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ECU conducts 'shooter drill'
By Jennifer Swartz
Tuesday, August 2, 2011

A live emergency drill is under way on East Carolina University's west campus simulating a shooter on campus.

The drill to test first-responders' skills in a crisis got under way at 9:10 a.m. on Health Sciences Drive just off N.C. 43 north.

It featured ECU police Sgt. J. Cherry, who took on a role as he approached two men outside the College of Nursing.

As he spoke with the men one suddenly opened fire, wounding Cherry in the leg. As part of the drill, the men then overpowered the officer and took his gun. Officers responded and entered the building searching for casualties and gunmen. Greenville police, Pitt County sheriff's deputies and Greenville Fire-Rescue also are participating.

As part of the drill, ECU officials locked down both the east and west campuses, made an announcement over a public-address system and sent out several campus alerts.

The event around the Health Sciences building, East Carolina Heart Institute and the Brody School of Medicine is expected to wrap up between 12:30-1 p.m. Parking and traffic restrictions will be lifted about 2 p.m.

The Brody School of Medicine, the outpatient clinic, East Carolina Heart Institute and Family Medicine Center may be accessed by taking Moye Boulevard to Campus Loop Road or taking Arlington Boulevard to Heart Drive.

University officials and representatives of Graham-based EnviroSafe Consulting are expected to participate in a media briefing later to review the exercise.
A little more than a year ago, East Carolina University conducted an exercise simulating the type of scenario that would be a nightmare for any college campus. A shooter is on the premises, armed and intent to harm students, faculty and staff, and while law enforcement looks for the suspect to contain the threat, information must be relayed to the entire university community to keep it safe.

Today ECU will repeat the drill, hoping to improve on its performance and ensure that, should such an event actually unfold, the response is polished and professional. East Carolina officials should be commended for its commitment to this effort, one that builds on the experiences of other schools and could save lives should the unthinkable unfold here.

The idyllic mountain setting of Blacksburg, Va., provides the Virginia Tech community a sense of familiarity and comfort. It is a town where doors go unlocked at night on account of the small size of the town and its very low crime rate. A visit there, which many East Carolina fans have made for football games, makes it difficult to believe it was the site of such horror more than four years ago.

On an April morning, a 23-year-old English student murdered 32 students and instructors before taking his life in the worst school rampage in history. School officials were woefully unprepared for the attack and made countless mistakes in how they communicated the threat to the university community. They face legal action from families of the victims and have been penalized by Washington for their response.

In conducting drills like the one today, East Carolina intends to prove that the lessons learned from that tragedy have not been ignored. In this exercise, a shooter is loose in the Health Sciences Building and the full-scale response is intended to look and feel like a live event. There will be actors and emergency personnel on site and a coordinated law enforcement response.

The hope is that East Carolina officials can respond swiftly, communicate effectively and end the threat quickly. That is surely what they would intend to do should the need arise in a real event scenario, one not so outlandish when considering a recent spate of violence witnessed across the city.

Universities intend to be pristine settings, open and accessible spaces conducive to the academic study and research pursued by young adults. Keeping them safe is no easy task, but it is reassuring to see East Carolina making every effort to do so.
ECU to conduct drill simulating on-campus gunman

Tuesday Aug. 2, 2011
The Associated Press

GREENVILLE, N.C. -- East Carolina University is conducting a drill that simulates a gunman on campus so the school can evaluate its ability to cope with a shooter.

The exercise will begin Tuesday morning on the campus near the health sciences building, East Carolina Heart Institute and the Brody School of Medicine. ECU police, the Greenville Police Department, the Pitt County Sheriff's Office and Greenville Fire-Rescue plan to participate, along with ECU officials.

The school says students, faculty, staff and visitors should avoid some areas until 2 p.m. Tuesday. Those areas are: the health sciences building and parking lot to the north; the Laupus Library parking lot; and the overflow parking south of health sciences.
CHAPEL HILL Confidential student records were stolen from a UNC-Chapel Hill building which houses the Honor Court.

At 8 a.m. Monday, UNC-CH officials discovered that the student judicial system office in Student and Academic Services Building North had been broken into and 31 students' confidential records stolen, according to a news release.

Damages to a window, wall and 31 files total $700 in property damages and stolen items, according to a police report.

The student judicial system office contains the Honor Court, which was discussed at last week's UNC-CH board of trustees meeting.

The Honor Court disciplined football player Michael McAdoo for receiving impermissible help on a paper from a tutor last year but failed to catch McAdoo's plagiarism.

UNC-CH declined to comment on any possible connection between McAdoo's case and the break-in. Student affairs officials are contacting students whose records were stolen.

The Department of Public Safety declined to comment further because of its investigation.

Anyone with information related to the investigation is urged to call UNC-CH Police Investigator Ross Barbee at 919-962-0564 or Crime Stoppers at 919-942-7515. All callers may remain anonymous.

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Advocate says UNC let Michael McAdoo down

BY KEN TYSIAC - Staff Writer
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A prominent advocate for University of North Carolina football players said Monday that student-athletes are being "used" for the greater benefit of the school.

Robert Orr, former N.C. Supreme Court justice and executive director of the North Carolina Institute for Constitutional Law, said the academic support system failed former Tar Heels defensive lineman Michael McAdoo, who was ruled permanently ineligible by the NCAA because of academic fraud.

"You let these kids in and put them to work 30 hours a week in an intensely physical job [as athletes], and then if they make a misstep we kick them under the bus," Orr said Monday. "That's what irritates me."

Last year, Orr successfully lobbied the NCAA for reinstatement of one of McAdoo's teammates, fullback Devon Ramsay. In an op-ed column appearing in this morning's edition of The News & Observer, Orr wrote that in McAdoo's case, he ordinarily would not have been admitted to UNC except for his football skills.

Orr has not had direct access to transcripts but said the academic community and support system let McAdoo down.

McAdoo could not be reached for comment.

In a Dec. 14 hearing with NCAA officials, though, McAdoo said he has needed help having information explained to him as a student.

"We have to trust employees and staff on (sic) this university to keep up with a lot of the information and guide us through our experiences," McAdoo said, according to a transcript of his NCAA hearing submitted in court filings last month. "This is why I came here to UNC. I trusted I would have great, caring people who were smart and would help guide me through this university."

McAdoo is suing UNC and the NCAA, alleging negligence, breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty. Last month, Durham County Superior Court judge Orlando Hudson denied McAdoo's request for a preliminary injunction restoring his eligibility to play football as the suit continues.
Noah H. Huffstetler III, McAdoo's lawyer, declined to comment on his academics. Huffstetler said UNC and the NCAA must respond to the lawsuit by Aug. 30, at which point discovery in the case will begin.

Barbara Polk, UNC's deputy director and senior associate director of undergraduate admissions, would not discuss McAdoo's case specifically but said UNC policy allows students with special talents to be admitted to the school.

"If a student's overall record in general is such that there is a special talent that's a bit unique, that can be one of the factors that we take into consideration," Polk said.

Polk said UNC does not admit students unless the admissions office is comfortable that they have a reasonable chance to succeed academically and graduate.

In a story published in November, The News & Observer and Charlotte Observer wrote that at UNC, about half the players in the football recruiting classes over the past six years have been admitted through a special committee process required for students who fall below academic requirements. Those recruits include athletes who scored below 900 on the SAT or were in the lower half of their high school class.

The newspapers reported that freshman football recruits at UNC have posted an average SAT score nearly 300 to 400 points below that of the overall freshman class for much of the past decade, according to numbers provided by university officials.

According to the most recent NCAA statistics, UNC's football players who entered with the 2003 freshman class posted a graduation success rate of 75 percent.

In June, the NCAA served UNC with a notice alleging nine major violations. UNC is scheduled to appear before the Committee of Infractions on Oct. 28.

"I do think (former coach) Butch Davis didn't admit Michael McAdoo or any of these other players," Orr said. "All he said is, 'Here's a kid I'd like to have play on the team.' It's the academic side that has to review the academic abilities and limitations of these kids." Orr said the problems are not limited to UNC.

"This is what really angers me having gotten into this," Orr said. "This isn't just UNC's football program. This is a system run amok nationally."

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Freshmen need to find balance

Modified Tue, Aug 02, 2011 06:10 AM
BY LEE BIERER - CORRESPONDENT

The statistics aren't encouraging: Nationally fewer than 50 percent of students graduate from the institution they started at within four years.

Parents are incredulous. "Really? When we went to college, everyone graduated in four years." Students are transferring, dropping out, taking time off, needing to work to pay for their tuition, etc. It's more complicated.

Here are some suggestions to help students avoid having their college experiences end in disappointment.

There is one overarching piece of advice that runs through all of these recommendations:

Strive for balance in your academic life and your social life.

Your academic life

Select a mix of classes. Don't try to impress your peers or your parents by taking too many upper level courses your first semester. Undoubtedly, there will be some large lecture hall classes, but try to register for at least one course with fewer than 30 to 40 students, where you have an opportunity to participate in class discussions and get to know your professor and classmates.

Don't fall behind in your classes. The pace in college is faster, and professors are generally less understanding of anything other than major hardships or severe personal issues. Falling behind and then trying to catch up can be the beginning of spiraling downward. Keep up with assignments, don't skip classes and find a study partner in every class.

Meet with your adviser. College advising covers the spectrum from horrific or nonexistent to overly nurturing. Strike up a relationship with your adviser by taking the initiative to schedule meetings during office hours and going prepared with questions. If you are dissatisfied with your adviser, look into changing to another professor you like.

Identify a mentor. This could be an upperclassman, a teaching assistant or a professor, but cultivate a relationship with someone you're comfortable with who can guide you.

Your social life

Manage your time. Create some structure. Try to get up at the same time each day and create a weekly routine. Block out time to study, eat and hang out with friends.
**Treat your social time as a reward.** Being disciplined from the beginning of the year is much easier than trying to overhaul bad habits.

**Regulate your time on Facebook and with video games.** Nothing sucks away time faster than sitting mindlessly in front of a computer or television screen. Plus, when students are on Facebook, they are usually reverting to their old friends from home and not reaching out to establish new relationships at school.

**Get involved, but don't overextend yourself.** Extracurricular activities are a great way to make new friends and feel involved at a college campus, but be realistic about your time commitments. Look at the range of clubs and activities you are most interested in and choose to participate in the few that will open you up to new experiences, introduce you to new people or develop your academic and/or professional interests.

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