THE DAILY CLIPS

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East Carolina University history professor Larry Tise discusses a portrait of Queen Elizabeth I which he and a team of ECU researchers have been examining to uncover facts about its origin and importance.
Cliff Hollis/ECU News Bureau

**Queen's portrait mystery still unraveling**
By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, August 19, 2010

MANTEO — As recently as Thursday morning, East Carolina University history professor Larry Tise searched for the reason that a portrait of Queen Elizabeth I crossed the ocean to be purchased by a North Carolina woman living in New York City in 1958.
It’s a final detail eluding Tise and a team of ECU researchers who spent the last six months staring into and through her painted visage, he announced Thursday to a group of 30 people.
The painting was placed in the researchers’ care by the staff and governing board of the Elizabethan Gardens, in whose gate house it hung for 50 years under speculation. Prior queries produced conflicting opinions about whether it was authentic or unimportant.
Local conservators, art historians, photographers and scientists established a number of other facts this year.
On a visit to Sir Henry Lee in 1592, a 59-year-old Queen Elizabeth sat for a portrait with Lee’s artist in residence, Marcus Gheeraerts. The piece in question is a copy made of the much larger work created that day, in which she is pictured standing over her kingdom.
Tise said it is not a traced copy of her bejeweled head and torso, but one that was painted freehand — a much more difficult skill. Pigmentation tests showed that one person may have painted the majority of it and another filled in the face, he said.
The purchaser, Ruth Coltrane Cannon, was aiding in the restoration of New Bern’s Tryon Palace and was buying any antiques that looked the part. But she also was a gardening enthusiast who had led campaigns to have gardens cultivated next to historical homes.
The state garden club raised $500 for the piece — far less than what she likely paid, Tise said. It hung during visitation months and was stored at the N.C. Museum of Art the rest of the year, with a periodic cleaning or removal of mold.
Until this year, when Tise convinced Elizabethan Gardens board to let ECU have a look.
Researchers never touched the portrait during their examination and returned it to the Elizabethan Gardens this month.
Tise spoke to garden members as part of their Celebration of the Queen and Virginia Dare’s Birthday events.
He still is disappointed that the origin detail remains a mystery.
Tise knows a “big jumble” of portraits was sold during the 1920s in numerous estate sales. He guesses the queen’s portrait was sold in 1926, but said he can’t be sure.
“We are so close to figuring this thing out,” he said. “Maybe tomorrow, maybe Monday.”
“It just is an open story still,” Elizabethan Gardens chairwoman June Bell said. “So we’ll keep it safe until we know something more.”
Tise said he wouldn’t advise selling the portrait.
Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.
Mark Nabell, left, helps his son, Grant, move his stuff on a dolly up the steps and into Jarvis Hall as students began to move into their dorms on campus at East Carolina University on Thursday.
Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector

Mother Donna Claybrook, front, along with father, Robert, back, help their daughter, Jada, carry empty boxes back to their car as a slow drizzle fell while students move into their dorms on campus at East Carolina University Thursday, Aug. 19, 2010. (Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector)
Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector

**ECU students return to campus**
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, August 19, 2010
As East Carolina University students move back to campus this weekend for fall classes, officials will test elements of the ECU Alert system.
The university will test its new outdoor notification speakers on the main campus in anticipation of the first day of classes on Tuesday.
The Emergency Notification Team will test speakers, mounted in 10 locations on campus, three times today and on Saturday to determine audibility. Activation times are scheduled for 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. The speakers would be used in the event of an emergency to alert students of important information and can be heard throughout campus.

Outdoor notification speakers also have been installed at the Health Sciences Campus, the West Research Campus and the North Recreational Complex and will be tested as well. The speakers are part of the ECU Alert emergency notification system that includes instant messages on computers on campus, text messages and display screens in most buildings on campus.

Students can sign up on the ECU website to receive text messages in the event of an emergency or follow the ECU Alert team on Twitter.

Officials expect about 5,500 students to live in campus housing for the 2010-11 academic year. Fall enrollment numbers will not be available until Sept. 9, and officials said it is difficult to estimate how many students will attend classes this year. Fall enrollment was 27,674 last year.

**Upcoming events**

Saturday: Walk the Plank at Campus Mall, 7:30 p.m. New ECU students learn about some of the school’s traditions; ice cream and an outdoor movie offered.

Monday: Faculty convocation, 9 a.m., Wright Auditorium.

Monday: 10th annual Pirate Palooza, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. The free event will feature live music, inflatable attractions, give-aways, food and the other activities.

Aug. 28: Million Meals Event, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Boys & Girls Clubs Minges Unit, Winterville. Organized by Stop Hunger Now and the Volunteer and Service Learning Center, the University Million Meals Event is designed to package meals to feed hungry people around the world.
Former Pirate makes SI cover

Former East Carolina football standout Chris Johnson is on the cover of the latest Sports Illustrated.

Johnson, entering his third season with the Tennessee Titans, is the face of a special report the magazine did on the workload of NFL running backs. Last season, Johnson became just the sixth player in NFL history to rush for 2,000 yards in a season and broke Marshall Faulk’s 1999 record for most yards from scrimmage in a season with 2,509.

Johnson carried the ball 358 times in 2009 and has 609 carries in two seasons.
OBITUARIES

Lynn H. Orr Jr.

Lynn H. Orr Jr., M.D., 62, of Greenville, died peacefully at his home surrounded by his family on Tuesday, August 17, 2010. A memorial service will be conducted Sunday at 2 p.m., at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

Dr. Orr graduated from R.J. Reynolds High School in Winston-Salem. He was a John Motley Morehead scholarship recipient and graduated from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Orr was awarded a Reynolds scholarship and attended Wake Forest University Medical School where he received his medical training and served his residency and cardiology fellowship. Dr. Orr joined the East Carolina University School of Medicine as an assistant professor of cardiology in 1979. He later spent 15 years in private practice before returning in 2000 to the Brody School of Medicine where he served as a Clinical Professor in the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences. Over the years Dr. Orr valued the conversations and friendships with his patients and was passionate about the time he spent teaching and mentoring the residents and cardiology fellows. Dr. Orr was also an active member of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church where he served on the vestry for several years as the Finance Chairman.

Dr. Orr is the son of the late Lynn H. Orr, Sr. and Eloise Bassett Orr.

Surviving are his wife of 35 years, Becki; son, Alexander Lynn Orr of Silver Spring, Md.; daughter, Ashley Michelle Orr of Washington, D.C.; sister, Eloise Orr Bourgeois and husband, Wayne, of Metairie, La.; brothers, William L. Orr and wife, Martha, of Winston-Salem, Wayne K. Orr and wife, Martha, of Kenner, La.; two nieces; four nephews; and a beloved great-aunt, Margaret Orr Harwick of Acworth, Ga.

The family will receive friends at Wilkerson Funeral Home on Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, P. O. Box 1924, Greenville, NC 27835.

Tuning up in Fountain
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, August 19, 2010

In the center of the historic town of Fountain is R.A. Fountain General Store and Internet Cafe. The venue not only offers sundry items for sale, it's the location of some great regional and local music in a family-friendly, alcohol-free atmosphere. This weekend marks the beginning of R.A.F's sixth season of live music, coinciding with the Fountain Peanut Festival. Two bands will perform, Craicdown and Sweet Potatoe Pie.
Before a slice of bluegrass is served on Saturday with Sweet Potato Pie, Craicdown will perform at 7:30 p.m. today.
Craicdown is a Raleigh-based Irish-Brazilian-Americana band. The three-member band includes Rob Sharer, Jim Roberts and Robbie Link.
Sharer takes center stage with vocals, guitar, fiddle, mandolin and Irish flute. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, Sharer lived in Clare, Ireland, where he studied and performed traditional Irish and Celtic music.
Percussionist Roberts is an East Carolina University music graduate who has performed with several bands in the Triangle area.
Special guest Robbie Link performs with Craicdown on bass and a variety of other instruments, while accordion player David DiGuissipe recovers from a back injury.
"Robbie's a fantastic musician and this will be a fun show for everybody," Roberts said.
Link is an instructor of double bass and cello at Duke University. A graduate of Indiana University in Bloomington and the N.C. School of the Arts, he has performed with the Bach Sinfonia, the North Carolina, Richmond and Louisville symphonies, and a long list of jazz notables that includes Mose Allison, Tal Farlow, and Carol Sloane.
Craicdown also will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday at Union Alley Coffeehouse in Washington, N.C.
Sweet Potato Pie — a popular band at bluegrass festivals throughout the Southeast — will play in Fountain for the first time at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

The five-member, all-female band performs “sweetgrass,” which is a blend of bluegrass, country, gospel and blues and includes tight harmonies. Guitarist Sonya Steed, who lives in Cary, is the only original member of the band, which formed in 2000. Her writing credits include songs, jingles, hymns, an outdoor drama and her own musical comedy. A point of interest about Steed is that she played basketball at University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

Missy Pyne, who plays mandolin, says she was “born in the middle of a tornado warning in West Texas and has been kicking up dust ever since.” She’s sung in choral groups in high school, college and regionally, but didn’t realize a love for bluegrass until hearing Sweet Potato Pie perform in 2002.

Pyne, from Fuquay Varina, is a senior communications major through ECU’s distance education program.

Banjo picker Crystal Richardson grew up in a bluegrass family, traveling to festivals and gospel shows on weekends. Her music-promoter father introduced her to many legends in the business. By the age of 12, Richardson was sharing the stage with Doyle Lawson and Lou Reid and subsequently became the youngest player to win the Adult Banjo Competition at the North Carolina State Fair. She toured with her own band, Risynfast, for two years and sings on Daughters of American Bluegrass, Vol. 1. Currently living in Seagrove, she joined Sweet Potato Pie in 2007.

Bassist Julie Brown grew up in Harnett County. Married to banjo picker Sam Brown, she has played and recorded with several regional bluegrass bands. She and her husband operate their family farm — raising cows, horses and catfish — in Coleridge.

Fiddler Ashley Davis joined Sweet Potato Pie in 2008, when she was 20 years old. When Davis is not playing with the band, she’s in school and works for a heating and air conditioning company.

Sweet Potato Pie has released four CDs, including its recent gospel record, “Journey Called Life.” The band also is featured on the compilation CD “Christmas in Carolina.”

**If you Go:**
What: Craicdown
When: 7:30 p.m. today
Where: R.A. Fountain General Store, 6754 E. Wilson St., Fountain
Cost: $6 for general admission, $8 for reserved seats

What: Sweet Potato Pie
When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday
Where: R.A. Fountain General Store, 6754 E. Wilson St., Fountain
Cost: $8 for general admission, $10 for reserved seats
Visit [www.rafountain.com](http://www.rafountain.com) or call 749-3228.
Sweet Potato PIE plays R.A. Fountain at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.
Contributed photo

Contributed photo by Donn Young
Craicdown performs at 7:30 p.m. today at R.A. Fountain General Store.

Sweet Potato Pie plays R.A. Fountain at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.
RALEIGH -- Rest assured taxpayers: State employees, almost to a person, meet or exceed expectations.

A 2008 report and a follow-up audit released Thursday claim that the state's system of performance reviews is often pointless since ratings are inflated and offer no real incentive to spur improvement.

The 2-year-old report from the Office of State Personnel, presented to the legislature, found that less than 1 percent of some 98,000 workers subject to personnel laws were rated as working below expectations. The report concluded those results were "inflated." And since the legislature has awarded raises on an across-the-board basis in recent years, the reviews are irrelevant when it comes to pay.

But the real problem, said an audit report released Thursday by State Auditor Beth Wood, is that no one has listened to the personnel office's assessment of the reviews, which was delivered to the legislature in 2008. Meanwhile, supervisors in state government are spending hundreds of thousands of hours completing near-useless performance reviews.

Wood's office sampled appraisals and found that among 697 reviews examined in the Department of Correction, none included measurable criteria upon which to judge employees. And in the few cases when employees fell below expectations, reviews included no plans for improvement or consequences for continued substandard performance, auditors found.

In 2008, the state personnel office studied all employees covered by the State Personnel Act. It did not include public school teachers. The audit released Thursday took a closer look at three agencies.

In a written statement, Gov. Bev Perdue noted that any reforms to the review process wouldn't change the fact that a big budget shortfall facing the state next year means there won't be any raises for employees regardless of what their reviews said.

"State employees haven't received raises in years but, if you ask most of them, I believe they'll tell you that they are thankful to have stable employment in today's economy," said Perdue, a Democrat. "Of course our employees want to be recognized for their hard work, and they deserve it. But it's difficult to see the benefit right now to linking evaluations to incentives when there simply are no incentives to offer."
State employees last received a raise two years ago, when lawmakers granted an across-the-board raise that was the greater of $1,100 or 2.74 percent, according to the legislature’s Fiscal Research Division. Teachers got a bigger raise that averaged 5 percent. It was the fifth consecutive year that lawmakers awarded an across-the-board increase.

The last raise based on merit was approved in fiscal 1991.

To further 'excellence' 

According to state law, the performance review system was created in the early 1990s to "recruit and retain a competent work force" and to "encourage excellence of performance."

"The state may not achieve these goals because the current performance management system and the practice of legislative across-the-board pay increases are not compatible," Wood wrote in the audit.

Sen. Ed Jones, a Halifax Democrat and a retired state trooper, said he would prefer a system that rewards employees for what they do.

"I want to make sure we got people that are deserving of what they get and that's the bottom line," Jones said.

In 2008, Jones was a member of one of the legislative committees that received the personnel report highlighting review inflation. According to Wood’s report, members of two legislative committees told auditors that they did not read the report because it was one of many they receive. The audit did not say which lawmakers were too busy.

Dana Cope, executive director of the 55,000-member State Employees Association of North Carolina, said that was a "dereliction of duty."

"For any member of the legislature, especially one that's in charge of state personnel issues, ... to say they can't read a report, that person needs to be replaced," Cope said.

The 2008 report covered all employees. The audit released Thursday studied three agencies: the Department of Transportation, the Department of Correction and the Department of Health and Human Services. Those agencies employ 48 percent of the 98,000 state workers subject to personnel laws.

The agencies’ managers spent a combined 200,000 hours writing up reviews in fiscal 2008. Wood estimated those hours as worth more than $5 million in salaries, although the agencies said that figure was too high.

DOT has since changed its review system. The old one was subjective; bosses just said what they thought about employees, said James Bridges, a project development engineer and a 19-year employee at the department.

"Our ratings system had become inflated. We had too many 'outstandings,' " he said. "Everyone was 'outstanding.'"

DOT’s new system includes specific metrics for all employees, said Bridges, who writes reviews for four
employees. The new system isn't perfect, but it's an improvement, he said.

"I think the pendulum has swung from almost being entirely subjective to being entirely objective," he said.

Cope said inflation may be caused by managers not having any real method of rewarding employees.

That's exactly what HHS officials told auditors. Managers at the agency have not had many options for rewarding employees who are doing more because of reduced budgets and staffing.

"Their only tool has been to give employees non-monetary recognition for doing their work," HHS Secretary Lanier Cansler wrote in his agency's response to the audit.

Auditors offered alternatives to inflated reviews.

"Good examples of non-monetary recognition include employee of the month programs, keepsakes, letters of appreciation, honorary awards, or a simple pat on the back and a 'thank you,' " they wrote.
The Washington Post

U-Va. to scrutinize Virginia Quarterly Review after editor's suicide

By Jenna Johnson
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, August 20, 2010; B04

University of Virginia President Teresa A. Sullivan on Thursday ordered "a thorough review" of the management of the school's acclaimed literary journal, following the suicide of a top editor last month.

The death of Kevin Morrissey, managing editor of the Virginia Quarterly Review, has drawn attention because of questions that a sister and some co-workers have raised about the work environment at the journal and Morrissey's efforts to contact university officials before he shot himself July 30 near the Charlottesville campus. Morrissey was 52.

"The untimely death of Kevin Morrissey . . . has caused a great deal of pain for his family, friends and colleagues," Sullivan said in a statement. "It has also raised questions about the university's response to employees' concerns about the workplace climate in the VQR office. I therefore am announcing that we will be undertaking a thorough review of VQR's operations.

"Conducting this review does not in any way presume that any members of the VQR staff have been involved in improper conduct," she continued. "The review will, I hope, provide a factual basis for understanding this workplace and deciding what corrective actions, if any, the university should undertake."

In the two weeks before his death, Morrissey's phone records show he made more than a dozen calls to university officials, according to Maria Morrissey, his sister. Morrissey said her brother suffered from depression but was pushed to suicide by "a very hostile work environment."

Ted Genoways, editor of the journal since 2003 and Morrissey's supervisor, is on leave and unavailable for comment, said his attorney, Lloyd Snook. "We've said all along that we welcome a university investigation," Snook said. He acknowledged that there had been some "dissension in the ranks" of the journal's staff.

In a written statement to the Chronicle of Higher Education published Aug. 12, Genoways denied that he had mistreated Morrissey. "His long history of depression caused him trouble throughout his career," Genoways wrote, "leading often to conflicts with his bosses."

Sullivan said Barbara Deily, the university's chief audit executive, would lead the review.

The Virginia Quarterly Review, founded in 1925, publishes fiction, poetry and essays and other works on topics such as society, politics and literature.