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Running for president means spending a lot of time convincing the public that you really want the job. Not so if you're seeking the No. 2 spot. The road to the vice presidency, history shows, is paved with feigned disinterest.

"If you're going to be vice president, you're going to be in the president's shadow," says Jody Baumgartner, a political science professor at East Carolina University. "If you appear to be seeking the vice presidency, drawing attention to yourself, that's not really a quality that a presidential candidate is looking for."

Better to look like a loyal right-hand man (or woman) than to stand out too much, says Joel Goldstein, a professor of law at St. Louis University and author of The Modern American Vice Presidency: The Transformation of a Political Institution.

It's a coquettish dance that occurs every four years between the time when the nominee becomes obvious and the party's summer convention. Potential VPs are evasive, at best, when appearing before the public and the media, while often jockeying for a job behind the scenes.

"Everyone says 'no' publicly, but nobody says 'no' when they're actually asked," says Baumgartner.

"Do you really think that if [Mitt] Romney called they would turn him down?" says Larry Sabato, a professor at the University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

Still, there have been a lot of public variations on the "no that really means maybe" answer as the presumptive GOP nominee puts out running mate feelers and veepstakes speculation runs high. The best versions are a kind of cipher that's largely lost on the public but reads loud and clear in campaign headquarters.

Here's a brief code book for translating veepstakes -speak:
The No That Means Yes

EXAMPLE: Joe Biden

Amid intense speculation that campaign rival Hillary Clinton might be tapped for the No. 2 position on the Democratic ticket, Barack Obama's campaign team began floating the idea of choosing Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, for the VP slot to help balance out Obama's lack of foreign policy experience.

WHAT HE SAID: Referring to speculation that he was being considered for secretary of state or vice president, Biden told reporters: "They are the only two things that would be of any interest to anybody in my view. I've made it clear I don't want either of them or anything." (April 2008)

WHAT HE MEANT: I'd be open to either job.

Biden's response is a classic example of telegraphing interest without sounding too eager, says Goldstein. It's an "implicit code whereby a public official sounds like he or she is saying, 'I'm not interested,' but is really saying, to those who know the code, 'I'm interested.'"

The 'Doth Protest Too Much'

EXAMPLE: Dick Cheney

The former secretary of defense under President George H.W. Bush was tapped to find a running mate for George W. Bush in 2000. During the
search, Cheney denied rumors that he was interested in the job. But he became Bush's No. 2 despite having vetted a number of potential candidates.

WHAT HE SAID: "I have absolutely no desire to go back to government. I've done that. I am set in my ways at my stage. I'm 59, and I didn't leave anything in Washington. I have no plan, intention, desire, under any circumstances to return to government." (May 2000)

WHAT HE MEANT: I might take it, but on my terms.
"Cheney's 'no' is interesting because it sounds like he's saying, 'No way.' But it's short of a Sherman statement," Goldstein says. "He says he doesn't have a desire, intent or plan to return to D.C., but he doesn't say he won't answer a call."

The Depends On Who's Asking
EXAMPLE: Ted Kennedy

The Massachusetts senator and brother of slain President John F. Kennedy declined to run in 1972, but he was actively sought for the No. 2 slot by Democratic nominee George McGovern, who faced a decidedly uphill battle against incumbent President Richard Nixon.

WHAT HE SAID: "I wish to repeat, and state as finally as I can, that there are no circumstances under which I would accept a nomination for any national office this year," Kennedy said in a statement. (June 1972)

WHAT HE MEANT: Go fly a kite.
"The list of those that said no to George McGovern is quite long," says Sabato. "They all figured he was going to lose and didn't want to be associated with a loser."
The Cover-Your-Bases Approach

EXAMPLE: Tim Pawlenty

![Saul Loeb/AFP/Getty Images](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

The name of the former Minnesota governor has been bandied about in the media recently as a possible Romney running mate.

WHAT HE SAID: "I can best serve Gov. Romney in other ways, in particular, as a volunteer and surrogate speaker in places where he can't go. I've encouraged people ... in the campaign to look at other prospects but, obviously, anybody who would be asked to serve in a position like that would be honored to be asked."

WHAT HE MEANT: I'm not going to commit until you do.

"If Pawlenty doesn't get it, he can say, 'I told them there were others better suited.' If he gets it, he can say, 'Gee whiz, it's an honor to serve,' " Goldstein says.

Sabato agrees: "If you say no, it gives you an out if you don't get picked. These people hate losing, even if it's not an election."

And that part about how to "best serve" candidate Romney? "One way to show you care without being too obvious is to drop everything and hit the campaign trail for the presidential candidate," says Baumgartner.

The (Likely) Flat-Out Denial

EXAMPLE: Condoleezza Rice

![Korotayev Artyom/ITAR-TASS/Landov](https://via.placeholder.com/150)
George W. Bush's former secretary of state returned to Stanford University in 2009 as provost and then professor of political economy. But that hasn't stopped speculation about a Romney-Rice ticket.

WHAT SHE SAID: "There is no way that I will do this because it's really not me. I know my strengths and weaknesses," Rice told CBS This Morning earlier this week.

WHAT SHE MEANT: No way (probably)

While it's not inconceivable that Rice could backtrack on such an emphatic no, many political observers think she means it. She has no obvious presidential ambitions, and the post of vice president is probably not that appealing to someone who's already been secretary of state.

"In her case, I actually believe it," Baumgartner says. "She's got a really good job, and I don't think she wants to leave it."
Weekend temps may top 100
By SHANNON KEITH
Thursday, June 28, 2012

The Greenville area will experience record-breaking temperatures through the weekend into early next week, a meteorologist from the National Weather Service said.

“We are forecasting a heat wave that will start on Friday,” meteorologist Brian Cullen said. “At the very least, we will get near-record breaking temperatures all over eastern North Carolina. It’s going to get really hot.”

Cullen said temperatures are forecast to be in the high 90s by Friday and into the low- to mid-100s by Saturday afternoon.

“This heat wave will be affecting large parts of the Midwest and much of the East Coast,” Cullen said. “Temperatures will be pretty high throughout that entire area.”

With higher humidity levels moving in, the heat index values may reach as high as 110 degrees on Saturday and Sunday. The National Weather Service will issue heat advisories and possibly excessive heat warnings this weekend, Cullen said.

“We will definitely be issuing heat advisories over the next few days,” Cullen said. “And we will be flirting with excessive heat warnings over the weekend.”

Cullen said the higher-than-normal temperatures are expected to last until Tuesday.

“Temperatures are projected to be back in the low 90s by Wednesday,” Cullen said. “As for cooling off, we can expect that to happen around September.”

Dr. Timothy Reeder, an associate professor of emergency medicine at East Carolina University’s Brody School of Medicine, gave the following advice for people dealing with the heat this weekend.

• Stay indoors during the hottest part of the day, generally from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
• If you must be outdoors, wear protective clothing to keep the sun off your skin, seek shade when needed and drink plenty of fluids. Water is best.
• If you begin to feel dizzy or weak, get someplace cooler and drink fluids immediately.
• Seek medical help if symptoms persist.
• Sweating is normal in the summer. If you are in the heat and stop sweating and begin to get chills, seek medical attention immediately.

Contact Shannon Keith at skeith@reflector.com or 252-329-9638.
Residents pack hearing to support rule
By Michael Abramowitz
Thursday, June 28, 2012

The residents of a Greenville retirement community gathered in force at City Hall on Wednesday to weigh in on the complex issue of residential occupancy standards.

Greenville administrative staff conducted the last of three information-sharing and gathering sessions to help City Council members determine the future of the city’s residential occupancy ordinance.

The council first incorporated the definition of “family” into the city zoning ordinance in 1981, establishing that no more than three unrelated people could occupy a dwelling.

Community Development Department Director Merrill Flood and interim Assistant City Manager Chris Padgett solicited written feedback from the roughly 120 attendees about whether the city should allow such changes and what factors they would want such an ordinance to consider.

Among the attendees were District 3 Councilwoman Marion Blackburn, who represents members of the Tar River/University Neighborhood Association. Many TRUNA members rent to college students and others in the neighborhoods around the university. District 4 Councilman Calvin Mercer and District 1 Councilwoman Kandie Smith also attended.
In January, the new council incorporated an action step into its 2012 strategic goals that directed city staff to prepare a report on the standards and present code amendment alternatives to permit more than three unrelated people in homes.

If adopted, the change might result in greater occupancy in structures possessing certain characteristics of size and lot area, Flood said.

Attendees at all three meetings were asked to respond in writing to a set of six questions on the topic and add comments if desired.

Organizers took a straw poll at the conclusion of Wednesday’s session, as at the previous sessions. About 15 of the roughly 120 attendees indicated they believe the city should allow more than the current limit of three unrelated people. The ratio was similar to those of the previous sessions. That did not stop the minority view from being heard, however.

Most proponents of raising occupancy limits were landlords. They pointed to the most recent Greenville Police Department statistics that indicate a 12 percent crime increase last year in the TRUNA district and said keeping student populations and landlord income down leads to property turnover and lower values.

Most who own and occupy their properties said they believe that three unrelated people should remain the standard for maximum occupancy. They said their greatest concern is over the many East Carolina University students who have little or no oversight from landlords who do not maintain standards, threatening their property values.

Flood said city staff will summarize the comments they gather and tally the answers to their questions, then draft a report with findings and recommendations that will be presented to the council in August.

Online versions of the questionnaires are available at www.greenvillenc.gov.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or 252-329-9571.
NCSU issues warning about drinking water on main campus

From staff reports

Water has been deemed unsafe to drink on the main campus at North Carolina State University.

According to a safety alert on the school's website, an odor in the water was identified at three locations on the main campus on Wednesday. As a precaution, the administration has asked anyone who is on campus, including visitors, or youth attending summer camps, not to use the water on main campus for drinking, cooking or other ingesting, including brushing teeth, until further notice.

The campus water is okay for hand washing and showering. The affected area includes the NC State campus between Western Boulevard and Hillsborough Street, Method Road and Pullen Road.

Health and Safety personnel are sampling and testing water on campus, and facilities staff are flushing the water system. The university has taken measures to ensure food in dining halls is prepared without using tap water. The university is providing bottled water and drinks to residence halls, dining facilities and summer youth camps.

Anyone who will be on the main campus is asked to bring their own drinking water, or bottled water for use on Thursday and Friday.
The Wilmington Star News
Published: Sunday, June 24, 2012 at 5:06 p.m.

CFCC joins consortium led by N.C. Wesleyan
By Pressley Baird, Pressley.Baird@StarNewsOnline.com

Strength in numbers is always a good thing, say officials at Cape Fear Community College, and that's the mindset behind the college's involvement in a newly formed higher education consortium.

The Eastern North Carolina Consortium for Higher Education began this spring as a partnership between several colleges and universities in Southeastern North Carolina. CFCC is one of the 10 founding members, joining three other community colleges, two public universities, and four private colleges.

The goal of the consortium, said CFCC's vice president for instruction Mandi Lee, is to increase what the schools can offer both students and professors.

Especially for transfer students at community colleges, the consortium will be able to "facilitate this movement of students," Lee said.

"All of the schools have different strengths," Lee said. "We want to make sure that the student is going to the place that meets their needs the best."

It will also provide a way for faculty and staff at each of the schools to pool resources. Lee said the consortium was planning a July meeting for the schools' librarians so each could share what was working at their school.

The consortium is still too new to set anything in stone, Lee said. But she envisioned it working like the Cooperating Raleigh Colleges Program, where students at N.C. State University and four other Raleigh colleges can take courses and participate in activities at all five campuses. Faculty at the schools are also included, holding periodic meetings.

One reason CFCC decided to join the consortium is because of an already-strong relationship between CFCC and N.C. Wesleyan College, the driving force behind the consortium, Lee said.

"They've reached out to our community," Lee said. "This is an easy way for us to support them in return."

She hopes that kind of partnership will extend to other colleges in the consortium as it develops.

"We're going in ready to roll up our sleeves and do anything we can," she said. "The enthusiasm is definitely there."
Some student loans to become more expensive despite deal

By Ylan Q. Mui

College students are facing a roughly $20 billion increase in the cost of their federal loans, despite a much-heralded deal in Washington to contain the expense of higher education.

Starting Sunday, students hoping to earn the graduate degrees that have become mandatory for many white-collar jobs will become responsible for paying the interest on their federal loans while they are in school and immediately after they graduate. That means they’ll have to pay an extra $18 billion out of pocket over the next decade.
Meanwhile, the government will no longer cover the interest on undergraduate loans during the six months after students finish school. That’s expected to cost them more than $2 billion.

These changes have received little attention as lawmakers instead focus on preventing a spike in interest rates on federal student loans. They are the fallout of earlier political battles and compromises over broader issues such as the federal budget and the national debt ceiling. And they are forcing students such as Clarise McCants to make tough choices about how to pursue academic goals without jeopardizing financial security.

“I don’t want to hastily make a decision that could waste thousands of dollars I don’t have,” said McCants, who said she will have to put off graduate school after finishing her undergraduate degree at Howard University in the spring. “That could kind of prove disastrous for my finances.”

Much of the recent debate about the nation’s soaring student debt burden has centered on how to prevent the interest rate on new federally subsidized undergraduate loans from doubling to 6.8 percent on Sunday. President Obama made the issue part of his stump speech at colleges nationwide, while Republican rival Mitt Romney also came out in support of the measure. This week, Senate leaders announced that they had finally reached a compromise on how to pay the estimated $6 billion cost of freezing the rate for one year. Congress is expected to approve the deal by Friday.

But the deal’s benefits are being blunted by the two changes that will saddle students with higher costs.

Lawmakers ended a long-standing program that pays the interest on federally subsidized loans for six months after a student graduates from college. The change applies to new loans issued through July 2014.

Students who take out these loans over the next year will receive the lower interest rate — but that amount will be charged to their bill as soon as they throw their graduation caps in the air. Students who apply for federal loans next year will be hit with a double whammy: a higher interest rate that begins after graduation.

“It really makes the loans kind of unpredictable and hard to understand for students and families when these changes are happening through the budget process,” said Megan McClean, managing director of policy and federal relations for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, a trade group.
The outlook for students pursuing advanced degrees is even more grim.

As of Sunday, Uncle Sam will no longer pay the interest on new graduate loans while students are in school and for six months after they finish. The change comes as government data show that the average annual cost of a master’s degree and professional programs in law and medicine has jumped by double digits. Enrollment in graduate programs has risen by 33 percent since 2000, to 2.8 million students.

The graduate loan subsidy is a casualty of last summer’s debate over the national debt ceiling. Lawmakers eliminated the program to cover a shortfall in funding loans for low-income students.

“It’s a difficult question, because as some experts point out . . . [subsidies are] a back-end benefit to students,” said Julie Morgan, associate director for post-secondary education at the Center for American Progress. “They do save them money . . . but they don’t encourage students to attend school.”

Mechelle Sieglitz said she recently learned that she would have to rely on unsubsidized federal loans for her last year of divinity school, putting tuition out of reach. So she took a teaching job and is hoping to save enough money to finish her education later.

“Though I’ve been able to find ways around the system, I know a lot of kids are not going to be as fortunate and will have to drop out to avoid mounting tuition and shrinking options,” she wrote.

Personal finance expert John Ulzheimer, head of consumer education for SmartCredit.com, said the changes to student loans are forcing many borrowers to have what he called an “economic come-to-Jesus moment” about what their degrees are worth.

Bryce Freeman, a student at the University of Florida at Gainesville, said the change to graduate loans will influence which schools he considers for a master’s degree in public policy. Although Georgetown University and the University of California at Berkeley are appealing, the cost may put them out of reach.

“That’s the million-dollar question,” he said. “You have to find a balance between a program that’s going to get you a good-paying job and one that makes sense financially.”
The real U-Va. story: The 99 percent win

By Valerie Strauss

In the end, it wasn't really so much about the ousted and then reinstated University of Virginia president, Teresa Sullivan, or about the governing board leader, Helen Dragas, who had led a secret campaign against her and then, drowning in a tsunami of opposition, agreed to bring her back.

No, the U-Va. story of the last few weeks is really about the school community — the 99 percent who had been left out of the decision to fire her — successfully rising up to demand their leader back. University of Virginia faculty, students, alumni, administrators and others refused to go along with the secret decision by the board, and with a voice loud and persistent enough, won the day.

The Board of Visitors voted unanimously on Tuesday to reinstate Sullivan as president, and both Dragas and Sullivan promised to work together to take the university forward. A showdown that many had foreseen did not happen; negotiations before the session had been successful in coming to an agreement to bring back the president.

Ultimately, said former George Washington University President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, this is “about the ‘peeps.’”

“It’s the French Revolution upside down. The people rising up to demand a return of the orthodox leader. The authentic president. Why? Well in the name of the 99 percent of course. They the stakeholders were not consulted by the 1 percent... Its about them: the ‘common man.’ Sullivan is the symbol,” he said.

Without the public opposition to Sullivan’s firing, Dragas never would have voted to reinstate the president. As it was, Dragas never admitted at Tuesday’s meeting that her judgment to remove Sullivan had been in error. She just apologized, for the second time, for the process.
In fact, she seemed at the meeting to continue to labor under the delusion that the drama she caused was somehow inevitable in order to get to a place where the governing board and president could work together.

“It is unfortunate,” she said at the meeting, “that we had to have a near death experience to get here.”

Um, no, the school didn’t have to. It did because the board didn’t understand the school it governs. This is a problem that will have to be addressed in the future.

But Dragas was right when she said this: “The university should not waste the enormous opportunity at hand.”

It will seize that opportunity only if there are real changes in the way the board operates. It is, of course, the board’s job to make the big decisions, even if they are unpopular, but hopefully the members have learned that doing so in a vacuum is bad management. Dragas’s term on the board is up soon and it is not clear whether Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) will appoint her to another term, or if she would want one if he asks.

Even if Dragas is gone, Sullivan still has to work with people, most of whom just two weeks ago agreed to throw her out of her job. At the end of Tuesday’s board meeting after reclaiming her job, Sullivan said to the members, “Thank you for renewing your confidence in me.”

For now, the university community can allow itself to believe that they really have — and didn’t vote to reinstate her simply to stop the turmoil. It remains to be seen how much the board really learned in two weeks.
Ex-Students Acquitted of Hazing in Cornell Death

By ARIEL KAMINER

Three former Cornell University undergraduates have been found not guilty of hazing a sophomore who died during a fraternity ritual last year, in a case that drew attention to dangerous behavior among American college students.

The three defendants — Max Haskin, Ben Mann and Edward Williams — were accused of making George Desdunes drink excessive amounts of alcohol during an induction ritual for the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, of which they were all members. They were charged with hazing in the first degree and unlawfully dealing with a child (referring to serving alcohol to a person under 21), both misdemeanors. But on Tuesday, Judge Judith A. Rossiter of Tompkins County Court acquitted them of all charges.

Raymond M. Schlather, one of the defense lawyers, said Wednesday that the court had “determined without any hesitation or equivocation that these guys are innocent.” He added, “Having said that, I emphasize that there are no winners, because someone is dead and the family is in pain, and frankly, the lives of three young men are irrevocably harmed.”

Mr. Desdunes’s mother, Marie Lourdes Andre, was unavailable for comment on Wednesday.

“She’s absolutely devastated,” her lawyer, Douglas Fierberg, said. “She’s in shock and terribly saddened that her son could be killed by these individuals and there be no criminal responsibility.”

Ms. Andre has filed a $25 million wrongful-death lawsuit against the fraternity and some of its members.

The fraternity itself was also charged and did not defend itself; it was found guilty of hazing and other charges and will most likely be fined. Its chapter at Cornell has been disbanded. A fourth student was charged as well, but because he was a minor, his charges were resolved separately and the details have not been released. None of the four are currently enrolled at Cornell.

Mr. Desdunes’s death focused attention on the rituals that some fraternities and sororities undertake when inducting new pledges. National studies indicate that hazing — dares or challenges that often involve binge drinking and even violence — is common on college campuses across the country. In
November, a drum major at Florida A&M University was beaten to death in what the Florida authorities described as a marching band hazing ritual; 13 people have been charged in his case.

On Feb. 25, 2011, Mr. Desdunes, a 19-year-old pre-med student from Brooklyn, participated in a ritual in which new Sigma Alpha Epsilon pledges pretended to kidnap their older fraternity brothers. Along with Gregory Wyler, another member of the fraternity, Mr. Desdunes was taken to an off-campus house where the two of them were blindfolded, bound and quizzed about the history of the fraternity by the defendants. Among the penalties for wrong answers was the instruction to drink vodka. Mr. Wyler told the police that he drank several shots in 20 minutes, vomited, then drank more and vomited again. Mr. Desdunes passed out.

The defendants drove him back to the fraternity and put him on a leather couch, his head tilted, they said, to keep him from choking if he vomited. Early the next morning, a cleaning crew found him and called 911. An autopsy revealed a blood alcohol level of 0.356 percent, more than four times the legal limit for driving.

Testimony in the case hinged on whether Mr. Desdunes was already intoxicated when the kidnapping began and how aware the three defendants could have been of his condition. Several defense witnesses said that they had seen him drinking heavily for hours, and that he had a reputation for holding his liquor. The defense also presented testimony that, far from being forced to drink, Mr. Desdunes was free to stop the kidnapping game at any time.

The prosecution presented a witness who said that she had had sex with Mr. Desdunes shortly before the kidnapping game and that he was not intoxicated then.

The verdicts for the three men were sealed, but according to lawyers in the case, the judge found that Mr. Desdunes had been drinking heavily before encountering the defendants and that they could not have known how much alcohol he had already consumed.

Andrew Bonavia, the prosecutor, said in a statement on Wednesday, “Obviously we disagree with the decision, but regardless of this decision, we hope that people are going to be bringing their friends, their fraternity brothers, to the hospital if they participate in an event that makes them that sick.”