THE DAILY CLIPS

July 6, 2009

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
Downtown shooting suspect surrenders to authorities

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector

Saturday, July 04, 2009

James Earl Richardson, wanted in connection with the Tuesday shooting death of two men at a Greenville downtown nightclub, was arrested Saturday afternoon, Police Chief William Anderson said Saturday.

Richardson, 32, will be charged with two counts of murder, Anderson said.

Andrew Kirby, 29, a downtown restaurant manager, and Landon Blackley, 21, an East Carolina University student, were shot and killed while standing outside The Other Place on East Fifth Street.

Richardson was taken into custody at his grandmother’s Greenville home at 1905-A Kennedy Circle and brought to police headquarters for preliminary processing and questioning, then transferred to the Pitt County Detention Center, the chief said. Richardson is being held without bond.

“This brings some conclusion to this case,” Anderson told reporters at police headquarters. “We're very pleased with the level of cooperation we've received and very pleased to have taken this dangerous individual off of our streets.”

The surrender occurred after an extensive investigation working with several different law enforcement agencies, Anderson said. The Pitt County District Attorney’s Office will be handling the case against Richardson from this point, he said.

“We've been tracking Richardson since the time he was named as a suspect,” Anderson said. “There was quite a bit of community involvement in his capture. We also have to thank the Raleigh Police Department, the Charlotte Police Department and the U.S. Marshal’s Service, which was instrumental in gathering information about Richardson's whereabouts.”

“This (arrest) says a lot for our police department and the level of investigation within it, but it also says much about the level of cooperation among law enforcement agencies and the community from whom we received a lot of information. Several people were instrumental in helping us bring this to some type of closure,” Anderson said.

The chief said there have been several contacts made during the past several days that helped them track Richardson's movements, but he would not be specific, saying only that information came from law enforcement, private individuals and business people.

“We do know for sure he was in Maryland,” Anderson said. “Our continuing investigation doesn’t allow us to give more details, but we know he was just one step ahead of us.”

Richardson was described by Anderson as being somber and subdued at the time of his arrest, but otherwise in good condition.

The investigation will continue, including the men who were with Richardson in the car that drove past The Other Place early Tuesday morning when at least eight shots were fired in rapid succession, Anderson said. The two victims were standing outside The Other Place nightclub at closing time, shortly after Richardson had been escorted from the club by staff members for allegedly disruptive behavior.

Witnesses and the police chief identified Richardson as the man who reached out of a passing white BMW
and fired the shots that killed Kirby and Blackley. Earlier this week, Anderson said Kirby and Blackley had no connection to Richardson or the troubles he allegedly had in the club.

"They were just in the wrong place at the wrong time," Anderson said.

"The investigation does not stop just because we have Mr. Richardson in custody, so there is a lot that we can't say at this time," he said Saturday.

The car is in police custody, Anderson said, but he would not identify the owner. He stopped short of describing the other people being investigated as armed and dangerous and did not describe anyone else as a suspect.

"We focused our investigation on Richardson at this time, but we know there are other people involved in this case," Anderson said. "Right now we know we have the individual responsible in custody, and that's what the community should focus on right now."

Other possible charges against Richardson were not ruled out and will be considered by the district attorney as the investigation continues, the chief said.

Police are unsure whether Richardson is being represented by an attorney, but they have not been contacted by anyone representing him as legal counsel, Anderson said.

The chief said he hoped the arrest would serve to ease community tensions.

"This was a very unfortunate and senseless act," he said. "We believe it was a random act, and Greenville is still a very safe place, including the downtown area."

He urged residents to continue to go out and enjoy themselves in the city.

"Crimes like this happen all over this country," Anderson said. "It just happened in Greenville this particular time. We want people to know that we have a hard-working, dedicated police department. We're doing all we can to keep our community safe."

The arrest happened as residents were beginning to gather at the Greenville Town Common for the annual Fourth of July celebration. The police chief talked about the safety precautions being readied for that event.

"We have a large contingent of officers down there right now, and that's something we do every year," he said. "We have to be visible and vigilant, and we do that every year. We're going to have a safe Fourth, and we want everybody to enjoy the fireworks."

Services for Kirby and Blackley were held Friday. Kirby in his hometown of Kenly and Blackley in his hometown of Oxford.

Blackley was an East Carolina University student, and Kirby was the manager of Michaelangelo's Pizza parlor, located across the street from the nightclub. It was his night off and he wanted to have some fun at the club, said Jeff Deering, owner of the restaurant.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9571.

Copyright 2009 The Daily Reflector All rights reserved.
Camp offers children a chance to start healthy lifestyle

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Sunday, July 05, 2009

Children who may need help getting started with a healthy lifestyle can take advantage of a camp offered this summer by the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and North Carolina State University.

The two schools are working together to put on a healthy lifestyle camp for overweight youth at the Eastern 4-H Center in Columbia from July 26 to Aug. 14.

Take Off 4-Health, now in its third year, is a three-week program for boys and girls ages 12-18 that includes recreational programs like swimming, boating, hiking, archery and team sports. The camp can accommodate up to 60 children.

Dr. David Collier, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the Brody School of Medicine, said the camp is part of the school's mission to help treat chronic disease in rural eastern North Carolina.

There are scholarships available for children with type II diabetes. The camp cost $2,250, about half of what other residential camps cost, Collier said.

"The goal of the camp is for participants to lose weight, build self-esteem, and learn the tools to a healthy lifestyle while reducing their risks of developing future chronic disease, and, of course, to have fun while doing it," Collier said.

Children will hopefully reduce their chances of developing long term health problems associated with being overweight, Collier said. The camp is designed to show youth how to make lifestyle changes including exercise and diet that will keep weight down.

"Kids are much more likely to adopt healthy lifestyle habits if they see them as fun and do-able. The camp is a great way to jump start these new habits," he said.

Take Off 4-Health provides campers with three balanced meals a day plus two snacks. The meals, based on menus and recipes developed by ECU pediatric dietitians, will help participants lose weight and meet their nutrient needs.

Throughout the program, ECU physicians will provide medical supervision. At the end of camp, campers will receive materials to help them continue the healthy lifestyle habits they learned at camp.

Camp registration packets and more information for Take Off 4-Health are online at http://www.eastern4hcenter.org or available from Nikki Norman at 797-4800 or Yancey Crawford at 744-5061.

To find out if a child is overweight and may possibly benefit from a program such as Take Off 4-Health, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site at http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/bmi/index.htm and use the body mass index calculator.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9565.

Copyright 2009 The Daily Reflector All rights reserved. - -
East Carolina ceasing paper billing to save money

The Daily Reflector
Sunday, July 05, 2009

In an effort to save money, East Carolina University is doing away with paper billing.

ECU is shifting to electronic billing for student tuition and fees, a move designed to save money and to give students easier access to more information about their accounts with the university.

The university previously mailed bills to the more than 27,000 students.

The change, beginning with the fall semester, will save about $50,000 per year and eliminate the use of a large amount of paper and postage.

Paper bills have been mailed to students' home addresses but now students and users who they authorize will receive e-mail notifications when new billing statements are available online.

Students also will be allowed to make payments online.

Students with outstanding balances on their accounts will receive an e-mail when a new billing statement is available and may be accessed through the ECU's OneStop system.

All currently enrolled students and new students have already received e-mail notifications of the billing change.

Students also should receive postcards notifying them of the change.

More information, along with a set of frequently asked questions and answers, is available at http://www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/financial_serv/cashier/eBilling.cfm

Copyright 2009 The Daily Reflector All rights reserved. - -
ECU notes: Battle of Atlantic Expedition earns Partners in Conservation Award

ECU News Services

Saturday, July 04, 2009

In May, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar presented a Partners in Conservation Award to the Battle of the Atlantic Expedition for collective efforts in the preservation of historic World War II shipwreck sites in the “Graveyard of the Atlantic” off the North Carolina coast.

Included in those recognized for their work on the project are Nathan Richards, Steve Sellers and John Wagner from East Carolina University's Maritime Studies program.

In a July 2008 multi-partner mission, researchers collected baseline data in several sites that included underwater wreckage of German U-boats, British naval vessels and U.S. Merchant Marine ships lost during the war. This data, gathered through scientific mapping and photo and video documentation, will allow for monitoring of cultural and environmental changes of these “war graves.”

The program seeks to educate the local diving community on the fragile nature of these unique historic resources and of their significance in telling the full story of World War II and the Atlantic coastline.

“The Partners in Conservation Awards demonstrate that our greatest conservation legacies often emerge when stakeholders, agencies and citizens from a wide range of backgrounds come together to address shared challenges,” Salazar said. “Through the commitment of federal, state and academic partners, the Battle of the Atlantic Expedition not only gathered valuable data on several shipwrecks that occurred during the World War II attacks off the North Carolina coast but also promoted the significance of the preservation of the maritime history of the United States.”

The Battle of the Atlantic award was one of 26 national awards presented to individuals and organizations to honor “those who achieve natural resource goals in collaboration and partnership with others.”

The expedition was brought together under the leadership of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration’s Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. Project partners included the National Park Service’s Submerged Resources Center, Minerals Management Service, ECU’s Program in Maritime Studies, University of North Carolina’s Coastal Studies Institute, the University of North Carolina’s Department of Cultural Resources and the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island.

For more information, including historical information on each of the vessels documented during the expedition and video clips from each site, visit http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/missions/battleoftheatlantic/.

Six students receive Schweitzer Fellowships

Six students from the Brody School of Medicine at ECU have received Schweitzer Fellowships for 2009.

The students, who have finished their first year of medical school, commit to a year of service with a community agency, devoting more than 800 hours to local communities lacking access to adequate health services.

Below are the students' names and their service projects:

Emily Cullen will work with the organization Operation Sunshine to begin a program to increase self-esteem, positive coping skills and healthy body image and exercise behaviors in girls ages 10-13.

Kasey Joyner and Crystal Bowe are working with the Substance Abuse Coalition of Pitt County to educate
youth on the harmful effects of second-hand smoke and equip them with resources and knowledge to reduce their exposure.

Sarah Mian and Reema Padia will work at the James Bernstein Community Health Center in Greenville to promote the education and well-being of Spanish-speaking women by teaching English skills, providing mentoring and holding health education sessions.

Negin Misaghian is working at the ECU Pediatric Healthy Weight Research and Treatment Center to create a mentoring program that pairs at-risk and overweight children ages 9-13 with a medical student to encourage healthy lifestyles. Monthly education sessions will be held for families involved.

Twenty other graduate students from professional schools in North Carolina also received fellowships. Schweitzer Fellows continue their education while participating in the entry-year of the Schweitzer Fellows Program.

The first U.S.-based Schweitzer Fellows Program was founded in Boston in 1991, and the second was in North Carolina in 1994. Nearly 240 North Carolina Schweitzer Fellows have completed the program.

More information about the Schweitzer Fellowship program is available at www.schweitzerfellowship.org.

Country Doctor Museum gets agency resources

Treasured objects and artifacts at the Country Doctor Museum will be preserved for future generations with help from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The institute recently awarded the museum its "Connecting to Collections Bookshelf," a core set of conservation books and online resources, in cooperation with the American Association of State and Local History.

The Country Doctor Museum in Bailey is one of 19 museums or libraries in North Carolina and 3,000 nationwide to receive the award.

"The IMLS Bookshelf will provide immediate, up-to-date information when questions or problems come up requiring informed answers," Anne Anderson, curator of the Country Doctor Museum, said. "The IMLS Bookshelf would have proven valuable when a broken heart pressure monitor leaked beads of mercury out of its storage box onto the floor, when 25 boxes of medical antiques were left anonymously on the front porch, or when rainwater from a coastal tropical storm flooded one of our buildings. With our limited staff, the IMLS Bookshelf will offer expert advice and guidance in times of urgent need."

The Country Doctor Museum is operated by ECU's Laupus Library. For more information, call 235-4165 or visit the Web site at www.countrydoctormuseum.org.

Nursing faculty member elected to national post

Dr. Ann M. Schreier, associate professor of nursing at ECU, has been chosen president-elect of the American Society for Pain Management Nursing for 2009-10. Her term begins in September.

Schreier also is director of the alternate entry nursing concentration in the ECU College of Nursing. Alternate entry is an accelerated course of study leading to a master's in nursing for people with baccalaureate degrees in another field. Schreier first came to ECU in 1992.

Schreier has been instrumental in continuing the American Society for Pain Management Nursing's mission to improve pain management for clients in a variety of settings since joining the organization in 1997.

"I look forward to facilitating the attainment of our organization's goals — education, professional recognition, professional resources, advocacy and access to care," Schreier said. "I am honored to serve as president-elect of this distinguished organization."

The society comprises professional nurses dedicated to advancing optimal care for people affected by pain by promoting best nursing practices.

ECU dietetic professor named to state board

Gov. Beverly Perdue has appointed Sylvia Escott-Stump, director of the dietetic internship program at ECU, to the North Carolina Board of Dietetics/Nutrition.

Escott-Stump will join the seven member board in efforts to oversee the licensure and regulation of persons engaged in the practice of dietetics/nutrition in North Carolina and to maintain educational standards for...
practitioners. She will serve a three-year term on the board beginning this month.

"The licensure board was established to protect North Carolina citizens from individuals who might represent themselves as dietitians or nutritionists when they do not have the background," Escott-Stump said. "Registered dietitians must complete a four-year BS degree with a great deal of chemistry, biochemistry and physiology. Then they must complete a rigorous supervised practice program before they can sit for the national exam.

"There is so much misinformation available from the media, sales personnel, and personal trainers that the citizens of our state need protection and clear guidance. I am happy to serve at this level for our citizens," she said.

Escott-Stump received other honors this spring for her contributions to her profession. The American Dietetic Association (ADA) invited her to present the 46th Lenna Frances Cooper Lecture at its annual meeting. She was also named 2009 Member of the Year by the North Carolina Dietetic Association.

A member of the ECU nutrition and dietetics faculty since 1998, Escott-Stump is co-author of the classic textbook, Krause's Food, Nutrition, and Diet Therapy, now in its 12th edition. She is also the author of Nutrition and Diagnosis-Related Care, currently in its 6th edition. She is also owner of Nutrition Balance, a consulting business in Winterville.

Winning with Diabetes conference July 18

The eighth annual Winning with Diabetes conference, a community program for people with diabetes, families, friends and health care providers, will be held July 18 in the East Carolina Heart Institute.

The program will be led by ECU faculty and staff from the Pitt County Health Department and ViQuest Center. The program is made possible with a grant from the Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation and also is sponsored by the ECU College of Nursing, Brody School of Medicine and University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina.

The event is designed to empower people with diabetes to make positive changes in their diabetes care and to motivate them to be their own diabetes team leader. It will also include opportunities for participants to have eye, foot, blood pressure, kidney, vascular and cholesterol screenings. The fee to participate is $25 for one person, $20 for each additional person in family. Scholarships are available.

To register, call Jane Boardman in the ECU College of Nursing at 744-6504.

Copyright 2009 The Daily Reflector All rights reserved.
Laurel — To East Carolina University redshirt sophomore softball pitcher Toni Paisley, who was named Conference USA co-Female Athlete of the Year this week. Paisley becomes the first Pirate in any sport to win a C-USA Player of the Year award, which honored her dominating season on the diamond. It is a deserved award for an individual and reflects well on her teammates, who enjoyed a great year.

Time to celebrate

Laurel — To the decision to delay a 2-cent drop in the North Carolina tax on gasoline scheduled to take effect at the start of the fiscal year on Wednesday. With lawmakers looking for every penny to balance the budget and with the need for funding to improve the state’s infrastructure, the delay is hardly surprising. But every break is valuable to taxpayers at this difficult time.

Laurel — To those who collect items for the American servicemen and women deployed to the far-off reaches of the world. It is important to remember those who protect the freedom and liberty celebrated on this day, and those who box and ship items overseas — like Give2theTroops in Pitt County — should be celebrated for their work. Please consider pitching in.

Dart — To the ongoing health threat posed by the H1N1 flu virus, which was suspected to have infected a Pitt County Memorial Hospital employee last week. Test results returned on Wednesday were negative, allowing the hospital to exhale a bit. But with more than 1 million cases of the influenza strain reported in the United States so far, people should continue to take precautions.

Laurel — To the distinguished 35-year career of Jim Turcotte, the manager of the Pitt-Greenville Airport who retired from that position on June 26. He leaves the operations of the airport, on of the community’s crucial transportation assets, to Jerry Vickers, a retired Marine lieutenant colonel. Turcotte’s professionalism and steady leadership will be missed.

Compiled by Brian Colligan, editorial page editor of The Daily Reflector. Contact him at 329-9507 or via e-mail at bcolligan@coxnc.com
Al Clark: We share a troubled road to find path leading us from anger

Saturday, July 04, 2009

The front page couldn't contain it, or even the bottomless internet. The story was too senseless, too sad. It was a mirror held too close, allowing a community's angry breath to blur the glass.

An early summer night downtown, bars in full swing. Nothing unusual about it, except before it ended two young men would die and other lives were forever altered. Their community, too, had changed — not in a jolt, but slowly as recent years pressed one over another.

Inside a bar, where Greenville police have since worked to strip truth from tangled lines of observation, a group of men acting badly that night had been escorted out, only to return in anger minutes later to open fire on the bar from a passing car. Crazy stuff, drunken stuff, except with guns and ammo.

These men, both victims and perpetrators, knew us, worked with us. We knew them now, we knew them then. They went to our public schools, our university. They were our friends. Two are dead; others are being sought for their murders.

We awoke that next morning to find this is where we live. And today no amount of anger can take us away.

Many might say nothing's changed, it's been this way. It's true that such violence has been felt here before, not unlike many places where startling growth has brought the conflicts of increasing numbers and diverging interests.

But this week the violence has been center-stage, not isolated to an outlying neighborhood on whatever side of town, but right down the middle of our street, Fifth Street. It's a street all of us have known and walked, one where brighter lights have brought us together, whatever our differences.

We have had a pizza, a hot dog or a sandwich there, maybe a drink or two. We've walked to lunch or back to work. Smiled there, and now we have cried there.

So these deaths, innocents shot down where they stood — on our street — this has shaken us, unsettled and disoriented us and we are angry about it. We want to lash out at the nearest target, to ease our fears and maybe our consciences, to somehow distance ourselves as much as we can from this mind-numbing and irrational violence.

Maybe if we can explain, blame or assign guilt, we can fix it, or fix us. But how is that the way?

We can — and must — do what business owners, police, city and university officials have quickly moved to do this week, much to their credit.

They are looking to their practices, studying them for possible improvement. They are reassuring their constituencies, as they should. They are re-evaluating their processes, looking for better approaches.

But in the end, the ultimate fixing lies elsewhere, beyond what we can say, see and touch.

This week I've felt the need to look deep inside and carefully isolate my personal anger, and recognize as clearly as I can where it resides and where it is directed.

Maybe then I can better understand that to safely walk our street again, now more than ever, we will need to share the road.
For in the end, to fully clear the fog from the glass, the fix lies within — for each of us, parent and child, one at a time.

Al Clark is executive editor of The Daily Reflector. Contact him at aclark@coxnc.com.

Copyright 2009 The Daily Reflector All rights reserved. - -
Shooting victims buried; search for suspect continues

The Daily Reflector
Friday, July 03, 2009

Two men killed outside a downtown nightclub were buried Friday while the man Greenville police say is the shooter remains at large.

Greenville native and former professional basketball player James Earl Richardson is wanted by police for the shooting deaths of Andrew Kirby, 29, a downtown restaurant manager, and Landon Blackley, 21, an East Carolina University student.

Funeral services for Blackley were held in his hometown of Oxford. Kirby's funeral was held in his hometown of Kenly.

Stephanie Kirby, a cousin of Andrew Kirby from Morrisville, said the family is in shock as they mourn his death.

"You don't expect anything like this to ever happen to anyone you know, especially not your family," Kirby said.

She described Drew as "an amazing person, always happy and encouraging of others."

She last saw him on Father's Day at a family gathering, she said. Drew Kirby showed off a new fishing boat he had recently purchased.

"It's really heartening to know he touched so many lives in Greenville and that people got to know him as the happy hopeful person that he was," Stephanie Kirby said in reference to the Facebook postings she has read about her cousin.

Richardson is believed to be armed and dangerous, according to a poster issued by the police department that offers a $10,000 reward for his capture. He has relatives and other contacts in Atlanta, Raleigh, Durham, Charlotte and Greensboro, according to the police.

A police investigation identified Richardson as the individual who fired several shots at The Other Place nightclub from a passing white BMW after being ejected from the club with several other men minutes before.

Blackley and Kirby were standing on the sidewalk outside the club and were hit with some of the sprayed bullets. Witnesses said at least eight shots were fired in rapid succession from the car.

Police have identified the men who were with Richardson at the club, a department spokesman said Thursday, but would not answer questions about them.

Friends and relatives of the slain men continued to post condolences to the families of both at social networking sites as ECU student government leaders made plans for a memorial march and anti-violence demonstration Tuesday.

The group hopes to gather at The Other Place at 7 p.m. and and march to the cupola on East Carolina's main campus for a candlelight vigil, SGA vice president Brad Teasley said.

Copyright 2009 The Daily Reflector All rights reserved. - -
SCLC calls for end to inflammatory Web comments

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector

Wednesday, July 01, 2009

A local civil rights organization on Thursday expressed fear and concern over anonymous comments on media Web sites following the homicide of two white men Tuesday at a downtown nightclub.

Rufus Huggins, president of the Pitt County chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, asked local news media to disallow anonymous comments on their Web sites because the comments are inflaming racial hatred and causing fear in the black community.

“If you’re going to say something, say, ‘Let’s work together to solve our problems.’ Killing is wrong wherever it is.”

At a hastily called press conference at the chapter’s Fleming Street headquarters, Huggins and SCLC board members expressed outrage over the shooting deaths of two white men who were standing on the sidewalk in front of The Other Place nightclub just after 2 a.m.

Greenville Police have issued a warrant for the arrest of James Earl Richardson, charging him with two counts of murder in the incident. Richardson, who is black, was still at large on Thursday.

Huggins called upon whites and blacks to focus attention on the progress that Greenville has made toward racial harmony and to disavow racially inflammatory comments posted on Web sites following the incident. The comments stir fear in the community of vigilantism, he said.

“A lot of people remember what happened in the 1960s ... They are asking us whether there will be white people riding through the community shooting.” Huggins said.

Huggins said he and SCLC officers Clarence Gray, George Davis, Chris Godley and R.J. Hemby understand the comments “do not represent the whole (white) community, but the average Joe does not understand that. He thinks something (bad) is going to happen. We don’t need that.”

Huggins said the media has a responsibility to block comments and messages that promote hate.

Al Clark, executive editor of The Daily Reflector, said while he agrees that many of the anonymous comments online are inflammatory and do nothing to further the community’s conversation on these issues, the newspaper has no plans at present to prevent them.

"While the system is imperfect," he said, "our staffers, including myself, monitor this traffic and delete the worst of these comments and occasionally turn this function off altogether. We also have a mechanism online for readers to suggest elimination of comments they find offensive."

Clark said despite its faults, the Web commenting does provide a window into segments of the community’s thinking that otherwise would remain hidden.

"While certainly painful on occasion, there is a certain value in knowing some of the worst of what we’re thinking," he said. “Also, we see many serious and thoughtful comments that provide valuable insights into how we feel as a community about these difficult issues.”

Chris Mossman, vice president and general manager of WITN-TV, said his station encourages commenting on their web stories to give people a chance to share thoughts.

“I think flow is no longer a one-way street. Our viewers and Web users tell us that interaction is critical. Posting comments is a great way … to interact with us and witn.com’s users in and outside of eastern North
Carolina. Commenting is not just an outlet for you to post an opinion. Our comments also allow you to ask questions, to have inspired debates and to engage in civilized arguments with other wtfn.com visitors,” Mossman said on the station’s Web site.

Huggins said that while he absolutely rejects all acts of violence, he has been hearing from black people who work in the downtown club district that the racial situation is a “powder keg” because of the way blacks are treated in the downtown clubs.

“They are humiliated there, I’m told. They try anything to keep them out and if they find the least little thing they throw them out. They tell me (club managers) apply two sets of rules, one for blacks and one for whites,” Huggins said.

Huggins wanted to state clearly that he did not think that is what happened at The Other Place, but that sooner or later trouble will arise because of the sense of racial discrimination.

“At some point, you’re going to rub someone the wrong way at the wrong time. It’s a powder keg,” he said. “We must prevent something like this from happening again.”

The SCLC president said that he plans to meet with the city administration and the police chief to share the organization’s concerns and come up with a plan to head off potential racial conflicts.

The commenting function on this story has been disabled because of abuse.

Copyright 2009 The Daily Reflector All rights reserved. - -
UNC searches

The controversy over Mary Easley's jobs at N.C. State University raised the curtain on some standard operating practices of big-time university administration that, when the spotlight shines on them, don't play well with the public. Now UNC-Chapel Hill opens another curtain. It will -- and this seems not to be unusual -- pay an academic headhunter more than $70,000 (plus expenses) to help locate the campus' next provost, or chief academic officer.

You might think that a community of scholars would be well-placed to come up with a provost on their own, especially since this job will not want for takers. But no, outside help is needed.

Curiously, the designated consultant is the one who advised the University of Kansas to hire away Chapel Hill's provost to be KU's chancellor, thus creating the very opening that he'll help fill. That, budding entrepreneurs, is a splendid business model.

Of course, being Chapel Hill, the university will pay its consultant with privately raised money. That dims the spotlight's glare, but signals no departure at all from administrative business as usual.

All rights reserved. This copyrighted material may not be published, broadcast or redistributed in any manner.

Get it all with convenient home delivery of The News & Observer.

© Copyright 2009, The News & Observer Publishing Company

A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company
NCSU student drowns

BY SADIA LATIFI AND JOSH SHAFFER, Staff Writers

APEX - An affable rising senior and hockey player for N.C. State University drowned on Independence Day while trying to swim across a cove in Jordan Lake, officials said Sunday.

Rescue workers found the body of Stephen Patrick Russell, 23, at 10 a.m. Sunday after he and a friend apparently underestimated the distance of their swim at dusk Saturday, Sgt. Reggie Barker of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission said.

Friends on NCSU's club hockey team recalled their goalie as both unassuming and intense.

"He was as quiet as he was professional," Coach Dave Kurtz said. "He always came to the ice ready to play, whether he was starting or not. Off the ice, when we would travel, he was one of the guys everyone seems to enjoy hanging around."

Russell and a friend tried their swim about 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Barker said. Russell began to feel fatigued, so his friend held onto him while shouting for help. When his friend could no longer hold on, he swam ashore to get help. When the friend came back, Russell had gone under.

Divers, in cooperation with Chatham County police and wildlife and emergency personnel, retrieved Russell's body near the Farrington Point boat ramp.

Alcohol was found, but Barker could not confirm whether it was related to the incident.

Russell was a Canadian citizen whose family moved to Charlotte several years ago, Barker said.

The Wolfpack finished 11-13 in its 2008-09 season, and its Web site noted that Russell and fellow goalie Wil White "will be expected to stymie the opposition's attack and provide leadership. Wil and Stephen have combined for a total of 55 starts over their NCSU careers, and their experience will be crucial to the success of the club."

sadia.latifi@newsobserver.com or 919-932-2002

Get it all with convenient home delivery of The News & Observer.
Family doctors become rarer

Students shun primary care

BY SARAH AVERY, Staff Writer

Just a few years ago, Dr. Robert Rich had five more colleagues at his medical clinic in Elizabethtown. One by one, the younger doctors moved on.

Enticed to bigger cities by better pay or cultural opportunities, those five doctors departed, leaving Rich and four other doctors and their team of physician assistants and nurse practitioners to juggle an estimated 20,000 patients in rural Bladen County, at the state's southern edge.

He hasn't had much luck recruiting new doctors to the busy practice, and now the competition may well get stiffer.

As health-care reform efforts in Washington put primary care at the center of treatment, the need for generalists will likely worsen an already chronic shortage across North Carolina and the nation.

From 2001 through 2005, 46 of the state's 100 counties lost ground in the ratio of primary-care doctors to residents, according to the most recent data from the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Most counties that saw declines were rural, but not all. Among the losers was fast-growing Wake County, which is brimming with nearly 1,900 doctors. More than half are specialists such as anesthesiologists, dermatologists and orthopedic surgeons.

"There's increasing data that the more specialists you have, the higher the cost, and the poorer the quality of care," said Dr. Warren Newton, chairman of Family Medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine. "What it really is, is a fragmentation of care."
For that reason, Newton and others said, health reform architects are working to revamp how people get treatment, calling on primary-care doctors to become the nexus among specialists, hospitals, dietitians, mental-health counselors and any other care providers.

But there aren't enough such general practitioners to go around. And too few new doctors coming out of medical schools elect to practice primary-care medicine.

The reasons have a lot to do with money.

Many young doctors graduate owing $100,000 to $200,000 in student loans, so there's a huge incentive to steer toward more lucrative medical specialties. A recent survey by the physician recruiting firm Merritt Hawkins & Associates found that family-practice doctors make an average $173,000 a year -- a handsome salary, but far less than orthopedic surgeons at $481,000, or cardiologists at $419,000, or urologists at $401,000.

"It's a huge issue," said Dr. Lloyd Michener, chairman of Community & Family Medicine at Duke University Medical Center. "You have to have a lot of zeal to make a third of the income that a specialist would make when you're looking at all that debt."

Medicine and money

Dr. Conrad L. Flick, a family medicine specialist who graduated from Duke in 1989, said the pay disparities trickle into the culture at medical schools.

On the one hand, he said, generalists are heralded as needing expertise in a wide array of diseases so they can manage everything from poison ivy to heart disease and cancer.

But when bright young students express interest in primary care, he said, they're discouraged because it pays the least, and is therefore perceived as less prestigious.

"Academic centers push people away from family medicine," Flick said. "They say, 'You're too smart to do family medicine.' You're too smart, and yet you need to know everything. These two comments don't go together."

And it's not just the pay that turns off young doctors. The hours are long and unpredictable. In rural communities, family doctors can be on call perpetually. Their local hospitals seldom have staff doctors, so when their patients are admitted, they often must travel miles from their homes and offices to make rounds.

As a result, the kind of student who gravitates to family practice or general internal medicine tends to have a special calling, a sort of Peace Corps mentality.

"It's a real commitment to making a difference," Michener said. "It helps if you like people, and that you are not primarily motivated by income, but by a sense that you make a difference."

Michener said Duke has only about two or three students a year who opt to go into family medicine, but the university is working to improve those numbers with new programs that rotate doctors-in-training through top-flight practices and encourage an entrepreneurial spirit.

Neighboring UNC-CH produces between 14 and 18 family-medicine doctors a year, Newton said -- down from nearly 30 several years ago.

The state's biggest producer of generalists is East Carolina University, which recruits all its medical students from within the state, and has a mission to educate primary-care physicians. A third of its 80 graduates a year go into that field. Most also stay in North Carolina, often locating in rural areas that traditionally have doctor shortages.

Dr. Kenneth Steinweg, interim chairman of Family Medicine at ECU's Brody School of Medicine, said the process starts with accepting the right students.
"Everybody has a strong North Carolina allegiance," Steinweg said. "The admissions committee measures candidates against a lot of things, and one is, do they fit the mission? Only those who are really interested in this training will apply here. If they want to do nuclear medicine, they won't apply, because we're about primary care."

Wanting to heal the world

Rich, the doctor in Elizabethtown, said he became a family practitioner because he was "part of the '70s generation and wanted to change the world."

"I wanted to make a difference in my patients' lives, and I still do," he said. "I find professional enjoyment in taking care of people. But I can't bill that."

His practice, Bladen Medical Associates, handles a caseload of patients who primarily receive Medicaid and Medicare. The federal insurance programs pay between one-fourth and one-third less for his services than private insurance, he said.

That fee schedule needs to change, Rich and others said, because it's a big reason primary-care physicians are among the lowest paid. Specialists who perform surgeries and run sophisticated diagnostic tests are reimbursed at a higher rate by the federal programs.

"It comes down to pay," said Newton at UNC-CH. He said a better health-care system would reward primary-care doctors for keeping people healthy.

"Things set up in the '50s don't work anymore," Newton said. "We can come up with new systems -- redesign offices, use electronic records, get people in for appointments, manage chronic diseases."

One such system has been pioneered by the state of North Carolina and is widely touted as a model for health-care reform.

Community Care of North Carolina establishes the primary-care practice as the center of Medicaid patients' health needs -- their so-called medical home. If necessary, the doctor guides the patient to other services in the community, including specialists, but the goal is to diagnose and manage chronic diseases before they spiral into expensive medical problems.

At Rock Quarry Road Family Medicine, a Wake Health Services clinic that participates in Community Care, a nurse serves as the case manager for Denise Link, 49, who has battled cancer, type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Link's blood levels are closely monitored to make sure her diabetes is controlled, and her numerous prescription drugs are checked to assure they are taken correctly to avoid adverse reactions.

Her case manager, nurse Ginger Cole, chides Link about not maintaining an exercise regimen and eating right.

"I know better," said Link, who was a licensed practical nurse in New York before moving to North Carolina. "Do as I say, not as I do."

Cole and others at the Raleigh practice are trying to keep Link from slipping into a health crisis and winding up in the emergency room. And for many who participate in the Community Care program, that has been achieved.

An outside audit estimates the program, which operates in 150 sites, saved the state $147 million in 2007 by cutting the need for hospitalizations, emergency room visits and specialty care.

Those numbers have garnered national attention and acclaim among health-care reformers looking for ways to save money and improve patients' health.

But the program's success depends on having enough doctors, physician assistants, nurse
practitioners and nurses working in primary care to create a nurturing medical home.
Without that, many say, reform may be doomed.
"If the system does not address the needs of primary-care physicians to take care of patients, it doesn't matter if you give everyone an insurance card tomorrow," Rich said.
Staff photographer Shawn Rocco contributed to this report.
savery@newsobserver.com or 919-829-4882

Get it all with convenient home delivery of The News & Observer.

© Copyright 2009, The News & Observer Publishing Company

A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company
Growth outpaces doctor supply

Population growth has for years outstripped the state's ability to produce an adequate supply of doctors at its four medical schools, forcing the state to recruit physicians from other states and abroad.

"The fundamental structure of the physician supply depends on how many we train, and how many we import," said Thomas C. Ricketts, deputy director of the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at UNC-Chapel Hill. "Basically, that has remained static for the last 20 years. We didn't build medical schools, open medical schools, or expand residencies."

The situation isn't likely to change soon.

Plans to boost enrollment at UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine and East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine have been delayed because of the recession.

Those plans called for training UNC-CH medical students in Charlotte and Asheville, with enrollment increasing to 230 students a year from 160. Enrollment at ECU's medical school was to increase by about 40 students, to 120.

With such efforts pushed back, the state will have to step up recruitment of new doctors through its Office of Rural Health and Community Care.

The office, along with the N.C. Medical Society Foundation, works to bring in doctors to underserved areas. Both groups offer loan repayment incentives for doctors who agree to set up practice in rural or poor pockets of the state.

"We're working as hard as ever so we can recruit as many folks as we can from other states," said John Price, director of the state's rural health office.

"We have been very fortunate in that North Carolina is an attractive state to recruit people to. So we do well compared to some other states."

**Staff writer Sarah Avery**

Get it all with convenient home delivery of The News & Observer.

**Total doctors per 10,000 residents**

United States: 24.77
North Carolina: 22.45
Primary care doctors per 10,000 residents
United States: 10.19
North Carolina: 9.07