THE DAILY CLIPS

October 18, 2007

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

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Ballard: Keeping up with the 'Joneses' not a priority

By Jimmy Ryals
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University will once again measure itself against one of North Carolina's flagship public universities Saturday, as the Pirates face N.C. State University at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

The ECU-NCSU game will mark the first time in ECU history that both the University of North Carolina's flagship schools have played in Greenville during the same season. ECU topped the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 34-31, on Sept. 8.

While ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard is always eager for gridiron matchups with N.C. State University, he said keeping up with the Joneses in Raleigh and Chapel Hill isn't a priority for ECU, the state's third-largest university.

"What we want to do is compare ourselves to our goals and to our mission and ask the question, 'how well are we doing in doing what we say we're going to do?'" Ballard said. "I actually think that's harder than anything else, no matter what type of institution you are, is to make sure you're doing what you should be doing for a state and a region and a nation. We have great, great respect for both of those schools. They, in many ways, lead the nation in what they try to do. I think it would be a huge mistake for us to try to copy them."

ECU, NCSU and UNC-CH are in competition with one another — and the state's 13 other public universities — for public resources, Ballard said. State and Carolina annually draw more state funding than ECU, although the gap is narrowing. In 2001, NCSU and UNC-CH received, on average, 126 percent more state funding than ECU, according to figures from the National Center for Education Statistics. In 2006, the average appropriation to the flagships outpaced ECU's state funding by about 92 percent, according to numbers from the three schools.

Likewise, ECU — with the fastest-growing student body in the UNC system — is closing in on UNC-CH and NCSU in enrollment. Between fall 2000 and fall 2006, East Carolina's student population grew by 30 percent. Over the same period, the flagships' enrollments have grown an average of 10 percent.

UNC-CH and NCSU still rate ahead of ECU in many popular indicators of university quality. Each is more selective in admissions, accepting 37 percent and 67 percent of fall 2006 applicants, respectively, versus 74 percent at ECU. The two flagship schools have considerably larger private endowments, too.

In its 2008 college rankings, The U.S. News & World Report rates UNC-CH and NCSU 28th and 85th See ECU, A9
in the nation, respectively. The U.S. News rankings favor wealthier schools with more affluent student bodies and give an incomplete picture of a school's value, Ballard has said.

The ratings don't account for what graduates do after they leave school, either, something that's moving ECU ahead, according to Linda Tripp, former president of the Pitt County Pirate Club. ECU supporters “absolutely” want to match the state's larger schools on athletic fields and elsewhere, she said.

“I do think the gap is being closed, and I think it's being closed because... of the accomplishments of our graduates, the outstanding things that our graduates are accomplish-

"We have great, great respect for both of those schools. They, in many ways, lead the nation in what they try to do. I think it would be a huge mistake for us to try to copy them."

Chancellor Steve Ballard

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Roberts, ECU fete female leaders

ABC News political commentator Cokie Roberts helped ECU praise 100 of its female graduates on Wednesday.

By Jimmy Ryals
The Daily Reflector

As a daughter, journalist Cokie Roberts watched her indomitable mother, Lindy Boggs, balance raising a family with being wife to a powerful congressman and later a congresswoman herself after he died in a plane crash.

As a reporter, author and analyst, Roberts has observed female trailblazers firsthand in the U.S. Congress and at a scholarly distance in a book on the women of the American Revolution.

Her praise for 100 female East Carolina University graduates honored Wednesday comes with credibility.

"These women being honored here today are remarkable women, in every field," Roberts told area reporters before giving the keynote speech at "A Legacy of Leadership: 100 Incredible ECU Women," a celebration of accomplished women with ties to ECU. Eight hundred people attended the luncheon at the Greenville Convention Center, event organizers said.

Roberts, a senior news analyst for National Public Radio and ABC News political commentator, entered her business when there were few women journalists, building a career that's landed her two Emmys and praise as a leading woman in broadcasting history.

Roberts, who cites as role models her mother and the nuns who taught her at Catholic schools in New Orleans and Washington, D.C., regaled the group with stories of women's roles in the American Revolution. Martha Washington overcame her disgust for war to spend every winter of the eight-year American Revolution with soldiers at Valley Forge. Rebecca Mott let her home be torched so British soldiers quartering there could be expelled.

As each household's primary shoppers, Revolutionary women enforced a boycott that kept British products off the U.S. market, Roberts said. They were also responsible for filling the goods gap left by the absence of British material, she added.

"The boycott, there's a place where women were absolutely, explicitly called upon in the 18th century to be political beings, to resist Britain with the only tool they had," Roberts said, returning to the subject of her 2004 bestseller, "Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised our Nation." Studying the founding women offers "lessons of leadership that I think are very salient to the ceremony today," Roberts said.

Her speech capped a day of events. A roundtable discussion on female leadership

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ROBERTS

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featured Beverly Cox, director of exhibitions and collections management at the National Portrait Gallery; Dr. Lynn Lawry of the Center for Disease and Humanitarian Assistance Medicine; and Linda McMahon, chief executive officer of World Wrestling Entertainment. All attended the university.

Selected by a committee of the ECU Women's Roundtable, the women honored Wednesday come from a range of fields. They're teachers, lawmakers, designers, business executives, novelists, doctors and musicians.

"We're very proud of what's happening here today because we are recognizing our 100 incredible ECU woman, who are very diverse," said Kay Chalk, chairwoman of the women's roundtable. Tuesday's celebration was the second major event organized by the group. In 2005, the roundtable sponsored a symposium on women's health issues.

For some of the 100 women, attending the event was their first trip back to ECU since graduating, Chalk said. Many of them said the celebration rekindled a strong relationship with the university, she said.

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New test outperforms outdated Pap smear

By Stephanie Nano
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A relatively new screening test was about twice as accurate as the traditional Pap smear at spotting cervical cancer, according to the first rigorous study of the test in North America.

The new test could replace the 50-year-old Pap in a matter of years, experts say. And there's a bonus for women: They won't need a screening test as often.

The HPV test, which looks for the virus that causes cervical cancer, correctly spotted 95 percent of the cancers. The Pap test, which checks for abnormal cells under a microscope, only found 55 percent, according to researchers at McGill University in Montreal, who published their findings in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

"We've had the Pap test for over 50 years and it's high time it be replaced by technology that's more robust," said Eduardo Franco, director of McGill's division of cancer epidemiology, who led the study.

Franco said some feared the HPV test would result in more false alarms, causing anxiety and requiring more follow-up testing. In the study, there were only slightly more false positives for the HPV tests (6 percent) than the Pap smears (3 percent).

HPV, or human papilloma virus, is a common sexually transmitted disease. Infections are mostly in young women and most go away on their own. The HPV test looks for the high-risk viruses that can cause cervical cancer if the infection persists. Like the Pap, it uses cells scraped from the cervix, the lower part of

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the uterus.

Because the Pap test misses about half of the cases, doctors use frequent testing to catch the slow developing cancer at its earliest, most treatable stages.

The HPV test has been available in the U.S. since 2000 and was first used for inconclusive Pap tests. Now women over 30 can get a HPV test — but only along with a Pap — and wait three years to be tested again if both tests are negative.

More recently, scientists have been studying whether the HPV test can be used alone and whether it can prolong the intervals between exams. Debbie Saslow, director of breast and gynecologic cancer for the American Cancer Society, said evidence from a number of studies supports using the HPV test in place of a Pap.

"Overall, I don't think there's any doubt that HPV testing has a lot of advantages over the Pap test," she said.

Saslow said there are still issues to be resolved, and federal approval needed, but "it's definitely coming." She said experts expect that to happen sometime in the next decade.

A Swedish study also in the journal compared Pap with HPV testing to Pap alone in 12,527 women in their 30s. They found the combo test detected precancerous lesions or cancer earlier than the Pap test alone.

The Canadian study, which was government-funded, included 10,154 women ages 30 to 69 in Montreal and St. John's, Newfoundland.

The women got both tests. Still to be determined is the best way to start using the HPV test by itself and what follow-up action to take after positive results, the researchers said.

The HPV test is more expensive: In the U.S., Medicare pays about $50 for the HPV test and $15 to $28 for a Pap test.

Some of the researchers have received fees or grants from drug makers including Merck Frosst Canada Ltd., a subsidiary of Merck & Co., which makes a cervical cancer vaccine. One has stock in Digene Corp., which developed the only approved HPV test.

Franco emphasized that girls who have been vaccinated against HPV will still need to be screened because the vaccine only protects against some of the cancer-causing strains.

Dr. Carolyn D. Runowicz, who wrote a journal editorial, noted that the two studies used a different kind of Pap test, not the liquid-based technology used in the U.S., which may be more sensitive. The results of a British study that used liquid Pap are due to be presented in November.

"We're not ready for prime time. We're moving in that direction. But we're not there yet," said Runowicz, a former president of the American Cancer Society.
Public Forum

Leakey’s ECU lecture a marvelous event

Recently, East Carolina University treated eastern North Carolina to a marvelous presentation by world renowned anthropologist, Richard Leakey.

It was a special occasion for me, as my grandfather was a friend of Richard’s father, Louis Leakey, in Kenya some 80 years ago and I am good friends with his nephew, who attended university with me in the United Kingdom. I was so happy to be able to catch up on news of his family.

Leakey is a true hero who has devoted his life to discovering the origins of the human race and protecting our environment and wildlife. His presentation was dynamic, informative and provided a great insight into the living history of humanity.

Leakey pulls down barriers when he informs us that we are all African and that modern human life as we know it began in the cradle of what is now Kenya.

Many who seek to still divide societies or identify people along racial or ethnic lines would do well to listen to what he has to say and learn from it.

Thank you, ECU, for giving us the opportunity to hear Richard Leakey. I, for one, look forward to more lectures in this exciting series.

PETER J.M. ROMARY
Greenville

NAFTA first step toward erasing borders

Everybody, stand up and cheer. Your government, led by “Jorge” Bush and former Mexican President Vincente Fox, has finally let the proverbial cat out of the bag.

Indeed, while speaking of Jorge as, practically, a mental defect, Fox acknowledges freely on his talk show and public speaking tour that the fix has been in for many years to erase the borders in North America. Oh yes, NAFTA was not in vain my friends.

Now we move toward a single united currency, the “Amero,” and our new-found status as a member of the “North American Union.” We must set aside all of this pettiness about national sovereignty.

You members of the “flat earth society” take your United States sovereignty and stick it where the sun don’t shine. Sovereignty? We don’t need no stinkin’ sovereignty!

It is well known around the world that the United States is ripe for the taking, and since we “stole” the entire southwest from Mexico (Forget the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo) we should, to be fair, just give it back. Really now, who’s going to miss California? Liars, liars to the people.

BILK KROLL
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ECU fans deserve replays, clear audio

My thanks to Andy Truel, who wrote an excellent letter in the Oct. 12 Public Forum, “Pirate fans want to see, hear calls.”

I, too, cannot understand why a simple wireless microphone cannot be fixed.

Certainly after the first home game, something should have been done. But to still be cutting-out during the Oct. 6 University of Central Florida game, making the referee calls unintelligible, is just inexcusable and embarrassing. What a wonderful impression we’ll leave on the North Carolina State fans if its still inoperable on Saturday.

We want a top-notch football team, and the fans expect good quality communications to go along with that.

Truel’s right on about the replays, too. Let’s see them all.

TOM FREED
Greenville
Facebook profile = red face

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALISBURY, Md. — Salisbury University's president removed her Facebook profile after being questioned about apparently unprofessional captions posted alongside photos on the Web page.

Janet Dudley-Eshbach, the school president, had a photo on her profile showing her pointing a stick toward her daughter and a Hispanic man with a caption saying she had to "beat off Mexicans because they were constantly flirting with my daughter."

A caption accompanying a photo of a tapir referred to the large size of the piglike animal's genitalia.

Dudley-Eshbach removed her profile from the social networking Web site hours after reporters asked her about the captions Monday. She did not immediately return a call seeking comment by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

In a statement, Dudley-Eshbach said that the photos were taken during a family vacation in Mexico and that she wrongly thought the public couldn't see them.

William Kirwan, chancellor of the University System of Maryland, said he talked to Dudley-Eshbach about her postings and did not expect any disciplinary action against the president.
INTO THE BLUE WITH THE GOLDEN KNIGHTS

'Get ready,' Army Sgt. Maj. Michael Eltniear, a Golden Knight paratrooper, left, shouts to Paul Slattery, Duke's student body president. They jumped from about 12,000 feet over Durham on Wednesday to help raise money for Duke Children's Hospital. The fundraiser was sponsored by the Duke University ROTC program.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHUCK LIDDY

WATCH THEM JUMP OUT OF PLANES: See a photo gallery and video from the Golden Knights' jump at newsobserver.com/news.
Students demand smokers' rights

UNC-CH crafts curbs for campus

BY EMILY MATCHAR
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — It was lunchtime at the Pit, the center of the UNC-Chapel Hill campus.

On one side, students were fighting hunger, selling plates of rice and beans.

On the other, they were fighting back.

"What do we want? Smokers' rights!" they cried, then dissolved into fits of mock coughing.

About a dozen students held a "smoke-a-thon" to protest a planned ban on lighting up within 100 feet of any university building.

Students puff away in the corner of the Pit next to handwritten signs offering free cigarettes and roll-your-own lessons.

"We just basically feel smoking is our right," said Alicia Gurley, 22, an English major. Gurley, who has smoked half a pack a day for four years, thinks she should be allowed to smoke outdoors.

A new law gives UNC system campuses the right to make their own smoking policies for dorms, grounds and buildings.

UNC-CH Chancellor James Moeser came up with the 100-foot ban after consulting students, faculty and employees.

The ban will be announced this year, said Carolyn Elfland, associate vice chancellor for Campus Services. It will take effect several months after that to let students and employees complete university-offered smoking cessation programs if they so desire.

A separate smoking ban at UNC Hospitals, the School of Medicine and Campus Health Services took effect July 4.

Nearly 31 percent of college students nationwide smoke, according to the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

Saige Clark, 18, a nonsmoking freshman, supports the ban.

"It's a nuisance for non-smokers," she said of walking through clouds of smoke on the way to class.

Others defend their right to a convenient smoke break.

"Let me smoke where I want to," said Cranston Farrington Sr., sitting on the stone wall beside House Undergraduate Library, cigarette in hand.

A campus maintenance worker, Farrington, 50, says he'll find a place to smoke no matter what.

"That means we gotta stand out in the middle of the street," he said.

"I think there's going to be a huge productivity loss," said Paul Allen, who works at the snack bar in the Bull's Head Bookshop.

Employees who previously stepped outside for a smoke break will have to walk far away to light up, he said.

Though Allen, 48, opposes the ban, he says it might just help him quit smoking.

"The more inconvenient, the more apt you are to really consider stopping," he said.

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& ONLINE
See a video report with this story at: www.newsobserver.com.

And tell us, does banning outdoor smoking abridge smokers' rights? Post your thoughts on the OrangeChat blog at blogs.

newsobserver.com/orangechat.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2007
Crammed NCCU looks at renovating old dorm

BY ERIC FERRERI   STAFF WRITER

DURHAM — N.C. Central University officials are scrambling to find solutions for a housing crunch so severe that about 200 freshmen began their college careers living in area boarding houses and bunking with local alumni.

One possibility emerging now: Chidley Hall, the decrepit dormitory on the eastern edge of campus abutting Alston Avenue that has been closed for years. The university recently hired an architect to study whether it makes sense to renovate Chidley — both the main building and the annex — and put students in there once again.

"We need to see whether it makes sense to do that or just to build a new dormitory," said Zack Abegunrin, associate vice chancellor for facilities services.

Chidley Hall and its annex once held 600 students but has been out of commission, wholly or in part, since 2003. If renovated, the new design would transform the traditional dorm design to more of a suite-style setup, accommodating fewer than the original 600 students, Abegunrin said.

Provost Beverly Washington Jones stressed that no decision has been made on Chidley, saying re-examining the university’s plans for that facility is just one of many options being explored. But she and other administrators have said repeatedly in recent weeks that the campus housing crunch is their primary focus.

"That is a high priority," she said. "That’s our No. 1. We’re having extensive conversations."

NCCU, which has seen rapid enrollment growth in recent years, is under pressure to improve retention and graduation rates. University officials acknowledge that placing new students off campus is less than desirable because it creates another distraction for young adults trying to get into the college groove and adopt good study habits.

"We want to make sure we have all our freshmen on campus," Jones said. "That’s important to us."

Chidley Hall residents long complained about problems getting hot water, and Abegunrin said recently that the building had serious steam leak problems. A campus master planning process is expected to culminate later this year, so a decision on Chidley may come then, Abegunrin said.

Residence halls on campus have space for 2,900 students. About 1,240 new freshmen enrolled this fall, nearly 200 more than the 1,050 officials planned for — thus the freshman housing crunch.

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A CANNON IN CRUST

Weapon recovered at shipwreck site

BY JERRY ALLEGood
STAFF WRITER

BEAUFORT — The newest addition to the state's collection of pirate paraphernalia looks more like a concrete ditch pipe than a cannon once commanded by Blackbeard the pirate.

But archaeologists who raised the 2,500-pound relic from a shipwreck site near Beaufort Inlet assured onlookers Wednesday that the chunk of corrosion, sand and seashells hides a once-fearsome weapon. It's the 11th cannon retrieved from what they say is the wreckage of Blackbeard's flagship, the Queen Anne's Revenge.

"This is really special to us because it has a lot of things attached to it," said Mark Wilde-Ramsing, director of the state's Queen Anne's Revenge project.

He said researchers will carefully remove a pewter plate, wood and other items for further study. The cast-iron cannon, which was retrieved from the water Monday, will soon go into treatment process to halt corrosion. After three to five years, the cannon will be black and shiny and ready for display.

Researchers put the encrusted cannon on display Wednesday at the N.C. Maritime Museum expansion site on Gallants Channel.

"I expected to see sand and barnacles," Paige Shumate, 12, of Galax, Va., said after inspecting the relic on a trailer.

Still, she and her mother Mindy were pleased to see a sample of history up close. "It's awesome," Mindy Shumate said while snapping photos.

John Sledge drove down from Kitty Hawk for a look. He said he had been to the state's conservation facility at East Carolina University in Greenville where cannons are held in tanks while undergoing treatment.

Queen Anne's Revenge

The shipwreck site was located in November 1996 by Intersal, Inc., a private company. State archaeologists say research over 11 years supports the wreck's identity as the Queen Anne's Revenge. The ship ran aground in June 1718. About 2,000 relics have been recovered from the site just off Atlantic Beach.

Wilde-Ramsing said plans call for the remaining material, including at least 24 more cannons, to be recovered in the next three years.

Researchers have known about the cannon recovered Monday since 1998. Recovery had been planned for last fall, but a vessel capable of lifting the large artifact wasn't available. Bad weather thwarted a planned spring recovery dive. But Monday a vessel operated by the Cape Fear Community College completed the task during a training exercise for its Maritime Technology Program.

Wilde-Ramsing said the 8-foot long cannon fired a 6-pound shot. Like other cannons recovered from the site, it was probably loaded when it went to the bottom.

"What's in here we don't know," he said, referring to the crusty block. "That's what makes it exciting."

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UNC safety panel stresses identifying threats

BY JANE STANCILL
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL - The Virginia Tech killings in April changed the way universities approach safety, and more changes are coming to UNC campuses.

On Wednesday, the UNC Campus Safety Task Force reviewed a long list of recommendations designed to help prevent a Virginia Tech-like tragedy on North Carolina's public university campuses. Another statewide panel formed by state Attorney General Roy Cooper is expected to report its findings in the next few weeks.

Many of the UNC recommendations have to do with recognizing and responding to students, faculty and staff who may be mentally disturbed and could pose a threat of violence. Trained threat assessment teams would be required on each campus so that police, counselors and administrators could communicate about individuals who exhibit dangerous behavior. Seven schools now have such teams.

"I really believe our campuses will be better off because of this work," said Leslie Winner, the task force's chairwoman and vice president and general counsel for the UNC system.

Implementing the task force's top priorities would cost about $5 million in one-time spending and $5 million annually. The UNC system may not be able to implement all the plans quickly, depending on how much state money is available, task force members said.

The panel was less interested in buying expensive technology and more concerned with providing adequate police salaries and training, counseling center funding and case managers to follow up on mental health treatment for troubled students.

Money for counseling centers was important to Andy Woods, a junior from UNC-Chapel Hill who served on the task force.

"Virginia Tech happened because there weren't adequate resources for case managers," Woods said.

The Virginia Tech shooter, Seung Hui Cho, had been referred to the university's counseling center, but there was little evidence of follow-up. A report by the Virginia governor's review panel on the massacre issued 70 recommendations in August. It found a number of problems on the campus, including a failure by the university's counseling center to ensure that Cho got the treatment he needed.

"The system failed for lack of resources, incorrect interpretation of privacy laws and passivity," the Virginia Tech report said.

RECOMMENDATIONS

According to a draft of the task force's report, UNC campuses would be asked to:

- Establish a trained threat assessment team, including counselors, police, administrators and dean's office officials, to regularly discuss disturbed students who exhibit threatening behavior. A process would be established to respond to those threats.
- Develop a program to educate faculty, staff and students to recognize signs of violence, suicide and mental illness.
- Clarify federal, state and health privacy laws so professors, staff and others understand their ability to share information about students. The university also could ask the legislature to change state law to allow campus health professionals to share information about troubled students when warranted.
- Develop all-hazards emergency action plans. Campuses would be asked to do emergency drills at least twice a year.
- Adopt emergency notification goals and notify people of communication procedures.
- Notify parents of how they can become qualified under tax law to see their child's education records. Mental health professionals would be encouraged to involve parents more often in students' treatment decisions.
- Establish a single theme and logo to promote safety.
- Develop programs to reduce alcohol and drug abuse.
- Ensure that students have adequate insurance to include mental health treatment.
- Include security systems in campus construction and renovation budgets, and design buildings with an eye toward security.
- Forge cooperative agreements with local mental health agencies and police departments.

The UNC task force suggested that some changes be made by next fall, with others to be done by 2009. The universities are expected to seek money for more training and equipment for police, and national accreditation for campus police departments.

Also under discussion is the idea of hiring a UNC system administrator to coordinate safety improvements across the campuses.

The UNC Board of Governors will review the task force's report early next month.