THE DAILY CLIPS

September 10, 2008

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
Time

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481 FAX: 252-328-6300
ECU won’t enlist help outside Pitt

Lenoir Co. confirms their deputy was on TV footage

BY KATHRYN KENNEDY
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University Police will not use outside law enforcement agencies to help staff football games for the rest of this season, Chief Scott Shelton announced in a news release Tuesday afternoon.

Pitt County law enforcement — including Greenville police, Winterville police and sheriff’s deputies — will continue providing mutual aid, he said.

The decision stems from complaints filed with ECU Police that fans were punched and thrown to the ground following the ECU football team’s win Saturday, over West Virginia University. Other recordings on YouTube show an officer charging at fans waiting behind the fence before they stormed the field.

Earlier in the day, the Lenoir County Sheriff’s Office confirmed it was one of their deputies shown hitting a fan repetitively with a closed fist on ESPN during post-game celebrations at Saturday’s East Carolina University home football game.

LCSO Maj. Chris Hill noted, however, that they have not determined whether that incident involved use of excessive force. Investigation into that allegation is ongoing.

A news release from the Lenoir sheriff’s office stated the deputy was “involved in an altercation on the field while assisting other officers who were trying to subdue an individual.” He was one of five off-duty deputies staffing the game, the release said.

“We urge people to reserve judgment until the facts are gathered and presented,” said Lenoir County Sheriff W.E. Smith.

The Kinston Department of Public Safety, the second outside agency at Saturday’s game, also launched an investigation to see whether excessive force was used by its officers. Woody Spencer, public information officer for Kinston police, said no findings will be released unless charges are filed against an officer.

He termed it a personnel matter, and therefore illegal to release under state law.

Shelton is also refusing to release the names of officers identified in video clips of post-game incidents during the initial inquiry, which is now complete. The information has been forwarded to those departments, Shelton said, and disciplinary action will be left to their supervisors.

Chancellor Steve Ballard said the university

See ECU GAME, A9
ECU Game

Continued from A1

will carefully review its game-
day protocols and training to
make sure everything possible
is done to protect the safety of
fans and players at the game.
"Safety is paramount," Bal-
ard said. "Everything starts
with that."

They also plan to educate
students about the dangers in-
volved with rushing the field.
"Any time hundreds or
thousands of people try to
rush from one place to anoth-
er, there is obviously a risk," Shelton said. "Fans should re-
main in the stands at the end
of the game. We are glad they
want to celebrate, and we want
them to celebrate. But we want
them to celebrate in the stands
and not on the field."

Kathryn Kennedy can be
reached at 329-9566 and kken-
dedy@coxnc.com.
Our Views

Priority one
Public safety should drive actions

East Carolina University pulled an improbable upset on Saturday when the Pirates defeated the No. 8 ranked West Virginia Mountaineers. Yet, instead of basking in a triumph that captured the nation’s attention, the excitement has been dampened by allegations that some law enforcement officials employed excessive force in the moments after the game’s end.

That is terribly unfortunate, and an exhaustive investigation, now under way, seems the justified response to these serious charges. Public safety is the goal in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, and all involved must be confident that message is readily understood and honored, even in the most difficult situations.

When the final seconds of East Carolina’s monumental upset ticked away, students massed under the scoreboard in the east end zone in preparation to rush the field, a common tradition in college football. Law enforcement from several jurisdictions stood at the ready to oppose them, honoring orders to stop trespassing, protect the stadium and maintain order.

What followed is under review by the university and law enforcement agencies. Video appears to show officers or deputies forcefully detaining students and sparring with individuals along a fence bordering the field. They would eventually yield to overwhelming numbers as torrents of people poured onto the field to celebrate with the East Carolina players and coaches.

Some involved in the incident allege the force used by law enforcement was excessive and inappropriate given the obvious evidence that thousands of students were intent on overrunning the field. Chancellor Steve Ballard has promised to conduct a thorough investigation, and law enforcement agencies staffing the game are reviewing their procedures for football games.

East Carolina attempted to dissuade that activity by using the public address system to urge the crowd to not go on the field. Law enforcement are contracted to maintain the integrity of the stadium and to prevent incidents that threaten public safety. Jumping from the stands, climbing fences and pushing en masse through barriers all risk serious harm and threaten to damage a field that will be needed at least four more times this year.

In the end, safety should be the highest priority — for the fans, of course, but also for the players, coaches, opposing team and the law enforcement officers present. This was a situation not witnessed before in Dowdy-Ficklen and, in retrospect, many people fell short of upholding the goal of ensuring a safe and enjoyable environment.

Passions are high in the wake of this incident, as would be expected, and the university community deserves clear answers about what happened and a firm plan for how to proceed in the future. All should look for the investigations and law enforcement reviews to provide them.
Easley pay would be in top 3%

UNC's Board of Governors on Friday will review the 88% raise NCSU gave the first lady in new contract.

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

If Mary Easley's $170,000 N.C. State University salary is approved this week, the state's first lady would make more than all but 94 of 3,455 NCSU faculty and administrators made last year, according to a News & Observer analysis.

An executive in residence who runs a lecture series, Easley received an 88 percent pay increase earlier this year and a slew of new duties — changes that drew criticism at NCSU and around the UNC system.

Pay raises that large should be reviewed by the UNC system's Board of Governors, according to policy. NCSU did not present it for approval initially, but the UNC board will review it and other such raises Friday.

Easley's raise could be approved, reduced, or remain the same with a portion paid from private funds.

"My hope is that the decision is

BY THE NUMBERS

$170,000: Mary Easley's proposed NCSU salary
94: NCSU employees who made more last year
23: NCSU nonadministrative faculty members who made more

The News & Observer analyzed the university's 2007-08 payroll database, which is public information, to compare Easley's proposed salary with those of faculty and administrators. Many with higher salaries were administrators such as Chancellor James Oblinger, whose salary was $390,835, and Provost Larry Nielsen, who earned $290,000. Eleven more highly paid employees were current and former football coaches and other athletics department staff.

Just 23 NCSU employees who made more than Easley's proposed

SEE EASLEY, PAGE 10A
Faculty bypassed

Many faculty have criticized NCSU leaders for creating an academic center and responsibilities for Easley without the customary faculty consultation or competitive hiring process. Daley said he's most concerned with the proposed new public safety center, which Easley would head. According to university policy, such centers require a planning process of up to two years and consultation with faculty and staff.

"No one here was really consulted," he said. "There's a very detailed process for creating centers. Suddenly, we're reading that this center is being created, and it didn't go through the process."

Jim Martin, a chemistry professor and current chairman of the NCSU faculty, said rules should be followed.

"I think there's great concern that we appropriately pay attention to the university's rules, regulations and processes," Martin said. "There are clear policies for creating administrative posts. There are clear policies for giving raises. All we're told is we misinterpreted."

Next: Review center

Nielsen, the provost, told faculty members Tuesday that he intended to put the new center through the proper process once Easley's hiring is cleared up. Several faculty members came to Nielsen's defense during a spirited Faculty Senate discussion of two proposed resolutions — one praising Easley's work at NCSU, the other criticizing the administration for bypassing university rules in creating her new job. Faculty reaction to the resolutions was tepid, and they were tabled until next month.

"The implication is that something has gone wrong," said Lloyd Fleisher, a molecular biomedical sciences professor. "I don't think Larry Nielsen intentionally tried to beat the system. Sometimes, the system is very hard to understand."

Richard Spontak, an engineering professor who has been at NCSU for 16 years, isn't bothered by Easley's new salary or the process by which she was given her new responsibilities.

"She is a person who has unique qualifications; she also brings prestige to the university," Spontak said. "When I look at that combination, I think salary should not be an issue."

Easley's credentials

Easley spent a decade as a prosecutor and taught law for eight years. She brings to NCSU the broad swath of connections that come with being North Carolina's first lady. Nielsen lauded Easley's abilities earlier this year and acknowledged the new job was created for her. He and Oblinger say the university didn't seek university system approval for Easley's new salary because they misinterpreted a policy requiring approval of any pay hikes of more than $10,000 and 15 percent. That policy doesn't apply to new hires, and NCSU officials considered Easley's new assignments an entirely new position with a new work contract.

When NCSU realized earlier this year that it hadn't properly followed the UNC system's guidelines on pay raises, officials were forced to review more than 1,000 raises issued since 2002 to see whether any still required UNC system approval. NCSU submitted 46 to university system leaders for further review. The UNC board could act on them this week.

Daley, the public administration professor, praised Easley's abilities but said the hiring process raises questions.

"When you have a sole source [hiring process], it becomes suspicious," he said. "Very few people are unique talents and irreplaceable."

Database manager
David Raynor contributed to this report.
Med students shun primary care jobs

Paperwork, time and pay deter them

BY CARLA K. JOHNSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Only 2 percent of graduating medical students say they plan to work in primary care internal medicine, raising worries about a looming shortage of the first-stop doctors who used to be the backbone of the American medical system.

The results of a new survey being published today suggest more medical students, many of them saddled with debt, are opting for more lucrative specialties.

The survey of nearly 1,200 fourth-year students found just 2 percent planned to work in primary care internal medicine. In a similar survey in 1990, the figure was 9 percent.

Paperwork, the demands of the chronically sick and the need to bring work home are among the factors pushing young doctors away from careers in primary care, the survey found.

“I didn’t want to fight the insurance companies,” said Dr. Jason Shipman, 36, a radiology resident at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn., who is carrying $150,000 in student debt.

Primary care doctors he met as a student had to “speed to see enough patients to make a reasonable living,” Shipman said.

Dr. Karen Hauer of the University of California, San Francisco, the study’s lead author, said it’s hard work taking care of the chronically ill, the elderly and people with complex diseases — “especially when you’re doing it with time pressures and inadequate resources.”

The salary gap may be another reason. More pay in a particular specialty tends to mean more U.S. medical school graduates fill residencies in those fields at teaching hospitals, Dr. Mark Ebell of the University of Georgia found in a separate study.

Family medicine had the lowest average salary last year, $186,000, and the lowest share of residency slots filled by U.S. students, 42 percent. Orthopedic surgery paid $436,000, and 94 percent of residency slots were filled by U.S. students.

Meanwhile, medical school is getting more expensive. The average graduate last year had $140,000 in student debt, up nearly 8 percent from the previous year, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Another likely factor: Medicare’s fee schedule pays less for office visits than for simple procedures, according to the American College of Physicians, which reported in 2006 that the nation’s primary care system is “at grave risk of collapse.”

A separate study in JAMA, the Journal of the American Medical Association, suggests graduates from international medical schools are filling the primary care gap.

About 2,600 fewer U.S. doctors were training in primary care specialties — including pediatrics, family medicine and internal medicine — in 2007 compared with 2002. In the same span, the number of foreign graduates pursuing those careers rose by nearly 3,300.
A University of North Carolina center has received a federal grant promising up to $181 million to help it study health, poverty and gender programs around the world.

The U.S. Agency for International Development grant to UNC-Chapel Hill’s Carolina Population Center is the largest financial award ever received by the university.

The money provided to the center’s MEASURE Evaluation Project, which began in 1991, will fund the continued evaluation in almost 50 countries of programs focused on family planning, maternal and child health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS. The project also monitors malaria, tuberculosis and avian influenza programs in Africa, Asia and Latin America and plans on expanding to evaluate poverty and gender-equity programs.

Sian Curtis, a UNC research associate professor of maternal and child health and project director for the MEASURE Evaluation Project, said the new funding provides “a fabulous opportunity” to improve the collection and use of global health and population information. The center also anticipates expanding the program to projects in Angola, Egypt, Ethiopia and other countries, Curtis said.

The funding also will allow more people to be trained in how to evaluate the targeted programs, Curtis said. Some of those jobs would be added in Chapel Hill and others overseas, she said, but it is too early to say how many.

Building upon existing training programs, the project will focus on assisting health workers and officials in host countries to develop their expertise in collecting and analyzing research data. The grant also allows the possibility for countries to request program evaluations valued up to another $125 million the next five years.

“It's nice being able to think big picture for a few more years,” Curtis said Tuesday.
Learn and Earn wins Harvard recognition

BY BENJAMIN NIOLET
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH - The Learn and Earn program, which makes college more accessible and affordable for the state's public high school students, has received an award for innovation from Harvard University.

The program was one of six winners of the 2008 Innovations in American Government Awards, which are given by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

The award comes with a $100,000 grant, and it gives a boost to Gov. Mike Easley, who championed Learn and Earn as a way to reduce the dropout rate while ensuring the state's workforce is competitive in a global economy.

Easley acknowledges that even as the program gains national acclaim, he has more work to do to sell it at home. Although the program's online enrollment is growing, it's nowhere near what state officials envisioned. The state has committed to marketing the program more aggressively.

"People across the country know more about this program than the kids who are actually going to take advantage of it," Easley told reporters Tuesday.

Learn and Earn has three components:

- Sixty Learn and Earn Early College High Schools allow students to attend high school on a college campus. In five years, students can earn a high school diploma and two years of college credit or an associate's degree. Nearly 7,000 students are enrolled for the fall.
- Learn and Earn Online is available to high school students across the state. Students earn college credit through online coursework. This fall, 5,000 students are expected to enroll.
- Grants make college tuition more affordable.

"I think what impressed me about Learn and Earn in terms of its innovativeness is its breadth and scope," said Mary Jo Dunnington, a consultant who assessed Learn and Earn for the Ash Institute. "It's bold and aggressive."

Easley has a few months left in office. He said Tuesday he's confident the program will thrive.

"Awards like this continue to give it more momentum," Easley said. "Nobody's against it. Everybody's for it. So regardless of who is in the next administration or the next legislature, they'll support it because the people support it."

Learn and Earn's Web site is www.nclearnandearn.gov.

ben.niolet@newsobserver.com
or (919) 829-4521
Grieving parents urge fire safety

 Mothers who lost children join lawmakers pushing sprinklers in student housing

BY JAMES ROSEN
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS
WASHINGTON — Kaaren Mann and Bonnie Woodruff share a tragic burden that is almost too painful for them to bear.
Mann's daughter, Lauren Mahorn, died in the Ocean Isle beach-house fire in October that also killed five other University of South Carolina students and a Clemson University student.
Woodruff's son, Ben, was one of five UNC-Chapel Hill students who died in the May 1996 fire at the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house.
The two mothers joined students and firefighters in Washington this week, lobbying Congress to pass fire-safety measures for colleges and universities.
Mann said her mission is to persuade lawmakers to pass legislation that will get more sprinkler systems installed in dormitories and other student housing.
"We're hoping that between [tax] incentives and telling people about them, they'll become as common as seat belts in cars," Mann said.

DEADLY FLAMES

South Carolina and North Carolina are not the only states to suffer fire tragedies that killed university students. There have been 129 campus-related fires since 2000, 108 of them at off-campus housing.
Annual number of nationwide fatalities, by academic year:
2007-08: 18
2006-07: 20
2005-06: 14
2004-05: 14
2003-04: 11
2002-03: 14
2001-02: 14
2000-01: 17

Off-campus risks

Anderson said the majority of USC students live off campus, where they face greater fire risks than those who live on campus.
In the wake of the deadly Chapel Hill and Ocean Isle fires, the legislatures in Raleigh and Columbia passed state laws aimed at getting more sprinklers installed in student housing and other dwellings.
Ashley Perdue, a USC junior from Florence, escaped from the Ocean Isle inferno because she was asleep on the main floor near the front door.
Despite leaving the burning beach-house in seven seconds, Perdue said, her face was covered by so much soot that hospital nurses asked her to tell them her race.
The seven students who died in the fire were asleep in upstairs rooms. There were no fire sprinklers.
"Fire-sprinkler systems can protect people who don't have safety exits near them," Perdue said. "Fire-sprinkler systems give everybody a fair chance."

Required records

Republican Sens. Richard Burr and Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina are co-sponsors of a Senate version of the bill.
House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., said Congress recently passed separate legislation requiring all federally funded colleges and universities to maintain extensive fire-safety records and to make them available to the public.
The new required records must show the number of dormitory rooms equipped with automatic fire-sprinkler systems and fire alarms.
The measure requires the U.S. Department of Education to report the information to Congress.
"These are tragedies not only for the local communities, but to our entire nation," Clyburn said.
Columbia, S.C., Fire Chief Bradley Anderson said schools, homeowners and businesses have been slow to install sprinkler systems.
"We've been advocates for residential sprinklers for decades," he said. "The [Ocean Isle] fire with the students was clearly avoidable with sprinklers."
Let them celebrate

Let them celebrate on the field or off the field — within reason and if they are not breaking any laws.

At least one college football player and East Carolina University football fans were in the news this past weekend for celebrations on the field. ECU police officials are investigating reports that police officers used excessive force as ECU fans, mostly students, stormed the football field after the Pirates threated West Virginia 24-3. In the game between the Washington Huskies and the Brigham Young Cougars, a penalty against Huskies’ quarterback Jake Locker for unsportsmanlike conduct (improper celebration), resulted in the ball being moved back 15 yards before the point-after-touchdown kick was attempted. Subsequently, that PAT kick was blocked at the Cougars won the game by one point.

Locker clearly threw the football into the air after scoring a touchdown. He did it in the heat of the moment. He did in in a way that did not draw attention to himself. It appeared almost to be a reflex. But the rules for college football clearly prohibit throwing the football into the air after scoring a touchdown.

Whether or not Locker should have been penalized will be debated until the cows come home. Forget that debate. Change the rule. It’s college football. It’s a game where passions run high. Let the players, coaches and fans celebrate — within reason.

Outlaw celebrations that are premeditated. Outlaw celebrations that bring attention to just one player. Outlaw celebrations performed to taunt another player or team. But do not outlaw spontaneous expressions of joy that harm no one and do not injure the integrity of the game.

As for college football fans, let them celebrate when, for the second week in a row, their unranked team defeated a ranked team in a BCS-bowl conference. That’s why ECU fans wanted to celebrate this past Saturday. When an Appalachian State Univeristy team beats a University of Michigan team, let the ASU fans celebrate. When a Boise State defeats the Oklahoma Sooners, the Boise State fans should celebrate.

Of course, those celebrations should follow some rules. Celebrations should not kill or injure anyone. Celebrations should not cause property to be damaged, with the exception of a goal post every now and then. Fans should expect to celebrate without being struck and thrown to the ground by police officers and security personnel — as long as those fans are celebrating properly and not breaking any laws.

ECU police Chief Scott Shelton, according to a report in the Daily Reflector, said officers were told that if fans tried to come onto the field they should try to stop them by making themselves visible but were to step back if that failed.

Somebody did not get the message.

Eyewitnesses reported seeing officers hitting fans and throwing some to the ground after the Pirates defeated West Virginia. Videotape footage shows an officer using his fist to strike someone on the ground, according to several media reports. That’s not the way to react when fans want to celebrate. And fans must remember that celebrations should have limits, for their protection and others.

Celebrating a football victory is not a crime, and unless fans are breaking laws as they celebrate, let them enjoy the moment. It’s part of the college experience.

Football players may expect to be tackled on the field, but football fans who celebrate properly should not expect to be tackled for a loss of dignity.
Greenville - Lenoir County Sheriff W. E. "Billy" Smith said on Tuesday that one of his off-duty deputies was involved with the altercation at the end of Saturday's East Carolina football game.

"We had five guys working at that game," Smith said. "One of them was involved in the fight that has been posted on YouTube."

He also said that he'll determine what punishment, if any, would be doled out to the deputy.

Smith pointed out that the deputies were not working for the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office at the time of the incident. He said those deputies were working for ECU.

"Those deputies are given a briefing by the ECU police before each game. The briefing details what is expected of them in terms of security," Smith said. "We want to know the details of that briefing."

Smith said that he first heard of the incident when he received a call from Maj. Chris Hill on Saturday.

"Maj. Hill phoned and told me what happened. I got on the Internet and saw the footage and I was initially disturbed by what I saw," he said.

Smith said his department has taken statements from each of the deputies that were working the game.

"Based on our interviews, we've determined that our deputy did not initiate the fight that he was a part of," Smith said. "He was actually going over to assist an officer from another department who was having trouble restraining someone that had run onto the field."

Aside from that, Smith said that he has the same information that the public has.

"It's really impossible for us to comment any further until we receive the report from the Greenville authorities. I'm hoping there is other footage taken from a better angle," Smith said.

Smith said that he asks the public to reserve judgment until all of the facts are available. He also believes the press conference held on Monday by ECU Police Chief Scott Shelton could be misinterpreted by the public.

"I believe the way the situation was described in the press conference was confusing," Smith said. "It needs to be made clear that the deputies were working for ECU, and that they were briefed by ECU police before the game."

The university released a statement Tuesday afternoon saying the initial investigation was complete. In the statement, Shelton said he would not be using any agencies from outside of Pitt County for the remainder of the football season to help control the crowd. That means the Lenoir County Sheriff's Office and the Kinston Department of Public Safety would no longer be policing those games.

Smith said he was not surprised by that statement, since he had sent a memo, letter and e-mail to ECU stating his officers wouldn't be going back to Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.
Shelton also said in the press release his department has identified the officers involved in the video clips of the altercations circulating on the Internet.

Shelton said any disciplinary action would come from the officers' own agencies.

Smith said that's just "a procedural thing," a part of Mutual Aid Agreements that govern how law enforcement agencies can lend officers or equipment to other departments.

He did say, however, he would wait to see East Carolina's report before taking any action against the officer, who couldn't be named because it was a personnel issue.

"I'm withholding judgment until all the facts are in," Smith said. "ECU is in charge of the investigation, and we're waiting for their results."

Jon Dawson can be reached at (252) 559-1083 or at jdawson@freedomenc.com. Vanessa Shortley can be reached at (252) 559-1076 or at vshortley@freedomenc.com.