THE DAILY CLIPS

June 13, 2007

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
ECU fans were not obnoxious

I would like to respond to Mr. Moye's letter to the editor on June 7 in which he stated he was, "shocked by the poor behavior of ECU fans that attended the Chapel Hill baseball regional." I attended all three games in which ECU played, and I observed no poor behavior by East Carolina fans.

The only poor or obnoxious behavior that I observed was from fans of the host team. I observed Chapel Hill fans taunting ECU fans, and the only fan who I observed being escorted from the game by campus police was dressed in baby blue.

As a lifelong Greenville resident, ECU fan and current student, I feel that the community of Greenville and our university was well represented by our fans.

As for his quote, "ECU rarely performs on center stage, but a lack of experience is no excuse for obnoxious behavior," ECU has hosted NCAA regionals and a super regional, which I also attended. ECU athletes and fans have proven that they know how to perform, and I'm sorry that Moye doesn't remember those occasions. It's hard to observe ECU fans through baby-blue shaded glasses. I assure the residents of our community that the ECU fans represented them well. We love and support our ECU Pirates, and I hope that someday Moye will remember what it was like to live east of I-95, where we have to struggle for support and respect. We are not one of the "Big Four," but we'll compete with them anytime.

Mr. Moye, I hope you come home to Greenville on Sept. 8 and experience the excitement. The Pirate Nation will welcome those Chapel Hill fans to Greenville, and we plan for them to enjoy everything about their experience, except the final score. Go Pirates!

TAYLOR NICHOLS
Greenville
All team fans should act appropriately

I am writing in response to a letter printed in the June 7 Public Forum from Joe Moye of Atlanta. Moye’s letter concerned what he states was the poor behavior of ECU fans at the NCAA baseball regional tournament at Chapel Hill. He is a lifelong friend of mine; we played baseball together from Little League through high school.

I was not in attendance at the games and, therefore, cannot comment on the behavior to which he refers. He said the ECU fans alienated UNC Chapel Hill almost as much as they have N.C. State in the past, and he hopes that the ECU “folks” (his words) will soon behave better and then the Big Four (his words again) and other ACC schools will treat us better. How nice! I have seen rude behavior from fans of many teams (even fans of UNC Chapel Hill and N.C. State). However, I always thought that those people behaving poorly were just a small minority and certainly did not represent the majority of the people supporting those schools. Perhaps he should speak with the many people I have who comment on the friendliness and hospitality of ECU and its fans. Oh, by the way, Mr. Moye did not state in his letter that he attended UNC Chapel Hill. Let’s all be better sports.

WALKER L. ALLEN JR.
Greenville

Pirate supporters were not misbehaving

This is in response to Joe Moye’s letter published June 7 criticizing ECU fans’ behavior in Chapel Hill at the NCAA regionals.

The total absence of facts in his letter, which was simply a thinly veiled reference to an event more than 20 years old says much more about his personal agenda of promoting the “Big Four” and the ACC at the expense of ECU than about Pirate fans. I was there and saw no obnoxious behavior by fans of any school.

PAT LANE
Chocowinity

My guess is Moye was looking for an avenue to pursue his anti-ECU/pro-ACC stance. The Reflector played right into his hands by publishing his over reaching letter. You can do much better.
Some higher education traditionalists will raise an eyebrow at the University of North Carolina system's plan to more aggressively market online education. But the truth is, students already take courses online, and the UNC system will come to a more vigorous marketing of online education with strong credentials and 200-plus years of reputation behind it.

The system would like to attract more students such as those currently enrolling at the University of Phoenix, which is primarily an online university though it does have campus sites. That university advertises heavily, but clearly it is tapping into a need. The demand for online classes (and degrees) is there.

People who are working full-time jobs or raising families or both, nontraditional students some are called, may believe online is the best way for them to go. Obviously, they have to be motivated people, self-starters, who are capable as students of working steadily toward a degree without conventional types of instruction.

Typically, online education goes by a strict set of guidelines; the University of Phoenix, for example, has a clear structure for classes. But the UNC system, reported The N&O, has professors designing classes from the ground up. They can be a little different. And online isn't just about plodding through a formula of assignments toward a degree. Professors and students can communicate with other through email.

UNC officials will have to be cautious. They are adamant that the first goal of online outreach is making the system's resources available to more people, and offering more students the chance to get a college education. Those are worthwhile objectives in a state where the college-going rate is still on the low side and where costs are a concern for many. Though online education can be a profitable venture, the UNC system plainly isn't in the business for the money, and that's good.

But close eyes will have to be put on the development of curricula, and on ensuring that professors are able to interact with students and that standards of achievement are watched and upheld. Just as a degree from a UNC system school means something, in this state and elsewhere, so an online degree must convey a clear measure of accomplishment.
‘TODAY’S A TURTLE DAY’

Prospects delight dogs, campers alike

BY CAROLINA ASTIGARRAGA
STAFF WRITER

EFLAND — Usually when dogs bring woodland creatures back to their owners, they get scolded with a harsh “Bad Dog!”

When John Rucker’s Boykin spaniel “Buster” retrieves crawling critters, it means praise for the canine and money in Rucker’s pocket.

Rucker trains dogs to sniff out turtles for organizations such as the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game that are interested in counting their non-game species.

This week, however, the UNC-Chapel Hill English grad is showing off his dogs at a reptile and amphibian summer camp for Orange County high school students.

The camp, funded by a $180,000, three-year Burroughs Wellcome Fund Student Science Enrichment Program award, is the brainchild of Catherine Matthews, a professor of science education at UNC-Greensboro.

“I hope the kids will develop and begin to share the passion we all have for the preservation of wild things and wild places,” she said. “We’re fragmenting our environment, and soon box turtles won’t even have a place to live.”

Students are attending the week-long camp for free, after submitting personal statements and teacher recommendations.

They study animals each morning, break into groups each afternoon for traditional camp activities, then reconvene at night for more herpetological hijinks.

“Last night, the kids were silent for five minutes, listening for frog calls and identifying which types of frogs they were,” said Ann Somers, a UNC-G biology professor and a member of the team that received the grant.

“But today’s a turtle day,” she said.

The kids traipsed through the woods, dodging cow pies and ducking under barbed wire, following Rucker’s four, twitching-with-excitement dogs.

Some students held cameras, while others cradled recently found orange and brown box turtles in their outstretched palms.

“It’s pretty amazing they can find those things, I mean (the turtles) are pretty well camouflaged,” said Rose Wilson, a rising junior at Cedar Ridge High School.

Many students marveled at the accuracy of the dogs’ noses, which led them directly to the box turtles they gently brought back in their mouths to Rucker.

For Rucker, turtle tracking is a beloved hobby that he makes sure is used for educational and inventory purposes only. Many could try and use his dogs for poaching turtles, and the creatures are already rapidly disappearing because of predators and human development, he said.

For the dogs, however, it’s just pure fun.

“Once they see me loading the truck with turtle gear, they are ready to go,” Rucker said. “They would rather hunt turtles than eat.”