THE DAILY CLIPS

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ECU, PCC commence graduation weekend

The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University and Pitt Community college will hold graduation ceremonies this weekend.

ECU's Departmental graduations begin today, as more than 20 schools and colleges hold ceremonies, with full commencement Saturday at Dowdy-Ficklin Stadium.

PCC's ceremonies get underway at 7 p.m. Sunday at Minges Coliseum, with approximately 400 students receiving degrees.

Nearly 3,400 students will graduate from ECU, including approximately 2,400 undergraduates, 910 graduate/professional students and 73 medical students.

Though the commencement itself is set for 10 a.m., ceremonies begin with a 9:30 a.m. concert by the ECU Wind Ensemble.

ECU graduate Thomas Spaulding, CEO of Up with People, will give the commencement address.

Spaulding, who graduated from ECU in 1992 with a degree in political science, received ECU's Outstanding Alumni Award in 2006. Before becoming president and CEO of Up with People, Spaulding was the founder and president of Up with People.

See ECU, A9

INFO: List includes ECU graduation information and departmental ceremonies. A9
DELAY: ECU's Mendenhall renovations are delayed. B1
LEADER: UNC Chapel Hill names new chancellor. B1

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ECU will award honorary doctor of letters degrees at Saturday’s spring commencement to three residents of eastern North Carolina: Felix Harvey, Valeria Lee and Walter Williams.

Harvey, of Kinston, is a philanthropist and one of the most successful businessmen in North Carolina.

Lee, of Rocky Mount, is president of the Golden LEAF Foundation, which distributes tobacco-settlement funds to help ease the transition from a tobacco-dependent economy.

Williams, an alumnus and longtime benefactor of the university, is the founder of Trade Oil Co., which merged with WiocoHess in 2005. He is a lifelong resident of Pitt County.

In addition to the graduation ceremony, several programs are celebrating their first graduating classes.

ECU’s marriage and family therapy program in the Department of Child Development and Family Relations will graduate the nation’s first three medical family therapy doctoral students. ECU’s engineering program also will graduate its first class of 22 students.

Graduates attending commencement are asked to check in at Dowdy-Ficklen’s Gate 2 under the south side of the stands by no later than 9:30 to line up for the processional.

Due to the large size of the graduating class — nearly 3,400 are expected to graduate — the ceremony will be held outside, rain or shine, the university reports.

Rain gear will be provided to degree candidates, if necessary. In the event of dangerous weather conditions, degree candidates and guests should monitor www.ecu.edu or call 328-0062 for current information regarding the status of the event.

List of departmental graduation ceremonies times and places today and Saturday:

**TODAY**

McGinnis Auditorium
1 p.m. School of Theatre and Dance

Fletcher Recital Hall
8 p.m. Sociology

Bate 1031
3:30 p.m. Foreign Languages and Literatures

**SATURDAY**

Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium
10 a.m. university graduation

Minges Coliseum/Williams Arena
2 p.m. Human Ecology

Wright Auditorium
2 p.m. Psychology

6 p.m. Technology and Computer Science

Hendrix Theater
2 p.m. Political Science

4 p.m. ROTC Commissioning

Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms
4 p.m. Honors Program

Minges Coliseum/Williams Arena
9 a.m. Education
Noon Allied Health
3:30 p.m. Health & Human Performance
7 p.m. College of Business

Wright Auditorium
9 a.m. Nursing
Noon Biology
3 p.m. Brody School of Medicine
7 p.m. Communication

Hendrix Theatre
9 a.m. Art
Noon Music
3:30 p.m. English
7 p.m. Economics

Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms
3 p.m. History

Howell Science Complex - Room B-103
3 p.m. Physics

Brewster D-313
2 p.m. Philosophy
Second pirate stolen, found

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector

The second painted pirate to disappear in just over a week's time was recovered close to home Thursday morning.

The city of Greenville's pirate was bolted to the sidewalk outside its Fifth Street office — in clear view of the Greenville Police Department — before he was taken some time Wednesday night. He was found at 7 a.m. only two blocks away.

University Book Exchange's "Captain Jack" was stolen last week, but spotted by a resident on an elementary school basketball court Saturday.

"We're not shocked that it would occur," City Manager Wayne Bowers said. "But we are disappointed."

Washington, N.C., has a similar project in place. More than 30 crabs were placed around the town beginning in August 2006, and Lt. William Chrismon of the Washington Police Department said they've had only two thefts.

A PeeDee the Pirate crab was stolen in December 2006 and never recovered, and someone tried to free one in Bath by throwing it off a bridge. The PeeDee crab was replaced, and the waterlogged crab repaired and secured.

Bowers said the city's pirate sustained some injuries to his underside when someone ripped him from the sidewalk, and also had a crack in the hat and on his elbow. The city manager believes he was dragged down the street, causing the damage, when the thief saw someone and abandoned the statue.

"He's in the shop now," Bowers said.

Something to say? Post your comment about this story at reflector.com

PIRATE

Continued from B1

ers said of the pirate, but added they plan to get him back on the street and better secured as soon he's patched up.

Scott Senatore, Chamber of Commerce vice president of marketing and technology, said his office is looking into extra security measures for all 16 pirates. The chamber is looking forward to the influx of people coming into town for college graduations and Mother's Day this weekend, he said, but it's also making them "a little nervous" about further thefts.

"We want them out there, because they're a public art project," he said. "And we want to make sure that they look good so we're looking at ways to secure them without ruining the appearance."

"In the meantime, there is one lucky business not worried at all."

East Carolina Bank office executive Kelli Maynard said they scored a heavyweight pirate. Created as a mosaic, it weighs close to 300 pounds rather than 60. She added that their location at the intersection of Arlington Boulevard and Red Banks Road offers additional security.

"Being right there on the corner I feel like someone would see it, no matter what time it was," Maynard said.

The city of Greenville pirate, "Greenville Inside and Out," features renditions of historic Greenville photographs and local crops.

The painted pirates were unveiled during April's PirateFest and will stand outside sponsoring businesses until they are auctioned off next year.

Kathryn Kennedy can be reached at kkennedy@coxnc.com or 329-9566.
ECU's Mendenhall renovations delayed

Staff says more time is needed to evaluate the expansion's effect on students.

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University officials are delaying the $38 million renovation of the Mendenhall Student Center on the university's main campus.

The ECU Board of Trustees facilities committee held a meeting by conference call Thursday with ECU staff to discuss the delay.

Staff members say they need time to evaluate the effect of the renovation and how it will line up with a surge in student enrollment expected over the next decade, the UNC system and the university's master plan.

ECU is expected to grow by about 10,000 students in the next 10 years, bringing the enrollment to about 37,000. This growth is being pushed by a new dental school and a heart institute along with expanding and new programs all over campus.

Officials began plans to expand the student center in 2003. The original plan called for about 30,000 square feet of additional space.

After some "value engineering," the building was expected to grow by only 7,000 square feet, said Bill Bagnell, project manager.

Kevin Seitz, vice chancellor for administration and finance, told the committee that the plans for renovations will close the building for two years, and staff members want to be sure that the outcome will justify the inconvenience.

"We want to be more proactive in looking at the planning for future projects and make sure that we are looking at the distant future," Seitz said. "We have a number of things going on institutionally that will have an impact on this project."

See ECU, B3

ECU
Continued from B1

Staff members will report back to the committee in September with new plans for the facility and ideas for how to pay for it.

Funding for the delayed project includes a student fee of $150 — approved by the trustees and the Student Government Association — that will begin when construction begins.

The original plan also called for a new Ledonia Wright Cultural Center building that would be about 17,000 square feet, much larger than the current space. This aspect of the plan also will be delayed.

Josh Humphries can be contacted at jhumphries@cnc.com and 329-9565.
New chancellor outlines grand plans for UNC

Thorp says the university's challenges are 'the greatest problems of our time.'

He will start the job July 1 at an annual salary of $420,000. He succeeds James Moeser, who is stepping down this summer after eight years on the job.

Chapel Hill - Holden Thorp's life changed forever at the Exxon station on Wendover Avenue in Greensboro, where UNC President Erskine Bowles, with one hand on the gas nozzle, leaned in the car and asked him to be the next chancellor at UNC-Chapel Hill.

"It's a good thing I didn't run in to get some Nabs," said Thorp, who was officially elected the university's 10th chancellor Thursday.

The quirky nature of the job offer was fitting for a man who is at once a top-flight chemist and a keyboardist for a Chapel Hill jazz band called Equinox. Thorp has won teaching awards, wrote 130 research papers and invented technology for 19 issued or pending U.S. patents.

He also has a deadpan wit and an easy way with people. On Thursday, he charmed a cheering audience of faculty, staff and students with stories about how his dad used to sing him to sleep with "Hark the Sound," the Tar Heel alma mater. He quoted James Taylor lyrics and mused about the sweet swish of a basketball through the hoop.

"I'm so grateful for the opportunity to lead the best university in the world," he said.

GET TO KNOW HIM

Holden Thorp, currently dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at UNC Chapel Hill, becomes the university's chancellor July 1.

Salary: $420,000.

Family: Thorp is married to Patti Worden Thorp. They have two children, John, 13, and Emma, 9.

Age: 43. Thorp is on the young end for leaders of major universities. But it is not unprecedented; former chancellors Robert House (42) and William Aycock (41) were younger. Michael Hooker was 49.


Career: Taught chemistry at N.C. State University for two years before becoming an assistant professor at UNC-Ch in 1993. He became a full professor in 1999 and has held a number of roles, including director of the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, and chairman of the chemistry department, the latter appointment he has called his "dream job."

Research: He has researched and published extensively in the field of DNA and RNA and has 19 patents either issued or pending.

Hobbies: A musician, Thorp plays keyboards for Equinox, a Chapel Hill-based jazz band that plays at UNC functions and the occasional Rotary Club holiday party.
"Holden Thorp is about as true blue a Tar Heel as they come," Bowles said. "I am personally thrilled that we will have a chancellor who is a North Carolina native, a proud alumnus and a proven campus leader... He fully understands and appreciates the deep-rooted connection between Carolina and the people of North Carolina."

**Long tenure possible**

Thorp’s age could mean that he will have a long tenure and a lasting impact on the nation’s oldest state university. He will guide the campus through a period of expected enrollment growth and a faculty hiring spree as the Baby Boomers retire. And he will lead the development of a planned satellite research campus known as Carolina North.

Judith Wegner, a law professor and former law dean, described Thorp as a superb academic and a scientist who is not holed up in a lab, but has a broad appreciation of the arts and humanities. He’s at home talking about the properties of DNA or a trip to Disney with his wife and kids.

“He’s got a very inquiring mind and a real sense of balance as a human being,” Wegner said.

In his acceptance speech Thursday before the UNC Board of Governors, Thorp pledged to keep the university rooted to the people of North Carolina and education affordable to all of its citizens. He also rattled off audacious goals for a public research university in the 21st century.

“Our to-do list is nothing less than the greatest problems of our time: Cure diseases, and get those cures to all the people who need them. Find and invent clean energy. Inspire students in our public schools. Feed 7 billion people. Describe the world, and replace conflict with understanding.”

The job will also be a labor of love for Thorp, who first interviewed for the position on Valentine’s Day. When he walked out of the room, a member of the university’s search committee had one conclusion: rock star.

Mooser prefers another term. "Supernova," he said Thursday.

**Mooser’s mentoring**

When Mooser came to town eight years ago, former UNC President William Friday told him to keep a close eye on Thorp, who Friday was sure was destined for great things. Mooser, impressed, has spent the last eight years heaping task after task onto Thorp’s plate.

“I had figured out long ago that Holden Thorp would be a chancellor of this university,” Mooser said. “I sensed that level of potential in him.”

In 2001, he was part of a faculty delegation that traveled to Qatar when the university was considering establishing a branch campus in that Middle Eastern nation. In 2002, Thorp became head of the Morehead Planetarium, converting it to an interactive science center and growing attendance 40 percent. In 2004, Thorp led the university’s summer reading book selection committee, a controversial task in the wake of its 2002 selection, a book examining Islam.

**Never a disappointment**

Thorp never disappointed in any role thrown at him, Mooser said.

The newly appointed chancellor joked about his habit of changing course during his time at UNC-CH.

“I seem to be having a problem holding down a job,” he said. “It’s a little intoxicating to rise this fast, but it’s also exciting to have enough runway to think about what I might accomplish with the university.”

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THE JOB

CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL.

A high-profile job that draws scrutiny from 28,000 students, along with parents, professors, politicians, sports fans and more than 250,000 living alumni, not to mention millions of state taxpayers. The leader of the university must have the ability to run a sprawling public university with a medical complex and an annual budget of $2.4 billion. The chancellor raises money from donors and acts as the public face of a treasured state asset.

UNC-CHAPEL HILL
BY THE NUMBERS

1793
The cornerstone is laid for Old East, the nation’s first state university building.

1795
The first student, Hinton James, arrives from Wilmington.

28,000
Students in 2007

3,200
Faculty members

256
Degree programs

$2.38 billion
Raised in the Carolina First campaign

$610 million
Received last year in research grants and contracts

$2.1 billion
Being spent on a construction program that began in 2000

EXCERPTS

From Chancellor-Elect Holden Thorp’s remarks at a celebration reception for the campus community in Gerrard Hall after the UNC Board of Governors’ election on May 8, 2008:

I have two regrets. The first is one that I knew I would have, and that is that my father, Herb Thorp, class of 1954 — who loved this university more than anything except my mother — would not be here today. When I was old enough to remember — but not old enough to go to sleep without a little assistance — he would come in my room to sing to me. This wasn’t necessarily a big help. My father had that musical gift that allows some people to sing the words of one song to the melody of another. But there was one song he always got right, so if I couldn’t go to sleep, it was a sure thing that I would hear “Hark! The Sound” before it was all over…

The second regret is one we all have, and that’s that Eve Carson isn’t here today. She was at my first interview, and she only asked me one question. “Holden!” she said. “I think I already know the answer to this, but if you’re the chancellor, what’s the one thing you want students to say after four years at Chapel Hill?” My answer — which I pledge today not to forget — was, “This is where I learned to love knowledge.”

We have so much work ahead of us. Our to-do list is nothing less than the greatest problems of our time: Cure diseases, and get those cures to all the people who need them. Find and invent clean energy. Inspire students in our public schools. Feed 7 billion people. Describe the world, and replace conflict with understanding.

Today, a child of modest means was born somewhere in North Carolina. And despite the long odds of her circumstances, she’s going to excel in public school and have the potential to solve one of these big problems. She probably won’t want to go to college very far away from her family. And eighteen years from now when that happens, we’ll be ready.
Suicide prevention effort targets troubled doctors

BY LINDSEY TANNER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — There's a grim, rarely talked-about twist to all that medical know-how doctors learn to save lives: It makes them especially good at ending their own.

An estimated 300 to 400 U.S. doctors kill themselves each year — a suicide rate thought to be higher than in the general population, although exact figures are hard to come by.

Some doctors think the stigma of mental illness is magnified in a profession that prides itself on stoicism and bravado. Many fear admitting psychiatric problems could be fatal to their careers, so they suffer in silence.

And when the pain is too much, doctors have easy access to prescription drugs and a precise knowledge of both how the body works and the amount of a drug needed for an overdose to stop breathing and halt the heart.

"All physicians have access to neat, clean ways to commit suicide," said Dr. Robert Lehman, a Little Rock, Ark., surgeon who has battled depression and long considered suicide "an exit strategy if absolutely necessary."

The American Medical Association has called physician suicide "an endemic catastrophe," and pledged two years ago to work to prevent the problem.

But the suicides have persisted.

So the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention has started an educational campaign in hopes of making troubled doctors more willing to seek help.

The foundation, the American College of Psychiatrists and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, a maker of antidepressant pills, paid for the program. It includes a documentary titled "Struggling in Silence" that begins airing on public television stations this week.

"It really has been swept under the carpet," said Dr. Paula Clayton, the suicide foundation's medical director.

The foundation says 300 to 400 doctors commit suicide each year, based on estimates from research, but that more studies are needed to get a more precise count.

Another estimate of 250 yearly comes from an article by Dr. Louise Andrew online and in American Medical News, an AMA publication. But a spokesman said the AMA doesn't track doctor suicides because accurate numbers aren't available.

Suicide figures in broader society are not completely reliable because suicide is often not given as the cause of death.
Storms Sun. may chase grads

Colleges make contingency plans

BY VICKI LEE PARKER
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — Forecasters are predicting a wet and stormy Mother's Day and warn that severe weather is possible as well. "We are becoming very concerned over what we are seeing right now," said Jeff Orrock, warning coordinator for the National Weather Service's Raleigh office. "We have all the ingredients for severe storms on Sunday."

Orrock said it's not clear whether this Sunday will repeat Mother's Day 2006, when the Weather Service issued 66 warnings in one day. There were nearly 100 reports of severe weather that day, including of hail up to 2 inches around, three tornados and pockets of wind damage.

The weather Sunday could disrupt commencement ceremonies at UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke University and Meredith College. Two of the schools have arranged for backup locations in case of inclement weather.

- UNC-Chapel Hill would move its 9:30 a.m. ceremonies into the Smith Center. Students and family members should check the Web site www.unc.edu/commencement to get information about department ceremonies that will be held after the main graduation program.

- Meredith College would move its 10 a.m. ceremony inside Dorton Arena at the State Fairgrounds. School officials will check the weather at 6 a.m. to determine whether to move the ceremony to the center, said spokeswoman Melyssa Allen. Students and family members should check the Meredith Web site at www.meredith.edu in the morning.

- Duke University's 10 a.m. commencement ceremony will be held at Wallace Wade Stadium if there's light rain, said spokesman Keith Lawrence. In the event of storms and lightning or any conditions that would put guests in danger, the ceremony will be canceled, said Lawrence. However, he said, diploma distribution ceremonies at various inside locations around campus will be held as scheduled.

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College student is found dead

Woman was from Chapel Hill

BY DEBORAH HIRSCH
AND CLEVE WOOTSON
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Dozens of UNC-Charlotte students gathered Thursday night for a tearful tribute to their classmate Irina “Ira” Yarmolenko, just hours after police announced that she died from asphyxiation and that they were investigating it as a homicide.

Yarmolenko, a 20-year-old sophomore from Chapel Hill, was found Monday afternoon next to her car on the banks of the Catawba River in Mount Holly.

In a news conference Thursday, Mount Holly Police Chief David Belk said he could not reveal whether Yarmolenko had been strangled, only that she had died from asphyxiation, which is caused by a lack of oxygen.

Belk also said he couldn't comment on whether police had found marks or wounds on her body.

Why someone would kill Yarmolenko, who has been described as a bright, bubbly friend to all, continues to puzzle investigators.

"Right now, anything and everything is possible," Belk said.

Belk said police had "some strong leads," but didn't release additional information. He said he would let the public know if there was a suspect description to be on the lookout for.

"There's nothing to indicate there's someone out there that's stalking or chasing people," he said.

A personal watercraft rider called police around 1:15 p.m. Monday after noticing Yarmolenko's blue Saturn by the river, directly behind the Water's Edge development and Stowe Family YMCA.

Authorities said the car appeared to have traveled about a half-mile past the paved road by the YMCA down a steep embankment, where it struck a tree stump. Yarmolenko was found outside the car, wearing a hooded sweat shirt, black skirt and athletic shoes, Belk said.

Belk said Yarmolenko had been seen earlier that morning around campus — first at a credit union and then at Jackson's Java, a coffee shop where she worked. He said she left the shop by herself just before 11 a.m. But it's not known where she went between then and 1:15 p.m., he said. He said there's no indication that she had any appointments or reason to drive to Mount Holly.

Police from Mount Holly, Belmont and UNCC, as well as the SBI, are investigating. Officials urged anyone with information about Yarmolenko's whereabouts Monday to call them.

"Any detail is very important," said Marlene Hall, director of the UNCC police.
UNC-CH seeking airport panel power

CHAPEL HILL - UNC Chapel Hill officials are asking the General Assembly to grant the UNC system the power to create airport authorities, a step toward a new airport in Orange County.

UNC-CH Chancellor James Moeser and other campus officials are asking the system to lobby for the authority in the General Assembly's coming short session.

If approved, the university system's 16 campuses and the UNC Health Care System could create airport authorities charged with creating and running local airports.

UNC-CH has long tried to find a new airport site in or close to Orange County to replace the Horace Williams Airport, which will close during the development of Carolina North. In the meantime, the university is setting up shop at a hangar at Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

The authority would not be able to circumvent local zoning or other regulatory issues, but it would make a new airport eligible for federal funding.
Top Colleges Dig Deeper in Wait Lists for Students

By TAMAR LEWIN

In what may be a happy surprise for thousands of high school seniors, Harvard plans to offer admission to 15 to 175 students on its waiting list, and Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania each expect to take 90, creating ripples that will send other highly selective colleges deeper into their waiting lists as well.

“This year has been less predictable than any recent year,” said Eric J. Kaplan, interim dean of admissions at Penn, adding that when one college in the top tier goes deep into its wait list, others are affected. “We all need to fill our classes and replace students who have been taken off wait lists at other institutions. The wait-list activity could extend for a significant time.”

Although colleges turn to wait lists to fill out their classes, it is unusual for the most selective to go so deep, college officials say.

For high-school students graduating in an unusually large class and for colleges trying to shape a freshman class, this has been an unusually challenging year, with the changes in early-admissions programs and the broad expansion of financial aid at many elite universities.

Right up until the May 1 deadline for students to respond to admissions offers, colleges have been unsure what to expect.

“Our class is coming in exactly the way we wanted it to, fitting into the plan we had to get to a class of 1,240,” said Janet Rapelye, dean of admission at Princeton, which, like Harvard and the University of Virginia, eliminated early admissions this year.

Ms. Rapelye said that with such a big change in policy, it was difficult to predict results, so “we deliberately aimed to have a slightly smaller group.”

In an e-mail message sent on Thursday to colleagues at dozens of other institutions and passed on to The New York Times, William Fitzsimmons, the Harvard College dean of admissions, said, “Harvard will admit somewhere in the range of 150 to 175 from the waiting list, possibly more depending on late May 1 returns and other waiting list activity.”
A Harvard spokesman said the college had accepted fewer students this year to avoid overcrowding the freshman class.

The Yale dean of admissions, Jeffrey Brenzel, said there would be about 45 wait-list offers this week and probably another round later this month.

Even colleges that had more than filled their freshman classes were wondering how many students would melt away if admitted off waiting lists elsewhere.

"We’re over target right now, so we’re in good shape," said Rick Shaw, the Stanford dean of admissions. "But I’m keeping a small group on the wait list, because I think there’ll be some impact of wait-list activity at other schools."

At Dartmouth, Maria Laskaris, the dean of admissions, said although Dartmouth had more than enough accepted students committing, she was "in a holding pattern, because it depends on what other schools do."

"If they go deep into their wait lists," Ms. Laskaris said, "there’s a domino effect that has an impact on all of us."

Amherst College offered admission to 15 students on the wait list Wednesday and expected to make offers to about 10 more. Swarthmore and Pomona planned to take 15 to 20 students from the wait list, admissions officials said.

At Bowdoin College, William Shain said he was slightly over the 480-student target, "but not so much that going to the waiting list is out of the question, if we lost a lot to other schools."

Some high school guidance counselors said the wait-list activity this year seemed to have occurred especially quickly.

"In the last few years, more and more kids have been getting put on wait lists," said Margaret Loonam, assistant principal at Ridgewood High School in New Jersey. "Now we’re seeing more get off the wait lists and earlier. It used to be a formal letter."

"But this year, it’s still early May and we’ve had a kid who got a call at home at night saying, ‘You’re off the wait list, do you want to come?’ We’ve already had kids get off waitlists at N.Y.U., B.U., Fairfield and Quinnipiac."

At the University of Virginia, which also ended early admissions this year, John Blackburn, the dean of admission, said because he had received 3,200 deposits for a target of 3,170 freshman, he might not go to the wait list, unless an unusual number of students defect to other colleges.
Mr. Blackburn said he considered the move from early admissions a success because it seemed that, as hoped, it had brought in more low-income students.

Harvard, which ended early admissions this year and greatly expanded its financial aid to middle-income families, sent out offers of admissions to 1,948 students March 31, for a freshman class that is to number 1,650. Harvard would not say how many students had accepted the admissions offers.