THE DAILY CLIPS

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ECU survives scare in New Orleans

BY NATHAN SUMMERS
The Daily Reflector

NEW ORLEANS — Everything is still there for the taking for the No. 14 East Carolina Pirates, but only because the Pirates survived a serious scare in New Orleans on Saturday.

ECU gutted out its third win in three tries when senior quarterback Patrick Pinkney found Jamar Bryant in the end zone for a 24-yard touchdown pass with 1:41 to play in the game.

The score overturned a Tulane lead and gave ECU an unlikely 28-24 win over the Green Wave.

The Pirates had taken three previous leads, but each time the Green Wave rallied to tie the score. In the fourth quarter, Tulane pulled into the lead, 24-21, but the Pirates drove down the field in the game's dying minutes to steal the victory.

"They had every opportunity to lose it, to hang their head with the number of mis-

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takes that were made," fourth-year ECU coach Skip Holtz said of his team. "We did a lot of things that were not typical of us. I think a lot of the credit goes to Tulane and the type of defense that they have."

The win gave the Pirates a 1-0 start to Conference USA play, and extended ECU's perfect record to 3-0. Next Saturday, the Pirates travel to Raleigh to take on N.C. State in the third of the team's four non-conference games.

The win inside the Louisiana Superdome means the national spotlight will stay with the team for a third consecutive week. Although they escaped by the skin of their teeth, the Pirates are still in contention for an unbeaten season, which would likely vault the them into one of college football's prestigious Bowl Championship Series bowl games at season's end.

The Pirates won despite committing four turnovers. Pinkney embodied his team's effort, bouncing back from a dismal first half to pass for 260 yards and two touchdowns.

"I'm proud of the way these guys competed, but it certainly wasn't our best effort," Holtz said. "We didn't play very well. We've got a lot to work on to correct. But any win in this day and age, especially when you find a way to win against a good football team, we feel very fortunate."

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N.C. LOTTERY
Pick 3: 1-9-3 (day), 6-0-1
Powerball: 7-17-29-43-51 38
Pirates strong enough to overcome the residue of perception

It's not often an unranked college football team starts its season by beating a previous year's conference champion ranked among the top teams nationally, then turns around the next weekend and does it again — and both times on national television.

Not often — I guess not. Has this ever happened?

Somebody else can research that one. I'm content to marvel at the accomplishment of East Carolina's Pirates so far this season, including Saturday's heart-stopping win over Tulane. Football fans nationwide have done the same, including, I understand, Regis Philbin.

It's just too bad those same folks who are singing the praises of the team also are shaking their heads at what happened in Greenville after the great win against West Virginia on Sept. 6.

On the rare chance that you do not have a TV, radio, take a newspaper, surf the Internet or communicate through tin cans connected with string, what happened was that after that game several security officers roughly treated some of the students who had rushed onto the field to celebrate after the victory. Some students were tackled and thrown to the ground, others apparently were beaten.

The sad display was captured on video and bolted through media worldwide, from local Internet and television to ESPN and YouTube and other Web sites hither and yon. Whatever perceptions of East Carolina and Greenville these images have created comprise the unfortunate price we pay for today's media world and its demand for instant headlines and dramatic images.

These big images, the kind that can catch attention, are the ones that play the loudest and longest. They come at you fast and furiously, such as police running at students with fists swinging. You're likely to see these — over and over — and they leave a residue difficult to clean.

East Carolina knows this kind of pain well having only in recent years put behind it unflattering perceptions of being a "party school" or similarly negative ones left after altercations following the N.C. State football game in 1987. The city of Greenville, too, has had to work through and live down a reputation for unruly Halloween parties.

Now in the same breath wherein the Pirates' early season exploits are recounted around the country, there likely will also be a reference to those free-swinging security officers — along with the video clips. I hope this fades quickly, but I don't count on it. It's one of the realities of our day we can't escape.

While the real news here is that there are difficult issues the university and its security team must sort out, what the country is likely to know of this are only those big images they have already seen, and not this community's response to them.

It could take a football season of wins to overcome the perceptions left from the breakdown in security at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium last weekend, but the good thing is that East Carolina's resurgent Pirates have the talent, guidance and spirit to deliver just that. The Pirate Nation and now a wider nation of football fans will be cheering for that result.

Al Clark is executive editor of The Daily Reflector. Tell him what you think at aclark@coxnc.com or at 252-329-9560.
N.C. college board OKs salary for Mary Easley

The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL — An 88 percent pay raise North Carolina State University gave the state’s first lady has been approved by the University of North Carolina system’s board of governors.

Mary Easley, an executive in residence and senior lecturer at N.C. State, is married to Gov. Mike Easley. In July, the school raised her pay to $170,000 from $90,300, but did not submit the raise for review by the full university system as required for such large increases.

Easley’s raise was one of 46 submitted by N.C. State to university system leaders.

The board of governors approved Easley’s salary Friday, but said $55,250 of it would be paid with money raised through grants and other fundraising, which will be part of Easley’s new duties.

UNC system president Erskine Bowles said Friday he supports the raise. “I am convinced the proposed salary fits the job and is totally justified,” he said.

Easley joined N.C. State in 2005 as a senior lecturer, working nine months a year. She also ran the school’s Millennium Seminars lecture series, which brings high-profile speakers to campus.

Her new job is year-round and comes with a host of additional duties, including responsibility for a new Center for Public Safety Leadership that will develop strategies for police, firefighters, port officials and other emergency workers. Easley also will teach two courses in the school’s Administrative Officers Management Program.
Season opens with Grant Llewellyn conducting the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra

The Daily Reflector

As East Carolina University enters into its 46th season of the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series, it continues to bring world-class entertainment to eastern North Carolina. With a variety of one-night entertainment, this year's series offers seven productions that includes dance, music and a holiday concert.

GRANT LLEWELLYN and the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra present the opening concert of the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.
The season begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday when conductor Grant Lewellyn leads the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra in a performance of Dvorak's monumental Symphony No. 9 “From the New World.” Also on the program are Elgar's “In the South” and Britten's “Four Sea Interludes.”

The North Carolina Symphony was founded in 1932 and is currently based in the Meymandi Concert Hall at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Raleigh. During the summer, the symphony performs outdoors at Regency Park in nearby Cary.

The orchestra has also appeared twice at Carnegie Hall in New York and once each at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and Orchestra Hall in Chicago.

**Oct. 23: Philadanco**

The Philadelphia Dance Company, known as Philadanco, will present the program, “In the Black Tradition” at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 23. The event will feature “Ritornello” by Gene Hill Sagan, “Philadachina Experiment” by Rennie Harris, “Violin Concerto” by Milton Myers and “Enemy Behind the Gates” by Christopher L. Huggins.

Founder and artistic director Joan Myers Brown will host a question-and-answer session following the performance.

**Nov. 21: Marvin Hamlisch and the ECU Symphony Orchestra**

A highlight of this year’s season includes a performance by the highly decorated composer and entertainer Marvin Hamlisch.

He is perhaps best known for his ground-breaking show “A Chorus Line,” for which he received a Pulitzer Prize. In addition to his Pulitzer, Hamlisch has won virtually every major award that exists: three Oscars, four Grammys, four Emmys, a Tony and three Golden Globe awards.

Hamlisch serves as the principal pops conductor of the National, Pittsburgh, Seattle and San Diego symphony orchestras.

When he takes the stage in Wright Auditorium, the first half of the program will feature Hamlisch as conductor, commanding the ECU Symphony Orchestra in arrangements of his works and others from

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the American Broadway and movie tradition.
The second portion of the program will
feature Hamlisch playing the piano.

Dec. 11: The King’s Singers

To celebrate the holiday season, The King’s
Singers will present their take on a traditional
English carol service. The program will com-
bine songs for the season with warm winter
readings from works by esteemed English
poets.

The King’s Singers perform more than 100
shows a year throughout the world. With the
recent album release “Landscape and Time”
having been described as possessing “singing
of rare distinction,” and “stunningly high mu-
sical standards,” they have maintained their
place at the apex of a cappella singing, and
are counted amongst the world’s elite class of
performers.

In 2008 the ensemble celebrated its 40th
anniversary. The King’s Singers repertoire
includes medieval music, masterpieces of
the Renaissance, folk, pop and jazz and they

are constantly expanding their repertoire.
They have joined forces with many famous
orchestras such as the London Symphony, the
Cincinnati Pops and the Chicago Symphony
Orchestra.

Jan. 23: Pianist Chu-Fang Huang

Chu-Fang Huang is the winner of the 2005 Cleveland
International Piano Competition and a finalist in the 12th
Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

She will perform a solo recital at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23.
While the program has not
yet been set, Huang is known
for performances of works by Bach, Bartok,
Beethoven, Brahms, Liszt and Rachmaninoff.

Feb. 20: Metropolitan Opera baritone
Nathan Gunn and pianist John Wustman

This season’s exclusive performance will
be that of Nathan Gunn and John Wustman,
who are preparing Franz Schubert’s famous
“Die schöne Müllerin” for performance only
in ECU’s Wright Auditorium.

Gunn, a baritone, returned to the Met-
ropolitan Opera last season as Mercutio in
“Roméo et Juliette,” which was broadcast live
in HD in movie theaters around the world.
Last year he also performed at the Lyric Opera
of Chicago as Figaro in “Il Barbiere di Sivi-
glia,” the London Symphony
Orchestra as the title role in
a concert version of “Billy
Budd” and the New York
Philharmonic’s semi-staged
performances of “Camelot.”
He also made four separate
appearances at Carnegie
Hall including concerts with
both the Atlanta Symphony
Orchestra and the Orchestra of St. Luke’s.

Wustman is ECU’s School of Music 2008-
2009 Robert L. Jones Distinguished Visiting
Professor of Music.

Wustman has appeared in the leading con-
cert halls of five continents with some of the
greatest singers from the second half of the
20th century: Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Birgit
Nilsson, Régine Crespin, Christa Ludwig.
Nicolai Gedda, Carlo Bergonzi, and Luciano Pavarotti.

Career highlights include a series of televised recitals with Pavarotti, including the first recital from the Metropolitan Opera House in 1978. His recording of Mussorgsky and Rachmaninoff songs with Irina Arkhipova won the Grand Prix du Disque. Other recordings include song recitals with Régine Crespin, Carlo Bergonzi, Brigitte Fassbaender and the "Live from Carnegie Hall" recital with Luciano Pavarotti.

April 2: Russian National Ballet

The Russian National Ballet will conclude the season with a presentation of the classic ballet "Giselle."

The company was founded in 1989 when Sergei Radchenko, principal dancer of the Bolshoi Ballet, sought to realize his vision of a company that would bring together the highest classical elements of the great Bolshoi and Kirov companies in an independent new company within the framework of Russian classic ballet.

"Giselle" is a story of a peasant girl who falls in love with Count Albrécht, who has led her to believe that he is a villager named Loys. Giselle's superstitious mother, Berthe, hoping that Giselle will marry the forester Hilarion, warns her against Loys, to whom she has taken an instinctive dislike.

In order to discourage Giselle's love for Loys, her mother further recounts the legend of the Wilis — ghosts of young girls who have been jilted and die before their wedding day. To avenge themselves, they dance to death any man who crosses their paths between midnight and dawn.

The telling of the legend proves to be prophetic. Shocked by betrayal, Giselle loses her reason and kills herself, joining the Wilis. Ultimately, her love protects Albrécht from the power of the ghost queen, but in the end, she is dead, and he is alone.
BY TOM MARINE
The Daily Reflector

Despite a nursing shortage expected to intensify in the coming years, East Carolina University’s College of Nursing enrollment has jumped nearly 40 percent since 2004.

For this fall semester, the college has about 1,200 students enrolled in classes, making it the largest nursing program in North Carolina.

There are now more than 2,600 registered nurses working in the state who graduated from ECU, according to the Sheps Center, a health services research facility based in Chapel Hill.

“We’ve grown phenomenally,” said Sylvia T. Brown, acting dean of the College of Nursing. “We have steadily increased our enrollment, but it eventually gets to the point where you get tight. There is somewhat of a limit.”

Every semester, Brown said, the College of Nursing receives about 350 applications, but has room for only 130 students. That is a big jump from its inaugural class of 1964, which consisted of 17 graduates.

Still, Brown said, there are some constraints to how many nursing students the college can admit, including the availability of clinical site placements and a limited number of faculty members.

“It’s a complicated process when you look at the enrollment,” she said. “It’s more than just putting (students) in a classroom. You have to think about the clinical experience.”

To help prepare them for clinical settings, the Health Sciences Building, which opened in 2006, houses eight simulation labs where students can practice basic and advanced medical procedures on mannequins programmed by computers.

Laura Gantt, executive director of learning technologies and labs at the College of Nursing, said the students can practice taking blood pressure, assessing normal and abnormal heart or lung sounds and different patient-care scenarios.

“I think labs, historically, have always been used to practice in a safe environment,” Gantt said. “That is why simulation labs are so big. We want our students to be prepared before they practice on people.”

The growing need for nurses has been documented by the

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American Association of Colleges of Nursing, which predicts the shortage of registered nurses across the country could reach 500,000 by 2025, according to a report by Dr. Peter Buerhaus. The report states the demand for registered nurses continues to grow by two or three percent each year.

Locally, Brown said, there is an extreme shortage of nurses and nurse faculty in the state, with about 20,000 nurses needed by 2015 and as many as 32,000 needed by 2020.

The Sheps Center reports nearly 11 percent of all active, registered nurses working in the state with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, graduated from ECU. Of that number, most are concentrated in and around eastern North Carolina.

In Pitt County, ECU nurses account for more than 60 percent of the total number, according to the Sheps Center.

"We are a big school with a down-home atmosphere," Brown said. "We attract people who are interested in staying in eastern North Carolina. I think they realize that we are a quality school, and I guess that is why they choose us."

Two students who say they plan to stay in North Carolina to practice nursing, Joe Gill and Caitlin Biggerstaff, are entering their third semester in the college. Both Gill and Biggerstaff worked in externships at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, which the College of Nursing helped them secure, and plan to work there after they graduate.

Gill said he likes the potential behind ECU, because it provides a lot of areas for success. Similarly, he said, the elevated level of education makes the nursing students competitive with people from all other backgrounds.

"The College of Nursing promotes us being patient advocates when we are treating them," Gill said. "You have the opportunity to have an immediate impact on people’s lives and a delayed impact on the community as a whole."

Biggerstaff said she often sees the administration make the effort to reach out to its high achievers, which creates a conducive environment for success. She described the education she has received from the college as superior.

"ECU provides you with that pride," said Biggerstaff, a Greenville native who received her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "The teachers really reach out to us. They are student-advocates like we are patient-advocates."

Tom Marine can be contacted at tmarine@coxnc.com and 329-9567.
Salmon fillets cooked in a smoker. Salads topped with pan-seared beef or chicken. Pizza slices served hot from the oven.

It may sound more like fine dining than on-campus cuisine, but these menu items and more can now be found at East Carolina University's newly renovated Todd Dining Hall, known as The Fresh Food Company.

"We're very excited about these changes," Joyce Sealey, food service director, said. "This new model completely changes the common perceptions about dining hall food."

Extensive renovations have given the cafeteria on College Hill a lively, market-style atmosphere where food preparation takes center stage.

Seven show kitchens offer home-style meals, grilled sandwiches and entrees, a self-serve produce market, pizza and pasta, homemade desserts and a variety of beverages. Vegetarian fare is available at every meal, and healthy options are promoted throughout the facility.

"Universities around the country have embraced the Fresh Food Company concept that focuses on serving fresh, locally-grown foods and making preparation more visible to the customers," Sealey said.

Todd Hall goes a step further by employing high-end cooking tools, such as a new pizza deck oven and a smokehouse that cooks up traditional eastern North Carolina favorites.

Other additions include high seating around the deli counter, television screens, multiple beverage stations, even a marble slab in the dessert station to mix toppings into ice cream.

An official opening is scheduled for 2 p.m., Sept. 24.

The public can dine at Todd Dining Hall for the following prices: breakfast, $4.85; lunch, $7.20 and dinner, $7.60 (plus sales tax). Daily menus and nutritional information are available at www.ecu.edu/dining.
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Bureau. "It really helps put Greenville, North Carolina, on the map."

Around Greenville, purple and gold banners fly in front of local businesses that are part of the Pirate Club's Pirates Supporting Pirates initiative. And electronic signs spell out support for the team; spotted at the Bell's Fork Walgreens: "ARRGH. Beat Tulane."

"The business community is super proud of our ECU Pirates — always have been and always will be," said Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce President Suzanne Sartelle. "And it sure is fun when we're winning! This community is Pirate Family."

Excitement is spilling over from the gridiron to the entire community.

"I definitely think the community has had a renewed sense of energy lately," Vargas said.

"There's a buzz in the air. People just seem like they are rejuvenated and want to be out around people."

This week, the Pirate faithful have been decked out in purple and gold. Skull-and-crossbones flags — usually most apparent on game day — have fluttered from car windows around town.

"We have noticed a dramatic increase in the sale of car flags and car magnets," said Don Edwards, owner of university-merchandiser UBE. "They want to say 'East Carolina' loud and clear and display it for all to see. And sales of house flags have been really big this year."

On campus, students are showing their true colors, as well.

"Students are wearing more purple and gold, which means less Carolina Blue and State Red is being seen," said Student Pirate Club President D.J. Fussell.

And the buzz on campus is all about the Pirates.

"In the past, a football game would come and the excitement of it would pass by the end of the week, but not anymore," Fussell said. "The absolute thrill around campus is something that has not been seen here in my four years."

He noted that students — and even professors — have been discussing the big wins against Virginia Tech and West Virginia before classes and during breaks.

But Greenville residents aren't the only people cheering for the Pirates.

"One of the things we've noticed is the support is from all over everywhere," Edwards said. "We have seen more people in our store than ever be-
fore. It is bringing out a whole new set of fans. Everybody loves a winner. We have never seen the likes of this — since the Peach Bowl (victory in 1992).

“And people from throughout the nation are supporting East Carolina. When we look at our Internet sales, we are still getting business from throughout the state — but we also have orders from Florida, from Virginia, from the Northeast.

“Our niece lives in New York and she and her friends have adopted the Pirates. They were watching the game on ESPN and, even though her friends don’t have any connection to ECU, they have decided they are Pirate fans.”

One of the most famous new members of the Pirate Nation is talk show host Regis Philbin, who voiced his support for East Carolina during the Thursday broadcast of “Live with Regis and Kelly.”

Philbin, a vocal Notre Dame booster, said that he’s a game behind the other panelists participating in Yahoo.com’s “College Football Pick ’em.”

“I didn’t pick East Carolina, and I’m never going to do that again,” Philbin said on Thursday’s live broadcast. “East Carolina is the coming team in college football ... coached by Skip Holtz, Lou Holtz’ son, who has been coaching for a long time and is finally coming into his own. And this is the team to watch.

“Remember what I am telling you. East Carolina may go unbeaten this year. I can’t go on, ’cause I signed with Yahoo.”

For this week’s picks, Philbin selected East Carolina to beat Tulane — but so did the other experts on the Yahoo panel.

Sartelle said the team’s success is inspiring.

“I’m a firm believer that good things don’t just happen,” she said. “Good people make them happen. We are blessed with dynamic coaches and athletic leaders who not only want to win but who genuinely care about the players and their success on and off the field. And these young men team members are motivated to work hard which is bringing great results. We are indeed proud of them and grateful for their commitment.”

Fussell said he thinks this football season will be a memorable one for ECU students and fans.

“Too say the least, this is going to be a season to remember,” Fussell said. “We believe!”

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N.C. State tickets hard to get even for Student Pirate Club

BY BROCK LETCHWORTH
The Daily Reflector

A limited number of tickets for East Carolina University’s football game next Saturday against rival North Carolina State will be made available to Student Pirate Club members next week.

But most will have to settle for watching the game on television, university officials say.

On Tuesday, the Student Pirate Club will be selling an allotment of less than 100 tickets to its members at the Minges Coliseum ticket office. With more than 5,000 members, Derek Denton, Pirate Club fundraising field representative, said the tickets are sure to go quickly.

“We wish we had more to offer, but there is not a lot we can do because this is such a high-demand game,” Denton said.

Only members of the Student Pirate Club are allowed to purchase tickets, according to Denton.

Ticket sales will begin at 7 a.m., he says, and they will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost is $49, and sales are limited to one per person.

Students will not be allowed to get in line until 7 a.m. Denton said campus police will be patrolling the area.

“We’re doing that as a safety precaution,” Denton said.

Scott Wetherbee, ECU’s assistant athletics director/ticket operations, said the university normally doesn’t offer student tickets for road games, but the

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proximity and demand for the N.C. State contest prompted them to change that approach.

“We wanted to give some students a chance to be there, sit by the band and have a good time,” he said. “But we don’t have very many to sell.”

East Carolina was allotted 4,100 tickets, Wetherbee said, but only 3,300 remained after tickets were distributed for players, coaches and band members. Most of those were purchased by Pirate Club members, Wetherbee said.

“We wish we had more, but we are kind of limited by what we’re given by State according to the contract,” Wetherbee said. “It is the same when they come here. We don’t give them as many tickets either.”

The contract between the schools calls for each to receive 4,100 tickets, Wetherbee said. In the contract that expired last season, each school received 5,000 tickets.

The Pirates’ game against N.C. State is being broadcast nationally on ESPN or ESPN2.

“We want to be sure people realize that so they know that, even if they don’t get a ticket, they can still watch the game and support their team,” Denton said.

Tickets still are available for anyone wanting to attend the Oct. 11 Pirates’ game at Virginia. They can be purchased by calling the athletic ticket office at 328-4500.

Brock Letchworth can be contacted at 329-9574 or bletcherw@coxnc.com.
The Daily Reflector

Conference USA announced Friday its plan to fine East Carolina University $10,000 for the post-game celebration following last week’s victory over the West Virginia Mountaineers.

That notification came on the same day that university officials announced that ECU’s police chief had asked the State Bureau of Investigation to take over the probe of law enforcement actions after the game.

The SBI will look into reports of excessive force by law officers during the post-game celebration, an ECU news release said, effectively ending the university’s investigation.

C-USA’s fine is based on a ruling that the celebration violated the league’s sportsmanship policy. League officials said another such incident could result in the suspension of East Carolina’s future hosting privileges for conference championship competition.

A league policy prohibits public access to competition areas unless the visiting team and officials have made a safe transition to the locker room.

“Having personally experienced the game day atmosphere at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, I would like to congratulate the 43,610 members of the Pirate nation who provided a national television audience with an outstanding example of how important the fans are to a great college football experience,” said Conference USA Commissioner Britton Banowsky. “However, in June 2008, the conference adopted a post-game policy to ensure the safety of visiting players and officials is maintained. That cannot be achieved when fans are celebrating on the field in the presence of the visiting team.

“As is the case in every conference, we expect all 12 of our members to take the steps necessary to create a safe environment at their events. It is both a reasonable expectation and an important one.”

Because of the number of law enforcement agencies providing security at the game, ECU Police Chief Scott Shelton said he thought it appropriate for an independent office to conduct the investigation — hence his call to the SBI.

Shelton said Pitt County District Attorney Clark Everett will decide whether to bring charges after the SBI concludes its work.

Earlier this week, Shelton said the university will not use outside law enforcement agencies to help staff home football games for the rest of this season, a decision stemming from complaints filed with the ECU Police that fans were punched and thrown to the ground following the game.

The Lenoir County Sheriff’s Office on Tuesday confirmed it was one of its deputies shown hitting a fan repetitively with a closed fist on ESPN. The fan was among hundreds who ran onto the field after the victory; others have complained of excessive force, too.

East Carolina Chancellor Steve Ballard said the university’s first concern in safety of fans and participants, and officials are committed to making changes to enhance that safety.

In a release on the university’s athletics Web site earlier in the week, Director of Athletics Terry Holland wrote “We want the Pirate nation to have the best opportunity to celebrate with our team and we are open to suggestions that recognize safety and sportsmanship concerns.”

Holland noted that the East Carolina players and coaches have established their own tradition of “storming the stands” and singing the school fight song with the student body.

“That seems a classy and unique method of celebrating that allows the most fans to stay and feel part of the celebration,” Holland wrote. “However, if there is some better manner to celebrate, there is every reason to try it.”
Lose weight: Your knees will thank you

BY THOMAS GOLDSMITH
STAFF WRITER

More than a million additional people in North Carolina will probably have arthritis by 2030, and a UNC-Chapel Hill study of arthritis in Johnston County says rising rates of obesity will play a role in many of those cases.

Study results show that people who are obese double their lifetime risk of having osteoarthritis of the knee, said Dr. Joanne Jordan, director of the Thurston Arthritis Research Center at UNC-CH.

"The main message is that symptomatic knee osteoarthritis is very common — and is going to be more common — and that obesity really increases that risk immensely over the lifetime," said Jordan, also principal investigator of the Johnston County Osteoarthritis Project.

She is the senior author of the research, which appears in today's edition of the journal Arthritis & Rheumatism.

Osteoarthritis is a painful and po-

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potentially life-altering disease in which cartilage breaks down and deteriorates. It is the most common kind of arthritis and can be aggravated by injury as well as obesity — information that more people need to hear, Jordan said.

"'Ticking time bomb'

"One piece that sometimes gets forgotten is that obesity is occurring at younger ages," she said. "We may start seeing osteoarthritis at younger ages. It's a ticking time bomb."

More than 3,000 Johnston residents are subjects in the study, which began in 1990. Participants are selected at random and, if they agree to take part, receive interviews, X-rays, blood tests and bone density scans. They get a stipend and regular communications from project staff.

"They just absolutely love the fact that somebody cares about their arthritis," said Janice Woodard, project director. "Even if a cure isn't found in their lifetimes, maybe it will help their children or their grandchildren."

Participant Lynn Joyner, 59, of Clayton, was 32 pounds overweight earlier this year, but then she heard a liberating suggestion from Jordan at a Selma gathering of people in the study.

"One of the things she said was, 'If you'll just lose 10 pounds, it'll make all the difference in the world in your joints,'" Joyner said. "I thought, 'I can do that.'"

Joyner is active as a gardener and freelance decorator.

She said the lifestyle changes she has made to lose 12 pounds have paid off.

"I couldn't say it was 100 percent better, but I can tell the difference," she said.

Extra weight not only causes stress on joints but can also disturb the body's alignment, Jordan said.

"If people actually lose weight, they can improve their pain and symptoms, as well as their functioning, and keep from becoming disabled," she said.

Leo Stewart, 58, of Benson, has also heard the news as a study participant: He needs to take better care of himself. At 5-foot-7, he weighs in at 212.

"I'm a little overweight," he said. "My diet is not the best in the world. I eat a lot of pork. I really need to lay off that."

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newsobserver.com or (919) 829-8929
But the first lady has to help raise it

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL - First lady Mary Easley will retain the $170,000 salary N.C. State University proposed for her earlier this summer, but she must raise one-third of it herself.

That means taxpayers will pay $114,750, and Easley will have to raise the remaining $55,250 through grants and other private fundraising.

The total salary still represents an 88 percent raise from her previous salary of $90,300 for working as a senior lecturer and executive in residence within NCSU's provost's office.

UNC system leaders shrank the public's share of Easley's salary, and released background documents describing the duties of the job, in an attempt to quell a furor that erupted when the terms of her initial deal with NCSU were made public. Previously on a nine-month term, Easley will now be a 12-month employee.

"I am convinced the proposed salary fits the job and is totally justified," UNC system President Erskine Bowles said prior to the UNC system's Board of Governor's unanimous vote on the matter. "This is a big, complex job."

It is unusual for Bowles to discuss and defend a personnel decision to the extent that he did Friday. But Easley's salary and the manner by which NCSU put together her job responsibilities have been hotly debated for months.

Easley was hired initially in 2005 as a three-year contract employee primarily responsible for the Millennium Seminars speaker series. She received a big raise and some new responsibilities earlier this year.

SEE RAISE, PAGE 9A
RAISE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

The salary change was not submitted to the university system for approval, a violation of UNC system policy requiring that all raises of more than 15 percent or $10,000 be reviewed by the university system. Bowles was out of the country in July when news of the salary change first surfaced. On Friday, he recalled that he phoned his office to find out "who in the world had authorized this contract?"

But after scouring the paperwork and working with NCSU officials, Bowles said, he emerged convinced that the salary was proper and Easley was qualified for the job. He said he accepts NCSU's contention that Provost Larry Nielsen simply misinterpreted a six-year-old UNC system policy requiring all pay raises of more than 15 percent and $10,000 to be approved at the UNC system level.

"There is not a shred of evidence to suggest N.C. State tried to circumvent board policy," Bowles said. "There is not a shred of evidence to suggest N.C. State was under any political pressure to give Easley the job."

Easley will continue directing a speaker series. In addition, she'll teach, coordinate some pre-law programs and create a new public safety center. James O'Blinger, NCSU's chancellor, said Friday that Easley's new roles are in areas of the humanities where the university wants to place greater emphasis. He said Easley's abilities make her position feasible.

"Other universities trying to do this would have to hire three people," he said.

With the new salary, Easley, who is not on the tenure track, earns more than all but 94 of 3,455 faculty and professional staffers at NCSU, according to an analysis by The News & Observer. Reducing the taxpayer-funded portion of the salary "just made good, common sense," Bowles said, given that part of Easley's job will be to raise money for a new public safety center.

'Face-saving'

Jim Martin, the faculty chairman at NCSU, was unimpressed.

"I think it was an attempted face-saving move," said Martin, a chemistry professor.

O'Blinger said centers such as the one Easley will run routinely rely on private dollars.

Easley could not be reached for comment Friday but issued a short statement thanking university officials for their support.

While UNC officials distanced themselves from any suggestion that Easley's appointment was political, it has raised eyebrows in Raleigh.

"I was reading where the governor activated the anti-price-gouging law," said State Sen. Phil Berger of Eden, the Senate Republican Leader, referring to Gov. Mike Easley's warning Friday about temporary gas shortages. "Wouldn't it be grand if he applied that to his wife's salary?"

At NCSU, faculty members are still bothered by the way university administrators created a series of new job responsibilities for Easley without following customary procedures.

"The decision of the Board of Governors to grant Mrs. Easley's raise does not come as a surprise,"

MARY EASLEY'S
JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

According to an extensive breakdown of the job that the university system provided with Easley's consent, the state's first lady will have four roles. Here they are, by the percentage of time she's expected to spend on each:

- 35 percent of her time will be spent conceiving, creating and directing a new Center for Public Safety Leadership, which NCSU hopes eventually will be a national leader in teaching, research and outreach for police, fire and other emergency management personnel.
- 30 percent of her time will be spent doing what she has done for three years now: directing the Millennium Seminars lecture series. NCSU officials say the time reduction is possible because the program's foundation has now been established.
- 20 percent of her time will be spent coordinating a series of law-specific academic programs. NCSU has no law school, but more than 240 NCSU students applied to law schools last year. (Easley, a lawyer, is a former prosecutor. She has also taught law at N.C. Central University.)
- 15 percent of her time will be spent teaching two courses in NCSU's Administrative Officers Management Program.

Policy on pay increases.

In July, Nielsen said that because Easley had a unique role at NCSU, there was no clear benchmark to use to determine her salary. Thus, he used approved salary ranges for full, tenured professors in business law, business management and public administration as guidelines. He acknowledged that doing so wasn't a perfect comparison because full professors have work expectations that differ from Easley's.

But NCSU and UNC system officials subsequently used other benchmarks to justify Easley's salary. Administrative documents released Friday show that for each of Easley's roles, similar jobs at other universities were evaluated. For example, several other universities have public safety leadership centers or institutes. The associate dean overseeing that effort at Johns Hopkins earns $144,000. At the University of Tennessee's Law Enforcement Innovation Center, the assistant vice president earns $144,000.

In realizing it didn't properly interpret the UNC system rule on pay raises, NCSU had to review more than 1,000 other work contracts from the past six years. The university won't be reprimanded for its failure to follow the salary policy correctly, Bowles said.

"Fifteen of the 16 campuses interpreted it one way, and N.C. State interpreted it another way," he said. "I think they learned from their mistake."

Staff writer Mark Johnson contributed to this article.

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Chancellors receive raises

FROM STAFF REPORTS

CHAPEL HILL — The UNC system's Board of Governors approved pay raises Friday for most of the system's campus chancellors.

Charlie Nelms, N.C. Central University's chancellor, received the top pay increase, an 8.08 percent raise that brings his 2008-09 salary to $290,000. At N.C. State University, Chancellor James Oblinger received a 7.46 percent raise and will be paid $420,000 this year.

UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Holden Thorp got no raise because he has been on the job only since July. He earns $420,000 annually, as well. The smallest increases were 3 percent, for N.C. A&T’s Stanley Battle, UNC-Asheville’s Anne Ponder and Elizabeth City State’s Willie Gilchrist.

System President Erskine Bowles received a 3 percent increase, as well. He now earns $477,148.
UNC-Chapel Hill to test its emergency sirens, messages Tuesday

FROM STAFF REPORTS

CHAPEL HILL — UNC-Chapel Hill will test emergency sirens and text messages Tuesday as part of Alert Carolina, a safety awareness campaign. The test is scheduled between 12:15 and 12:45 p.m.

Other than tests, the sirens would be activated for emergencies, including an armed and dangerous person on or near campus, a major chemical spill or hazard or a tornado sighting.

The Alert Carolina campaign aims to educate students, faculty and staff to be prepared to go inside, close windows or doors or take cover in a real emergency. The sirens also broadcast brief public address announcements.

People on or near campus may hear the sirens, located at Hinton James Residence Hall off Manning Drive; the Gary R. Tomkins Chilled Water Operations Center behind the Dogwood Parking Deck; Winston Residence Hall at the corner of Raleigh Street and South Road; and near the Giles Horney Building off Martin Luther King Boulevard. A fifth siren was added over the summer near Hill Hall and the Hanes Art Center.
Free prostate exams offered at UNC-CH

FROM STAFF REPORTS

CHAPEL HILL — UNC Health Care urologists will offer free prostate exams to the public from 1 to 7 p.m. on Sept. 17 and 18. For an appointment, call 966-1316.

The prostate exams will take place at UNC Hospitals’ urology clinic, on the second floor of N.C. Memorial Hospital.

Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths nationwide and the most common solid tumor in men, as reported by the Prostate Cancer Education Council, which estimates that more than 230,000 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year.

“Prostate cancer, when detected early enough, is one of the most curable cancers,” said Dr. Culley C. Carson, Chief of the Division of Urologic Surgery. “Early detection is key in the treatment of prostate cancer, as the symptoms may not be apparent until the disease has advanced significantly.”

In particular, black men 40 years and older, white men with a family history of cancer who are 40 years and older, and white men 50 years and older are encouraged to have prostate examinations.
Dr. Clifford Sturdevant, UNC-CH dentistry, dies

FROM STAFF REPORTS

CHAPEL HILL — Dr. Clifford Max Sturdevant, an international leader in academic dentistry and one of the first faculty members of the UNC-CH School of Dentistry, died Tuesday at the age of 90.

Sturdevant arrived at the School of Dentistry in July 1950, joining the faculty with his father, Dr. Roger Sturdevant. After the elder Sturdevant retired as founding chairman of the department of operative dentistry, his son became the department’s second chairman, serving in that role from 1959 to 1979.

“He demanded excellence, and that’s what he always displayed himself,” said Dr. Ted Roberson, who served almost four decades on the operative dentistry faculty. “He loved this dental school and this university, and he loved operative dentistry.”

“Dr. Cliff” was one of the school’s first researchers, receiving a U.S. Bureau of Standards grant to study dental materials. He also established one of the nation’s first clinical research programs in operative dentistry and biomaterials at UNC in 1970.

“Many of the restorative materials and techniques in use today in operative dentistry have in some way been pioneered or evaluated by the clinical research program in operative dentistry at UNC,” said Dr. Al Wilder, a professor of operative dentistry and director of clinical research.

Even after Sturdevant retired in 1980, he remained deeply committed to the school’s future, said Dr. Ken May, the school’s vice dean and a member of the department of operative dentistry’s faculty for the past 32 years.

Both May and Wilder remember hearing, as UNC dental students, the story of Sturdevant and Dr. John Brauer, the school’s first dean, sometimes passing each other in the parking lot in the middle of the night during the school’s formative years — Sturdevant leaving work and Brauer arriving.

Sturdevant is survived by his three children, Dr. John Sturdevant of Chapel Hill; Barbara Jean Andrews of Bangor, Maine; and Paula May Mercer of Richmond, Va.; and by his four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Betty, his wife of more than 67 years, died March 11.

A graveside service will be held at 4:30 p.m. Monday at the Chapel Hill Memorial Cemetery. A memorial service will be held at 6 p.m. at Mount Carmel Baptist Church.

Donations may be made to the Dr. Clifford M. Sturdevant Endowment Fund for Clinical Research in Operative Dentistry. Checks, written to “UNC Dental Foundation — Sturdevant Fund,” may be mailed to the Dental Foundation of North Carolina, UNC School of Dentistry, Campus Box 7451, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7451.
E. CAROLINA 28
TULANE 24

ECU
riding
the wave

Pinkney rescues perfect Pirates

BY A.J. CARR
STAFF WRITER

NEW ORLEANS – For an unsettling time Saturday, Patrick Pinkney was more perplexed than proficient, a quarterback seemingly lost in the pocket.

Also for a long time, East Carolina’s No. 14-ranked football team looked as if it might wind up lost in the vastness of the Louisiana Superdome.

But as good quarterbacks do and as good teams do, Pinkney and the Pirates pulled it together at the end to overcome tenacious Tulane, 28-24, and move their record to 3-0.

With 5:46 remaining and trailing 24-21, ECU’s defense hunkered down one more time, made a pivotal stop and got the ball back after Pinkney’s fumble in Pirates territory.

Now, in the moments that mattered most, Pinkney was the player who had vexed Virginia Tech and West Virginia — poised and productive. Moving briskly and efficiently, he guided the Pirates on an 80-yard drive that culminated with a winning TD pass to a leaping Jamar Bryant, who snared the ball on a “slant and go” route with 1:41 left.

“You’ve got to make the right decision, be poised,” said Pinkney
who threw for 64 yards and ran for 11 more on the tell-tale drive.

"It was a great competitive nature, great competitive fire," offensivie coordinator Todd Fitch said of ECU's quarterback. "They blitzed him from every angle known to man. He got a little confused. ... We opened the formation, went to two basic formations, so he could see better [in the second half]."

Then, Fitch said, it came down to the passer Pinkney and the receiver Bryant making a clutch play.

"It speaks volumes for East Carolina," Tulane coach Bob Toledo said. "They know how to finish a game. They make plays when they have to." The Pirates' defense, battling with its back to the wall much of the day, quickly built a dike around the Green Wave's offense and sealed the victory on Pierre Bell's interception in the final minute.

Moments later, the players were strolling along the edge of the Superdome wall, slapping hands with the small, but vociferous, ECU crowd. Near the locker room, defensive coordinator Greg Hudson gave Fitch a big bear hug.

Nobody had told ECU it would be easy here in the Big Easy, and it wasn't. Tulane was tough and the Pirates made life tougher on themselves with mistakes that included three lost fumbles, two that led to 10 Green Wave points.

"I'm proud of the way we competition," ECU coach Skip Holtz said. "We made a boatload of mistakes. We had every opportunity to lose it. ... [But] we kept competing, stayed positive.

Maybe that's another sign — after two emotional victories over Virginia Tech and West Virginia — that this could be a special team. That's how big seasons are stitched together, winning on days when defeat is staring you in the face, winning when the game is teetering in the balance.

OBSERVATIONS

NOT A CROWDED HOUSE

East Carolina had to adapt to different atmosphere Saturday. After playing before packed houses in wins over Virginia Tech and West Virginia, the Pirates performed in front of an announced crowd of 27,189 — in the Louisiana Superdome that seats about 70,000.

While feeding off the crowd wasn't as easy, the Pirates still played with lots of emotion.

INJURY DERAILS COTTON'S BIG DAY

It looked as if this would be Quentin Cotton's big day. He intercepted a pass, ran 44 yards after a blocked field goal for a touchdown, then broke up a pass. But late in the first half, he suffered a knee injury and left the stadium on crutches. Offensive lineman Stanley Bryant also got hurt and walked away on crutches. Linebacker Nick Johnson did an improbable jump filling in for Cotton, and Terrence Campbell and D.J. Scott picked up the slack in the line after Bryant went down.

TIME (OF POSSESSION) NOT ON PIRATES' SIDE

In the first two games, East Carolina's time of possession was a combined 17 minutes, 38 seconds longer than Virginia Tech and West Virginia. But Saturday, Tulane kept the ball for 34:01 — to ECU's 25:59 — which put added stress on the Pirates' defense.

STATE DON'T LIE

Although he struggled to find a rhythm in the first half, Patrick Pinkney finished with a big stat day: 22-for-32 for 260 yards and two TDs. In three games he has completed 63 of 83 throws for 707 yards, four touchdowns and one interception.

BLOCK PARTY

C.J. Wilson collected his third career blocked kick in the first half, which set up Quentin Cotton's touchdown rumble.

PIRATES GIVE UP BIG PLAYS

While East Carolina had two interceptions, the Pirates also gave up a few big pass plays. ECU coach Skip Holtz said that will get attention this week, but knew coming in Tulane would test the Pirates secondary more than Virginia Tech and West Virginia did.

The Pirates had found a way against Virginia Tech — when T.J. Lee blocked a punt and scored the winning touchdown in the waning moments. Then they dominated West Virginia, needing no late-game heroics.

There was lots of talk about a possible Pirates letdown this week. Instead, there were some execution breakdowns and bad breaks — with injuries to linebacker Quentin Cotton (44-yard TD run after C.J. Wilson's blocked punt) and offensive tackle Stanley Bryant.

"We didn't come in here asleep," Holtz said. "We were dogtired. I knew it would be dogtired. Tulane is a real good team."

The Green Wave held ECU's searching, probing offense to a 7-7 standoff in the first half. And on offense, quarterback Kevin Moore (21-for-37 passing) burned the Pirates' secondary with two long passing plays to Jeremy Williams (eight catches, 138 yards).

Still, East Carolina's defense had a big hand in the win. There was the blocked punt by Wilson that led to Cotton's TD; two interceptions; and a goal-line stand in the first half.

"I'm proud of them, to give up only 24 points after we gave them the ball inside our 40 five times," Holtz said.

For the first 30 minutes, it looked as if the defense might have to win it outright. But at halftime, Pinkney relaxed and Fitch unfurled kind of a jambalaya offense, spicing the varied attack more passing and a little foxy football.

He took out the tight end, opened up the formations and put two blockers in the backfield.

With better vision, better protection and sharper reads, Pinkney completed 11 straight passes during one stretch and finished 22-of-32 for 260 yards with two TDs and one pick.

A big moment came when he rolled right, tossed a screen pass back to Norman Whiteley, who scurried 51 yards while chauffeured by ECU blockers. That made it 21-14 in the third quarter, but a fumble by the Pirates' Jonathan Williams quickly set up another Tulane touchdown.

There would be more suspense, more tension, more drama — then more ecstasy for Holtz, Pinkney and the undefeated Pirates.

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NO. 14 EAST CAROLINA 28, TULANE 24

Dr. Terry W. Summey

The Pirates' offense was better this week, and they showed it in the first half.

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