THE DAILY CLIPS

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ECU prof going on ‘Colbert Report’

East Carolina University biologist Jason Bond and a handful of his trapdoor spiders will travel to New York next week to appear on "The Colbert Report."

Bond, who studies and classifies new species of trapdoor spiders, will appear live on the late-night talk show Wednesday to present one of his newly discovered species to its host, Stephen Colbert.

Bond agreed in a June 24 phone interview with Colbert to name one of his 27 recently discovered species after the comedian and talk show host. Bond's decision earlier this year to name a trapdoor spider after rock star Neil Young (Myrmeckiaphila neilyoungi) caught Colbert's attention.

Colbert announced this week on the show's Web site that Bond will appear on the Wednesday to announce the name of the latest spider species. The program appears nightly at 11:30 p.m. on Comedy Central.

In 2007, Bond discovered the new species in coastal California and co-wrote a paper with Norman I. Platnick, curator at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, on the genus. The spider named after Young was found in Alabama. Other spiders have been named after Nelson Mandela, Angelina Jolie, and Bond's wife, Kristen.

Spiders in the trapdoor genus are distinguished on the basis of differences in genitalia, Bond said, from one species to the next. He confirmed through the spider's DNA that each species of spider is distinct within the genus.

Bond received grants from the National Science Foundation to classify the spider species and contribute to the group's Tree of Life project.

JASON E. BOND, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Biology at East Carolina University, holds a common tarantula in his lab at the Howell Science Complex.
East Carolina One-Stop polling place hits snag

BY GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Reflector

An effort to locate a One-Stop Early Voting polling place on East Carolina University's campus hit a snag earlier this week.

After working out arrangements to set up temporary parking on campus for the community, Pitt County elections officials learned the space sought to host the school's One-Stop, Early Voting site wouldn't be available, said Dave Davis, Pitt County Elections director.

Tia Stanley, a field organizer with Democracy North Carolina, an organization promoting election reform, was working with ECU officials and Davis to establish a One-Stop Early Voting location on campus.

Stanley and her organization are examining county voting trends and available polling places in an effort to guarantee enough early voting locations will be available to prevent long waits in line. Some Pitt County polls remained open past 10 p.m. during the 2004 presidential election because of long lines as people waited up to four hours to cast ballots.

One-Stop voting allows people to cast ballots in the days leading up to Election Day, which this year is Nov. 4. People can also register to vote and cast a ballot at the same time during early voting, something they can't do on Election Day. Early voting for the 2008 presidential election begins Oct. 16.

The Pitt County Board of Elections is expanding the number of early voting locations from three to five and had hoped to add a sixth, on campus.

"We looked back at the last presidential election (2004) when we had just one site and we had 13,000 voters then," Davis said. "During the (May) primary we had 9,000 one-stop voters."

Davis expects this fall's one-stop voter participation to break records.

The new locations, which still need approval of the U.S. Justice Department and the state board of elections, will be at the Winterville Fire Station and the former Council on Aging offices in the Pitt County office building on West Fifth Street.

Stanley said ECU administrators and local

See VOTING A9

Continued from A1

election officials were open to the idea of an early voting location on campus. ECU employs more than 5,000 people and is expected to enroll more than 26,000 students this fall.

Stanley said when she raised the idea of an on-campus early voting site, the Willis Building, a multi-purpose facility on Reade and First streets, was suggested as a location.

After discussion about providing parking for voters who were not affiliated with the university — an obstacle ECU officials felt like they could remove — ECU Associate Provost Austin Bunch broke the news that the Willis Building wouldn't work because of conflicts with other long-standing university commitments.

"We going back to the beginning," Davis said, but he noted that a decision must be made within the next month so Justice Department approval can be obtained.

ECU spokesman John Durham said they want to make early voting happen on campus.

"We are trying to find something, but we have a space shortage of pretty significant proportions and can't make any guarantee," he said.

Stanley said she is talking with two campus ministry groups with building's adjacent to campus to see if their facilities could house an early voting location.

Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@coxnc.com and 252-657-
Feds probing UNC-CH student president's death

Authorities said in search warrants that the two men charged in the slaying entered the victim's home through an open door and kidnapped her to take her to an ATM.

BY MARLON A. WALKER
The Associated Press

RALEIGH — Federal prosecutors have opened their own investigation into the killing of former University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill student body president Eve Carson, according to a letter made public Thursday.

U.S. Attorney Anna Mills Wagoner mentioned that a federal investigation was opened March 14 — less than two weeks after Carson was found dead — in a letter sent to Orange County District Attorney Jim Woodall, who is handling the case.

The April 23 letter asks Woodall not to release search warrants in the case because doing so "would be detrimental to the federal investigation, which is ongoing."

The warrants were initially sealed after Carson was found dead March 5, and it remained unclear Thursday whether Wagoner still opposed the warrants’ release when a judge unsealed documents in June.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Lynne Klauer said Thursday that Wagoner would not comment on the letter, saying the document reveals the only details being made public.

"We're going to let the memo speak for itself," Klauer said.

Messages left at Woodall’s office Thursday afternoon weren’t immediately returned.

Demario James Atwater, 22, and Laurence Alvin Lovette Jr., 17, have been charged with first-degree murder, first-degree kidnapping and several other charges related to Carson’s death. Atwater also faces charges of possession of a firearm by a felon and possession of a weapon of mass destruction, in this instance a shotgun.

If convicted, Atwater could face the death penalty and Lovette could face life in prison. Lovette cannot be executed because of his age.

Autopsy reports show Carson was shot several times, including a blast to her head from a shotgun. The 22-year-old was found on a street not far from the university.

Authorities said in search warrants that Lovette and Atwater entered Carson’s home through an open door and kidnapped her to take her to an ATM. Police believed both defendants shot her, but those details have not been confirmed by prosecutors.

Lovette also is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Duke University graduate student Abhijit Mahato, who was found dead Jan. 18 in his apartment near the university’s campus in Durham, about a 20-minute drive from Chapel Hill. Stephen Oates, 19, of Durham, also is charged with murder in Mahato’s death.
Bonner traveled to Paraguay for a medical mission with the Air Force

BY TOM MARINE
The Daily Reflector

WINETVILLE — Ashley Bonner has a scrapbook that details her 2006 trip to Paraguay as a senior airmen in the United States Air Force Reserve.

It shows pictures and news articles of the medical humanitarian mission — a nine-day, three-town operation that treated 11,000 patients.

For her efforts in the mission, Bonner, 28, has been awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal from the 916th Aerospace Medicine Flight.

According to a news release from the United States Air Force Reserve, Bonner demonstrated remarkable adaptability and grace under fire while deployed to Paraguay as an integral component of the operation to deliver state-of-the-art preventative medical care to villages in the poorest areas of the country.

"Most of the people had never received medical attention in their life, and some of them walked four hours to get to where we were," said Bonner, who works in the PHD nursing program at East Carolina University.

"I'm proud of our unit for what we did. We were all emotionally touched by what we saw and did there."

Bonner said she plans to put in 20 years of service with the Air Force Reserve, but is also attending classes at ECU to become a special education teacher.

Bonner's parents, Rick and Shelia Walker of Winterville, said they were impressed with their daughter's desire to go back and continue to help some of the poorest areas in Paraguay.

"The thing that impressed me was that the day she got back, she had bug bites all over her arms," Rick said. "I asked her if she was glad to be back and she said 'no.' She got real tearful and said, 'those people appreciated everything we did.'"

"It wasn't what I expected."

Bonner said one moment that sticks in her mind is a young mother who was so malnourished she couldn't produce milk for her newborn baby. Instead, the mother was feeding her baby water, causing the infant to be thin and probably close to death.

"We helped educate the mother on how to provide nutrients for herself and for the baby," she said. "And we gave the infant some IV fluids to try give some strength."

As for future medical missions, Bonner said her unit usually goes on one every three years. She said they may go to Guatemala next year.

"I didn't join the military for the money or to go back to school," she said. "I joined because I felt it was what I was supposed to do."

Contact Tom Marine at tmarine@coxnc.com and 329-9567.
Pitt County teachers say visit to Japan provided insight

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

A group of Pitt County teachers who recently returned from Japan said the trip changed both their professional and personal lives.

The teachers returned with lots of ideas for the classrooms and a few new ideas about life too, said the group's leader John Tucker.

Tucker, history professor and director of the Asian Studies Program at East Carolina University, led the month-long trip with 12 Pitt County teachers as part of the Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad program.

Tucker said the teachers gained invaluable insight into the differences between American education and Japanese education, a lesson they can transfer directly to their classrooms.

"They will be able to say, 'When I was in Hiroshima visiting a public school, this is what I saw,'" Tucker said.

Tucker said the trip also gave the teachers some lessons in empathy. Visiting a foreign country, where you don't speak the language, can open your eyes to what it's like to have trouble communicating, he said.

"Going to a country like Japan shows you what it is like to be illiterate. When you go out into the country you see less and less English, until it finally disappears," Tucker said.

Anne Tilley, a teacher at Ayden-Grifton High School, said feeling illiterate and confused put her in the position of some of her students.

"You forget what it is like when you have been teaching a long time — what it is like to be the student," Tilley said.

"But when you are in a country where you can't speak the language you begin to learn from body language and watching people's faces."

By visiting classrooms all over the country, the group got a taste of how teachers deliver lessons in one of the most successful educational countries in the world.

"The thing that affected me most as far as the classroom was the level of respect that was everywhere and the level of patience everywhere," said Christian Bethel, of North Pitt High School.

Tilley noticed a different attitude among the students in Japan that she hopes to foster in her classroom.

"The thing that knocked me off my feet was how happy the kids were to be at school," she said. "I did not see anything that could be remotely construed as apathy."

The schools in Japan focus on the entire student, the teachers said.

PITT TEACHERS gained invaluable insight into the differences between American education and Japanese education, a lesson they can transfer directly to their classrooms, one educator said.

COMING SUNDAY: East Carolina University faculty members and students learn about their heritage and discover a bit of "home" on their trip to Ghana. Look, E1

The Pitt County teachers watched as children in a Japanese class took turns in a wheelchair to get a sense of what it is like to help someone, and what it's like to be helped. The exercise is part of how educators attempt to produce well-rounded students by the time they finish high school, Tucker said.

Each of the teachers expects to alter the way they teach after watching the students in Japan, Tucker said. The trip gives them an endless source of material for teaching tolerance and inclusion, as well as showing cultural aspects of country vastly different from this one, he said.

While the teachers brought back many ideas for their classrooms, many felt a spiritual connection to the culture and natural beauty of Japan as well.

Seven of the 12 teachers hiked up Mount Fuji and took away feelings that can not be generated in a classroom, they said.

See JAPAN, B3
The group witnessed a lightning storm from above as they climbed the mountain on the Fourth of July. They stopped and sang America’s national anthem, 11,000 feet above sea level, as they watched a lightning storm during the sunset, Tucker said.

"We all sensed why the Japanese have concluded that Fuji is the most sacred mountain in Japan," Tucker said.

Tilley said the trip on Mount Fuji was very moving for her.

"It was just the most meaningful thing personally," she said. "That connection with reality that showed me how hard it can be to learn things."

The group spent the majority of their time in Kyoto, the imperial capital of Japan from 794 to 1868, that is known as the "City of 10,000 temples," Tucker said.

Tucker, who has visited Japan many times, said he takes something different away every time he visits.

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Frederick M. Parham

Dr. Frederick M. Parham, 75, passed away Tuesday, July 29, 2008. A memorial service will be held today at 2 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Greenville.

Fred was a native of Latta, S.C. He graduated from The Citadel and then went on to the University of South Carolina for graduate school. After working at DuPont in Kinston, he went to the University of Minnesota for his postdoctoral study. Following a year of teaching at King College in Bristol, Tenn., he began a long and successful career at East Carolina University. During this time he served as Chairman of the American Chemical Society and as acting chair of the Chemistry Department at ECU.

Fred, a lifelong Presbyterian, greatly enjoyed reading, history, and baseball, and was well known for his sense of humor. Even during the last two years of physical decline, he maintained his positive attitude and good disposition. He was a loving husband, father, son, and brother.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Angie Parham.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Linda Parham; son, Fred Parham, of Durham; daughters, Beth Parham, of Cary and Andrea Parham, of Raleigh; brothers, Clayton Parham and wife, Hepsy, and Jeff Parham, all of Latta, S.C.

A reception will be held after the service at First Presbyterian Church for friends and family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church, 1400 S. Elm Street, Greenville, NC 27858, or to the Robert C. Lamb Lecture Fund, ECU Chemistry Dept., 300 Science and Technology Bldg., Greenville, NC 27892-0003.
Ruth R. Matthtis

CLINTON — Mrs. Ruth R. Matthtis, 87, of 1775 Union School Road, died Thursday, July 31, 2008, at Mary Gran Nursing Center. The funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church with the Rev. Larry King and the Rev. David McClellan officiating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Mrs. Matthtis, a native of Sampson County, was the daughter of the late Julius Reeves and Mattie Tyndall Reeves and was the widow of Claxton Hall Matthtis. She was also predeceased by four brothers, Norman, Haywood, Junior, and Wilbert Reeves. She had been a housemother at Chi Omega Sorority at ECU, and retired as a bookkeeper at Gaddy Pharmacy. She was a member of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church.

Surviving are a son, Ray Matthtis of Clinton; a daughter, Matilda Jane Pate and husband, Alan, of Winterville; two grandchildren, Clay Pate of Winterville and Tracy Necole Armwood of Greensboro; two great-grandchildren, Christopher Armwood and Dominic Armwood; and a sister, Dorothy Hunter of Greensboro.

The family will receive friends tonight from 6-8 at Crumpler-Honecutt Funeral Home and at other times at 1775 Union School Road, Clinton.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association, Raleigh Office, 434 Fayetteville Street Mall, Two Hanover Square, Suite 1650, Raleigh, NC 27601.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.crumpler-honecutt.com.

Arrangements by Crumpler-Honecutt Funeral Home, 118 Fayetteville St., Clinton.
Edwards' scholarship program ending

RALEIGH — The scholarship program started by former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards that has sent rural high school graduates to college for free is ending after three years.

The College for Everyone program at Greene Central High School will end this year. The pilot program has sent 190 Greene County students to college and cost $600,000 in its first two years. It was started in 2005, the year after Edwards was the Democratic vice presidential candidate.

Before his presidential nomination campaign ended this year, Edwards said he wanted a similar national program.

Program director Pamela Hampton-Garland said the program was designed to last three years.

--- From Associated Press reports
ECU biologist to give Colbert a report

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A trapdoor spider species found along the coast of California last year is Stephen Colbert’s pick for a namesake.

To answer all of the faux conservative talk show host’s questions about his new mascot, East Carolina University biologist Jason Bond will appear as a guest Wednesday on the Comedy Central show “The Colbert Report.”

Bond specializes in spiders and millipedes. He and students study both new and known species and provide names for the new ones.

Colbert’s namesake is Aptostichus (ap-TAS′-tih-kus) stephencolberti. Because Colbert doesn’t pronounce the “t” in his last name, it will also be silent in the spider’s name.

Colbert demanded that a spider species carry his name after learning that Bond named a spider for rocker Neil Young.
NEW BREAK ON COLLEGE BOOKS

Students this weekend can skip taxes on books costing up to $300

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

DURHAM

Attention, medical students: This weekend you can save $10.22 on that bend-with-your-knees heavy copy of "Vander's Human Physiology: The Mechanisms of Body Function."

Last year, students buying that textbook — priced at $151.50 at UNC-Chapel Hill's health affairs bookstore — wouldn't have been able to reap the benefits of the state's annual sales-tax holiday. The tax-free benefit was capped at $100 per book.

This year's limit is $300 for any textbooks bought today through Sunday, thanks to a tweak by state lawmakers.

Some students say a reprieve from the 6.75 percent tax is appreciated, but hardly enough.

"It's not as helpful as it first seems, given the overall cost of books and how early you need to order," said Jay Dawkins, student body president at N.C. State University. "Many students don't have a final book list yet for their classes or they aren't back. And it doesn't do anything for the round of books needed for second semester."

But bookstores on Triangle campuses are still hopeful that students will take advantage of the deal. And UNC system leaders, alarmed in recent years about textbook prices, are lauding the change.

Still, some students say the tax relief doesn't compare to savings they find on the Internet.

"I found it a heck of a lot cheaper through Amazon," said Matt Conrad, a recent UNC-CH graduate now doing research in a campus lab. "I usually got new books for less than the price of used books here."

The risk for Conrad comes if he drops the course. He can always resell a book he doesn't need, but he can't return it.

Campus bookstores have trumpeted the tax holiday this week, preaching its virtues in brochures and flyers. At UNC-CH, freshmen were told of the tax break during orientation. Students ordering textbooks online through campus bookstore Web sites won't have to pay taxes either.

The bookstore at Wake Technical Community College, which is usually closed on weekends, will be open Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to capture some extra business, said Larry Long, the store's manager.

Long isn't sure how busy the store will be. Wake Tech's summer session just finished, and the campus is in a be-

SEE TEXTBOOKS, PAGE 4B

SALES TAX HOLIDAY

This year's sales tax holiday runs from 12:01 a.m. Friday through 11:59 p.m. Sunday.

The weekend offers a reprieve from the state's 6.75 percent sales tax on a variety of items, including clothing, computers, school supplies and more.

Many stores, including local university bookstores, will open early today in anticipation of a busy weekend. Triangle malls and other shopping centers also will offer extended hours.

You can find the full list of what's eligible for the tax break, and many stores' schedules online at retail reporter. Sue Stock's blog, takingstock.newsobserver.com.
TEXTBOOKS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

between-semesters lull, with fall classes starting Aug. 18. Still, Long is a fan of increasing the cap for the tax-free holiday.

"We always said before, when it was $100, that it wasn't high enough," he said.

College students have grumbled about textbook prices for years. In 2007, the UNC system required campuses to lower book costs for their students, who pay, on average, between $800 and $1,200 a year for their books.

Public universities now either promise to buy back books or offer book-rental programs.

Peter Hans, a member of the UNC system Board of Governors who last year chaired a committee examining the textbook pricing issue, said the tax change this year is a public acknowledgment of a problem that is still far from solved. The bigger challenge, he said, is to pressure the publishing industry to drive down prices.

"The legislature's action is welcome, but it is certainly a short-term step," he said.

SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS

Elementary and secondary school students won't be dropping $300 on a book, but the start of a new school year begins with a supply list of items to be purchased.

Schools in Johnston County send supply lists to local stores, such as the Walmart in Clayton, where they are displayed.

Durham and Wake schools often post their lists on their Web sites.

With the first day of school more than three weeks away, however, teachers will undoubtedly add a few items to the standard supply list once classes begin.

"It's definitely not a solution," he said. "I got lucky.

Students also sell a lot of books to each other, avoiding the tax hit entirely. The practice reduces university profits, but annual sales have still continued to grow, said Richard Hayes, director of N.C. State University's bookstores. Sales last fall topped the previous year by almost 20 percent, he said.

Staff writer Tim Simmons contributed to this story.

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House votes for more disclosure of college costs

BY JIM ABRAMS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - The House moved Thursday to make college costs more transparent, and possibly more affordable, in passing the first major overhaul in a decade of the federal higher education act.

The legislation, which passed the House 380-49 and was headed for a Senate vote as early as Thursday night, would give prospective students more information about college tuition and textbook costs, while making Pell Grants, the main federal aid program for low-income students, available year-round.

"It seems the only thing consistent about college costs is that they are going up and going up rapidly," said Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon of California, the top Republican on the Education and Labor Committee. "With this bill we hope to change that."

The White House has complained that the legislation creates costly and duplicative programs, but President Bush is expected to sign the measure negotiated by the House and Senate.

Action on the Higher Education Opportunity Act comes five years after the last major overhaul of higher education programs, enacted in 1998, expired. It also comes a year after Congress took other steps, including cutting interest rates on student loans, raising Pell Grants and redirecting billions of dollars from lender subsidies to programs targeting students more directly, to help families and students cope with soaring college costs.

This bill focuses more on transparency: It requires the Education Department to publish detailed data about college pricing trends on its Web sites and requires the 5 percent of colleges with the greatest cost increases over three years to explain those cost increases to the Education Department.

Textbook publishers must share pricing information with professors and "unbundle" materials so students can buy only the materials they need for their classes. The practice of bundling textbooks with supplementary materials such as CDs is one reason textbooks cost about $3000 per student every year, according to a 2005 government study.