THE DAILY CLIPS

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Two detained, released after search

BY MICHAEL ABRAMOWITZ
The Daily Reflector

A report of suspicious activity brought officers from three law enforcement agencies to 10th and Elm streets Thursday morning. Two men were detained and later released after it was determined they posed no threat.

East Carolina University police received a call from a resident in the area after a car pulled into a driveway off 10th Street just west of Elm and two men exited the car, according to an officer at the scene.

Officers were told two men ran toward College Hill. A caller reported that one of the men was carrying a gun, an ECU official said.

ECU called for backup from the Greenville Police Department.

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then was joined by sheriff’s deputies. Another report that at least one of the men ran into the nearby woods prompted K-9 units to search that area.

Officers at the scene were not able to confirm the report that the men went into the woods. Both men were located not far from where they exited the vehicle, officials said.

The men were handcuffed and, following interrogation and background reports received by radio, transported from the scene by Greenville patrol cars.

“It was nothing, nothing at all,” a Greenville officer said after the two men were taken away. “Just a neighbor who saw activity she thought was suspicious. We responded in force because the activity was near the college campus and the (C.M. Eppes) middle school just down the block.”

Record checks on the men turned up nothing suspicious, no gun was located, and there was no evidence at the scene to determine that anything illegal had transpired, the officer said.

“On the one hand, it’s nice to have so many police to keep us safe, but on the other hand, it’s creating a show and making people think it’s worse than it is,” ECU student Aly Heinz said.

“ECU has a reputation of always having crime. I don’t think we have any more crime than anywhere else, but with so many cops around, I would hope that this is a big deal. I’m sure there are already rumors going around.”

No buildings were locked down on campus during the incident.

An alert was sent out to students on the ECU Alert System, a school official said.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or (252) 329-9571.
ECU baseball schedule includes Tar Heels, Wolfpack

The East Carolina baseball team's 2011 schedule includes 34 home games at Clark-LeClair Stadium and 14 teams that made the NCAA Regionals last season.

ECU will open play on Feb. 19 at home against Youngstown State before hitting the road for the first of its seven games against Atlantic Coast Conference opponents. The Pirates will play a three-game road tilt against Virginia (Feb. 25-27), a midweek contest at N.C. State (April 5), a home-and-home series with North Carolina (April 12 and April 27) and a matchup with Wake Forest (May 11) at Five County Stadium in Zebulon.

The Pirates' home non-conference schedule is highlighted by the annual Keith LeClair Classic that pits the Pirates against Monmouth (March 11), Rutgers (March 12) and Liberty (March 13). Also scheduled to make a trip to Greenville are Pepperdine (March 4-6), High Point (March 9), Buffalo (March 16), Rutgers (March 18-20) and Delaware State (May 13-15).

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CHAPEL HILL -- The deal to build a technology-transfer incubator that would kick off the Carolina North campus is off.

The project would have provided laboratory space for UNC researchers to try to turn their findings into business ventures.

Carolina North's executive director, Jack Evans, announced this month, how ever, that the university was unable to negotiate a deal with Alexandria Real Estate Properties, the lab-space developer that had been planning the 80,000-square-foot Innovation Center at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Municipal Drive.

"The Innovation Center as a project is not likely to happen," Evans said.

Even before the Chapel Hill Town Council approved the building last year, university officials had been saying the project would be delayed because of the economy.

Now the developer has walked away.

"The numbers just couldn't be made to work," Evans said. "It certainly has been influenced by the chaos in financial and credit markets over the last couple of years."

Evans said the weak economy will also delay construction of a UNC law school at Carolina North indefinitely. Last year, university officials estimated the cost of a 275,000-square-foot law school at $95 million.

"The state legislature faces some significant budget challenges," Evans said. "[The law school] building isn't going to happen in the immediate future."

University leaders had anticipated the law school and the Innovation Center becoming the first two facilities at Carolina North.

"It's not a big blow at all," Evans said. "We're disappointed that we're not doing this project, but it would have been just one project in the life of Carolina North.

"It's disappointing, because it means that we don't have the development under way."

The university had been planning 3 million square feet of buildings over the next 20 years and 8 million square feet over 50 years.

Though it's possible that Carolina North could get some utilities and roadwork done next year, Evans now expects the first building to be a
research facility in the interior of the site, and that won't go up until 2012 or beyond.

Evans said that building will likely house UNC-related research units that are now renting space off campus.

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Ex-UNC coach took money from agent

Lawyers for former UNC associate head football coach John Blake acknowledged Thursday that Blake has received money from sports agent Gary Wichard, payments that the university said led to Blake’s departure earlier this month.

But the lawyers, William Beaver of Florida and Wade Smith of Raleigh, characterized the payments as loans between friends who are “like brothers,” and said none of the money was tied to Blake’s relationships with 13 athletes who played under Blake and who have signed with Wichard. The lawyers said the payments between the men stopped about three years ago, around the time Blake began coaching at UNC.

The lawyers declined to provide dates or payment amounts. They said that although Blake had made some payments back to Wichard, none of the loans had been paid in full. They said there is no paperwork for the loans.

Until now, lawyers for Blake had not denied that money changed hands, saying in...
interviews only that questions about possible payments were too "complicated" to answer as investigations swirled around the UNC program.

But late Wednesday, Yahoo! Sports cited anonymous sources in reporting that Blake had received money from Wichard in wire transfers and by use of a credit card over the past three years. That caused the lawyers to respond publicly in a conference call with The News & Observer, The Charlotte Observer and The Associated Press. Their characterization of aspects of the report, such as the time frame when money was exchanged, differed from that of Yahoo!

On Thursday, UNC officials acknowledged that they knew of the payments, saying the NCAA told them late last month. They said they were told the payments did not establish any NCAA violation. Still, Chancellor Holden Thorp said a coach's taking money from an agent was unacceptable.

In a statement Thursday, North Carolina athletic director Dick Baddour said that the school didn't learn of payments until Blake was interviewed Aug. 31 in the NCAA investigation.

Baddour's statement also said that the school didn't have enough information then to dismiss Blake with cause and avoid paying him the rest of the salary he was due on his $240,000-a-year contract.

Blake resigned Sept. 5, saying he had become a "distraction" to the program. The school paid him $74,500, roughly the salary he would have earned if he would have stayed with the team through the end of the season.

Thorp said: "We felt like what we did was the cheapest, most efficient way that we could separate ourselves from John Blake, and I still think that's true."

The financial ties between Blake, the program's chief recruiter and its associate head coach since December 2006, and Wichard add to ongoing disclosures about the football program. UNC remains under NCAA investigation for impermissible benefits provided by sports agents as well as possible academic misconduct by a former undergraduate tutor. The dual inquiries have led to players' suspensions and questions about the football program's future.

**Davis: I will not resign**

Tar Heels head coach Butch Davis addressed the mounting concerns Thursday, telling reporters that he does not intend to resign. He said he did not know about Blake's financial relationship with Wichard.

"We are doing everything we can to bring a class program, to win football games the right way, to graduate players," Davis said. "We're going to do better. Anything that I can do, I am absolutely willing to look at."

The lawyers, Beaver and Smith, insisted they can find no evidence that Blake steered any players to Wichard, regardless of the payments. Beaver read from an affidavit he said former UNC player Kentwan Balmer had given saying that Blake never attempted to influence his selection of an agent in any way.

Beaver said he could not provide the affidavit because Balmer's lawyer would not let him.

"No one has ever said to us that he sent any athlete to Gary Wichard," Smith said, "and certainly no one has said to us that he got something from Wichard in return."

Blake's lawyers acknowledged that Wichard gave Blake a credit card from Pro Tect Management, Wichard's company. But they said it had a

small credit limit and was given to Blake when he was out of coaching and living in California in the late 1990s.

They said Blake used the card to buy such things as T-shirts for young players he coached at his "Chance to Advance" football camp after he was fired from the head coaching job at Oklahoma in 1998.

The lawyers said that the card had a credit limit of perhaps $5,000 and that it was canceled about the time Davis hired Blake. That means Blake held the card while coaching at Mississippi State in 2003 and at Nebraska from 2004 to 2006.

The lawyers said Blake charged perhaps a "few hundred" dollars on the credit card in the past four or five years.

"Every time I look at the entire landscape here, it seems to me that ... there is an enormous amount of smoke," Smith said. "And the university could be excused for looking at that smoke and being concerned about it. But when you get beyond the smoke, there's not any fire. ... There was perhaps bad judgment."

**Marvin Austin probe**

Christopher G. Lyons, the Miami-based lawyer for suspended UNC defensive tackle Marvin Austin, said Blake never steered Austin to any agent or any associate of an agent. That assertion might save Blake from prosecution in North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine Marshall's investigation of possible violations of the state's Uniform Athlete Agent Act.

But it might not spare UNC from NCAA violations. Lyons said Austin is under the impression that Balmer paid for Austin to travel to California to train in 2009.

If the NCAA rules that an impermissible benefit, UNC might have to vacate the 2009 season for using ineligible players.

Lyons said Austin was under the impression that Balmer, playing in the NFL now with the Seattle Seahawks, paid for the lodging and training on two 2009 trips to California. During the trips, Austin trained at Proactive Sports Performance, where Wichard's clients have trained for the draft. On one of the trips, Lyons said, Austin shared a hotel room with former Tar Heel teammate Cam Thomas, who has said Balmer paid for that trip.

Yahoo! Sports published a receipt for lodging at a Residence Inn in California bearing Austin's name for July 23 through Aug. 1 of 2009, as well as other receipts in Balmer's name.

Lyons confirmed that he was able to provide a receipt to the NCAA in Balmer's name for another Austin trip to California in spring 2009.

All the receipts on Yahoo's website, including Austin's, list Pro Tect Management - Wichard's company - beneath the name of the person responsible for the room. Efforts to reach Wichard's lawyer, Howard Silber, were unsuccessful Thursday.

Beaver and Lyons both said Blake did not know of Austin's trip to California, although Lyons said Austin considers Blake "like a second father."

Staff writers Robbi Pickeral and J.P. Giglio contributed to this report.

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Sen. Harkin: For-profit colleges' dropout rates tops 50%

By Nick Anderson
Thursday, September 30, 2010; 8:14 PM

A leading Senate Democrat said Thursday that data obtained from a sampling of for-profit colleges show that more than half of their students drop out without earning a degree or certificate.

Industry officials immediately disputed the analysis, which Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) released during a hearing on for-profit colleges that Republicans called unfair and one-sided. The Obama administration is attempting to tighten regulation of the industry, which relies on federal student aid for much of its revenue.

"The bottom line is this: For students enrolling in for-profit schools, graduation with a degree is a possibility, but debt without a diploma is a probability," said Harkin, chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Of about 960,000 students who enrolled from July 2008 through June 2009 in schools run by 16 for-profit companies, data show that 57 percent had withdrawn from school as of August 2010, according to Harkin.

Sen. Mike Enzi (Wyo.), the committee's ranking Republican, said Harkin should turn his scrutiny to public and nonprofit schools as well. "It's naive to think the problems are limited to just the for-profit sector," Enzi said before he walked out in protest.

Harris Miller, president of the Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities, said Harkin's analysis should receive an independent review. He said the industry is meeting the needs of the vast majority of its students, many of them low-income adults who are seeking to get ahead in life.

Last week, the Obama administration postponed final action on proposed regulations but warned that it would move forward in early 2011 with a rule meant to ensure that students in career-education programs - at for-profit, public and nonprofit schools - secure "gainful employment" and are not overloaded with debt.

For-profit schools say the proposal could have severe repercussions for the industry. Federal officials estimated enrollment at for-profit colleges at 1.8 million students in 2008.

(The Washington Post Co. operates for-profit colleges through its subsidiary Kaplan Inc. and owns more than 8 percent of the stock in for-profit Corinthian Colleges Inc.)

On Wednesday, several hundred students from such schools, as well as others connected with the industry, rallied outside the Capitol to protest the Obama administration proposal.
On Thursday, Harkin heard criticism of the industry from a Kaplan nursing student in Iowa and from a career-services employee of higher education provider Education Management Corp.

Danielle Johnson, 37, of Tama, Iowa, said a Kaplan admissions officer misled her into thinking that after she began her studies in Cedar Rapids she could do a significant amount of her clinical training closer to her home. She said she later discovered that was not possible, but only after taking out $9,600 in student loans.

"This has been a very disheartening experience," Johnson said.

Kaplan said in a statement that federal privacy laws "prevent us from providing personal information on any single student. However, what the student presented today is not substantiated by the facts. We're very proud of our practical nursing program, in which the Cedar Rapids campus enjoys a 92 percent job placement rate."

Kathleen A. Bittel said Education Management Corp. was trying to "lend credibility" to its schools by allowing them to claim large numbers of successful graduates working in their fields. "But these are not realistic numbers that are being reported," Bittel said.

She said that a co-worker showed her how to manipulate student employment data and that she was pressured to meet job-placement quotas that were impossible to achieve. Bittel is on leave from the company, at her request.

In a letter to the committee, the company's chief executive said internal and external reviews had found no evidence to substantiate the allegations.

"Based on our investigations, we believe that Ms. Bittel's allegations are unfair to the tens of thousands of men and women working to serve students across the country as part of the EDMC family," chief executive Todd S. Nelson wrote.

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Ex-Dean Accused of Using Students as Servants

By C. J. HUGHES

A former administrator at St. John’s University accused of embezzling about $1 million from the college in Queens has now been charged with far more lurid crimes: forcing students to clean, cook and act as her personal servants to keep their scholarships.

The ex-administrator, Cecilia Chang, who served as a dean and vice president at the university, was charged with forced labor and bribery, according to a complaint made public by federal prosecutors on Thursday.

As the dean of the Institute of Asian Studies at St. John’s, Ms. Chang had the authority to grant 15 scholarships a year. The recipients, most of whom were from overseas, were told they had to work 20 hours a week under her supervision.

The students thought they would be doing work related to the university. Instead, according to the prosecutors, she forced them to perform menial tasks at her home in Jamaica Estates, Queens.

One of the students had to drive Ms. Chang’s son to the airport at 3 a.m., the complaint says, and another had to deliver cash to her at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Connecticut.

And she made it clear that if the students did not perform their extracurricular duties, they would lose their scholarships, which were worth at least $5,000, the complaint says. The loss of the scholarships might have forced some of the students to drop out, it adds.

“In addition to the outrageous way she treated her students, in exchange for scholarships, she had them falsify documents,” Charles Kleinberg, an assistant United States attorney, said at Ms. Chang’s bail hearing in Federal District Court in Brooklyn.

Ms. Chang, 57, did not enter a plea or speak during the one-hour hearing, but she stood shaking
her head as prosecutors argued that she was a flight risk because she holds a passport from Taiwan, which does not have an extradition treaty with the United States.

Her lawyers argued that by surrendering on Thursday morning, Ms. Chang demonstrated that she would not flee. They added that she was already wearing an electronic monitoring device as part of the bail conditions in the embezzlement case, a 205-count indictment filed by the Queens district attorney’s office in September.

In that case, Ms. Chang is accused of stealing about $1 million from St. John’s. Prosecutors say she used the money to pay for lingerie, casino trips and her son’s tuition.

After three decades at St. John’s, Ms. Chang was suspended when the embezzlement allegations came to light in January, and she was fired in June.

Magistrate Judge Joan M. Azrack set Ms. Chang’s bail at $1.5 million, to be secured by two homes belonging to friends, one in Hempstead, N.Y., and another in Yonkers. If convicted, Ms. Chang faces at least 10 years in prison, prosecutors said.

After the arraignment, Ron Rubenstein, one of Ms. Chang’s lawyers, said that the students’ duties, which never totaled more than 20 hours a week, were a normal part of the St. John’s work-study program.

Many of those tasks were to help with Taiwanese dignitaries visiting Ms. Chang’s house, where she frequently entertained out-of-town guests for fund-raising purposes, Mr. Rubenstein said.

“The fact that this is even a crime is shocking,” he said outside court. “Cooking a meal doesn’t sound at first blush like work-study, but wait till the trial. I’m not going to give you the defense now.”

According to the complaint, one student, identified only as CI1, “drove Chang to the hair salon, to restaurants and to the airport.”

“As a driver,” it adds, “CI1 was also responsible for taking out the garbage and shoveling snow at Chang’s residence.”

St. John’s officials said that the students who worked under Ms. Chang did not have to worry about losing their scholarships.

“If these allegations by federal authorities are true,” Dominic Scianna, a spokesman for St. John’s,
said in a statement, “Ms. Chang’s treatment of some students and the environment she created are shocking and in complete violation of all this university stands for.”

A for-sale sign was posted outside Ms. Chang’s house on Thursday; an Internet listing puts the price at $2.89 million, or for rent at $5,800 a month.

*Mick Meenan contributed reporting.*
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
WSJ.com

CAPITAL | SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

Demand Tests Two-Year Colleges

By DAVID WESSEL

Community colleges get their few moments in the White House limelight next week when President Barack Obama and the vice president’s wife, Jill Biden, convene a community-college summit. It’s another step toward giving the institutions, the Rodney Dangerfields of higher education, a bit more of the respect they deserve.

It’s easy to see why the Obama administration, like its predecessors, gravitates to community colleges. With so much angst among workers whose jobs aren’t coming back and workers with skills that don’t match employers’ needs, the 1,173 two-year, low-tuition institutions are a ready-made solution.

"I've seen how these schools change my students' lives," says Mrs. Biden, who teaches reading and writing at Northern Virginia Community College. "People are going through tough times. They need to be retrained to get a job... or they can't afford to send their children to a four-year college."

For the colleges, Tuesday's summit is a consolation prize. A year ago, the president proposed pumping $12 billion over 10 years into community colleges as part of his campaign to boost the share of Americans with college degrees above those of all other countries by 2020. Congress instead approved $2 billion over four years for grants to colleges, to be used only for workers who lose jobs to imports, a restriction the White House hopes to undo.

Among the many issues on the agenda, two stand out: One, demand for the colleges’ classes threatens to outstrip their capacity and funding. And, two, training students for jobs that don’t exist is somewhere between disheartening and counterproductive.

When the job market goes down, community-college enrollments go up; when you can’t find a job, school looks attractive. At Tarrant County College in Dallas/Fort Worth, enrollment this fall is up 11% over last fall, according to the American Association of Community Colleges. At Boston’s Bunker Hill Community College, enrollment is up 12%; at Highline Community College in Des Moines, Wash., it’s up 10.4%.

Because classroom space is scarce, classes at Central Arizona College routinely start at 7:30 a.m. and one
Spanish class meets at 6 a.m., the newspaper Community College Times noted recently. Anne Arundel Community College in Maryland paved over nine of 12 tennis courts to make 140 more parking places.

"In many ways, this is a great problem to have," Mrs. Biden says. But it is a problem. New York's community colleges stopped accepting applications Aug. 1 this year and last; admission was first-come, first-served. Over 1,000 students were turned away from LaGuardia Community College in Queens.

Tuition hasn't been increased; politicians say that would be a tax increase. "But we have a 4.5% decrease in public dollars against an 11%-plus increase in students," says Gail Mellow, LaGuardia's president. "We've cut tutoring, career counseling, computer access in open labs, library hours. We've refused to increase class size because we think that impacts quality of instruction."

The recession produced a wave of middle-class—or once middle-class—students, says James Jacobs, president of Macomb Community College outside Detroit. "Most obvious," he says, "are the large numbers of unemployed and displaced workers looking for skills so they can get sustainable work." At the same time, he adds, more cash-strapped parents see community colleges as a low-cost first step toward getting their children four-year degrees.

Serving the two sets of students is a stretch, but Mr. Jacobs sees another unwelcome side-effect. Without a strong commitment to serving low-income students and money to do so, he warns, "community colleges will find the mission of preserving the middle class will trump the demands of low-income students." Pressure to boost graduation rates—to invest students who will succeed—gives community colleges another reason to avoid focusing on low-income students.

Then there's the problem of finding jobs in today's lousy economy for students who get trained, or retrained. That challenge is turning the best community colleges into economic-development agents in their communities. LaGuardia, for instance, recently graduated the first 23 small-business owners to complete a program funded by a $500 million Goldman Sachs effort to help 10,000 small businesses.

After 10 sessions on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. spread over 20 weeks, National Van Equipment Co., a Long Island City company that employs 23 people making blankets used by moving companies, has its first-ever growth plan.

"You practice your pitch. You figure out what your business strategy is going to be. You actually have a strategy!" says Rosalie Safier, who runs the company with her husband.

Diversifying into sound-muffling blankets and casket covers allowed the company to hold onto five jobs that would have evaporated when the spring-summer moving season ended, she says. And besides the coaching and classes on accounting, negotiation and marketing taught by faculty from LaGuardia and the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, she took a LaGuardia class on Excel, finally mastering the spreadsheet software.

Education isn't a quick remedy for America's economic ailments, even at quick-acting community colleges. It's a slow-release remedy. It is, as the president's economic adviser Lawrence Summers once put it, "the ultimate act of faith in the future."
This Professor Looks Familiar...

Ohio State Football Coach Jim Tressel Has an Unusual Side Job on Campus—Teaching a Class

By HANNAH KARP

Columbus, Ohio

You'd think the men who get paid millions of dollars a year to run the nation's top college-football programs would be a bit short on free time in the fall.

But Jim Tressel, the even-keeled, bespectacled, sweater-vest-wearing head coach at Ohio State, has been spending a good chunk of precious time this season doing something that seemingly has no impact at all on his Buckeyes' performance.

Just after sunrise twice a week, in a fluorescently lit room on Ohio State's sprawling campus, he lectures 49 bleary-eyed students on the art of coaching.

"You never want a name at the top of the alphabet—you might get some lates," a chipper Mr. Tressel warned one morning last week as he began taking attendance, a laborious process that took more than 10 minutes as he butchered names and mused about their origins.
Mr. Tressel, who has won one national title and won or shared six Big Ten championships in 10 seasons at Ohio State, has often been criticized for boring football fans with his conservative "Tressel Ball" that avoids turnovers at all costs and relies on defense, and for his mind-numbing habit of evading tough questions with safe, bland and often clichéd answers.

But Mr. Tressel's performance in the classroom, a place where few top coaches dare to venture these days, is downright riveting, and there's a growing number of students on the waiting list to prove it. "He's a legend," whispered senior Tim Weaver, an actuarial-science major from Canton, Ohio, sitting in a desk at the back of the class last week.

Part of the draw is the novelty, of course: The 57-year-old is the only coach in major-college football who teaches an academic class during the season, and many simply sign up for bragging rights or to bask in the presence of a national celebrity.

But it's also irresistible to watch one of the country's most powerful, venerated and usually unflappable men panicicking to get through a lesson plan, fumbling with a slide projector, cracking jokes about his ineptitude with technology and struggling to engage with students who care far less about football and OSU's sacred traditions than his usual hangers-on.

"The 'victory bell' rings two times—when we win, and when else?" Mr. Tressel, who makes about $3.5 million a year, quizzed the class last week.

"Third down?" guessed a student.

"Third down? No! At graduation," Mr. Tressel said.

It used to be standard issue for top coaches to teach: The late Woody Hayes, who led the Buckeyes to three national championships in his 28-year reign, schooled students on everything from English to World War II history. And most schools in lower divisions still require their athletic coaches to teach if they're getting paid full-time.

But as the business of college sports has ballooned, teaching coaches at the upper echelon have become a dying breed. In basketball, Temple's Fran Dunphy, who lectures on management, and UC Davis's Gary Stewart, who teaches ethical issues in college athletics, are among the only remaining Division I teachers.

Mr. Tressel, who renewed his contract this year through 2014, says teaching doesn't distract him from his coaching responsibilities—when he took the helm at OSU in 2001, he even moved the class to the fall quarter from the spring, which he believed was the wrong season. He says he continues to teach because he enjoys it, and though "football is a big deal around here, it's not all about football."

Mr. Tressel spends much of his lecture time quoting inspirational figures in his life. Not surprisingly, he doesn't reveal any big playbook secrets. ("It's certainly not an advanced class," he says jokingly.) But he does offer up a bit more of himself than he does on the field.

Last Friday, he talked about the calculus he uses to determine how much time to spend on which practice drills, and he admitted to at least some small fears. "I'm afraid if I turn this off I won't be able to turn it on again," he said of the slide projector.
He also confessed his "warped" obsession with diagramming plays in places he shouldn't—from napkins in restaurants to "the offering plate in church." Recently at a college-honors-program meeting for his son, he says he began scribbling down something an engineering professor had said because he thought it'd be good to tell his football team.

"My son probably thought I was writing something down about his future or whatever," Mr. Tressel told the class.

The course isn't easy: In addition to frequent pop quizzes on the weekend's key plays and a midterm heavy on the history of football, students must observe practices at local high schools and at OSU and prepare scouting reports on offense, kicking, defense and personnel. They must also design a ninth-grade-level training program for players of a position of their choosing, with a suggested five-week drill progression.

Two years ago, Buckeyes offensive lineman Connor Smith says he got a B in part because on the midterm he forgot the two things a quarterback must do besides "not turning over the ball." (Those are making great decisions and big plays.)

Some coaches speculate that the diversion might actually give Mr. Tressel a mental edge. Lloyd Spotted Wolf, head football coach at Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla., says it's good for "ego-centric" coaches to be around students "that really do not care if the football team wins or loses, or even know when there's a home game."

Southern Utah's head football coach, Ed Lamb, who teaches a coaching class like Mr. Tressel's in the spring, says regular students can even provide valuable feedback. Although "a lot of these students don't know what a first down is and why that would be an objective," he says, some helpfully pointed out in practice evaluations that they thought "coaches could be more organized" and "players should move faster from drill to drill."

Mr. Tressel says his students sometimes bring up that "our scout teams are not as efficient as they could be," or ask questions they've heard in the media such as, "Should we be throwing more to the tight end?"

But he says he hasn't made coaching prodigies of anyone yet. "If they came to multiple practices, I'm sure they would have better insight," he says.
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No Experience Necessary

More M.B.A. students are going directly from college to business school. But are they ready?

By ELIZABETH GARONE

(See Correction & Amplification below.)

At 29, Wes Swank has several friends entering full-time M.B.A. programs. Mr. Swank, a managing director at the hedge fund Hayman Advisors LP in Dallas, isn’t joining them. He earned his M.B.A. from the Stanford Graduate School of Business at age 24, matriculating just a few months after completing his undergraduate studies.

Mr. Swank, who recently married and bought a home, says that going directly from college to business school has helped him avoid jarring transitions. "I'm glad I didn't have to leave a job and put my life on hold for two years" to earn an M.B.A., he says.

The Journal Report

Sortable chart: The Top 25 Programs
Methodology: How the rankings were compiled
See a slideshow of alums who break the mold
You Decide: Find the best program for you
See The Best Executive M.B.A. Programs 2010 report.

While the majority of M.B.A. students in the U.S. still have at least five years of work experience under their belts, more applicants are considering business schools earlier in their careers—in some cases, without any work experience at all.

People younger than 24 are the fastest-growing group among those who take the Graduate Management Admission Test, according to the Graduate Management Admission Council. From 2004 to 2009, their numbers grew an average of 24% a year. In 2010, roughly 40% of applicants to full-time M.B.A. programs had less than three years of work experience, the council says.

Some business schools have embraced the trend, easing their requirements for work experience or even creating programs specifically for younger applicants. But some professors and administrators are wary of an influx of less experienced students and uncertain of their prospects for employment.

Youth Is Served

A surge of people with little or no work experience applying to the part-time M.B.A. program at the Sellinger School of Business and Management at Loyola University Maryland was one of the mains reasons the school launched the Emerging Leaders M.B.A. It's an accelerated, 12-month degree designed for recent college graduates. The first class started this month; the students' average age is 24.
"These students are looking to jump-start their careers," says Karyl Leggio, Ph.D., Sellinger's dean. The students' time will be split among classroom studies, field studies in Silicon Valley and Barcelona, and internships. "We provide real-world experience to help accelerate their careers," since they don't have the years on the job that older M.B.A.s do, says Dr. Leggio. "It's sort of internships on steroids."

In other cases, schools are accepting students while they're still in college, for admission after a set period of work experience. For instance, Harvard Business School's 2+2 program guarantees accepted undergraduates a spot in a future class, as long as they graduate and get two years of approved work experience. In its inaugural year, the school received 630 applications for the class of 2013 and admitted 106.

The Stanford Graduate School of Business also has a deferment program. Students can apply for admission while in their senior year of college and can choose a start date of one to three years after they graduate.

**Locking In Talent**

"Fundamentally, we are in a market for talent," says Derrick Bolton, director of admissions at Stanford's business school. "When you see really talented people, you want to lock them in."

Dipak Jain, a professor at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and former dean of the school, says younger M.B.A. graduates in many cases may be more appealing to employers, and younger students could help diversify business schools' student bodies.

A 25-year-old graduate, Mr. Jain argues, is likely to have more-reasonable expectations than an older graduate would for his or her first job out of business school, which would appeal to recruiters who complain about 30-year-old newly minted M.B.A.s demanding outrageous salaries and expecting to run the company from day one.

And admitting students before they have started families could bring more women and international students into business schools, says Mr. Jain, who will take over as dean of the international INSEAD business school in March. Many women are less likely to pursue an M.B.A. after they have children, and many international students are reluctant to leave families behind to study abroad and can't afford to bring them along.

Harvard Business School designed its 2+2 program to yield a different kind of diversity. The students accepted through that program in its first year, for enrollment next fall, included only 3% who studied business administration as undergrads; the rest studied engineering, natural sciences, humanities or social sciences. By comparison, about a quarter of the students entering the school this year were business majors in college.

**Some Doubts**

But not everyone is sold on the idea of allowing a wave of students with little or no work experience into the M.B.A. classroom. Chris Trimble, a professor at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College, says students' real-world perspectives are a big part of the learning process. "What I've seen is that students with work experience make better contributions to classroom discussions," he says.

As for younger M.B.A. graduates, Marci Armstrong, associate dean for graduate programs at Southern Methodist University's Cox School of Business, says that in today's economy, M.B.A. employers are looking more for experienced hires.

Five years ago, SMU started the MBA Direct program, for applicants with little or no work experience. In each of the past few years, Ms. Armstrong has admitted a handful of candidates directly out of college.

This year, not confident that they would land jobs at graduation, she admitted none.

*Ms. Garone is a writer in Alameda, Calif. She can be reached at reports@wsj.com.*
Correction & Amplification

The name of Karyl Leggio, dean of the Sellinger School of Business and Management at Loyola University Maryland, was misspelled as Karyn in a previous version of this article.