New school logo possible at East Carolina

By Jimmy Ryals
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University’s logo may get a makeover.

University marketing officials are considering replacing the official ECU logo — a graphic based on the arched windows of the Bate Building, pictured above the university’s name — ECU Marketing Director Clint Bailey told university trustees during a committee meeting Tuesday. If adopted, the new logo would build on a mark adopted for ECU’s centennial.

The centennial logo features a version of the distinctive arch but gives the university name more prominence, Bailey said. It’s also better suited to color presentation, he added. If adopted as the full-time ECU logo, the design would drop the “1907-2007 centennial” text after the centennial observance ends in 2009. If the marketing department chooses to switch logos, the two-year celebration is an opportune time to do it, Bailey said.

“We have a few years here where we can phase these things out,” he said.

East Carolina University

ECU’s officials may be changing the university’s logo to a modified version of the centennial logo. Vote online at reflector.com to choose which design you prefer.

The arch logo, which dates to 1969, according to a presentation then-University Historian Henry Ferrell gave the trustees in October 2006. It was originally designed for stationery use, Bailey said.

The proposed switch drew good reviews at a meeting of the trustees’ facilities and re-

resources committee, as did Bailey’s reasoning. New trustee Carol Mabe, drawing on her experience as a retired apparel executive, said making the transition too quickly would create logistical problems. Mabe said the centennial logo is “strong.”

“There’s no way we could change every truck, every billboard, everything at once,” she said. “I think this affords us a once-in-a-century opportunity.”

Members of the ECU Alumni Association responded well to the potential logo change last weekend, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Mickey Dowdy said. Officials will seek feedback on the proposal from other groups inside and outside the university, Dowdy said.

The ECU Board of Trustees will meet today at 8:30 a.m. in the Health Sciences Building.
Pit duo honored for work, service

Dedication to recreation earns top awards for Alice Keene and Nelson Cooper.

By Brock Letchworth
The Daily Reflector

Last month’s trip to the N.C./S.C. Recreation and Parks Convention didn’t quite go the way Alice Keene had anticipated. Keene, who went to honor fellow Pitt County recreation leader and N.C. Recreation and Parks Association award winner Nelson Cooper, was surprised when she also was presented an award during the joint conference held Aug. 28 in Charleston, S.C.

Keene, special projects coordinator with Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation, was given the N.C. Recreation and Parks Association’s Distinguished Fellow Award — the highest award the association can bestow on one of its members for outstanding service and leadership.

Cooper was presented the Special Citation Award — an honor for those who have made contributions to the advancement of the recreation and parks profession.

“It was a great honor just to be among the past winners who are people who have been my mentors, teachers and role models for so many years,” Keene said. “It was a very humbling feeling.”

Selection for the Distinguished Fellow Award is based on an objective system of rating including membership in the association, a minimum of 10 years experience in the field of recreation and parks, service contributions to recreation and parks and exemplary professional leadership and character, according to Michelle Wells of the N.C. Recreation and Parks Association.

“For anyone who knows Alice, I don’t think there is any doubt she deserved this award,” Wells said.

Keene, who graduated from East Carolina University, has been in the field of recreation and parks for 34 years, beginning her career with the city of Greenville where she helped initiate the Pitt County Special Olympics program. After five years with the city of Greenville, Keene accepted a position with Pitt County Schools as the community schools coordinator.

While with Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation, Keene has played a large role in starting the state’s Senior Games program which she calls one of her greatest blessings in life.

See AWARDS, B3
AWARDS
Continued from B1

"I've been blessed to be a part of a lot of special families with the community schools and senior games and things like that," Keene said. "None of us get where we are alone and I have a staff that is second to none also. I've just been able to be involved in a lot of wonderful things that I feel very blessed to have been a part of." Keene also has spearheaded the efforts to build the new Pitt County District Park which she says should be opened by next fall.

Cooper, a professor at East Carolina University, was given the N.C. Recreation and Parks Association's Special Citation Award for demonstrating an outstanding interest in and dedication to the field of recreation and parks, Wells said.

During his time with N.C. Recreation and Parks, Cooper has directed an initiative to establish a student and career development center for the state while also serving on several N.C. Recreation and Parks committees. Cooper has served on the N.C. Recreation and Parks Association Board of Directors for one year as well.

He also facilitated the development of a youth sports organization which focuses on issues that challenge young people in sports locally.

Keene wrote the nomination letter for Cooper.

"I was so excited about going up and seeing Nelson receive the award that we all felt like he deserved so much," Keene said.

"So when they gave me the award too it was a huge surprise. It was a great night."

Brock Letchworth can be contacted at 329-9574 or bletchworth@coxnc.com.
Public Forum

ECU has outgrown old baggage

I am a native of Wayne County, and a 1982 graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill. I am married to an ECU graduate and we now reside in Pensacola, Fla. We made the trip with our children to see our schools play, and I would like to offer these observations.

The rub between our schools in the past has unfortunately fed off of each school's least attractive characteristics, North Carolina's arrogance and East Carolina's carrying a rather large chip on its shoulder. In my lifetime, I have seen East Carolina grow into an amazing institution that on the whole has produced the best entrepreneurs, businessmen and educators of my generation. This success is real and not imagined or wishful thinking, and it is reflected in an obviously thriving and growing university setting.

Two things in this life that have to be earned and cannot be given are respect and confidence. I believe our schools have reached this point in time where the unattractive characteristics mentioned above should be able to be kept in the past and not the future.

Congratulations, ECU. You deserve it.

DENNY VICKORY
Cantonment, Fla.
Blue Cross shifts flu shots

Instead of going to store-based clinics, people will be urged to visit their doctors.

BY JEAN P. FISHER
STAFF WRITER

North Carolina doctors, dismayed at the growing number of patients defecting to Wal-Marts and Eckerd's for their annual flu shots, have joined with the state's largest health insurer to steer some people back to their physicians' offices.

This year, as in previous years, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina will encourage members to get free flu shots. But instead of sending them to area grocery stores, pharmacies and workplace clinics — where nearly half of the 500,000 shots administered to Blue Cross members last year were given — the insurer is urging members to see their own doctors.

Blue Cross is not sponsoring flu shot clinics at any retail locations this year, though it will offer them at a limited number of workplaces.

Blue Cross and the North Carolina Medical Society, which represents about 11,000 physicians, will announce the flu campaign this morning. Doctors, who had expressed displeasure with Blue Cross's use of retail flu shot clinics, say keeping flu shots under their control helps them know whether patients who most need the shots are getting them.

"It's about preserving the doctor-patient relationship," said Dr. Darlyne Menser, a Charlotte family physician who is president of the medical society.

Physicians insist they are not concerned about losing business to retail clinics. Most doctors say flu shots are a break-even business at best, and some insurers, including the federal Medicare program, don't even pay enough to cover costs.

Flu season starts Oct. 1. Most flu shots are given after that date, though people with chronic illnesses, the elderly and other high-risk patients might get shots sooner. This year, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expects a record 132 million doses of flu vaccine to be available.

Flu season has been unusually frustrating for physicians. In 2004, one of two major U.S. suppliers was unable to ship vaccine because of possible contamination, causing shortages. Last year, even though the United States got more doses than ever, distribution problems caused many physicians to receive orders late. Meanwhile, doctors say, large retailers seemed to have shots from Day 1.

"We didn't get ours until early November," said Dr. Wells Edmundson, a Raleigh internist. "By then, half of the patients had gone everywhere else, and we were left holding 450 doses."

Since flu vaccine is formulated to target different viral strains each year, unused doses must be destroyed by the end of the season. Each dose of vaccine costs between $10 and $12, so discarding vials can be costly.

To ensure that doctors have vaccine at the beginning of flu season — when patients are most interested in getting shots — the state struck a deal last year with GlaxoSmithKline to reserve up to 2 million doses for the state's doctors and public health departments.

Vendors that sell vaccine to private practices have gotten smarter, purchasing from multiple suppliers to avoid a shortage if one vaccine maker can't fill its orders.

Edmundson said this year is looking better than the past few flu seasons. His practice, Raleigh Medical Group, expects to get about 230 doses of vaccine by the end of this week.

"It's not a lot, but at least we can start doing our high-risk patients now," Edmundson said.

SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

WHO'S GIVING THE SHOTS?

Americans get their flu shots in a variety of places. Doctors' offices still deliver most of the annual jabs but have lost ground to retail flu shot clinics and other venues in recent years. Here is where shots are given and how the breakdown has changed in recent years:

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<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor's office or HMO</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>39%</td>
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<td>Health department</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinic or health center</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community/Senior Center</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail store/pharmacy</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital or emergency room</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<td>Workplace</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6%</td>
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Staff writer Jean P. Fisher can be reached at 829-4753 or jfisher@newsobserver.com.
Dollar value of harm debated
Ex-Duke players seeking millions

BY MATT DEES
STAFF WRITER

DURHAM — Darryl Hunt spent about 19 years in jail, wrongfully convicted of killing a Winston-Salem woman.

Dave Evans, Collin Finnerty and Readie Seligmann spent a few hours in a holding cell, accused of a rape that the state attorney general has said they didn’t commit.

Hunt received $1.65 million from Winston-Salem and an additional $368,000 from the state.

The three former Duke University lacrosse players have been reported to be seeking $10 million apiece from the city of Durham, according to sources close to the case.

Some legal experts question whether such a discrepancy is justified.

“I don’t think the alleged harm, if it was caused by the city, would rise to that level,” said Irving Joyner, an N.C. Central University law professor and Durham resident. “It’s the difference between helping the needy and helping the greedy.”

But Luke Largess, a Charlotte civil rights attorney who has successfully sued many cities for police misconduct, said the players could be due millions because of the high-profile nature of the case.

Heavy media coverage splashed the accused players’ names and faces across newspapers and televisions screens around the country.

“Some of the publicity, their faces on Time and Newsweek, all the people thinking they were scumbags — that’s pretty heavy stuff,” Largess said.

But then he pointed to Alan Gell, the Bertie County man who spent nine years in prison after being sentenced to death for a murder he could not have committed.

His civil lawsuit is pending.

“What does he get for those years?” Largess said. “No one in California knew who Alan Gell was. But you could argue what he went through was much worse.”

That is where the lacrosse civil lawsuit or settlement hits some uncharted territory.

There are numerous examples of people successfully suing cities when police harm them physically or throw them in jail without cause.

But Largess said he doesn’t know of a case in which a city was sued for bringing criminal charges that were later dropped.

Suffering is a factor

Jim Coleman, a Duke law professor who has followed the case, says how much the lacrosse players suffered is just one factor in determining an appropriate amount to seek.

Coleman said he thinks Durham police failed to adequately explore evidence that could have exonerated the players, a charge the city denies.

Ex-Duke players seek millions

How other high-profile cases of police misconduct were resolved

Amadou Diallo, New York City
Diallo, an African immigrant, was shot 19 times and killed by police officers in 1999. He was unarmed.

His family received $3 million in a settlement with the city. The family initially sought $60 million in wrongful death lawsuit after the officers were acquitted of criminal charges.

The officers said they thought Diallo was pulling a gun as he reached for his wallet. He was stopped because the officers incorrectly thought that he was a serial rape suspect.

Abner Louima, New York City
Louima received $8.7 million after being falsely arrested and then sodomized with a broomstick handle by New York City police officers, suffering extensive injuries.

The city and police union agreed to a settlement nearly four years after the 1997 incident.

Albert Mosley, Baltimore
Mosley was handcuffed when a Baltimore police officer slammed him head-first into a concrete wall in 2003. He became quadriplegic as a result of his injuries.

He was awarded $44 million by a Maryland jury.

LaTanya Haggerty, Chicago
Chicago police officers shot and killed Haggerty when the man she was riding with fled a routine traffic stop. Police had been ordered to call off the chase, but they ignored the warning and shot Haggerty, who was unarmed.

Her family received an $18 million settlement in 2001, thought to be a record for this type of case.

Eddie Joe Lloyd, Detroit
Lloyd spent 17 years in prison for a rape and murder he did not commit.

He was a psychiatric patient when he confessed to the crime in 1994. His attorneys were able to prove that police fed him the information contained in the confession.

He received $2.6 million in a settlement with Detroit and two other governments.

He said other falsely accused people have suffered more, but they often were the victims of negligence rather than an intentional effort to bring charges without evidence.

The question of intent — whether police willfully railroaded the lacrosse players — will be a key factor if the civil case goes to trial, Coleman and Largess said.

If police and city officials are found to have maliciously pursued the case knowing the evidence wasn’t there, they should pay until it hurts, Coleman said.

“There’s an element of punitive action involved in lawsuits like this,” he said.

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SEE VALUE, PAGE 1B
Cost of justice

Duke students badly treated by a rape allegation may not have a civil case, but their ideas for improving justice have merit.

Being wrongly accused of rape is no picnic — let’s be honest, it’s a nightmare — but it isn’t necessarily worth $10 million. That’s what the three former Duke University lacrosse players are seeking from the City of Durham because of the actions of its police department, presumably minus fees to a cadre of lawyers hired to mount a potential civil rights lawsuit. The merits of the reported settlement demand are questionable at best, although reforms that the players’ lawyers propose for police and the courts have great merit.

For good reasons, there is widespread sympathy for the former Duke students, Reade Seligmann, Collin Finnerty and Dave Evans. Their spring-break team party last year was reprehensible — hired strippers and alcohol for anyone who showed up, including minors. But no one deserves to be falsely accused of rape, as the three were by one of the strippers, or to be hounded by a district attorney seemingly blind to any evidence that showed the students may have been telling the truth — that no assault took place — and obsessed with winning the next election.

Fortunately, the system worked: Although the students were indicted, the charges were dropped and the three were declared innocent by the state attorney general. The district attorney, Mike Nifong, was disgraced, disbarred, thrown out of office and sent to jail for a day.

Meanwhile, the students settled a lawsuit against Duke, for what no doubt was an award in the eye-popping range, after Duke had suspended them and canceled the lacrosse team’s season in the wake of the charges. Duke, of course, is a private institution and can spend its money any way it wants.

A potential suit against the city is different, since a substantial settlement would put a burden on taxpayers rich, middle-income and poor. Sources told The News & Observer that the demand is $30 million over five years. Subtract $5 million in liability insurance coverage, and that amounts to about $119 in city funds for each of Durham’s residents to cover the remaining $25 million. And that’s despite the fact that Durham detectives were among the first to tell Nifong his case was weak.

Defendants who are unfairly treated may well have a valid claim for compensation, proportionate to the harm they suffered, if they can show a pattern of official misconduct. And it’s true that the police department’s performance in the case leaves it open to criticism. But the City Council should be in no rush to settle the case for a huge sum to forestall the threatened lawsuit. In fact, the council could demonstrate its good faith by following through with the case review it commissioned under the leadership of former Supreme Court Justice Willis Whichard.

Nor would council members need to settle to act on another idea put forth by the students’ lawyers. They want the council to pass resolutions urging worthwhile state criminal justice reforms such as mandatory videotaping of identification procedures involving suspects, recording of grand jury proceedings and creation of a state ombudsman position to review complaints against prosecutors and to intervene if necessary.

Apparently on orders from Nifong, the Durham police conducted a photo lineup of the students that violated department procedures, and the students were indicted following a secret (that’s routine) grand jury hearing where a manipulative prosecutor could have brought unfair influence to bear.

The General Assembly should be receptive to proposals that would help prevent such abuses. Council members in Durham and across the state should line up to push for the recommended changes.
Virginia Tech investigator preaches vigilance to N.C. safety task force

BY JANE STANCILL
STAFF WRITER

GREENSBORO - Universities should constantly assess dangers posed by students with behavioral problems and mental illness — then share any threats with the proper officials to protect their campuses.

That was the advice to North Carolina colleges given Tuesday by Hollis Stambaugh, deputy director of the panel that investigated the Virginia Tech massacre. She spoke at UNC-Greensboro to a statewide task force assembled by Attorney General Roy Cooper to examine campus safety.

Stambaugh, director of the Center for Public Protection at the Virginia-based System Planning Corp., said there were numerous red flags about Seung-Hui Cho, who killed himself and 32 others at Virginia Tech in April.

But the university failed to follow through with treatment that could have prevented Cho's mass shooting, Stambaugh said.

"No one ever called Cho's parents," Stambaugh said. "They were completely unaware of all the problems in the years and months leading up to this past April. That's pretty amazing when you think about it, and there was no law preventing [the university] from calling the parents."

Privacy laws in the United States are confusing, Stambaugh said, and universities too often default to secrecy.

"There is a lot more leeway than most universities believe there is in sharing information," she said.

Cooper said it was fitting that the group met Sept. 11, the anniversary of the attack that drastically changed the way Americans think about security.

"Clearly, we owe it to our students, our teachers and our parents to make sure we are ready for a tragic event, God forbid," Cooper said.

The attorney general said he wants a thorough plan for preventing and preparing for disasters, but one flexible enough to meet the needs of a major state university, a small private college or a regional community college. The panel plans to issue recommendations by Thanksgiving.

Much of the talk Tuesday revolved around technology and training for emergency responders, and how universities can recover from a crisis.

Meredith College President Maureen Hartfiord spoke of her experience as an administrator during crises, including one at the University of Michigan in which a student was stabbed to death and her attacker shot by campus police in front of a crowd.

University leaders must act with caring rather than callousness or silence because they fear lawsuits, she advised.

Stambaugh's recommendations included preparing emergency messages to address different scenarios, rather than convening a committee in a time of crisis to come up with a public warning.

There should be multiple systems in place for broadcasting such messages; cell phone service can get overloaded, she said.

"There needed to be a much more rapid way to make a decision about a message, and the message needed to be more informative than it was," Stambaugh said.

Stambaugh said classes could have been canceled at Virginia Tech after the first two students were killed in a dorm April 16, but it would have been impossible to lock down a sprawling campus.

But, she said, officers' quick response prevented further bloodshed at Norris Hall, where Cho only used about half his ammunition.

"He wasn't done," she said. "He was only done because the police arrived when they did."

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Paying for College

Exposing Lenders' Ties to Schools
N.Y. Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has nudged institutions to sign codes of conduct on loans

By Kimberly Palmer
Posted September 7, 2007

A year ago, students and parents often took out college loans based on "preferred lender" lists provided by schools, oblivious to the fact that some schools were benefitting financially from the arrangements. This spring, New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo exposed quid pro quo agreements between many lenders and schools, including revenue-sharing agreements and financial aid officers' holding the stock of companies on their preferred-lender lists. More than two dozen schools and a dozen lenders have since signed Cuomo's code of conduct, which requires schools to fully disclose their relationships with lenders. Even schools untouched by the scandal have reviewed their policies, aware that students and parents are watching. Cuomo spoke with *U.S. News* about what has changed with college loans and what hasn't.

What advice would you give students and parents shopping for a loan right now?

Caveat emptor. Let the buyer beware. When you sign these loan documents, you are signing what is the equivalent of an education mortgage. It can be in excess of $100,000. You're paying for it for years and years. It will affect your credit rating. It's one of the most important financial decisions a young person is going to make. Inform yourself. Do not rely solely on the recommendations of the college. Ninety percent of students follow the recommendations of their college in terms of a "preferred lender." Basically, what we found was, those judgments are often conflicted, because schools and aid officers had financial interests in the outcome.

What will be different this year because of your investigation?
I hope two things. I hope we've begun to change the behavior in the marketplace and that colleges have re-evaluated what they do in this area and lenders have re-evaluated what they do. The state of New York has a new law in place that will definitely change their behavior, and the federal government is contemplating a law [the Sunshine Act]. Second, I hope students and their parents understand that they have to be better informed and that there was fraud in this marketplace, and they need to be informed to protect themselves.

**How widespread were conflicts of interest?**

I think it was widespread because it became an industry practice, and it's a competitive industry.... When one lender began offering incentives to schools, then the other lenders had to start to offer incentives. The competition of the marketplace drove the spread of the practices—the financial arrangements, the revenue sharing, the incentives alumni associations received for marketing to alumni, athletic departments that were doing their own marketing for their own commissions. It's widespread and pervasive—there's no doubt about it.

**How much do you think students were being hurt by those relationships?**

Depending on the circumstance, I think it cost [individual] students thousands of dollars.

**Your three daughters will be going to college one day—are there things that still worry you about the system?**

I have a few years before my daughters go. I hope we have this resolved by then. At this point, they will have to go to school in the state of New York, where we actually have the law; therefore, I won't have to worry about it, but I believe we will get federal legislation passed in the near term.... I think that federal law would make a tremendous difference.

**Did you take out college loans yourself?**

Yes, I did. The context here is important. Old people like me, when we took out loans, it was a significant amount of money but nothing like it is today. Today, you can come out with over $100,000 in debt. It is now a much more significant financial commitment, relatively, than it was 10, 20 years ago.

**Did you have a good experience with your loans?**
You know, I think I did. I took out loans and paid loans for years. I took loans for college and law school. But I wasn't even aware of these issues then. I didn't know enough to ask the questions. So I don't know if my schools had preferred-lender relationships.

**Why did you decide to make investigating the loan industry a priority?**

Because this is an issue that affects millions of people who can least afford it, concerning a very valuable commodity, which is access to higher education. You're talking about people who want to go to college, can't afford it, and are willing to take a loan because they believe it's a good investment, and who may be victimized in trying to achieve what we all say they should, which is a college education.

Tags: New York | colleges | credit | money | tuition | education

Tools: Share

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UNC Tomorrow?

North Carolina's state universities have a twofold mission: Educate the citizens of the state, and provide public leadership by aiming their resources toward the state's most urgent problems.

Doing that requires identifying the state's economic and societal needs and organizing educational resources to confront them.

The University of North Carolina system has begun an examination of how well its 17 campuses do that, with an eye to what changes are needed to ready universities to help meet the state's future needs. It's an important and worthwhile exercise called UNC Tomorrow. Beginning this week, the UNC system leadership is asking for your help.

Today, a series of statewide listening forums kicks off at East Carolina University. Those public conversations, which will continue through October, will connect citizens with UNC President Erskine Bowles, Board of Governors Chairman Jim Phillips and members of a statewide commission studying what the university of the future should look like.

These forums are one part of the Board of Governors' long-term planning process. It's an effort to look 20 years down the road and align the missions, programs and funding for campuses with the state's future needs. Mr. Bowles has vowed to use feedback from the listening forums in shaping plans.

Here are some of the questions the UNC Tomorrow Commission asks citizens to answer:

• What are the most important challenges facing your community and how can public universities help?
• What programs and services should the university offer?
• What knowledge and skills do students need?
• How can the UNC system help improve economic opportunities in your area?

Those are significant issues for a university system. This is an important opportunity for citizens to help shape their mission.

The forums in the Charlotte region will take place Oct. 3 in Charlotte and Hickory. UNC Charlotte is the fourth largest campus -- and the one that serves the state's most populous region. The forums provide an opportunity for the people who live here to give the leadership of the UNC system a primer on how people in our region think that campus should grow and what resources it needs to serve our area.

When public institutions fail to look to the future, two things happen: Tomorrow comes, and they're unprepared. The people who depend on them suffer, as does society as a whole. The UNC system's leaders are working to make sure it has a vision and a plan to keep that from happening here. To do it well, they need our help.

Want to Go?

The UNC Tomorrow commission's local listening forums will be Oct. 3, in Charlotte (9 a.m., room 267, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center) and in Hickory (4 p.m., Metro Convention Center.)
Cartoonist Forced Out Over Image of African Famine

By Ian Shapira
Washington Post Staff Writer
Wednesday, September 12, 2007; B05

Grant Woolard, a senior at the University of Virginia, says he cannot remember exactly what inspired him to draw a cartoon for the student newspaper about Ethiopia’s famine. But the biology major said yesterday that he wanted to raise awareness about a serious issue using what he saw as a bit of humor, as is the wont of any ambitious cartoonist.

Here is what Woolard, who is white, drew for the Sept. 4 comics page of the Cavalier Daily: nine darkened figures with bald, enlarged heads, dressed only in loincloths, fighting each other over a tree branch, pillow, chair, boot and stool. The caption for the melee: "Ethiopian Food Fight."

The cartoon set off a debate on the Charlottesville campus and triggered protests by students and others angry at what they considered racial insensitivity.

Woolard was forced to resign from the paper.

"I was not trying to trivialize famine," the 22-year-old said. "When you have a food fight, you fight with food. This cartoon brings you to the realization that there's a famine . . . and in general, people give very little thought to starving people in other countries. But I will admit that I really lacked the foresight in anticipating the reaction. I should have thought that they were going to think I was portraying Africans as savage and misshapen."

His drawing has also triggered questions about political cartoons and reader reactions to those that deal with issues such as race or religion.

The episode was like other controversies that have cropped up at college papers across the country.

In January, the Daily Princetonian heard allegations of bias when it published an article in a joke issue that parodied an Asian American student who had filed a civil rights complaint against Princeton University after being rejected for admission. The article, in broken English, complained about the university's rejection of "the super smart Asian."

At U-Va., debate continues about whether the paper's managing board of editors -- who approved publication of the cartoon -- should step down as well.

Herb Ladley, editor in chief of the Cavalier Daily, said that some of Woolard's previous cartoons were also controversial. Ladley cited one that depicted the Virgin Mary and indicated that she had a sexually transmitted disease -- a cartoon that was discussed on the Fox TV show "The O'Reilly Factor."

Ladley declined to discuss personnel decisions but said he had approved the cartoon for publication. "This one came in late at night, after 12:30, and my initial reaction was, 'This is offensive.' But we print a lot of offensive things. The
instant the public raised a question about it, we realized it was a mistake."

The day after the cartoon was published, campus minority groups, led by a chapter of the NAACP, marched to the Cavalier Daily's newsroom in the basement of the student activity center and demanded that Woolard be fired, said Brandon Kelley, the chapter's president.

"One of our members, she is actually Ethiopian, so this hit home to her," he said.

High-level university officials -- including the U-Va. vice president and chief student affairs officer, the interim dean of students and the dean of African American affairs -- condemned the cartoon in an open campus letter, saying that more than 60 people had contacted a university Web site to report bias.

About a third of this year's freshmen at U-Va. identify themselves as minorities or international students in what school officials describe as their most diverse class ever.

Deborah McDowell, interim director of the Carter G. Woodson Institute, which oversees the university's African American studies program, said she learned about the cartoon when two students came to see her during her office hours.

"I thought it was highly offensive," she said of the cartoon. "It draws on a variety of stereotypes about African people presumed to be barbaric or outside the realm of civilization. . . . I don't know what the point was. That's part of the problem. Humor is always risky. When one takes a risk about something so sensitive . . . one has to take their lumps."

Robert Mankoff, cartoon editor for the New Yorker, which specializes in drawings that mock human foibles, looked at Woolard's cartoon after a reporter e-mailed it to him.

He said that it is important for cartoonists to confront serious topics but that they should be careful when depicting a race or ethnicity that has been caricatured in demeaning ways.

"The New Yorker magazine would not have published it," Mankoff said. "It doesn't sound on the face of it that his intention was to offend, but there is liability there by not being aware of these issues. We live in a very polarized society in which there are long-running grievances."

So how does an artist make a funny cartoon about Ethiopian famine? "You might make fun of people and models who aspire to this emaciated look and show their fatuousness," Mankoff said. "It's a more sophisticated approach."

Woolard said he wants to continue cartooning, even if it means he has to start his own Web site or publication.

He already has his next subject: global warming.