THE DAILY CLIPS

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Our Views

Bird's eye

New cameras promise to help police

Silent monitors hover over sections of downtown Greenville, law enforcement assistants made of glass and metal. The installation of two cameras are expected to help the Greenville Police Department better monitor a few of the city's busiest avenues — and an area prone to late-night violence.

The devices are sure to alarm some residents, who are likely to decry the intrusion of an ever-watching eye akin to Big Brother of George Orwell's novel 1984. But with violent crime increasing across the city — and residents' uneasiness proportionally rising — Greenville officers should have every method of enforcement and prevention available to them.

The top of the Pitt County Courthouse looms over Greenville's downtown district, standing at the heart of the city. On many weekend nights only a few blocks away, the sidewalks are awash with people. They are mostly students of nearby East Carolina University, but the Fifth Street area is a region destination and many visitors come to the city to enjoy the restaurants and bars along that road.

In the early morning hours, law enforcement officers can face the unenviable task of managing hundreds of people flooding out of downtown clubs when they close at 2 a.m. Many have been drinking, some are inebriated and a few are likely to become violent. At these moments, those who wear the department's uniform are challenged to deter those unpredictable acts, intervene should they start and, when warranted, collect all necessary information necessary if a crime has occurred.

While the men and women of the Greenville police are professionals, that can be a difficult task for even seasoned veterans of the force. The addition of two cameras promises to help.

The city recently installed the two cameras at key downtown intersections. One is at the bustling corner of Fifth and Evans streets, and the other is near the corner of Fourth and Cotanche streets. The service costs about $5,000 per camera, but they should assist officers in the daunting task of law enforcement when needed.

Officers will be able to access footage from their vehicles, monitoring the areas live or viewing recorded action. The camera's 360-degree motion viewing angles mean they can be used to identify possibilities for problems, allowing officers to intervene before crimes occur. The footage may help identify perpetrators and snapshots can be used to assist in prosecution. And the cameras themselves might even act as a deterrent to would-be criminals.

This month, Greenville will again host Halloween festivities, a night that annually proves to be the toughest task for law enforcement. Department officials hope the cameras could alleviate the need to place a bevy of officers on rooftops, an added benefit of the new resource.

It is unfortunate that the city must invest in cameras to protect the public, but rising crime figures demand it. The new additions should help law enforcement, and that should be readily embraced.
Donors recognized at ceremony

The Daily Reflector

The East Carolina University Department of Construction Management honored two major donors by renaming its laboratory for them.

A ceremony honoring Caterpillar Inc. and Gregory Poole Equipment Company was held Saturday at the High Bay Laboratory, located at the Science and Technology Building on the main campus.

Last year, the Caterpillar Excellence Fund and Gregory Poole agreed to donate $500,000 over a five-year period to the department, according to a news release. It will be used for faculty development and training, equipment and material purchases, lab maintenance and student activities.

"We have some very aggressive strategic goals for our students, faculty, departments and university as a whole," Chancellor Steve Ballard said. "The Construction Management program has worked extremely hard to foster tremendous relationships like the ones with Gregory Poole and Caterpillar. This partnership has increased the margin of excellence on this campus and that is one reason Construction Management is an 'A+' program."

According to a university news release, the construction management program has a 100 percent employment rate for its graduates. "Caterpillar has a major commitment to improving the community while at the same time addressing the demands of industry," said R. Scott Cooper, Caterpillar marketing manager and an ECU alumnus.

"We are focused on trying to get more students involved in the construction industry earlier in their education and our partnership with East Carolina has been a perfect way to achieve our goal of training leaders of the future."
Researchers to get chest-deep in nanotubes

ECU professors will study the effects the tiny particles have on the heart and blood flow when inhaled, and hope to discover if nanotubes can be used to deliver medicine.

The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University researchers have received a $1.1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study how a new type of manufacturing material affects the human cardiovascular system. Christopher Wingard, associate professor of physiology, is the lead researcher in a study of carbon nanotubes, atomic structures that can be used as building blocks for materials as diverse as racing bicycles and semiconductors. Wingard's team will look at how the particles, when inhaled as dust, affect cardiac function and blood flow. "Because it's such a new technology, we don't know what the long-

term impact will be on exposure," Wingard said.

Particles from some nanotubes might restrict blood flow, while others might increase it, Wingard said. Findings from the research will help determine what types of respiratory equipment people need to wear when working with materials made from nanotubes. It could also uncover if certain nanotubes could be used to deliver life-saving medicines to restricted blood vessels.

Wingard and other ECU researchers have studied air pollution's effect on the cardiovascular system for the past three years with a grant from Phillip Morris USA and the Interna-

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NOTES

national Research Foundation.
Other researchers working
on the project are Robert Lust,
professor and chairman of
physiology; Robert Wardle, re-
search assistant professor of
physiology; Timothy Johnson,
a biomedical engineer and pro-
fessor of internal medicine;
Michael Van Scott, a professor
of physiology; and Benjamin
Harrison, a chemist at Wake
Forest University.

Professor wins Fulbright grant

An English professor received a Fulbright grant to study and teach in Hungary in January 2008.

C.W. Sullivan III, professor of literature and folklore, will be the senior lecturer in the English Studies department at the University of Debrecen.

Sullivan said he is looking forward to returning to Debrecen, a city located about 100 miles east of Budapest. Sullivan had visited the University of Debrecen in January 2005 to deliver the keynote address at the gathering of the Hungarian Society for the Study of English.

"I'll be teaching my undergraduate students about American folklore traditions, but what I want to do is to get them talking about Hungarian folklore," Sullivan said. "That way everyone gets to learn, me included."

In addition to teaching the American folklore course and a graduate seminar in Shakespeare's Macbeth, Sullivan hopes to comb the region's library archives for information about Celtic and Norse migration and trade routes to the region.

Nursing faculty honored by group

School of Nursing faculty members Martha Raile, Alligood and Frances R. Eason have been inducted as fellows into the Academy of Nursing Education by the National League for Nursing.

They were among 41 fellows from 33 schools of nursing across the country inducted Sept. 29 as part of the NLN annual education summit in Phoenix.

The academy chooses its fellow for their sustained and significant contributions to the field of nursing education, said board President Toni Bargagliotti.

Alligood, professor and director of the doctoral program, joined the ECU faculty in 2004. Her research has focused on theories of adult human development and nursing empathy. She also has co-edited two nursing theory textbooks.

Eason is an ECU alumna and joined the faculty in 1976. She is project director of the new Nursing Education Educator Development program which is designed to assist faculty in schools of nursing meet N.C. Board of Nursing education requirements. Piloted at ECU, it is now offered statewide through distance education. Eason also is an expert in National Council Licensure Examination design and preparation.

The NLN established the Academy of Nursing Education to foster excellence in nursing education by recognizing and capitalizing on the wisdom of outstanding nurse educators.

Diabetes program

The Diabetes Self-Care Program at the medical school has received national recognition.

The American Diabetes Association granted its Education Recognition Certificate to the program.

The program was first recognized in 1999 and the honor has been renewed every three years since.

"The process gives professionals a national standard by which to measure the quality of service they provide," said Mandy Saenz, a certified diabetes educator with ECU.

According to the ADA, 20.8 million people in the United States, or 7 percent of the population, has diabetes. Nearly a third don't know they have the disease.

New name for development

Regional Development Services has a new name — Office of Economic Development — and a renewed focus on improving the region and the state, said its new director.

"The staff and I worked together and polled people off campus to find out how much people knew about our office," said Ted Morris, who came to ECU in June as associate vice chancellor of economic development and director of the office.

"What we found out was that people didn't really understand and know what regional development was and how the university is more than just the region," he said.
Legal opinions collide over red-light camera funds

By Gary D. Robertson
The Associated Press

RALEIGH — For decades, the legal challenges over when and how to distribute money from civil and criminal penalties to North Carolina's public schools generally have traveled down a winding highway of arcane constitutional law.

The legal opinions, however, literally hit the road this past summer.

The state Supreme Court declined to consider a lower court decision that found school districts were entitled to receive nearly all of the money collected by cities and towns for their red light violations recorded by cameras installed at busy intersections.

The cameras take photographs of people who drive through intersections illegally, which are then sent to the vehicle owner with what has been a $50 ticket.

Police and safety advocates have praised the cameras for reducing accidents at dangerous intersections, but civil libertarians complained they were used only as a cash cow for municipal governments and the companies that operate them.

"It's not about the money. It's about traffic safety," said Tom Crosby, a spokesman for the AAA Carolinas Motor Club. "Too often economics gets in the way of saving lives."

The ruling, based on a 2001 lawsuit filed by a High Point motorist who refused to pay his ticket, has caused most of the state's red-light cameras to go dark.

The General Assembly passed a new law in the final days of the session that attempts to satisfy the concerns of judges while making it less costly to generate and mail citations. But it's unclear whether the new law — essentially a trial balloon — for about 10 towns and cities will survive if there's another legal challenge, or how many local governments will be willing to lose money for an optional program.

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"It's the discretion of the elected officials given all of the competing (spending) priorities whether they want to use tax funds to fund the program," said Bob Hagemann, a city attorney for Charlotte, which used to operate stoplight cameras at 20 intersections.

"The beauty of the old system was it was funded totally by those who violated the law." But according to judges, that method didn't jibe with a provision in the state constitution that requires the "clear proceeds" of all penalties, forfeitures and fines go to a special public school fund.

In 1975, the Legislature passed a law stating that "clear proceeds" meant at least 90 percent of the money collected.

What exactly defines a penalty or fine, or what revenues should be counted toward the clear proceeds has been a jumble of laws that have created headaches and litigation.

In 1998, several school boards sued because they said they weren't receiving revenues generated by a host of civil penalties.

The state Supreme Court finally ruled in 2005 that school districts were entitled to tens of millions of additional dollars annually, determining that fines meant to punish someone for wrongdoing accurately fit the constitutional definition.

The latest problem surfaced when a former High Point city councilman sued the city over its red-light camera system because $35 out of each $50 citation went to the company that installed and operated the cameras.

High Point's lawyers argued unsuccessfully that the "clear proceeds" should include the payments to the company.

The appeals court panel agreed that "expenditures clearly constitute enforcement costs rather than collection costs."

A month after the state Su-

preme Court let the Court of Appeals ruling stand, Rep. Pryor Gibson, D-Aston, successfully pushed a bill that would allow several Union County towns, Charlotte, Durham and others to keep operating cameras.

The law would raise the penalty from $50 to $75 and make clear that up to 10 percent of the amount could be retained to cover the cost of producing, printing and mailing citations.

But the law also created a "collection assistance fee" of an additional $15 per ticket to go after scofflaws who aren't paying the fines.

Marshall Hurley, the Greensboro attorney representing ex-High Point councilman Henry Shavitz, who sued the city, is skeptical that the collection fee can be retained by the municipality, suggesting that the new law could be challenged by someone.

"I just don't see that they're making any fundamental changes," Hurley said. "They're just creating another fine or penalty that will be subject to the same distribution requirement."

Gibson said the changes aren't meant to make the red-light programs profitable, but rather less painful for local governments to operate while they try to protect its citizens on the roadways.

He points to data from four Union County towns with cameras showing the number of people running red lights daily more than doubled after they stopped issuing tickets in June 2006.

Those towns have yet to decide whether to restart their programs.

Meanwhile, Cary and Raleigh are still operating their red-light cameras using another law that could also be threatened by the High Point lawsuit.

Gibson said he hopes the new law satisfy school officials enough to avoid litigation as well as set a standard to settle differences in the future.

"There's a huge number of fines and forfeitures," he said. "Every time we do something that's creative, it's going to create (problems)."
Group will meet with chancellor

By T. Scott Batchelor
The Daily Reflector

WINTERVILLE — The president of the Pitt County chapter of the NAACP said he plans to meet with East Carolina University's chancellor to discuss racism and diversity on campus after an incident there last week.

Though an investigation into a noose-like piece of rope found on campus was inconclusive, ECU officials said Friday that they'll use the incident to further diversity discussions among students.

Calvin Henderson, president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, addressed the incident during a meeting Sunday at Mount Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church.

The meeting was called to select delegates to the association's state convention.

Henderson said he plans to meet with Chancellor Steve Ballard sometime next week to discuss the rope object and the racial climate on campus.

Representatives of the Black Student Union and campus NAACP chapter

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...ranging from assault to attempted murder after a December 2006 fight that followed months of racial tension in the town, where nooses were hung from trees on the Jena High School campus.

Ballard said during a news conference Friday at Mendenhall Student Center that the university is taking student concerns over a potential hate crime very seriously,

"East Carolina University has a zero tolerance for intimidation or harassment in any form," Ballard said.

University police were unable to decide whether the piece of rope found in the basement of Belk Residence Hall was a noose, officials said. They have been investigating since a student reported finding it in the basement of Belk Hall Sept. 19.

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EAST CAROLINA ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Big-play Blake

Former QB honored at halftime of Pirates' win

By Tony Castleberry
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina fans likely think of big plays, big games and big wins when Jeff Blake's name is mentioned.

But Blake, one of four former Pirates inducted into the ECU Athletics Hall of Fame over the weekend, recalled a small thing before strolling out on the Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium turf Saturday night to be recognized along with John Jett, Dennis Burke and Dick Tobin.

When asked if being on the field again took him back to his playing days, Blake, who was actually inducted last year but couldn't make it to Greenville for the ceremony, replied, "Yes it does, but the stadium wasn't quite this big."

Dowdy-Ficklen has undergone expansion two times since Blake plied his trade under center for the Pirates from 1988-91. But it can be argued that the stadium has never been more on its ear that it was for Blake and the ECU team he quarterbacked during the 1991 campaign.

On his way to earning East Coast Athletic Conference Player of the Year and second-team All-America honors that season, Blake lifted the Pirates to a 37-34 win over arch-rival N.C. State in the 1992 Peach Bowl. Blake had a hand in all five ECU touchdowns that January day in Atlanta, throwing for four scores and rushing for another as the Pirates came back from a 27-17 fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Wolfpack.

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Blake's Peach Bowl numbers typify how prolific a passer he was — 31 of 51 for 378 yards and the four TDs. The win over State capped an 11-1 season for East Carolina, which finished with a national ranking of No. 9, the highest in school history.

For all his past accomplishments, Blake was happy to soak in the present-day ECU atmosphere.

"It's entertainment when you come out here," Blake said. "Walking out on this field, how can you not get pumped? Especially as a player, coming out of the Pirate ship, the purple smoke, the sparklers, the flybys (by a pair of fighter planes Saturday night), all kinds of stuff. It's great."

Blake, drafted by the N.Y. Jets in 1992, enjoyed a pro career that spanned 15 years. He passed for more than 21,000 yards and scored 148 touchdowns before hanging up his cleats.

The man who still holds a host of Pirate passing records, including touchdowns (28) and yards (3,073) in a single season, stays busy doing what he calls "a little bit of everything" these days. Land development and real estate interests consume some of the time that football once did, but Blake admits he misses the game.

Watching his alma mater beat UCF 52-38 Saturday served as a pretty good substitute for putting on the pads again and Blake says he's optimistic about not only this season, but where ECU's football program is headed.

"It takes a while to develop," Blake said. "It took us from our freshman year to our senior year to actually become the team that we became (in 1991). Sometimes it takes that long to develop a program, especially when you have a new coach. This is Skip (Holtz's) third year and it took us four, so I think they're on track."

Tony Castleberry can be reached at tcastleberry@coxnc.com or at (252) 329-9591.
Medical school's Diabetes Self-Care program receives national recognition

The Diabetes Self-Care program at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University has received national recognition.

The American Diabetes Association has granted its Education Recognition Certificate to the program. The program was first recognized in 1989 and the honor has been renewed every three years since.

The ADA Education Recognition Certificate assures educational programs meet national standards. Programs apply for recognition.

"The process gives professionals a national standard by which to measure the quality of service they provide," said Mandy Saenz, a certified diabetes educator with ECU.

According to the ADA, 20.8 million people in the United States, or 7 percent of the population, has diabetes. Nearly a third don't know they have the disease.
ECU noose case is inconclusive

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Though an investigation into a noose-like piece of rope found on campus was inconclusive, East Carolina University officials said Friday that they'll use the incident to further diversity discussions among students.

ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard said during a news conference at Mendenhall Student Center that the university is taking student concerns over a potential hate crime very seriously.

"East Carolina University has a zero tolerance for intimidation or harassment in any form," Ballard said.

"We intend to use this incident as a springboard for serious discussion of diversity issues throughout the campus. We remain unconditionally committed to the principles of diversity and inclusion across the university.

ECU CHANCELLOR Steve Ballard speaks during a forum with students at the college Friday afternoon, along with Todd Johnson, interim vice provost for student affairs, left, and Janice Harris, interim chief of police.

University police were unable to decide whether the piece of rope found in the basement of Belk Residence Hall was a noose.

Officials said Friday's gathering was a product of the investigation.

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ing it in the basement of Belk Hall Sept. 19.

About 30 people gathered Friday to hear comments from Ballard and others at the Men- denhall Student Center.

Todd Johnson, interim vice provost for student life, said the events will trigger more interaction between campus police and resident advisors.

"The campus police will include as part of their community policing to go into the residence halls and work with RAs on issues like this," Johnson said.

The investigation included interviews with students who live in the hall, a review of surveillance tapes from security cameras in the area and an examination of the entire basement. Johnson said.

Some ECU student groups rallied on Sept. 20, the day after the rope was found for the Jena, La.-based teenager who was charged with counts ranging from assault to attempted murder after a December 2006 fight.

That fight followed months of racial tension in Jena, where nooses sometimes hung from trees on the Jena High School campus.

Johnson said ECU's Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Institutional Diversity will launch a new program to get students from different races and ethnic groups to talk about race relations in an academic setting.

Officials are also considering a new class, required for first-year students, that includes diversity issues, Johnson said.

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East Carolina salutes military at home game

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Football fans will have the chance to see the latest military technology on display at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium today before the East Carolina football game against Central Florida.

It's Military Appreciation Day at ECU.

"This year, we're kind of showcasing the Marine Corps," said Steve Duncan, ECU's director of military affairs. "They've gone all out with a huge display of Marine gear for Saturday morning in the Murphy Center."

Duncan said officials are expecting 1,500 to 2,000 military personnel to attend today's game, including several active and retired generals.

F-18 Hornets from Beaufort, S.C., will fly over the stadium during the National Anthem at 7:26 p.m. before the game.

Two Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles will be on display outside the stadium along with other Marine equipment from Camp Lejeune. That display is to be set up this morning and opens at some point between 11 a.m. and noon, Duncan said.

Capt. Ray Baronie of Camp Lejeune's Wounded Warrior Battalion East will perform the pregame coin toss.

"This year we decided to showcase the Marine Corps because they have such an impact on North Carolina and the university here," Duncan said.

"We are working to strengthen our education services to Marines who are in the state to those who are abroad."

Josh Humphries can be contacted at jhumphries@coxnc.com and 329-9565.
Activist speaks at ECU about challenges facing Latinos

By Jimmy Ryals
The Daily Reflector

As long as Latino populations in North Carolina and nationwide continue growing, their problems will affect everyone, a Mexican activist said Thursday.

Juvenicio Rocha Peralta, president of the Association of Mexicans in North Carolina, cited three major challenges for Latinos during a speech at East Carolina University: getting good health care, accessing higher education and avoiding isolation.

He exhorted Latinos to get involved to turn those problems around.

"The issues that we see today are not Latinos' issues," he told an audience of more than 50 people. "They're issues for everybody."

PERALTA

All three challenges flow from the treatment undocumented immigrants receive, Peralta said.

High school graduates can't get into University of North Carolina schools or community colleges as in-state students, making college prohibitively expensive. Further, lack of legal status bars many Latinos from getting medical treatment.

Peralta also lamented the failure of a comprehensive immigration reform bill in Congress earlier this year.

"We had a chance to get over 12 million individuals (to be) legal in the United States, but for some reason we didn't do anything," Peralta said.

"Those individuals, they're going to be back in the dark in North Carolina, in Pitt County, in the United States."

Local governments are filling legal voids with laws that are often unfriendly to immigrants, Peralta said.

Those being passed — eliminating Spanish-language government documents in Beaufort County and empowering police to enforce immigration law elsewhere — are further marginalizing immigrants, Peralta said.

But, he said, greater political activity among Latinos will turn back anti-immigrant laws.

"We've got to get them accountable for their actions and the changes they're making," Peralta said.

"If you go to the polls and vote, you have a right to make them accountable on these issues on the local (level) and on the state (level)."

Peralta's talk was the second of three university events marking Hispanic Heritage Month. On Sept. 20, Cuban-American novelist Christina Garcia appeared at Stewart Theater. On Tuesday, the campus will host a fiesta and poetry reading.

Jimmy Ryals can be contacted at jryals@coxnc.com and 329-9568.
Literary review founders honored

The Daily Reflector

The founders of the North Carolina Literary Review were honored recently with the Roberts Award for Literary Inspiration.

East Carolina University’s J.Y. Joyner Library recognized Alex Albright, professor of creative writing; Eva Roberts, professor emeritus of graphic design; and W. Keats Sparrow, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, for their longtime commitment and development of the state’s literary journal of record.

The presentation was made Sept. 28 during the university’s fourth annual Literary Homecoming, an event celebrating writers with North Carolina roots.

“We are here this weekend to celebrate the literary riches of this region,” said Margaret Bauer, the English department’s Rives Chair of Southern literature and the current editor of NCLR. “We honor the significant literary contribution to North Carolina made by Alex, Keats and Eva.”

Library officials present the award to recognize a writer whose work has had significant influence on the literature of North Carolina.

W. KEATS SPARROW, former dean of the East Carolina University College of Arts and Sciences; Eva Roberts, professor emeritus of graphic design; and Alex Albright, professor of creative writing, were recently recognized for developing the North Carolina Literary Review.

“These three individuals have inspired each other, and, in turn, have inspired others,” said Shelby Ströther, president of the Friends of the J.Y. Joyner Library.

Founded in 1992, the journal, under the leadership of Albright and Roberts, received numerous awards for its design and content, including the Council of Editors of Learned Journals Award for Best New Journal and Best New Journal Design.

Albright, the founding editor, credited then-Dean Sparrow with the vision of going to the North Carolina Literature and Historical Association to house the review at ECU. He also thanked Roberts for her ideas to incorporate in the journal a strong visual and artistic presence.

Since 2007 is ECU’s centennial year, the review has a focus on writers and artists from the university. Bauer remarked that it was most fitting that the individuals honored with the Roberts Award are from ECU.

The award was named for Mr. and Mrs. B.W.C. Roberts of Durham, in honor of their gift to Joyner Library of the Roberts Collection of North Carolina Literature.
An exercise in utility

Senior center offers fitness test for patrons to screen for balance problems

BY THOMAS GOLDSMITH
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — For the agile young people sweating it out in most gyms, a workout means tapping into the natural vigor of youth.

For older people, doing the right kind of exercise can be a matter of life and death.

"It's a much more serious thing," Hillsborough resident Maureen Kunz, 66, said Friday at Orange County's new Robert and Pearl Seymour Center.

Kunz had gone along with her husband, Robert, 67, to the fitness screening the center requires before members can use its exercise room and machines. The research-based strength and balance testing turns up areas of weakness that can result in falls, a leading cause of death in people over 65.

"When somebody goes through these six different tests, the results of how they score are entered against that database against other people their age," Orange County wellness coordinator Myra Austin said at the center.

The center uses a Senior Fitness Test designed at California State University, Fullerton, and customized by UNC-Chapel Hill professor Carol Giuliani to add more information on balance.

"The center wanted to require all seniors to have this fitness test," said Giuliani, a professor in the human-movement science program.

"One, to make sure people are safe on the machines. Second, they wanted to give people a baseline of their abilities."

Robert Kunz, still not as strong as he'd like after heart-valve surgery two years ago, was put through tests under Giuliani's experienced eyes.

"Now, stand up and we'll check your balance," Giuliani told Kunz. "You're not here to sit down."

The retired chemical engineer had to stand on one leg, waving his arms at first to keep his balance. Then he settled down to last the prescribed 30 seconds with one foot in the air.

"I didn't think you were going to make it there for a while," Giuliani said, smiling.

Diana Cash, a researcher in UNC's Sheds Center for Health Services Research, was observing the testing Friday. She'll be doing similar screening in adult-care homes as part of a UNC study to identify older people who are likely to fall.

"We are going to ask about their health and pain level, their experiences with falling, and we'll look at their charts," Cash said. "We'll do a follow-up with them on falling and be able to speak to fall risks."

The program at the Seymour Center is part of a trend in senior centers — in essence, becoming a preventive-care provider as well as a place to relax and find companionship.

The screening allows therapists to design exercise programs for people who go through it.

"It shows if you are with the norm or below it or above it," said Maureen Kunz, who was screened the previous week and found that her balance was lacking.

Later the same morning, Tiffany Shubert, who holds a doctorate in physical therapy, led a class of about 20 older people through research-tested exercises aimed at improving balance.

"You want to challenge your balance but not over-challenge your balance," Shubert told the class.

Ruth Oppold, 86, was among those doing chin tucks and muscle stretches. She also performed lifts and bends while standing on one leg.

"I broke my arm after a fall, and my therapist told me about this," Oppold said.

Nearly 300 people have gone through fitness screenings at the Seymour Center. The tests were offered as early as 2003, but most of the participants have come since the new center and its exercise room opened this spring.

Members will get annual updates on how they are doing compared to their baseline performances.

"People say, 'I'm fit,'" said Orange County aging department director Jerry Passmore. "But if you don't know your numbers, how do you know you're improving?"

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Civil suit in lacrosse case filed

BY MATT DEES AND JOSEPH NEFF
STAFF WRITERS

The city of Durham, former District Attorney Mike Nifong and the DNA laboratory hired by the disbarred ex-prosecutor conspired to falsely charge three Duke lacrosse players with rape, a federal civil lawsuit filed Friday alleges.

The 162-page document, a detailed account of every step of alleged misconduct that drips with indignation, sets the stage for a high-profile, high-stakes legal battle.

"There's never been a case like this one," said Richard Emery, one of three lawyers representing former lacrosse player Reade Seligmann.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Greensboro, charges that the defendants maliciously conspired to charge the three men with rape, even though they knew that charges were "a total fabrication by a mentally troubled, drug-prone exotic dancer whose claims, time and again, were contradicted by physical evidence, documentary evidence, other witnesses, and even the accuser herself."

Claiming violations of constitutional rights under the Fourth

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and Fourteenth amendments, Seligmann and the two other exonerated lacrosse players, Dave Evans and Collin Finaerty, are seeking unspecified actual and punitive damages.

They're also seeking broad reforms in the Durham Police Department, including a court-appointed monitor who would preapprove police public statements and have the power to hire police chiefs, among other duties.

City officials and attorneys for DNA Securities Inc. promised to fight the suit.

Durham had balked on a settlement demand from the former players reported at $30 million.

The city was sued, as were former Police Chief Steve Chalmers, Deputy Chief Ron Hodge and seven other members of the department.

"We understand that the complaint asserts claims against the city and its employees that appear to be based on untested and unproven legal theories," city spokeswoman Beverly B. Thompson said Friday, adding that she couldn't elaborate on what theories those might be.

"In light of that, the City Council has directed legal counsel to vigorously defend the city and city employees in court against this lawsuit."

Bob Sar, a lawyer representing
Awkward for city

Lumping the co-defendants together puts the city in an awkward position. City leaders have tried to pin the rush to accuse tag on the "rogue prosecutor" Nifong, while also saying that Nifong wasn't given carte blanche in the investigation.

But the suit alleges that the Police Department allowed Nifong to take over the case, apparently with little resistance.

"Durham Police officials ... knew that it was unprecedented for a district attorney to direct a police investigation, that Nifong at the time was engaged in a hotly-contested election campaign, and that by assuming primary responsibility for the police investigation Nifong would be in a position to exploit Mangum's high-profile, racially charged rape allegation for his personal political gain," the suit said.

"Nevertheless, police ignored these extraordinary circumstances and the inherent conflict of interest by agreeing that Nifong would direct the police investigation into Mangum's allegations."

Largess said he would expect one of the defendants to file a motion to sever the suit so the city would be responding only to specific allegations against Durham.

"I don't think they have the grounds to do this," said David Rudolf, another of Seligmann's attorneys. "We've alleged a conspiracy in which they all acted together."

The suit is loaded with sweeping language, far from the matter-of-fact tone that often characterizes legal documents.

"The passion and emotion you hear in the complaint is a function of the anger we all feel for the abuse of power and the degradation of justice, the harm done to the lives of these boys for a year and the permanent harm to their reputations," Emery said.
ALL WOMEN, AND THRIVING

BY JANE STANCILL
STAFF WRITER

Women's colleges have been folding or going coed in this country since the late 1960s, when women were allowed in universities in large numbers.

There are just 51 women's colleges left in the United States, two fewer than a year ago.

But in Raleigh, there is an unusual countercurrent: Single-sex education appears to be thriving.

This fall, Meredith College enrolled its largest ever freshman class. Both Meredith and Peace College have raised tens of millions of dollars, recruited many more minority students and started international partnerships. They're planning for growth and marketing themselves to high school students as places for women to become empowered leaders.

In the survival-of-the-fittest world of private higher education, Meredith and Peace are rising above the forces that have driven some women's colleges out of business. They have broadened their reach and reshaped their mission to serve women in a changing world.

But another element of their success is that old real estate adage: location, location, location. Laura Bingham, president of Peace College, said her school is rising with Wake County's economic boom and Raleigh's increasingly robust downtown. The school is located just north of the legislative mall and is adjacent to a new housing development that was previously the site of public housing.

"It's been fabulous," Bingham said. "The neighborhood is helping us for the first time in 50 years."

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Last month, Meredith President Maureen Hartford celebrated the end of a fundraising campaign that brought in more than $41 million, about half of which will go to student scholarships and financial aid for study abroad. Later this month, the Meredith board will consider a plan to build an apartment-style dorm on the West Raleigh campus on Hillsborough Street. First-year students reached a record 434 this fall, though total undergraduate enrollment is 1,770, down from 1,890 in 2000. Meredith has altered the way it sells itself. Word-of-mouth attention, passed down through the generations, doesn't work in a state with a lot of newcomers, Hartford said.

"We have really changed our focus on marketing in the past few years to focus on as much the outcomes of women's education, things we know -- women who have stronger voices, greater self-confidence, a trust in their own leadership skills as a result of having been at a single-gender institution," she said. "But also focusing on the fact that this is a place that does understand how women learn and how that may be different than how men learn.

It's ironic, she said, that at a time when women make up 57 percent of U.S. higher-education students, many universities aren't doing more to adapt to women's learning styles, which are more collaborative and flourish in small settings.

"I have seen very little going on in coeducational institutions that suggests that there's a passion for taking care of what is now their majority," said Hartford, who was an administrator at the University of Michigan before she came to Meredith in 1999.

Three years ago, Duke University added a program that operates almost like a mini-women's college within a university. The Baldwin Scholars Program grew out of former Duke President Nan Keohane's Women's Initiative, which found that female students at Duke felt social pressure to be perfect, yet not outshine the men.

Women have been the majority on many campuses for more than 20 years, said Susan Lennon, executive director of the Connecticut-based Women's College Coalition. "It doesn't mean the culture has changed," Lennon said. "I think we still have a long way to go."

The new president of Harvard is a graduate of a women's college, as are many women in politics, business and other fields. A survey last year by Indiana University researchers found that students at women's colleges reported a more satisfying academic experience and greater confidence in their leadership skills than women at coeducational institutions.

'Things that I noticed after I applied was how much communication I got from them," said of Meredith. "It's been like that ever since I got here. Everyone is really friendly, really helpful. They want you to have the best first-year experience you can."

She turned down admission offers from American University, William & Mary, the University of Virginia and the University of Richmond. While in high school in the Moore County town of Cameron, Huber never imagined herself at a women's college.

Debbie Cottrell, provost at Peace, said women's colleges have to understand the market and make their pitch where it will resonate.

There is a tiny population of high school girls four-year degree institution. A decade ago, St. Mary's went the other route, dropping its college program to become a girls' high school.

Peace has revamped its curriculum and beefed up the academic requirements, which include statistics or calculus, advanced writing and a cross-cultural experience. Peace also recently added a teacher education program for both undergraduates and adult students -- and now offers night classes to capture the adult education market.

Both campuses admit more international students. Peace kicked off an exchange program with Qatar, and Meredith has two students on scholarship from Afghanistan.

And both Peace and Meredith are recruiting from a more diverse pool of students. From 1999 to 2006, minority representation increased from 9 percent to 17 percent at Meredith and from 9 percent to 22 percent at Peace.

"Going is the finishing school atmosphere. 'It's not a campus for rich kids,' Hartford said.

The campuses have invested more in financial aid to draw students from all economic backgrounds, apparently without compromising their financial health with steep tuition discounts. Those have been the death knell for some other schools.

Against the tide

Nationally, three women's colleges have gone coed in the past two years to avoid extinction. Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Virginia changed its name and welcomed men for the first time this fall. The college is so financially strapped that it is auctioning part of its prized art collection in hopes of turning around a budget deficit.

"The ones that remain have all made some pretty smart and significant choices and changes in terms of making sure that they're staying relevant," Cottrell said. "Higher ed is tough no matter what, the competition is tough. I think women's colleges have to be the smartest colleges on the block if they're going to survive, because there's too much that works against them -- the tide is against them."

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UNC negotiating with hospital

BY KAREN GARLOCH
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

CHARLOTTE - One of the largest U.S. cities without a medical school is inching closer to getting one.

After nine months of meetings, a task force of doctors and administrators from Carolinas Medical Center and UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine is about to recommend the creation of a regional medical school campus in Charlotte.

The group expects to finish its work by the end of October, and its recommendation could go to the UNC Board of Trustees and the UNC Board of Governors before the end of the year, according to Dr. William Roper, dean of the UNC medical school.

If the expansion is approved, a request for funding could be sent to the legislature next year.

The goal is to expand UNC medical school's class from 180 students to 210 and to train the 50 additional students at Carolinas Medical Center in their third and fourth years, when the focus is on practical experience in the hospital.

If a new campus is approved, students would be added gradually, said Dr. James McDevitt, senior vice president for education and research at the medical center. The first students could arrive there in 2011, and the full complement could be in place by 2013.

McDevitt declined to say exactly how much money was needed. But he said the medical center would need more faculty doctors and a new building for educational laboratories and support staff.

Roper will turn over the task force's work to UNC system President Erskine Bowles, who reports to the board of governors, and UNC Chapel Hill Chancellor James Moeser, who reports to the board of trustees.
Stress linked to early births

ECU researcher Suzanne Orr led the study on pregnancy-related anxiety.

By Jimmy Ryals
The Daily Reflector

Pregnancy-related anxiety may have a role in premature births, according to recent findings by an East Carolina University researcher.

Women under high levels of pregnancy-related stress are significantly more prone to unplanned premature births than other expectant mothers, according to a study led by Suzanne Orr, an associate professor of health education and promotion.

More than a quarter of the women in the study reported having elevated anxiety about their pregnancies. Those women were 1.15 times more likely to deliver before 37 weeks than their counterparts, according to the study, which appeared in the July/August issue of the journal Psychosomatic Medicine.

Women claiming the highest levels of pregnancy stress — scoring a six on a six-point scale — were 2.7 times as likely to have a preterm birth. Orr and her collaborators studied more than 1,600 pregnant women in Baltimore between 1991 and 1993.

Joining Orr on the study were Jerome Reiter, Dan Blazer and Sherman James, all faculty members at Duke University. The study offers new insight into what causes premature births, a leading cause of infant deaths, Orr said.

More than 18 percent of ba-

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abies born in North Carolina in 2005 were premature, according to the State Center for Health Statistics. In Pitt County, the preterm rate was about 17 percent. The national preterm birth rate was 12.7 percent in 2005, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

"We have a very serious problem with preterm birth in this country," Orr said.

Generally, researchers believe a number of factors play a role in early births: a mother's history of preterm deliveries, sexually transmitted infections, smoking and drug use. Race and socioeconomic status also play a role, Orr said; poor black women tend to deliver early more often than wealthier whites.

While prenatal care is widely available, "poor women don't have access to certain health care when she's not pregnant," Orr said.

The link between emotional distress and preterm births has been less clear, Orr said. Previous studies had suggested it, but Orr believes hers is the first to investigate pregnancy-related anxiety and spontaneous preterm birth. Better communication with obstetricians and therapy could ease the would-be mother's anxiety, Orr said.

"There's certainly hope that these women could be treated," Orr said.

Early in a pregnancy, stress stems from the unknown, said Dr. Tom Kraemer, an obstetrician at the Brody School of Medicine. Kraemer, who didn't participate in Orr's study, said his patients are often concerned with financial questions.

"Later in the pregnancy, the fear of pain and the birthing experience comes out," he said.

Pregnant women often attack their uncertainties by consulting their doctors or reading books like "What to Expect When You're Expecting," he added.

Anecdotally, Kraemer said he hasn't seen a connection between anxiety and preterm births in his own practice. The causes of prematurity are worth investigating, he said.

Orr said she hopes to get funding to do broader research on the connections between anxiety, depression and preterm births. "We need a lot of research in this area," Orr said.

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Visit reflector.com for more local, state, national and world news.
Crews clean up Tar River

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector

On a day filled with tailgating and cheering on the football team, 40 people opted for a Saturday morning workout on the Tar River.

The group turned out at 8 a.m. for Big Sweep, an annual effort to clean the state's waterways.

"It's a perfect turnout," said Matt Hargrove, who organized this year's local river cleanup. "Every single kayak and canoe is being used and there's no one else who wants one."

East Carolina University Recreation Center and the Neuse River Foundation donated 15 kayaks and eight canoes to help with the cleanup; other volunteers provided their own transportation. Six ECU students manned a pontoon, begging their passing peers for a little competition in the trash-gathering category. Hargrove just laughed. "Whatever it takes to get the ECU students out here, ya know," he said.

Hargrove piloted his mud-streaked motorboat up and down the five-mile stretch for nearly six hours, carrying loads of garbage to a dumpster at the boat ramp and bottled water to the grumpy volunteers. This was his first year running the river cleanup, but the ECU senior said he'd like to see them happen more regularly — every two months or so.

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"There's always trash to be picked up out here," he said, pulling up to a lone kayaker cleaning near the Greene Street bridge. "It's like a never-ending cycle."

Through the trash, the cleanup crew learned about the people populating the Tar. Chairs, inflatable tubes and beer cans congregated near some benches bordering a student neighborhood. Mountain Dew bottles, Bojangles cups and fishing tackle peppered the banks. The murky depths of the river also held a few surprises.

"So much fills with water and rests on the bottom," Hargrove said.

He and his roommate tried to lug a discarded motorcycle engine onto the boat only to have it slip back over the stern. He also mapped coordinates to a partially-sunken washing machine.

"Somebody brought in a kitchen sink," Pitt County Recycling Coordinator Paula Clark said. "So we got everything and the kitchen sink."

Clark estimated nearly 400 volunteers were working throughout Pitt County on Saturday. Weigh-ins of the collected waste will be totaled by Monday.

"We drink it, we bathe in it," said Hargrove, guiding his boat toward the Town Common landing. "We might as well keep it clean for ourselves if not for nature."

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