THE DAILY CLIPS

October 7, 2010

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

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

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481
6 North Carolinians to get state's highest award

The Associated Press

Thursday, October 7, 2010

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Six North Carolinians are being honored with the highest civilian award the state bestows.

The six will receive the North Carolina Award on Thursday at the N.C. Museum of History in Raleigh.

Among those being honored are Winston-Salem attorney Mike Leonard; High Point poet and author Carole Boston Weatherford; Greenville artist and teacher Robert Ebendorf; and Asheville painter and sculptor Donald Sultan.

Also being recognized are Margaret S. Newman of Winston-Salem, chairman of the board of directors of the N.C. Center for Nonprofits; and F. Ivy Carroll, a scientist in the field of medicinal chemistry.

The North Carolina Awards were created by the General Assembly in 1961 and have been presented annually since 1964. It recognizes contributions to the state and nation in fine arts, literature, public service and science.
Scientist: U.S. losing its lead in space race

Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson visits ECU as part of the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series.

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

The United States is in danger of losing its place as a leader in technology and space exploration, astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson said.

Tyson spoke to more than 1,000 people at East Carolina University’s Wright Auditorium on Wednesday as part of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series.

Tyson, who has hosted NOVA science documentaries on PBS, said when the United States landed a man on the moon, it became the leader in space exploration. But it is in danger of losing that place as other countries focus more on space exploration and advancement.

He changed his plans to talk about the origins of the universe to talk about the future of space exploration because he thought it fit the design of the theme of the lecture series.

“I appeal to all of us in the absence of inspiring things to do, America will fade,” he said.

“If you don’t want to fund it, then you need to understand the consequences of it.”

Tyson noted that other countries now lead the charge for space exploration and spend much more money on new scientific research than America does.

The United States still spends a significant amount of money on research, but Europe and Japan spends much more on new research than the United States does.

Tyson said Russia is leading the charge to deflect an asteroid that is on course to potentially crash into the Earth. The United States has been asked to join the effort.

“When I grew up, we led the space missions and asked others to join us,” he said. “Now we are just invited along for the ride.”

Tyson said Americans are engaged in Apollo worship, a sign of not advancing. The Apollo missions led to landing a man on the moon, but the Apollo ships should be considered obsolete by now.

He drew a comparison to how interested people are in new computers compared to the first ones, or new cell phones compared to the originals.

“If you have not advanced your technology, you are stuck worshiping something old,” Tyson said. “We remember a time when we were space pioneers.”

Tyson said space exploration is part of the fabric of the culture of the United States. But the country is in danger of being left behind.

“Space enthusiasts are facing a reality check on their dreams of space exploration,” he said.

See TYSON, A9

TYSON
Continued from A1
ECU emits sweet sound of success

Robert Dough (Public Forum, Sept. 28) may need to find somewhere else to live. The noise provided by the ECU Athletic Department is the sound of success, which comes with the winning tradition being created at East Carolina University.

In any given academic year, fans attending athletic events provide Greenville millions of dollars. Unlike many universities and colleges, we are blessed to have our academic and athletic facilities within walking distance to each other. These facilities are entrenched in our neighborhoods and business communities. This adds to the joy of our student population and community members supporting our athletic programs.

Terry Holland has done a fantastic job moving ECU into a leading role within the NCAA. The upgrades to our facilities have fostered success and popularity at ECU. We continue to attract leading educators while graduating quality student-athletes.

As a former head men’s soccer coach at ECU, I can say I love what is happening to my neighborhood and our town. In the 1980s, few fans attended sporting events. The football games had 12,000 fans scattered throughout a stadium that held 35,000.

What’s going to happen to the naysayers in our neighborhood when the current renovations are complete? Hopefully our neighborhood will experience thousands of screaming soccer, softball and track fans. When I read Coach Ruf-fin McNeill’s quote in the paper I was excited to have a little extra noise during the week. Again, the noise ECU provides is the sound of success, as a jet flying overhead is the sound of freedom. If you want a quiet neighborhood, do you buy a house near an airport or train track ... or stadium that holds 50,000 fans? Mr. Dough, just say the word and we’ll find an ECU fan to buy your house.

CHARLIE HARVEY
Greenville

Question expense of added police

The Sept. 28 forum at ECU for District 3 tiptoed around the issue facing ECU students. It’s not their garbage cans they are worried about, but security. After the forum, I was able to corner Councilwoman Marion Blackburn about facts few are aware of.

What surfaced is the fact that Greenville police spent $450,000 on protecting downtown. Out of this amount, $200,000 was paid in overtime. The police department has known for 30 years how much labor is necessary downtown. The $200,000 overtime expense represents 45 percent of the total cost. There is no business in the world which accepts a 45 percent overtime charge that isn’t considered mismanaged, and there is no state and federal government paying overtime in this recession. But we are. So the question that needs to be answered is, “Why?”

Blackburn defends the expenditures. I think if you asked anyone in the Psychology Department at ECU, they would tell you an overworked officer would not respond in an emergency as well as one on regular shift.

VAN BROWN
Greenville
Greczyn takes post at UNC-CH

Robert J. Greczyn Jr., the retired CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, is now a Gillings Visiting Professor at UNC-Chapel Hill's Gillings School of Global Public Health.

In his role as visiting professor of health policy and management, Greczyn will share his health care experience with faculty and staff members and students throughout the school, UNC announced. He will lecture on insurance, health care and health care reform and serve as a policy adviser and resource for faculty and students.

School leaders will call upon Greczyn to help catalyze and shape North Carolina’s focus on reducing obesity.

“In a period in which we seek to understand the impact of health reform on health insurance and on people’s health, having Bob Greczyn among us will be a tremendous asset,” said Barbara K. Rimer, the school’s dean.

Greczyn’s appointment is the latest connection between Chapel Hill-based Blue Cross and UNC. Blue Cross Chairman Jeffrey Houpt is the former CEO of the UNC Health Care System, and new UNC system President Tom Ross recently resigned from the insurer’s board.

Greczyn earned a master of public health degree in health policy and administration from UNC’s public health school in 1981.

Staff writer Eric Ferreri
The Washington Post

For Georgetown dean, Common Application is part of a larger admissions problem

By Daniel de Vise
Washington Post Staff Writer
Sunday, October 3, 2010; 9:24 PM

Gone are the days when students aspiring to America's best colleges agonized over a stack of distinct but largely duplicative forms. This is the age of the Common App, an innovation that saves students time and has the happy side effect of swelling applicant pools, giving schools the illusion of rising selectivity without the reality of improved academic offerings.

Charlie Deacon, gatekeeper at Georgetown University for the past 38 years, is determined to resist this trend by continuing to fill the freshman class with students of sufficient dedication to slog through a six-page, two-part application form that is accepted nowhere else.

To Deacon, the Common Application is part of a larger problem: the admissions bubble, a geometric increase in college applications that he likens to the millennial housing market, in an admissions industry that increasingly resembles big business.

"We don't have the Common App because we think that each person is unique and each school is unique," said Deacon, dean of admissions at Georgetown. "We don't want people to apply for the wrong reasons."

Deacon and other industry leaders gathered Thursday in St. Louis for an annual conference of the National Association for College Admission Counseling, where vendors hawk databases of top-scoring high school seniors and the latest in student recruitment intelligence.

Few of Deacon's colleagues publicly share his views. Many admire his pluck.

"It's a business. That's a fact now," said Greg Roberts, a onetime Deacon protege who directs admissions at the University of Virginia. "It's a very different field than it was when Charlie started, or even when I started."

Sticking to his guns

Deacon took over Georgetown admissions at a time when more than half of applicants gained admission and the school's chief competition came from neighboring George Washington and Catholic universities.

Energetic and affable, Deacon helped steer Georgetown's ascent from a provincial to national university, building a cross-country network of alumni and recruitment to mirror those of the Ivy League schools. In
1979, Barron's elevated Georgetown to its list of "most competitive" colleges.

Today, Deacon contends that most of his peers use the Common Application to inflate their numbers. The form encourages the noncommittal applicant, a drawback acknowledged by many in the admissions field.

"Unfortunately, what the Common App does is, it stimulates a lot of frivolous applications," said Susan Tree, director of college counseling at Westtown School, a Quaker boarding school outside Philadelphia and an advocate of the Common Application.

Applications to many elite schools have doubled in the past decade. One applicant in five now applies to seven or more colleges, a number once thought excessive.

One reason is the Common App, which went online in 1998 and accelerated admissions in the same way online banking sped the paying of bills. It's a generic form students can complete once and send to any of 414 schools.

Sam Nelson, a 17-year-old senior at McLean High School, came to appreciate the Common Application after initiating applications to nine colleges, of which only three accept the Common App.

"I realize now what a pain it is to have to go through them all and fill out the same information over and over," he said.

Founded in 1975 as a nonprofit consortium of 15 schools, the Common App was perfectly poised for the age of online admissions, an evolution that made the "signature" college application look like a relic of the typewriter age.

One by one, the nation's top national universities have gone Common: Princeton and Cornell in 2004, Northwestern and Penn in 2006, Brown and the universities of Chicago and Virginia in 2008.

This year, the Common App claimed the final Ivy, Columbia, along with the University of Michigan.

Such is the enthusiasm for the Common App that it has spawned a competitor, the Universal College Application, launched in 2007 and serving more than 70 schools.

"There are 400 colleges at the fingertips of the students who complete the Common App," said Chris Gruber, a vice president at Davidson College who serves as president of the Common Application.

To universities, the form offers a potential gateway to thousands of untapped low-income and minority families. Of the half-million common applicants, one-third are minorities and one-quarter will be first-generation college students.

Of the 31 schools in the Consortium on Financing Higher Education, a sort of expanded Ivy League, only two have resisted the Common App. One is MIT, a niche player with a specialized pool. The other is Georgetown.

Deacon says the Common App movement is less about access and more about admission metrics.

Joining the Common Application is said to yield a bump of 5 to 10 percent in a school's applicant pool. A surge in applicants makes a college look more selective. Competitive colleges are forever eyeing each
other's numbers. Anyone who falls behind risks suffering in rank and prestige.

Applications to Brown jumped from 20,000 to 30,000 in the two years after the Rhode Island school joined the Common App. Applicants to the University of Chicago rose by half in that span. (Officials at both schools play down the Common Application as a factor.)

'Holistic' admissions

While other schools court unfettered growth, Georgetown's dean is intentionally slowing the expansion of his applicant pool.

Since 2000, applications to Georgetown have risen a modest 20 percent, from roughly 15,000 to 18,000. Deacon thinks his pool is large enough: more than 10 applicants for every seat in the 1,600-student freshman class. A manageable pool is key to his vision of "holistic" admissions, the process of assembling a class with a rich blend of academic accomplishment and life experience that is the hallmark of a selective college.

Deacon's peers say they have adapted to a larger pool. At Brown, admissions Dean Jim Miller brought in 15 part-timers last year to pad the staff of 17 full-time application readers. A careful read, he said, "is part of what we promise when people apply."

Schools that join the Common Application tend to experience reduced yield, a diminished share of admitted students who choose to attend. Some schools fix this by accepting larger numbers of students through binding early-decision programs, whose yield is effectively 100 percent.

That, to Deacon, is part of the game.

If a distinctive application makes it harder to apply to college, it's "not that much harder," said Stu Schmill, dean of admissions at MIT. Most selective colleges still require lengthy written supplements to the generic application, a practice that tends to thwart frivolous applicants and preserve each school's distinctive voice.

But for Nelson, the high school senior from McLean, the Common Application has proven an irresistible time-saver. Now he says he's thinking of applying to a 10th school, Harvard, "because it's on the Common App. You might as well."

View all comments that have been posted about this article.

© 2010 The Washington Post Company
At Yale, Anger Over Tactics Used in Raid of Off-Campus Party

By LISA W. FODERARO
Published: October 6, 2010

NEW HAVEN — It was well after midnight, and the invitation-only party for Yale University undergraduates was reaching a peak. In the upscale nightclub Elevate, not far from campus, more than 100 students in semiformal attire were on the dance floor as Journey’s “Don’t Stop Believing” pulsed over the sound system. In a throwback to childhood, a buffet table held platters of chicken nuggets and French fries.

But then the lights came on and about a dozen police officers and state liquor control agents, acting on a tip about under-age drinking, entered the club early on Saturday. Partygoers say the officers, two of them in riot gear and armed with assault rifles, ordered students to sit on the floor as they checked IDs, and for the next hour silenced polite questions with expletives and threats of arrest.

Some students were crying even before an officer used a Taser gun on one sophomore; the police said the student had assaulted three officers. Another student said an
officer had punched him.

Raids on bars are not unusual these days in New Haven, where huge crowds in a cluster of downtown nightspots have lately turned rowdy. But the sweep last weekend has reverberated far beyond Elevate, a second-floor club on Crown Street, angering students and perplexing administrators in the Gothic halls on campus.

Yale deans have urged students to write up accounts of the police action, and sent mental-health counselors to the two residences, Ezra Stiles College and Morse College, that organized the event. On Thursday, a group of students plans to walk to police headquarters with their formal complaints.

The New Haven Police Department, which has begun an internal investigation, declined to comment. But hours after the raid, it issued a news release vigorously defending what it called a “compliance inspection” — part of Operation Night Life, a crackdown on crowding and violence at bars and clubs in a three-block area where a shooting occurred last month.

The statement said police officers had been trying to “defuse the chaotic situation” in Elevate, which was 58 percent over its legal occupancy — an “egregious violation.” Four students were arrested, and one was cited for under-age drinking.

Mayor John DeStefano Jr. said in an interview that the presence of two officers in riot gear, members of the police SWAT team, was “excessive and inappropriate” and “should not have been part” of the inspection. “We undertook 16 inspections over the past two weeks, and most went fine and accomplished our mission of enforcing under-age drinking,” Mr. DeStefano said. “Clearly, there were some things that could have been better handled Friday night, and this department needs to look at that.”

The raid on a private Yale party was a startling turn of events, given the generally positive relations between the Police Department and the university in recent years. While careful not to pounce on the police before the investigation is completed, administrators have still expressed their concern.

The dean of Yale College, Mary Miller, met with the mayor, a group of Yale students and other university officials on Tuesday night to discuss the police raid.

In an interview, Dr. Miller said she had been to Elevate, a private event space inside the larger Alchemy Nightclub, for previous parties. Calling it “capacious” and “quite spectacular,” she praised the club’s managers for their enforcement of drinking laws. “Of the various clubs where we organized off-campus events, it was the best one,” she said.

Jaya Wen, a junior who helped organize the weekend party, said two security guards were at each of three entrances to the bar area; students without wristbands could not enter. Ms. Wen said the owner had assured organizers that Elevate could comfortably hold 350 people. A lawyer for the club said that the capacity for both floors of the building was 650, and that partygoers had access to both levels.

In its news release, the New Haven police said that the capacity for the event was 150 and that there were 256 people at the Yale party. The release added that the department’s chief, Frank Limon, was especially sensitive to the dangers of overcrowding.
"Chief Limon was the commanding officer on the scene of a nightclub tragedy in Chicago in 2003," it said, adding, "Twenty-one people died and hundreds were injured when a panic set off a stampede in a club with the same type of difficult egress at Elevate."

But some students said it was aggressive behavior by the police that created any risk. The officers and liquor control agents ordered students to put away cellphones, refused to answer questions and roughed up others, the students said.

"I've never felt any danger in New Haven before this event," Ms. Wen said. "It was the police action that caused our feeling of being unsafe — of terror."

Students disputed the department's contention that the sophomore stunned with a Taser had attacked officers. "The student did absolutely nothing wrong," said Tully McLoughlin, a senior who was a few feet away.

Ben Schenkel, a junior from Allentown, Pa., said he was just leaving as the raid began. Within minutes, he said, an officer in riot gear pushed him and struck him on the chin.

"He was cursing wildly, and I was completely tongue-tied," said Mr. Schenkel, who still had a welt on his chin on Tuesday. "I made sure to throw in 'sirs' and was very deferential, but maybe he thought I was being facetious. He never gave his title or the nature of the mission or what I should do to cooperate."

A version of this article appeared in print on October 7, 2010, on page A30 of the New York edition.
Committee plans thorough, quick and efficient search for UNCW's new AD

By Brian Mull
Brian.Mull@StarNewsOnline.com

Published: Wednesday, October 6, 2010 at 5:43 p.m.

The committee searching for the next athletic director at UNC-Wilmington plans to be thorough and efficient and make a selection within six weeks.

Describing his approach as proactive, committee chair David Swain said Wednesday he will target and contact strong candidates identified by the firm assisting with the search. He'll also solicit suggestions and opinions of Seahawk Club members, disgruntled former boosters and interested members of the community.

Swain grasps the importance of selecting the best candidate to lead an athletic department that recently has suffered and sputtered due to instability at the top. A longtime donor to UNCW, he said a university can't reach its full potential without a strong athletic department.

"We want an athletic director who will engage the community, who has a professional business background," Swain said during a meeting at his commercial real estate company office. "Not necessarily a coach, but someone who understands the landscape of college athletics."

The committee will whittle that list, ultimately trimming to five finalists who will be interviewed in person.

Swain, also a member of the UNCW Board of Trustees, said the committee has the full support of chancellor Rosemary DePaolo, who under state law is required to make the hire.

"We will make the recommendation, and make it a very easy choice for Chancellor DePaolo," he said.

Swain handpicked Bill Carr of Carr Sports Associates to assist with the search, calling it a "must" and negotiated the $24,500 fee the university is paying him. Their agreement included the stipulation that Carr, and not one of his associates, serve as consultant to UNCW.

Carr, a former AD at the University of Houston, has an excellent reputation nationally. His firm assisted CAA schools Towson and Old Dominion with their recent searches for an athletic director.

Swain also handpicked each member of the 10-person committee entrusted with finding a replacement for Kelly Mehrtens, who resigned Sept. 27.
He sought a diverse group who shared a passion for the university's athletic programs. Including two UNCW coaches on the committee is unusual — effectively allowing them to choose their next boss — however Swain wanted representation from the group who will interact daily with the next athletic director.

Wendell Murphy, the prominent N.C. State booster and friend of Swain, is on the committee to offer perspective from a lifetime supporting college athletics. Swain also said Murphy loves the university, but is far enough removed to offer valuable insight.

"Sometimes you can be too close to a situation," Swain said. "And, you can't see the forest for the trees."

Swain expects his efforts to receive strong critique from the public. However, he's confident that, in three years, those interested in UNCW athletics will look back and say the committee made the right choice.

Brian Mull: 343-2034

On Twitter.com: @BGMull

Copyright © 2010 StarNewsOnline.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.