

KILL DEVIL HILLS

Orville and Wilbur Wright were meticulous and tidy men, as evidenced by a photograph they took of their camp kitchen at the base of barren Kill Devil Hill.

Containers lined shelves in perfect rows, and every dish was neatly stacked. Pots and pans and a muffin tin hung just so on the rough-hewn walls.

In the lower right corner of the shot, about half of a wooden table is visible. It looks makeshift, but in typical Wright fashion, it is devoid of clutter.

Ron Ciarmello recently bought that dining table - he hopes.

If a historic analysis proves that it is indeed the same table, it will be the only known surviving piece of furniture used at the camp where the brothers lived while they tested their flying machines.

Today, the table will be shown to the public for the first time, at Wright Brothers National Memorial at 7 p.m.

Ciarmello, a 32-year-old aviation enthusiast, said that he had answered an advertisement placed in March by a Currituck County resident for "a Wright brothers camp table." How could he resist?

"I bought it from a local woman who was moving," he said. "It had been in her family for about 100 years."

Covering the Sheraton-style base of the table may be two opposite sides of a shipping crate that probably held tools or other supplies, said Ciarmello, a Kill Devil Hills jeweler. Nail holes and knots match up with those evident in the photograph, and the leading edge of the table top is made of long strips of ash - the same kind of wood used as ribs on the Wright gliders.

Most impressively, under the table, written in black, it has a name, "W. Wright," and place, "Elizabeth City."

Larry Tise, Wilbur and Orville Wright distinguished professor of history at East Carolina University, said he was skeptical when Ciarmello contacted him. He hears often from folks who believe they have some great Wright item, but rarely does it end up to be legitimate. But this time, Tise said, he thinks that Ciarmello has the real McCoy.

"I believe it is the only documentable, significant piece of furniture from the original Wright brothers camp of 1902-1903," Tise said. "In terms of understanding the Wright brothers, this table is as valuable as an entry in their diary because the table itself tells a story.

"You don't have to surround the table with a story. This is a table that speaks."

He is preparing a report with documentation and schematic drawings to present to National Park Service curators
who will determine its authenticity.

If it passes muster, Ciarmello wants to loan it to the Park Service to be exhibited at Wright Brothers National Memorial.

Tise said the table demonstrates the randomness of the camp compared with the precision and care with which the inventors approached the creation of their flyers. Those machines, he said, were "masterpieces of artistry and craftsmanship."

But the furniture reflected their can-do attitude in another way.

"The table is an example of their extremely practical nature when it comes to living," he said. "This is the surface upon which they wrote their letters and their diaries."

And that's where the brilliant brothers gathered to argue and discuss and play games as they ironed out the mysteries of flight. Unlike the tables that, say, George Washington or Thomas Jefferson used to sign historic documents, Tise said, this modest table was created by the men themselves.

"It represents entirely the nature of that spot," he said. "It was created for a very specific purpose."

It's not clear how the Currituck family - which wants to remain anonymous - acquired the table, but Tise said that family members were aware of its origins. At one point, they had offered it to the Park Service, Tise said, but it was declined.

The table's historic roots didn't stop it from being used in the past for chores like laundry - it has a bleach stain and wear marks on it, he said. It has also served as a utility table in the family's barber shop.

To the brothers' chagrin, Tise said, much of their camp items were carted off by Outer Bankers in their traditional manner of recovering anything that appeared to be left behind.

Tise said he wouldn't be surprised if there are more Wright items that have been stored in private homes for more than a century.

"Nobody is suggesting there was looting," he said. "They were salvaging."

To learn more about the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk, see www.WorldAloft.org [1] or www.digital.lib.ecu.edu/exhibits/wright/index.html [2].

For more information on the Wright exhibit, call the Wright Brothers National Memorial at (252) 441-7430.

Catherine Kozak, (252) 441-1711, cate.kozak@pilotonline.com


Links:
Joseph Michael Ellis was the youngest son of former N.C. Rep. Sam Ellis.

By Kathryn Kennedy

The Daily Reflector

Alcohol use is suspected in the wreck that killed an East Carolina University student near Clayton on Sunday, according to a State Highway Patrol report.

Joseph Michael Ellis, 21, of Raleigh, died after being ejected from his Jeep Wrangler near 200 Government Road at 3:25 a.m. He was a junior majoring in construction management, said a university spokesman.

Ellis was traveling south when he ran off to the right, overcorrected re-entering his lane, drove off to the left and struck a mailbox, the report stated. The Jeep crossed the road once more, overturning in the roadway, before hitting a ditch on the right side of the road, ejecting Ellis, and coming to rest on its right side. Troopers were unable to determine if he was wearing a seat belt, the report said.

One passenger was in the Jeep at the time. Johnston County EMS transported Tyler Max Godwin, 22, to WakeMed Hospital in Raleigh where he was treated and released.

Ellis' funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Raleigh Christian Community Church, 7000 Destiny Drive, Raleigh. Graveside services will follow at Maplewood Cemetery in Clayton. Visitation is planned from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday at Bryan-Lee Funeral Home, 1200 Benson Road, Garner.

He was the youngest son of former N.C. Rep. Sam Ellis.

Kathryn Kennedy can be reached at kKennedy@coxnc.com or 339-9566.
Liver disease shows need for organ donors

By Tom Marine
The Daily Reflector

Neither Vicki Pierce nor Bridget Moore had any symptoms. Pierce worked 12-hour shifts in the surgical intensive care unit. Moore played basketball in college and loved to exercise.

Both said they were in good health at the time.

Yet, at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, where both are employed, Pierce and Moore are forced to deal with the effects of liver disease.

For Moore, what started as a routine procedure to remove her wisdom teeth ended with a life-changing diagnosis.

Due to the extreme rarity of her disease, Moore said she was misdiagnosed twice before doctors discovered she had Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis with overlapping Autoimmune Hepatitis. PSC focuses on the bile ducts of the liver and slowly destroys them, according to the Mayo Clinic’s Web site. “It was a scary thing, realizing that I will have to go through a liver transplant,” said Moore, a paralegal for University Health Systems. “I went through severe depression, but luckily I had some good doctors that took care of me.”

Moore said she takes more than 20 medications each day to combat the PSC, including supplements such as iron. Even though she will inevitably need a liver transplant, she said the timing depends on the rate her liver deteriorates.

“I could need a new liver in two years or 15 years,” Moore said. “That is one of the hardest things for my doctors because they don’t know when this (transplant) is going to happen.”

Moore said there is a stigma in society associated with people receiving organ transplants, especially transplants involving the liver.

“A lot of times, the public thinks of those receiving transplants as people who have somehow inflicted this upon themselves,” Moore said. “A large majority of the people dealing with this had nothing to do with it. It just happens.”

Pierce, who now works as a registered nurse at HealthDirect, PCMH’s nursing triage, said her story began in November 2005.

Even though she had no prior indications, Pierce said she started vomiting blood and had to be rushed to the hospital.

The doctors diagnosed her with Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis, NASH for short.

The next few months, Pierce said she was hospitalized numerous times to drain fluid from the right side of her lung and for surgery to bypass the main blood supply to her liver.

She moved to Jacksonville, Fla., to be closer to the hospital that performed her liver transplant on the morning of March 26, 2007.

“I had to move there and find a small assisted living facility for my stay through the transplant and recovery period,” Pierce said. “Being in Florida by myself was extremely hard.”

Currently, there is one transplant surgeon with hospital privileges at PCMH. Dr. Carl Haisch, who works in the division of transplant surgery at the Brody School of Medicine, performs kidney transplants.

A hospital official said PCMH is working with East Carolina University to recruit another transplant surgeon to the area.

One of the hardest parts of her transplant, Pierce said, was knowing what the donor family was going through and the sacrifices they were making.

Both Pierce and Moore emphasized the importance of becoming an organ donor.

“There are so many people that need hearts, livers, kidneys, and it can improve their lives so much,” Pierce said. “It can help the donor families know that something good can come out of something so sad. It’s a hard decision to make, but it can help so many people.”

April is recognized as Organ Donation Awareness Month, and as of April 1, North Carolina residents can now register online to become organ donors.

Contact Tom Marine at tmarine@coxnc.com and 329-9567.

See DONORS, B3

DONORS
Continued from B1

"There are so many people that need hearts, livers, kidneys, and (organ donors) can improve their lives so much."

Vicki Pierce
Liver transplant recipient

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Grads, job market isn't all gloom, doom

Young people are making their presence felt during this election season with increased activism, a surge in voting and engagement on key issues of the day. While their political footprint seems to be great and growing, what about their economic footprint?

In a slowing U.S. economy, that footprint is shaped by uncertainty. As president of a small college, I am keenly aware of the job market that awaits this year’s graduates. Nationally, the unemployment rate rose to 5.1% in March from 4.8% the month before. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 4.2 million people are unemployed because they lost their jobs, including 300,000 last month.

What does this mean for new job seekers? The picture is more complex than the numbers that merit headlines.

The recent news that Bear Stearns was nullifying a few hundred job offers to business school students fits a pattern of corporate downsizing that isn't lost on college campuses across the USA. But even with the darkening economic clouds, rays of good news await this year's graduates. Sure, companies are laying off workers, but many are also looking for new talent, especially at the entry level. In fact, the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), which tracks jobs for new graduates, says employers are expected to hire 1.6% more graduates this year than in 2007.

Where are the opportunities? NACE says that engineering, marketing and computer science are rich fields, and that some new grads might even see higher starting salaries than in recent years. To be sure, the engineering grad in this economy might have a leg up on the person whose degree is in liberal arts. But all U.S. companies are always looking for innovative employees, and the liberal arts grad who has been taught not what to think but how to think is a unique asset.

As more than a million entrants flood the job market, students should also know that in a global marketplace, language skills will go a long way. So will flexibility. If a grad is ready to accept an entry-level job, give a little on job requirements and move if the company asks, chances are she'll land a job. Picky or inflexible grads might need to prepare for a longer wait.

So despite the rising job losses, a new graduate should embrace the market as the first challenge of a long career. After all, if the new generation of graduates isn’t shy about articulating social issues, and voting on them, it shouldn't be shy about taking a weak job market by the horns and finding opportunity.

Julianne Malveaux, an economist and writer, is president of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, N.C.
Joseph Michael Ellis
JULY 15, 1986 - APRIL 27, 2008

RALEIGH - Joseph Michael Ellis, 21, went to be with his Savior after a tragic auto accident early Sunday, April 27. Joseph was a native of Garner, NC, born on July 15, 1986.

The youngest of Sam and Cindy Ellis' three sons of Raleigh, NC, Joseph was best friends with his brothers Jason and Joshua and roomed with Joshua for the past 2 1/2 years in Greenville, where they both attended East Carolina University. Joseph was finishing his junior year studying Construction Management. He was a member of the ECU water skiing team as was his brother Josh. He spent most of his free time with his brothers Jason and Joshua. He had countless friends, both male and female, and was a son any parent would be proud to have. He had an extreme love of family and never ended a phone conversation with his family members without saying, "I love you". Joseph had a special relationship with his mother and spent many hours talking with her about his dreams, concerns, and anything else on his mind. Joseph learned from and worked for his father since he was a small boy. He was a hard worker, with the entrepreneurial spirit of his father. This was evidenced by his expertise with jeeps and jeep parts that created a self-supporting income. He had accepted an internship for this summer at Edwards, Inc. in Greenville, NC as a requirement for his degree.

He was excited about life and optimistic about his future plans. Joseph always had an infectious smile on his face. He loved life and enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating, and water skiing. His family shares many happy memories of time spent together at his grandparents' beach house.

He attended Wake Christian Academy, Rand Road Elementary, Carnegie Middle School, William G. Enloe High School, and East Carolina University.

Joseph is survived by his parents, Sam and Cindy Ellis, and his brothers, Jason, 26, and Joshua, 23, who remember him as a strong and caring friend, brother, and son.

On his father's side, Joseph is survived by his grandparents, Betty and Hank Hickman of Sanford, NC; two aunts, Susan Marshall of Midlothian, Virginia; Sherry Eason of Huntersville, NC; one uncle, Jonathan Ellis of Philadelphia, PA; and four cousins, Stephen Marshall of Philadelphia, PA; Stuart Marshall of Dana Point, CA; Nicholas Eason of Clemson, SC; and Catherine Eason of Richmond, Virginia. He was predeceased by his grandfather, Sam Ellis, of Cary.

On his mother's side, Joseph is survived by his grandmother, Vivian Smith of Long Beach, California; his aunts, Rita Smith of Bellflower, California; Donna Harrell of San Jose, California; and one uncle, Presley Harrell of Long Beach, California. Four beloved cousins in California, Danny Martinez, Renee Allee, Chad DeWayne, and Codi Ruby also survive him. He was predeceased by his grandfather, Presley Harrell, of Alabama.

Visitation is Wednesday, April 30, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Bryan-Lee Funeral Home, 1200 Benson Rd., Garner, NC.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, May 1, at Raleigh Christian Community Church, 7000 Destiny Dr., Raleigh, NC.

Graveside services will follow at Maplewood Cemetery, Clayton.

Condolences may be made to the family at bryan-leepfuneralhome.com
Report blasts blood studies

BY CARLA K. JOHNSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Experimental blood substitutes raised the risk of heart attack and death, yet U.S. regulators allowed human testing to continue — including at Duke University Medical Center — despite warning signs, says a scathing new report.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration fell short, the report contends, even as red flags popped up during studies by five biotech companies. Rules barred the agency from releasing company trade secrets, and that kept some information hidden and may have led to unnecessary heart attacks and deaths, wrote the authors.

The report, published online Monday by the Journal of the American Medical Association, is the latest analysis of the risks of blood substitutes.

It was written by scientists with the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center and advocates with the watchdog group Public Citizen.

A safe replacement for blood would be a breakthrough for medicine and a big money-maker for companies that produce it. Unlike ordinary blood, it could, theoretically, be stored for years without refrigeration. It also would work with any blood type and would not carry infections like hepatitis or the AIDS virus.

By the end of 2000, a dozen studies of blood substitutes had been completed. By then, FDA officials would have known enough about cumulative risks to put a halt on further experiments, the JAMA report contends.

But the FDA looked at each product and each use separately — in surgery, in trauma, in stroke patients — rather than pooling the results to get a fuller picture of the risk, said Dr. Charles Natan-son, lead author of the report.

Dr. Jay Epstein, director of the FDA's office of blood research and review, defended the agency's decisions about human testing of the products. The agency has found enough differences among the individual products and their intended uses to allow some studies to proceed, Epstein said Friday.
The queen would have disapproved

Elizabeth I destroyed unflattering portraits of herself; this one may be a rare find

BY CATHERINE KOZAK
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

ROANOKE ISLAND — Until recently, an oil painting of Queen Elizabeth I had been hanging, unprotected and barely noticed, in the gift shop at The Elizabethan Gardens gatehouse.

The Virginian-Pilot of Norfolk, Va., reports that the portrait is thought to have been painted in 1592, when Elizabeth would have been about 60 years old. It is one of the few portraits of the queen in her declining years.

If it is authentic, it could be worth millions.

"Certainly, paintings of Elizabeth are pretty sought-after," said Christopher Apostle, senior vice president and director of old master paintings at Sotheby's in New York. "It would be valuable."

The earliest known full-length image of the monarch sold at Sotheby's in London on Nov. 22 for more than $5.3 million, Apostle said. But there's no telling what is the true worth of the dignified depiction of the older Elizabeth that's in Manteo. Although it has not been rigorously tested, no one has challenged that the painting is from the 16th century.

Anna Riehl, assistant professor of English at Auburn University, said that from her review of a digital photograph, the Elizabeth painting at the gardens would appear to be from the studio of Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger. The studio is responsible for the famed Ditchley Portrait, a huge painting, circa 1582, of the queen displayed at the National Portrait Gallery in London.

"The portrait in Manteo is a variance of that famous portrait," Riehl said in a telephone interview from Alabama.

Riehl, who is writing a book, "The Face of Power: Early Modern Representations of Elizabeth I," said that the jewelry, the "splendid ruff" and the shoulder veil are similar to the Ditchley. Variations were often made by the same studio, she said.

"Most importantly, the facial features are very similar," Riehl said. "The Manteo portrait, however, puts forth a much more aged countenance. The face is leaner, and wrinkles ripple from the queen's mouth. It's definitely an unflattering realism in this portrait."

For that reason, Riehl said, the vain Elizabeth — who was known to destroy paintings that did not flatter her — most likely never saw the Manteo portrait.

"It may have been commissioned by one of her wealthy subjects," she said. "It is a very little-known portrait. It was thrilling to discover it."

The impetus for taking a closer look at the painting was a presentation Riehl gave recently at the gardens as part of an East Carolina University symposium. She has studied not only the queen's portraits, but also what others said about her appearance.

One example she cited was a German traveler to the English court, who described the queen's face as "oblong, fair, but wrinkled; her eyes small, yet black and pleasant; her nose a little hooked; her lips narrow, and her teeth black."

About 150 paintings of Elizabeth are known to have been done during her lifetime, Riehl said. Of those, about a dozen are in the United States. The youngest depiction was as a princess about age 14.

The Manteo painting's provenance — tracing it to its original owner — is a mystery.

"Since we do not have full documentation on the provenance of the portrait, there will need to be fuller examination of the portrait, its paints, its underneath surface, and other data that can be gleaned from careful analysis," ECU history professor Larry Tise said by e-mail.

The Elizabethan Gardens, founded by the Garden Club of North Carolina, are a tribute to the English voyagers who came to Roanoke Island. The final voyage was the ill-fated Lost Colony — 117 men, women and children last seen in August 1587.

Horace Whitfield, the gardens' executive director, said that the portrait, along with various antiques, was acquired at a New York auction house in the 1950s by Mrs. Charles Cannon, one of the gardens' first benefactors. It has recently been returned by the N.C. Museum of History, where it had been on loan for an exhibit about The Lost Colony.

Whitfield said that tight finances have hindered proper care and evaluation of the gardens' antiques. The Elizabeth I painting had been insured for $30,000, he said, but the gardens are seeking funds for an updated professional appraisal.

Meanwhile, he said, when the "remarkable" Elizabeth is put back on display, there will be a new appreciation of the unsmililng visage of the Virgin Queen.

"I think that's a struggle we all have," Whitfield said. "We don't see the value of what's in front of us."
UNC-CH names grad school dean

CHAPEL HILL — Steven W. Matson, professor and chairman of the department of biology in the College of Arts and Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill, will become dean of the Graduate School effective July 1.

A member of the faculty since 1983, Matson is widely respected for his teaching, mentoring and research in the field of genetics and molecular biology, said Bernadette Gray-Little, executive vice chancellor and provost, in announcing the appointment.

Matson will oversee the approximately 8,000 graduate students in Carolina's 66 doctoral and 100 masters programs.
A new study conducted by researchers at East Carolina University suggests that playing casual games like Peggle or Bejeweled can have a significant impact on a player’s mood or stress level, but you don’t have to take their word for it. You can take mine -- I was one of the subjects tested for the study.

The purpose of the experiment, which was underwritten by PopCap Games, was not only to determine whether or not playing casual games had any effect on a person’s mental state, but to attempt to quantify the change with some kind of hard data. Saying that gaming is relaxing may seem obvious to those of us who play regularly, but Dr. Carmen Rustonello and his team at ECU wanted to obtain evidence to back up the feeling, if possible.

Doing my part for science had sounded exciting when I was first approached about being part of the study, but as I watched a lovely young assistant head my way with a coil of wires in one hand and what appeared to be a moth-eaten swim cap in the other, I began to have second thoughts.

Her name was Jennifer Parks, and she explained that the holes in snug-fitting cloth cap were to help position the electrodes that would be monitoring my brain waves as I conducted the trial. As Jennifer fit me
with the cap and used her extensive scientific knowledge to determine the best spots on my noggin for siphoning brain waves I chewed my lip, hoping that my shampoo was doing its best to keep me silky smooth and dandruff-free.

After she had marked the electrodes' landing zones with stickers, Jennifer pulled off the cap and reached for a tub of goo that she informed me was a conducting material. Slathering it onto my scalp, she assured me that the sticky globs would wash out of my hair. Eventually.

When Jennifer had finished her ministrations, I had four electrodes attached to my head and a pulseometer clipped to my ear. She then bade me to pick an envelope, the contents of which would determine if I was to be part of the control group, or the test group. The control group would be given a list of articles to find on the internet, while members of the test group would play one of three PopCap games: Peggle, Bejeweled 2, or Bookworm Adventures.

I ripped open the numbered envelope and was relieved to find that I would be gaming for science. Next, I had to choose the game that I would play. I went with Bookworm Adventures because of the three choices, it was the one I had played the least. I don't know if familiarity with a game would skew the results or not, but I wanted to try and be as fair as possible.

Jennifer performed some scientific hoodoo on the computer, and suddenly my brainwaves were sketching across the screen. I tried thinking various kinds of thoughts — happy ones, angry ones, crazy ones — to see if I could get the readings to move, but no such luck. Coughing, on the other hand, makes the readings spike like crazy. Weird.

Before I could begin the test, I had to fill out a Profile of Mood States (POMS) that used virtually every adjective you can think of to determine my mood. Was I angry? Expectant? Regretful? Guilty? Did I feel anxious? Foggy? Cautious? Hungry wasn't on the list, but I was keenly regretting turning down the bagel that Dr. Russoniello had offered me.

After completing the POMS, I had to sit quietly, without talking or moving, so that Jennifer could obtain a baseline for my readings. Then, finally, I got to play a game for science. Jennifer quietly left the small room to let me play Bookworm Adventures in peace for fifteen minutes. I forgot about the electrodes, the goop in my hair, the fact that the computer opposite me was recording the workings of my brain. I made it through two levels and was just at a boss fight when Jennifer returned to unhook me.

I filled out another POMS immediately after playing the game. As I answered the questions, I realized that I felt sharper, more alert, more capable than I had when I began. It was a subtle distinction, and not one that I likely would've noticed had I not had to fill out the questionnaire, but it was definitely there.

Dr. Russoniello came in to explain that the electrodes had been measuring my Heart Rate Variability (HRV), which measures sympathetic (fight or flight) and para-sympathetic (relaxation) nervous system activity. This is Dr. Russoniello's first study to determine the potential therapeutic value of playing videogames.

In my case, the results were quite dramatic. According to the data, my stress level dropped by 400%. My choice of Bookworm Adventures may have been the reason that my mental acuity achieved perfect balance; according to the study data, it had the greatest impact on right/left brain synchrony, an increase of 421%.

All three games increased mood, but in different ways. Bejeweled 2 and Peggle were the best choices for reducing anger (65% and 63%, respectively), and playing Peggle drastically reduced psychological tension as well (66%). All three games did a respectable job of reducing depression and confusion, but Peggle was
the best for lowering levels of fatigue.

In some cases, the gender of the player made a difference on the results. Women playing Peggle experienced a 40% greater improvement in mood than men who played, while men playing Bejeweled 2 experienced a 10% greater mood improvement than women.

A player’s age made a difference in some cases, too. Bejeweled 2 players under 25 experienced a significant increase in emotional balance when compared with players over age 25. A more detailed breakout of the findings can be found at ECU’s web site.

The data from this study will hopefully serve as a launching point for future investigations. There are simply so many more variables that need to be addressed. Do violent games lower stress levels as significantly as casual games? What about a player’s proficiency level? Does the length of time a game is played make a difference? There’s clearly still much to be learned.

East Carolina University’s Psychophysiology Lab is planning to start clinical trials in the fall to determine the efficacy of these games and their prescriptive parameters. Maybe they’ll need my help for that one, too, and I’ll get another crack at playing games for science.

*Image courtesy PopCap Games*