THE DAILY CLIPS

July 12, 2010

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Subcommittee discusses chancellor’s residence
By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Friday, July 9, 2010

The East Carolina University chancellor’s residence is due for an update and could become a
guest house or a full-time event venue or some combination thereof with modifications, according
to university officials.
A subcommittee of the chancellor’s residence committee had its first meeting via conference call
Friday morning to discuss several potential uses for the chancellor’s residence, also known as the
Dail House. A second subcommittee is looking into building, purchasing or leasing a residence
elsewhere. Both subcommittees were formed when the full residence committee met June 1. The
usage subcommittee includes ECU Board of Trustee members and neighborhood residents.
The 5,000-square-foot house at 605 E. Fifth St. is functioning as the private residence for
Chancellor Steve Ballard and his wife and for an increasing number of social functions, though its
current configuration has become inadequate, committee members said.
The university is about 10 times bigger than it was when it acquired the house in 1948, according
to Chief Public Affairs Officer John Durham.
In recent years, the two-story house has seen an average of 1,800 visitors per year. The high
amount of social activity downstairs restricts private family space to the upstairs, where there is
no kitchen or laundry facility.
“The residential function is seriously hampered by the social function,” subcommittee member
Steve Duncan said.
The building is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act — it is being
grandfathered in. There is one non-handicapped-accessible bathroom on the first level. There is
parking only for the family, so parking for events takes place along Fifth Street or in adjacent
neighborhoods. Caterers must use the residents’ kitchen before, during and after events. There is
only one driveway to the property, an issue for maintenance, caterers and guests.
“The Dail House is used for events almost every week,” subcommittee chairman Ken Chalk said.
“That’s great for the university, but there are issues for events even without the house being a
residence.”
The landmark building will continue to host university events with usage controlled by the
chancellor. Several other considerations were discussed, including using the second floor as guest
housing or office space for special events. The Younge House and property next to the Dail
House, acquired by the university about three years ago, could be renovated as another
entertainment facility or guest house, which experts said would be costly, or converted into
parking for the Dail House. Other additions to the Dail House such as a catering kitchen and
elevator and remodeling the downstairs bathrooms also were discussed. While no final decisions
were made, most of the discussion centered on re-purposing the Dail House to better accommodate social events.
“This is a very important facility for the university, and it will be used to the fullest extent while considering the historical significance,” Chalk said.
Subcommittee member Bert Powell, representing the Tar River and University Neighborhood Association stated his group’s preference for keeping a residential aspect to the house along with his desire to work with the university, which he called their biggest neighbor.
“We want the city and the neighborhood involved,” Chalk said, adding that the mayor and some City Council members had been advised of the effort. “We want it all out in the open and to do what’s best for the whole university and the city of Greenville.”
Funding for any upgrades likely would come from private donations, said David Redwine, chancellor’s residence committee chair.
“We’ve just started in this process, but I think we’re off to a good start,” Redwine said.
The usage subcommittee will report to the full Board of Trustees at its July 22 meeting.
Contact Jackie D
Writer Peter Makuck, outside his Bogue Banks home, says life experiences are good fodder for stories and poetry. “Use that rich, physical world to express inner feelings,” Makuck said.
Kathryn Kennedy/The Daily Reflector

“Long Lens,” Peter Makuck’s latest volume of poetry, was published in April of this year. It is the ninth compilation by the respected writer, who also has published essays, reviews and two collections of short stories.

**Writer finds the creative process is its own reward**
By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, July 10, 2010

It’s no wonder Peter Makuck became interested in language.
The passion didn’t rise immediately in the respected writer, who has published essays and reviews, two collections of short stories and nine poetry volumes — the most recent in April of this year.
Growing up in Connecticut, Makuck said he was a mediocre student who never read. He usually had girlfriends fill him in on story plots before papers came due. But “Barn Burning,” a short story by William Faulkner, wrenched him from literary apathy as a college freshman.
That first summer back home he spent reading. It was a change from running around, drag racing, working on cars and making trouble. Macuck’s parents worried. They shouldn’t have.
He published his first poem at age 30. It ran in the Southern Literary Journal and paid $50. That was cause for celebration, the 69-year-old Makuck said in an interview on Thursday.
That poem — “Dziadek” — is included in the selected poems portion of Long Lens, his latest compilation. “Dziadek” is a recollection of his Polish grandfather that came to Makuck during a ride through the Ohio countryside. The graduate student happened upon an abandoned farmhouse that stirred memories of the man’s funeral.
It’s that observant nature that comes through so clearly in Makuck’s work. Foxes and flora keep company with more difficult subjects: A boy swept out to sea by a rip current or the setting of the Kent State shootings, where he and his wife were graduate students.

Each experience is part of the memory bank Makuck uses as fodder for writing. Some bits are embellished and improved upon, other aspects eliminated. Too much detail can bog you down, he said. One might call it poetic license.

“I see something that happens and sooner or later it becomes a poem or a story,” Makuck said. “What we see, what’s before us is a wonderful playground for the imagination.

“Good poetry aims out, rather than (stating) people’s inner feelings. Use that rich, physical world to express inner feelings.”

For Makuck, those impressions gush out onto the page without knowledge of who will read them or what effect they may have. Each work may goes through 20 to 40 drafts before he abandons it and moves to the next piece.

He feels no pressure to write poetry, meet deadlines other than his own or produce a predefined body of work that would denote success.

“The process itself is its own reward,” Makuck said. “There’s not a big payday involved.”

Partly because of that, he taught. Makuck brought his family to Greenville where he spent 30 years with the English faculty at East Carolina University. He semi-retired two years ago with honors including Distinguished Professor Emeritus, and having spent a year as visiting distinguished writer at Brigham Young University.

As an authority on literature’s most ambiguous genre, Makuck said he got smart when it came to grading the poetry of students.

So long as they participated in class, completed assignments and fulfilled other requirements, students would receive an A or a B. The higher grades were awarded to students whose poems he judged best.

Selecting works for the journal he created and edited at ECU, Tar River Poetry, required more subjectivity. Makuck recalls reading 100 poems a day at times, something he jokingly describes as “not normal or healthy.”

Like every poet or poetry-lover, Makuck has his own idea of what defines his art. He doesn’t think lines have to rhyme — his poems don’t — but the language should “lift something above the flatness that characterizes everyday speech.”

He remembers memorizing sonnets and other poems during high school. Students would stand and recite, he said, rather than being taught what the poet was trying to say.

“(I thought) if this is poetry, I can live without it,” Makuck said of those early impressions.

Today, students can absorb a more diverse poetic legacy.

Makuck believes interest in writing has not waned. Creative writing classes at ECU are always full, he said. Writing retreats have grown in popularity.

“People always have a need to be quiet, shut off their cell phones and meditate,” Makuck said. “Writing serves that...perhaps poetry best.”

The professional writer has new projects in the works. He’s circulated another batch of short stories to publishing houses and is shaping a poem inspired by a recent trip to Greece.

“I’ve been addicted to writing since college,” he said. “I couldn’t stop if I wanted to.”

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at k kennedy@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.
ECU's Scott Residence Hall getting rebuilt

Saturday, July 10, 2010

ECU News Services

Consider it the ultimate in recycling. East Carolina University is taking a 40-plus-year-old residence hall down to its concrete walls and floors and rebuilding a new facility inside that shell. The project has been happening during the past 13 months on ECU's College Hill with the reconstruction of Scott Residence Hall.

The process started in May 2009 with Scott Hall being gutted. The building has been refitted with new interior walls, doors, tile floors, bathroom fixtures, paint, windows and plumbing, along with mechanical and electrical systems. The final touches, such as vinyl flooring in the rooms and hallways, will go in before mid-August, when the facility must be completed for students arriving for the fall semester.

"The exterior walls were ripped off because we moved the exterior of the building out 8 feet to give us more room to reconfigure the suites," Gina Shoemaker, interim assistant director for ECU engineering and architectural services, said. "We also built a wing on the back. It's a whole new building on the back of the existing Scott structure."

When completed, Scott will be the largest dorm on campus with capacity to house 613 students. The building's previous eight-person suites have been converted to two four-person suites with two bathrooms.

"When you walk in to the new configuration, there are two bedrooms to the left and right, and those pairs of rooms are divided by a bathroom with 'Jack-and-Jill' access," Shoemaker said. "Each suite will still house eight students like previously, but only four will share the bathroom instead of all eight students in one bathroom."

The project cost is $28.5 million, which includes architectural fees, furniture and all university-supplied equipment such as telecom hardware. The actual construction cost $24.2 million, Shoemaker said.

The general contractor for the project is Barnhill Contracting based in Tarboro. When asked about the contrasts between the Scott Residence Hall of a few years ago and the new structure, Shoemaker said it is a new, different building.
“The building is a lot brighter, the color scheme is brighter, and the windows are larger,” she said. “The overall appearance is just a lot better, more modern.”
The new building has wider doorways, handicapped-accessible rooms and two elevators; there were none before.
A large, new laundry room, a full kitchen in the basement and meeting rooms also are part of the new building.
Another big change for Scott is that it will house both male and female students.

**Project takes on heart disease**

A $10 million grant will help researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and ECU collaborate with health-care practitioners and community leaders in Lenoir County to tackle heart disease, the county’s leading cause of death.

The UNC-ECU project aims to better understand causes of cardiovascular health disparities and test innovative solutions. It is one of 10 Centers for Population Health and Health Disparities funded by a five-year grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, one of the National Institutes of Health. The 10 centers also are supported by the National Cancer Institute and the Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research.

Lenoir County is on the buckle of the “stroke belt,” a name given to a region of the southeastern United States recognized by public health authorities for high incidence of stroke and other forms of cardiovascular disease. The county’s hypertension and cardiovascular disease rates are among the highest in the country, and many residents lack access to adequate medical care or opportunities that promote good health.

The project will be based at the UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. The center’s director, Dr. Alice Ammerman, professor of nutrition at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, is project co-leader along with Dr. Cam Patterson, chief of the division of cardiology in the UNC School of Medicine and director of the UNC McAllister Heart Institute. Patterson, Dr. Darren DeWalt and Dr. Tom Keyserling of the UNC School of Medicine, will lead three related research projects within the center.

The ECU team is led by Dr. Doyle M. Cummings, a pharmacist and professor of family medicine, and Dr. Stephanie Wilcox, assistant professor of public health.

The research will help determine genetic factors associated with cardiovascular disease risk and how clinical and public health communities can more effectively work together to reduce people’s risk of heart disease through medication, diet and physical activity. The project also will offer an intensive weight loss intervention for participants who are overweight.

**Alumnus receives national award**

Ronnie Barnes, a 1975 College of Health and Human Performance graduate, has received the 2010 Lifetime Contribution Award from the National Athletics Trainers’ Association Research & Education Foundation.

Barnes, vice president for medical affairs and head athletics trainer for the New York Giants, received the honor on June 23 at the NATA Foundation donor reception in Philadelphia.

The award recognizes his contributions to the advancement and growth of the foundation. Barnes was president of the foundation from 1991-99. He was inducted into the organization’s Hall of Fame in 1999 and was a member of the board of certification.

Barnes recently donated $10,000 to ECU to help establish a scholarship in memory of Rod Compton, a longtime faculty member in the Department of Health Education and Promotion and former director of sports medicine for the athletics department. Barnes described Compton as “an excellent teacher, mentor and friend.”

The Rod Compton Athletic Training Scholarship Fund will be awarded each year to a full-time undergraduate student pursuing a degree in athletic training.

“We are proud of the distinguished accomplishments of Ronnie,” Dr. Glen Gilbert, dean of the College of Health and Human Performance, said. “He is well respected throughout his profession.
“Providing scholarships is a significant way to assist our students in meeting the challenges of paying for their college education,” Gilbert said. “The fact that Ronnie is a graduate of the program and former student of Rod Compton adds special meaning this generous gift.”

**Student receives trade scholarship**

When LaDarius McEachin sets his sights on a goal, he aims to win. McEachin is the first African-American student in the College of Technology and Computer Science to receive the national Material Handling Education Foundation honor scholarship.

McEachin, a senior studying industrial distribution and logistics in the Department of Technology Systems, will receive a $3,000 scholarship.

McEachin credits his mother, who started but was not able to finish college, and his grandmother for instilling in him the value of education and high achievement. He also has a sister who is attending classes at a local community college.

McEachin said his hope is to complete what his mother started: finish college and to be an inspiration to other young African-Americans.

“I really like my program in industrial distribution and logistics. My teachers and advisers really want to see the students succeed,” McEachin said. “My mother and grandmother are the reasons I value a good education, and I thank them too.”

Since its origin in 1976, the Materials Handling Education Foundation has awarded more than 700 scholarships to students of all ethnic groups, nationalities, genders and ages. The Material Handling Industry of America, whose members provide financial support to the foundation, is an international trade association of manufacturers, systems integrators, consultants, publishers and software developers of goods and services that make the supply chain work.

“We honor LaDarius and all students like him who want to make a difference,” David White, dean of the College of Technology and Computer Science, said.

“Our college will continue our commitment to diversity and providing our students what they need to succeed; a supportive environment and committed faculty.”

This summer, McEachin is interning in Raleigh with Sensus Meter Corp., a company that develops electrical meters. McEachin is responsible for helping to upload component engineering technical documentation into the company’s database.
Book signing at Bailey's to benefit ALS research

Bailey's Fine Jewelry will hold a book signing on Friday to support the fight against ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

Author Bethany Bradsher will be in the store from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. signing copies of her recently released book, "Coaching Third," about former East Carolina University baseball coach Keith LeClair.

In 10 chapters, Bradsher chronicles the coach’s love for baseball, his battle with ALS, and the life beliefs she came to know through a year of interviews, shared stories, and research that quickly became more a study of faith than of a sports figure.

A portion of all proceeds of up to $1,000 raised by Bailey's Fine Jewelry on the day of the book signing will go to the Jim "Catfish" Hunter Chapter of the ALS Association, which is the North Carolina-based division of the national non-profit dedicated to the fight against ALS.

"Coaching Third" was released on March 5 in conjunction with the seventh LeClair Classic, an annual college baseball tournament memorializing the late ECU coach. It is Bradsher's first book.

Bailey's Fine Jewelry, founded in 1948, has stores in Raleigh, Rocky Mount and Greenville.
Protecting yourself from sun is critical
By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Friday, July 9, 2010

With all the hot and sunny weather recently, there’s little doubt that summer is in high gear. So are summer activities, like going to the pool and the beach. While these classic pasttimes are fun, they also involve a lot of time in the sun — which can lead to sunburns and even skin cancer.

Solar radiation, both natural and artificial, has been listed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a known carcinogen (cancer-causing substance) since 2000. At the beginning of this month, a national tax on indoor artificial tanning went into effect to discourage the activity.

According to the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), the incidence of melanoma, a type of skin cancer, has been increasing for 30 years, especially in young, white women (3.8 percent since 1995). Of the 28 million people who tan indoors annually, more than 70 percent are white females ages 16 to 29.

The AAD estimates that one in five Americans will develop skin cancer in their lifetime. More than one million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed in the United States each year.

Prevention is key, said East Carolina University dermatologist Robert H. Schosser. And part of prevention is understanding the skin and how it is affected by the sun.

Skin
The skin is the largest organ of the body and protects the inner systems. It is made up of three layers: the epidermis, the dermis and the underlying tissues. The epidermis is made up of a bottom layer of basal cells that divide to form keratinocytes that make protein and melanocytes that make melanin or pigment in response to sunlight. The outermost part of the epidermis is made of dead keratinocytes that are shed as new ones form. The cells in this layer are called squamous cells. The dermis is the thickest layer and contains the hair follicles, sweat glands, nerves and capillaries. While human skin comes in a range of colors, everyone has the same general amount of melanocytes, and they all make melanin, just in different forms.

Light
The light we see and the visible colors that make it up are only a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. At one end is infrared rays, which we perceive as heat, and at the other end are ultraviolet rays, which are harmful to skin. There are two types: ultraviolet A (UVA) and
ultraviolet B (UVB). Light wavelengths are measured in nanometers, and the longer the wavelength, the deeper it can penetrate. UVA rays are longer than UVB and can penetrate deeper into skin, and even go through glass. UVA passes uninterrupted through the atmosphere. UVB is partially blocked before it reaches the Earth’s surface. UVA exposure can cause long-term damage and premature aging; UVB rays are the ones that cause sunburns. Tanning bed rays have similar radiation to the sun, and in some cases may be stronger.

**Sunscreen**

These days, most people know that putting on sunscreen is a good idea when heading outdoors, but several misconceptions persist. When people go shopping for sunscreen, they see a number on the bottle ranging from 2 to 55, and recently as high as 70-100. This number is the Sun Protection Factor, or SPF. The number is the ratio between the amount of exposure time needed to produce a burn on unprotected versus protected skin. For example, if a sunscreen is rated SPF 2 and a person who would normally turn red after 10 minutes of exposure in the sun uses it, it would take 20 minutes of exposure for the skin to turn red with that sunscreen. But contrary to popular belief, SPF 30 is not twice as protective at SPF 15. Protection does not actually increase proportionately with a designated SPF number. A sunscreen with SPF of 15 blocks 93 percent of UVB rays. SPF 30 blocks 97 percent. Furthermore, the SPF system rates protection against only UVB rays. Broad-spectrum sunscreens protect against both kinds of ultraviolet rays, but the SPF system rates only the degree of UVB protection. There is no rating system for UVA protection. The system also is tested based on an application concentration of two milligrams per centimeter squared, though most people only apply about half to one milligram.

So with the dizzying array of choices, how does one choose the right sunscreen? While Schosser doesn’t endorse a particular brand or variety, he says, “Use the biggest number that you don’t mind the feel and smell of.”

Apply sunscreen 15-20 minutes before entering the sun or water, he said.

“It does need time to absorb,” Schosser said.

And even so-called waterproof sunscreens need to be reapplied about every two hours, Schosser said.

**Damage and cancer**

Ultraviolet radiation strikes cells in the skin and is absorbed by molecules called chromophores, Schosser said. Some release chemicals called cytokines which can cause damage resulting in redness, pain and blistering — a sunburn. Melanin is an effective chromophore. It causes darkening as a means of defense against subsequent exposure. DNA also is a chromophore. DNA damage in skin cells can result in cancer.

Skin cancers are divided into two kinds, the cancers that form from the pigment-making melanocyte cells and those that form from the keratinocyte skin cells.

Of the keratinocyte variety, basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas are the two most common forms of skin cancer, but are easily treated if detected early.

The cancers that form in the melanocytes, melanomas, are the most deadly. Though highly curable in young individuals if detected early, the late stage survival rate is 15 percent.

Melanomas can form in existing moles or appear as a new mole. Schosser said the ABCDE method of identifying melanomas: asymmetry, border irregularity, color variation, diameter more than six millimeters, and evolution or change over time.

**Prevention**

The best treatment for a sunburn is prevention, Schosser said. Use sunscreens, wear protective clothing, avoid being outdoors during the middle of the day, and stay out of tanning beds.

“There’s no reason to go in a tanning bed,” Schosser said, especially since there are spray-on or lotion-based tanning products.
“It’s important to feel good about how you look and to exercise and get outdoors, but there’s a safe way to do it,” he said.
Schosser recommends seeing a dermatologist at least once a year for a full-body exam.
Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or (252) 329-9567.
Taking on obesity

The June 28 article “Schools make no headway in fight against fat” accurately describes how fighting obesity in schools is extremely challenging. However, the notion that school-based interventions don’t work is incorrect.

The referenced intervention actually achieved important success, particularly in decreasing numbers of obese students. A primary fault of this intensive program, however, is that it’s not replicable.

Conversely, in Martin County, an innovative, successful and replicable intervention called Motivating Adolescents with Technology to choose Health (MATCH) is an integrated wellness education effort incorporated into the 7th-grade curriculum. During its first two years, nearly two-thirds of overweight students improved their weight status, with many showing improvement more than two years later.

With support from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of N.C. Foundation, we are spreading MATCH into six eastern counties, creating a replication model to allow implementation statewide in the future.

While there is a long way to go to eliminate obesity, progress is being made. There are educators, administrators, funders, researchers and practitioners across the state committed to ensuring future progress.

Suzanne Lazorick, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health
Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University
ECU Pediatric Healthy Weight Research and Treatment Center
Newport

George T. Hardison, Jr.
Science teacher and creator of MATCH
Jamesville
Legislature wraps it up; polls loom
Democrats are pleased; Republicans lie in wait

By Benjamin Niolet 
Staff Writer

RALEIGH — After all the bills, motions and votes of this legislative session, it's time for lawmakers to go home and explain themselves.

Democrats, who were the majority, will talk about saving teacher jobs in the face of a disastrous economic situation. They've already started telling voters about tax credits and other programs meant to lure business and spur job growth. They'll claim the mantle of reform because of an ethics and government package that was one of the last items approved.

"We have a good platform to leave on," said Senate Leader Marc Basnight, a Manteo Democrat.

Republicans have a lot to say about the things that didn't get done. They say the Democrats had low ambitions and put off important decisions — such as how to deal with an expected $3 billion shortfall next year. As it is, the current $18.9 billion budget delays until January cuts that will be necessary because Congress is unlikely to send to the state $500 million in Medicaid money.

"They were trying to do the least harm they could," said Rep. Thom Tillis, a Cornelius Republican. "You saw bills that were carefully crafted to do the best they could to help themselves in November."

Like schoolchildren with a project due, lawmakers crammed throughout the final week. In the last 24 hours, sessions were stop-and-start affairs that carried on until 5:30 a.m. Saturday.

After a marathon week of pushing final bills, committee meetings and debates, the House and Senate wrapped up with a traditional ceremony — hugs and well wishes that looked an awful lot like the end of summer camp.

A GOP edge?

Republicans cleared out of the chamber. They may have good reason to look toward the fall. Because of a national mood that appears to be tilting against incumbents, especially Democrats, Republicans believe they have the advantage heading into this fall's elections when every seat in the legislature will be before voters. Democrats now control both chambers, but it's not certain who will be in charge after November.

It is unlikely that voters will pick their senators and representatives based on how they voted on a particular amendment or whether they made the best floor speech. Instead, campaigns will focus on, and voters will respond to, big themes or hot-button issues.

"The Democrats, it seems to me, didn't give Republicans any real ammunition like a tax increase," said Gary Pearce, a longtime Democratic consultant and strategist.

Given how bad the fiscal situation was, the Democrats did a pretty good job handling the political situation, Pearce said. "It seemed to be a political version of the Hippocratic oath. Do no
THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION BY THE NUMBERS

$18.9 billion - Dollars in the state spending plan
100 - Pounds of fried squash consumed each Wednesday in legisliative cafeteria
1,600 - Number of teacher jobs reportedly saved by state lottery money
$50.7 million - Dollars cut from in-home care services for Medicaid recipients
148 - Days in the session
7 - Years it's been since the state had a budget in place by the start of the fiscal year

harm. And they didn't.

But Democrats did raise taxes last year to cope with a budget shortfall that was as large as $4.6 billion.

"They're going to have to defend that," said Dallas Woodhouse, state director of Americans for Prosperity, a libertarian advocacy group. "It makes it harder to pass things like taxpayer-funded elections."

Woodhouse was referring to a proposal that was originally attached to the Senate's ethics reforms. The provision would have included a broad expansion of publicly funded campaigns for statewide elected officials. The provision died almost immediately after Woodhouse's group had former Charlotte mayor and Republican candidate for governor Pat McCrory record a robocall against it. Woodhouse can also claim credit for swiftly watering down a bill that dealt with nutrition standards in day cares.

Republicans said the bill was a step toward "a nanny-state" because it would have prohibited serving chocolate milk and juice boxes. Democrats argued the state already regulates nutrition and the bill followed the guidelines of a legislative task force that had studied the issue. Calls from Americans for Prosperity targeted conservative-leaning Democratic districts, and soon the bill was reduced to a set of suggestions.

Video sweepstakes ban

Democrats in the Senate can crow about a ban on video sweepstakes parlors. The games were out of state's ban on video poker, and Senate Democrats, led by Basnight, pushed a bill that sought to put the 900 parlors out of business. "It would have been awful if North Carolina had allowed the growth of that sort of operation," Basnight said.

The Senate forced the House to act. Democrats in the House, who had voted against video sweepstakes parlors, had previously agreed not to take action this session. When the vote came, several Democrats argued over whether killing the industry's 10,000 jobs would hurt the state's already struggling economy.

Speaker of the House Joe Hackney said Democrats can take credit for measures on jobs and ethics. They funded programs and provisions to stop waste, fraud and abuse in Medicaid. The budget includes provisions to save teacher jobs with the use of lottery money.

Democrats have already started campaigning on moves they said will save jobs and spur small business. Hackney noted that once the session ends, he intends to start campaigning in his own district, where he faces a Republican challenger.

On Friday, during a break in sessions, he deflected Republican criticisms of how Democrats had handled the session. "I've found that political rhetoric has little or nothing to do with what goes on down here," said Hackney, an Orange County Democrat.

On Monday, with the legislative session over, expect the political rhetoric from both sides to start flying.

Winners

Teachers: State lottery money saves 1,600 jobs.
Ferry riders: A bigger ferry subsidy and still no tolls on most routes.
State employees: No pay cuts.

Former Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory: Helped defeat a public financing bill by lending his voice to automated calls.

University of North Carolina system: The system took a $70 million reduction, but the cuts were not as severe as first feared.

Spanish mustangs: The wild horses that roam the Outer Banks are now the state's official horse.

Losers

Sweepstakes parlor owners and players: The games will be banned Dec. 1.
Athletic boosters: No more in-state tuition for out-of-state athletes at UNC campuses.
In-home personal care recipients: 18,000 or more will lose services.
State employees: No raises again.

American Civil Liberties Union: DNA will be collected from those arrested for some crimes.

Public campaign financing: A proposal for public financing of some state campaigns died a quick death.

State Sen. R.C. Soles: The longest-serving lawmaker ended his career in a swirl of legal controversies.

The business community: Lost a powerful advocate with the retirement of state Sen. David Hoyle of Gastonia.

Coyotes: Lawmakers approved new methods to trap the critters.

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Education largely spared worst cuts

How did the classroom fare? Education is the largest expenditure in the state budget. Public school leaders feared enormous cuts and teacher layoffs, but in the end, the budget picture wasn’t as bad as it could have been. Lawmakers also made some changes in education policies.

Lottery money was used to spare deep cuts in teaching jobs. Budget writers said 1,600 teaching jobs were saved.

Gov. Bev Perdue wanted about $40 million for software licenses and computers for teachers to track student progress. She received $10 million.

The final state budget included a $70 million spending cut for the UNC system. And that was viewed as good news, given that a previous plan had proposed far larger cuts. Universities will be allowed to increase tuition next year by as much as $750 per student to cushion the campuses from the reductions. Students should brace for higher costs, but financially needy students will get help.

The state’s community college system received its top budget priority — $81 million to pay for last year’s enrollment growth. The system’s 58 colleges grew by 30,000 students, a 15 percent increase that has led some instructors to teach as many as eight courses a semester.

School boards will be allowed to convert low-performing schools to charter schools, with permission from the State Board of Education. Those charters won’t count against the state’s 100-charter limit.

Staff writers Lynn Bonner and Eric Ferreri
A Chosen Few Are Teaching for America

By MICHAEL WINERIP

HOUSTON — Almeada Biggers, Harvard class of 2010, was amazed this past year when she discovered that getting into the nation’s top law schools and grad programs could be easier than being accepted for a starting teaching job with Teach for America.

Ms. Biggers says that of 15 to 20 Harvard friends who applied to Teach for America, only three or four got in. “This wasn’t last minute — a lot applied in August 2009, they’d been student leaders and volunteered,” Ms. Biggers said. She says one of her closest friends wanted to do Teach for America, but was rejected and had to “settle” for University of Virginia Law School.

Will Cullen, Villanova '10, had a friend who was rejected and instead will be a Fulbright scholar. Julianne Carlson, a new graduate of Yale — where a record 18 percent of seniors applied to Teach for America — says she knows a half dozen “amazing” classmates who were rejected, although the number is probably higher. “People are reluctant to tell you because of the stigma of not getting in,” Ms. Carlson said.

When Robert Rosen graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2009, he did not apply, fearing he would be turned down. Instead, he volunteered in a friend’s classroom weekly for the next year, to see if he liked teaching, but also to build a credential that would impress Teach for America. Asked how hard getting in is, James Goldberg, Duke ’10 said, “I’d compare it with being accepted to an Ivy League grad school.”

Mr. Goldberg, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Carlson, Mr. Cullen and Ms. Biggers count themselves lucky to be among the 4,500 selected by the nonprofit to work at high-poverty public schools from a record 46,359 applicants (up 32 percent over 2009). There’s little doubt the numbers are fueled by a bad economy, which has limited job options even for graduates from top campuses. In 2007, during the economic boom, 18,172 people applied.

This year, on its 20th anniversary, Teach for America hired more seniors than any other employer at numerous colleges, including Yale, Dartmouth, Duke, Georgetown and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At Harvard, 293 seniors, or 18 percent of the class,
applied, compared with 100 seniors in 2007. “So many job options in finance, P.R. and consulting have been cut back,” said Ms. Carlson, the Yale grad.

In interviews, two dozen soon-to-be-teachers here in Houston, one of eight national Teach for America centers that provide a five-week crash summer course in classroom practices, mentioned the chance to help poor children and close the achievement gap as major reasons for applying. Victor Alquicira (Yale), who is Mexican-born, and Kousha Navidar (Duke), who is Iranian-born, said it was a chance to give back to a country that had given them much.

But there are other more material attractions. Teach for America has become an elite brand that will help build a résumé, whether or not the person stays in teaching. And in a bad economy, it’s a two-year job guarantee with a good paycheck; members earn a beginning teacher’s salary in the districts where they’re placed. For Mr. Cullen, who will teach at a Dallas middle school, that’s $45,000 — the same he’d make if he’d taken a job offer from a financial public relations firm. Ms. Carlson, who will also make $45,000 teaching first grade in San Antonio, said: “I feel very fortunate. I knew a lot of people at Yale who didn’t have a job or plan when they graduated.”

In contrast, the Peace Corps (to which Teach for America compares itself) pays a cost-of-living allowance adjusted for each country where volunteers work, and a $7,500 stipend when the 27-month stint is finished.

While Teach for America is highly regarded by undergrads — Mr. Goldberg said Duke recruiting sessions typically attracted 50 students — it gets mixed reviews from education experts.

Research indicates that generally, the more experienced teachers are, the better their students perform, and several studies have criticized Teach for America’s turnover rate.

“T’m always shocked by the hullaboo, given Teach for America’s size” — about 0.2 percent of all teachers — “and its mixed impact,” said Julian Vasquez Heilig, a University of Texas professor. Dr. Heilig and Su Jin Jez of California State University, Sacramento, recently published a critical assessment after reviewing two dozen studies. One study cited indicated that “by the fourth year, 85 percent of T.F.A. teachers had left” New York City schools.

“These people could be superstars, but most leave before they master the teaching craft,” Dr. Heilig said.

Carrie James, a Teach for America spokeswoman, challenged the report. Teach for America press releases cite a 2008 Harvard doctoral thesis indicating that 61 percent of their recruits stay beyond the two-year commitment. However, that same thesis also says “few people are
estimated to remain in their initial placement school or the profession beyond five or six years" — a finding not highlighted in the releases.

Ms. James says the program has an impact beyond the classroom, with an alumni contact list of 13,000 still in education, including more than 500 in "government or policy." Michelle Rhee, chancellor of the Washington, D.C., schools, and Michael Johnston, a Colorado state senator, are among the alums.

Several of the new Teach for America members say it's too early to know whether they'll stick with teaching. Ms. Biggers, who was admitted to Harvard and Vanderbilt Law Schools, has deferred attending to teach elementary school in Houston for two years. She then plans to go to law school and, after finishing, says she hopes to do something in education.

To be accepted by Teach for America, applicants survived a lengthy process, with thousands cut at each step. That included an online application; a phone interview; presentation of a lesson plan; a personal interview; a written test; and a monitored group discussion with several other applicants. Rachel Faust, a University of Maryland graduate who will teach in Miami, says she was struck by how aggressive some applicants were at the group session. "They say you're not against each other, it's just a group discussion," Ms. Faust said. "But some people don't treat it like that, they're very competitive."

A $185 million operating budget, (two-thirds from private donations, the rest from governmental sources) helps finance recruiters at 350 campuses to enlarge the applicant pool. "I was recruited like crazy," said Mr. Alquicira, who was a Yale Daily News editor and tutor in New Haven. "I'm not even sure how they got my name."

The 774 new recruits who are training here are housed in Rice University dorms. Many are up past midnight doing lesson plans and by 6:30 a.m. are on a bus to teach summer school to students making up failed classes. It's a tough lesson for those who've come to do battle with the achievement gap.

Lilianna Nguyen, a recent Stanford graduate, dressed formally in high heels, was trying to teach a sixth-grade math class about negative numbers. She'd prepared definitions to be copied down, but the projector was broken.

She'd also created a fun math game, giving every student an index card with a number. They were supposed to silently line themselves up from lowest negative to highest positive, but one boy kept disrupting the class, blurring out, twirling his pen, complaining he wanted to play a fun game, not a math game.

"Why is there talking?" Ms. Nguyen said. "There should be no talking."
“Do I have to play?” asked the boy.

“Do you want to pass summer school?” Ms. Nguyen answered.

The boy asked if it was O.K. to push people to get them in the right order.

“This is your third warning,” Ms. Nguyen said. “Do not speak out in my class.”

*On Education, a new column by Michael Winerip, will appear Mondays. Mr. Winerip can be reached at oneducation@nytimes.com.*