Women injured on campus; man arrested

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector
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East Carolina University police arrested an 18-year-old male student and are looking for another man in connection with an alleged assault of two women outside a dormitory Friday, university officials said.

The two women from Chocowinity, 18 and 19 years old, were not students at the university, Assistant Chief Dawn Tevepaugh of the ECU Police Department said. One of the women was treated and released from Pitt County Memorial Hospital on Friday; the 18-year-old woman remains hospitalized with a broken jaw, Tevepaugh said. Officers arrested Tyler Hall resident Bryan Berg, 18, and charged him with assault on a female after he allegedly punched one of the women in the jaw. They are searching for a second man who was identified and have questioned a third man as a witness, Tevepaugh said.

Officers are continuing their investigation to determine whether the assault should be characterized as a hate crime because of the perceived sexual orientation of the women, Tevepaugh said. Comments also might have been made to them precipitating the reported assault, she said.

The investigation began after police received a call at 5:45 a.m. from hospital officials about two women being treated there, she said. Officers learned from the women that they were exiting Tyler at about 2:15 a.m. after visiting friends when they were assaulted by at least two men, Tevepaugh said. “We have to look at all the elements of the incident to see if they meet the federal requirements to be classified as a hate crime, including what was said and the actions that occurred. At this time, we believe it was an isolated incident,” Tevepaugh said.

Aaron Lucier, director of campus housing operations and adviser to the campus Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Union, expressed confidence that the police investigation will be fair and thorough. “Hate crime or not, it was a violent act, something we don't want on our campus,” Lucier said. “We have a campus here that celebrates diversity on all levels. Our students find an educational campus here that is welcoming, but also learning, so it is a space that our students will find supportive and welcoming.” Berg was released from the Pitt County Detention Center on $27,000 unsecured bond.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or (252) 329-9571.
It's a performance venue unlike anything else in town. Intimate enough that any creaking chair or program rustle — let alone the click of a pen or snap of a shutter — seems an intrusion.

Baritone Anthony Turne's facial expressions are clear from the back row of seating as he sings, transforming into a man betrayed by his lover or another meeting God and chased by the devil on his way to heaven. He switches with operatic grace and unquestionable skill from English to Spanish, from Italian to German.

The audience applauds, appreciative, and also expresses awe at the ornate wall-papered ceilings, fringed lamps, delicate lace curtains, and numerous historic upright pianos while circulating about the house.

“It's what you picture in the 1800s when Shubert would gather his friends around and play,” Carol Haven said.

“There's an authenticity to it,” her husband, Andy, added.

This is The Music House. The West Fifth Street residence, built in 1902, belongs to pianist and East Carolina University professor John O'Brien.

He noticed the residence in 1985 just weeks after moving to Greenville from Los Angeles. As an elderly woman darted in the door after checking for mail, he drove past and couldn't help but think, “That house will be for sale one day.”

She and her sister, both divorcees, were part of the family that owned the residence before O'Brien — the only other owner. Well-versed in Greenville history, he can rattle off the names and biographical highlights of the Moyes who lived there.

It came up for sale in 1994, and he bit.

“I wanted to live in a big, old home,” O'Brien said. “I called my parents hoping they would talk me out of it, and instead, they said, 'Buy it!’”

There were beautiful features intact. The woodwork in the foyer and around some doorways was never painted, existing in an original stain. The light fixtures already were in place. But it took a summer of work with his brother and father to make the house livable. New plumbing and electrical wiring, a new roof and other major renovations were needed, O'Brien said.

Period furnishings fill the five front rooms of the home, which O'Brien opens to his guests. He lives in a studio-type area in back of the 4,300-square-foot house, and guests like Turner stay upstairs. He concedes that some items aren't quite appropriate — chairs
from 1880, for instance — but the sum total is convincing with the bulk coming from three antique stores on Dickinson Avenue.
“I walk over there every week if I have time,” O'Brien said.

Concerts started shortly afterward in what O'Brien calls the music room — the place Turner performed Saturday night with O'Brien providing piano accompaniment.

Sometimes he hosts ECU students in need of recital space. During the last three years, he's brought in a higher number of musicians and vocalists regularly. They are personal connections, people he's played with through the years or met through the university, and though the musicians don't incur costs coming to perform, they aren't paid for the performances.
“You run into a lot of musicians who love what they do,” O'Brien said.

He was swallowing the total cost of hosting until last year, when he switched to a donation system. A shoebox covered in white paper sits next to the programs as guests enter, suggesting pricing for students, adults and seniors.
“People have been very generous,” he said, adding that he's broken even for the $1,000 he spent on events the past two years.

O'Brien calls the format a “parlor experience,” which includes socializing over wine and hors d'oeuvres, and coffee and desserts during intermission and following a performance. To date, that parlor has been filled with people learning about The Music House by word of mouth: Friends, colleagues, students and members of O'Brien's Kinston church choir populate the events.
“When I first came here, I thought, ‘What a neat house. I wonder who lives there,’” said Martha Chapman, an ECU graduate student who took a class under O'Brien at The Music House. “The (music) room serves his purposes well.”

O'Brien said he's looking into creating a website or Facebook page for the house. He added that someone like Turner, in Greenville from New York, could easily repeat the performance for two weekend nights, but O'Brien doesn't have the audience to do it.
“I love to entertain, love to have people in the home, and I love music,” he said. “I think it's fun to go to a place that's kind of unusual and interesting to see.
“We get so involved and busy in our lives. When do you take time to do something like this?”

He added that an idea shared by Saturday's performer also rang true.
“What we hope to do with music is to raise the human vibration to a higher place,” Turner said. “We all know what's going on in the world.”
The Music House's next event is scheduled for Nov. 21 featuring harpsichordist Elaine Funaro.

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.
The ECU Opera Theater will present Benjamin Britten's operatic version of William Shakespeare's “A Midsummer Night's Dream” on Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 24, at 2 p.m. at the A. J. Fletcher Music Center on campus.

“A Midsummer Night's Dream” is considered among Shakespeare's strangest and most delightful creations, drawing equally from Greek mythology and English country fairy lore. Magic, dreams and the difficulty of love are themes of the work, which includes the familiar line, “The course of true love never did run smooth.”

The opera theater vocal performers are 20 ECU students accompanied by an orchestra of more than 20 students and faculty members. John Kramar directs the opera theater; Christopher Buddo conducts the orchestra; Jeffery Phipps coordinates costumes; and Eric Stellrecht prepares the singers.

General admission is $15; $12 for ECU faculty, staff and senior citizens; and $5 for students. Contact the ECU ticket office: 328-4788, (800) ECU-ARTS, or www.ecuarts.com.

Grant will help encourage tourism in region

East Carolina University and the Mid-East Resource Conservation and Development Council are working together to help rural communities develop a shared vision for tourism.

The North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center has awarded a $73,000 grant to Paige Schneider, assistant professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, and David Hodges, coordinator of the Mid-East Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

This initiative will help 11 towns in the Roanoke River Valley region join resources to grow the area's economy. The towns involved are Hamilton, Oak City, Hassell, Halifax, Weldon, Scotland Neck, Hobgood, Williamston, Plymouth, Windsor and Jamesville.

“Most of North Carolina's local towns historically developed around tobacco, textile, and furniture factories. As manufacturing jobs have been lost, community leaders have been
challenged to find innovative approaches to retain and create jobs,” said Schneider, who also holds an affiliate faculty position in the Center for Sustainable Tourism at ECU. The project will focus on helping community leaders identify their tourism resources, services and infrastructure.

“We will conduct an inventory of attractions, analyze market demands and competitiveness, and investigate socio-cultural and natural resource issues,” Schneider said. “In addition to meeting with the Roanoke River Mayors Association to identify key stakeholders, we will also hold public meetings and focus groups.”

The project also involves filming on location at each of the 11 municipalities. These towns will receive access to promotional videos to help market their natural and cultural heritage.

Glen Gilbert, dean of the College of Health and Human Performance, said the project was an example of the university working in the region.

“We are pleased to be part of this cooperative venture and hope it will be the start of many with the new Center for Sustainable Tourism to promote opportunities afforded by the eastern regions of North Carolina,” he said. Results of the project will guide the region in planning development and tourism ventures and initiatives that can create jobs and income opportunities while contributing to environmental conservation.

Australia's 'Stolen Generation' film

Bob Randall, a member of Australia's Aboriginal people, will present a free, public lecture and documentary film screening of “Kanyini” at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in Hendrix Theater.

When Randall was seven years old, government officials took him from his family to be raised in an institution. He and thousands of other Aboriginal children taken by the government have come to be known as the “Stolen Generation.” Throughout his life, Randall has worked as a teacher and leader for Aboriginal land rights, education, community development and cultural awareness. In the early '70s, Randall's song “Brown Skin Baby (They Took Me Away),” became an anthem for the Aboriginal people.

In “Kanyini,” Randall tells the story of his personal journey and the wisdom that was bestowed upon him by the elders of his tribe. The documentary portrays how indigenous Australians continue to struggle as a marginalized population that has been disconnected from their cultural roots. “Kanyini” was voted Best Documentary at the 2007 London Australian Film Festival. It also won the Inside Film Independent Spirit Award and the Discovery Channel's Best Documentary Award in 2006.

Randall's lifelong efforts were recognized in 1999 when he was named “Indigenous Person of the Year” at the National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Celebration awards. In 2004, Randall was inducted into the NT Indigenous Music Hall of Fame for having written such classic songs as “Brown Skin Baby” and “Red Sun, Black Moon.” He is the

While at ECU, Randall also will speak to classes in the Department of Sociology. This screening is sponsored by the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Religious Studies Program, the Center for Diversity and Inequality Research, and Voices for Victims. For additional information, contact Caroline Schacht, professor of sociology, at 328-6162 or schachtc@ecu.edu.

Road race to benefit breast cancer
Runners and walkers of all ages can lace up their sneakers Sunday, Oct. 24, for the second annual Pink Ribbon 5K and Fun Run/Walk to benefit breast cancer services at the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center at East Carolina University.

Race-day registration starts at noon, and the events start at 1:30 p.m. at Moe's Southwest Grill, 610 Red Banks Road, Greenville. There will be a 5K road race and 1-mile walk for all ages and a dash for young children. Entry fee for the 5K is $20 if postmarked by Oct. 18, and $25 afterward and on race day. Entry fee for the 1-mile walk is $15 and $5 for the dash. Entry fees include a T-shirt for the first 100 entrants.
Register online at http://active.com or http://ecrun.org. For more information, call 355-3180 or 744-4929.
People often give sports teams way more credit than they probably deserve for things that don’t necessarily have anything to do with them. Their wins and losses lead to all sorts of odd behavior, and all sorts of connections are made between those wins and losses and other parts of people's lives, even birthdays.

How many times have you heard, “Well, the (fill in team name here) won, so I’m calling in sick tomorrow!” from people? When things are going bad, people often add the woes of their sports teams onto their list of complaints: “I lost my job, my wife left me and the (expletive and team name here) stink!”

Thousands of similar statements were undoubtedly made in the wake of East Carolina's overtime upset of N.C. State on Saturday.

When ECU freshman Damon Magazu intercepted Wolfpack quarterback Russell Wilson near the goal line to seal the Pirates' 33-27 triumph in front of the biggest crowd in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium history, weekends were either made or ruined, drives home were either happy or miserable and the coming work or school week became either dreaded or coveted.

The game-ending interception gave N.C. State head coach Tom O'Brien and the Wolfpack's players and fans an understandably disappointed and abrupt exit. Magazu's perfect read on the ball was the only thing standing between Wilson's throw and a game-tying touchdown. An extra point would have meant a Wolfpack win in a game the Pirates led 21-0 after the first quarter.

But the same play had 90 percent of the sellout crowd flailing and screaming from the last row of the upper deck to the tangle of purple players on the field that somewhere within contained Magazu and the football.

It made ECU head coach Ruffin McNeill do a dance on the sideline which he later said had been taught to him by his younger daughter, Olivia, and for which he said she would probably call him a dork.

It made ECU athletic director Terry Holland head straight for the new end zone seats made possible by his aggressive vision and by a slew of football wins like Saturday's to celebrate. While striding across midfield in a stadium still humming minutes after Magazu's magic catch, Holland said it was great that once again the stadium's new end zone student section got to see a big ECU victory up close.
The same student section already saw a Hail Mary pass that beat Tulsa in ECU's season opener.

Wins as special as Saturday's was to the Pirates and their supporters — the two largest crowds in stadium history witnessed two of the Wolfpack's three-ever trips to Greenville — can even be used as currency for special occasions.

After his team won a 44-43 shootout at Southern Miss two weeks ago, McNeill said his players had given him a birthday present. He'd turned 52 that day. After the Pirates finished off the Wolfpack in overtime, McNeill said the win was something of a birthday present for his father, who he said was “78 going on 29” on Saturday and waiting at home for him.

Marshall is next on the docket for the 4-2 Pirates, who have the chance to take a 4-0 stranglehold on Conference USA's East Division with another win. The Thundering Herd is in trouble. McNeill's older daughter, Renata, has a birthday this week.

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or (252)329-9595.
East Carolina coach Ruffin McNeill, center, celebrates with players Giavanni Ruffin, right, and Michael Bowman after defeating N.C. State 33-27 in overtime. ETHAN HYMAN - ehyman@newsobserver.com

GREENVILLE For a moment or so just after East Carolina's Damon Magazu made a game-saving interception against N.C. State, Ruffin McNeill's thoughts flashed back to 1977.

The winning Pirates coach Saturday delivered the winning Pirates play that night against N.C. State in Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh.

A speedy defensive back from Lumberton, McNeill made a game-saving tackle against Wolfpack running back Rickey Adams at the 3-yard line on the final play to preserve a 28-23 win.
"Yeah, just for a second or two there, I thought back to that one," McNeill said. "Great memories, both."

It's for sure ECU fans long will remember the 33-27 overtime win in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium that Magazu's last-play interception sealed after almost four frantic hours Saturday.

Leading 21-0 early and apparently in position to overwhelm the favored Wolfpack (5-2), McNeill's first ECU team (4-2) had to battle back, force a tie and then stop Russell Wilson on an overtime series in which a touchdown and an extra point would have flipped the celebration.

A stadium-record crowd of 50,410 watched what may go down as the defining game in McNeill's coaching career. And ironically, the ending was almost what quarterback Dominique Davis predicted to his teammates Friday night.

"I told the guys in the hotel at the meeting that we would face adversity in this game, and how we handled it would decide who would win," Davis said. "We were up to it. It's the greatest feeling you can have."

With his father and former coach, Ruffin McNeill Sr., watching and celebrating a 78th birthday, the ECU coach's Conference USA team put earlier losses to ACC foes North Carolina and Virginia Tech out of its mind.

"We're growing up, growing into what we're capable of being, which is a good, solid football team," McNeill said. "It was such a special day. The boys sang 'Happy Birthday' to my father in the locker room before the game. He's 78 going on 29. When I get home, he'll critique everything we did in this game. He won't forget a play, either."

The Pirates won their biggest game of the season even thought they lost four fumbles, got tagged for 90 penalty yards, withstood three State fourth-down conversions and played without three defensive starters.

"We started beating ourselves again," Davis said. "The difference was today, we put a stop to it against a great team."
One of those fumbles came a yard away from a touchdown by running back Giavanni Ruffin. Another, by running back Jonathan Williams, was recovered by the Pack on the ECU 1 and immediately converted into a touchdown.

"A lot of things went against us, but we didn't give in. That's what won us this game," said defender Dustin Lineback, a linebacker, of course. "This is a very close team. No one gets down on anybody else or gives up on anybody. Coach Ruff preaches unity and family all the time, so we listen."

For State, which finished with 476 yards but surrendered 496, the disappointment capped a grueling seven-game forced march. Pack coach Tom O'Brien said earlier in the week that his players were beginning to get weary legs and compile a growing list of injuries.

All of that showed during the opening 15 minutes, when ECU's quickness and nonstop offense had the Pack reeling. But State came all the way back and now finally gets a couple of days off and extra time to prepare for an Oct. 28 game against Florida State that could determine the ACC Atlantic Division championship.

"They're going to contend for the ACC and go to a major bowl," McNeill said. "This rivalry speaks for itself. It's a typical fistfight, and it's going to go down to the wire. We're blessed."

Much as he did in 1977, McNeill capped the win with a brief victory dance. He was much smaller and had quicker footwork back then. "That one today was one my daughter tried to teach me to dance," McNeill said. "I know she's going to call me a dork."

Pirates fans won't.

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Lebo conducts first practice
By Tony Castleberry
The Daily Reflector
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Jeff Lebo can finally focus nearly all of his attention on being a coach again. Lebo, in his first season in charge of East Carolina's men's basketball team, conducted his first official practice Friday at North Campus Crossing and he was pleased to be back on the court after an offseason filled with off-court chores.

“You do so many other things, especially in a transition year,” said Lebo, who led the Pirates through a two-hour session Friday. “Now, finally you get a chance to get on the court and coach. That's your title and it was fun today.”

Lebo, who was fired by Auburn after six seasons before taking the ECU job on March 23, signed a six-year, $3.375-million contract to try to turn around a program that hasn't had a winning season since the 1996-97 campaign. The coach, who played for Dean Smith at North Carolina, said he wants his players to jump right into the practice routine with full force since the regular season opener — at home against Erskine on Nov. 12 — is less than a month away.

Rather than trying to teach the Pirates offensive schemes right away, Lebo and his staff dedicated most of the first practice on defending.
“We've got to put some things in (because) games come quickly,” Lebo said. “We'll spend a lot of our time with our man-to-man defense. Probably over half of our practice today was teaching the principles of our man-to-man.”

Senior point guard Brock Young participated in practice in a limited capacity as he continues to recover from surgery to repair a partially torn meniscus in high knee. Young said at the team's media day on Thursday that he should be cleared to go full speed by next Wednesday.

Contact Tony Castleberry at tcastleberry@reflector.com or (252) 329-9591.
The month of October urges me to speak about breast cancer awareness. I am in Denver learning how to better care for patients and while here witnessed the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in which more than 50,000 people walked or ran to raise money to find a cure for breast cancer.

What's important to know is that this cause also provides money for treatment and prevention of breast cancer. As a doctor and as a survivor, I have the responsibility to provide education and care throughout all aspects of breast cancer. What I don't have are the answers to how that care will be financed. Luckily the Race for the Cure may help answer that question for some. No matter your insurance status I implore you to think prevention.

What I can do for free here is provide education. How can you decrease your breast cancer risk? Avoid all smoking, limit or eliminate your alcohol use, decrease fat intake, exercise every day and breast feed if you deliver a baby. Know your family breast and ovarian cancer history and share it with your doctor. If it's time for a mammogram, schedule it because early detection improves your chance for survival. If you are on hormones for menopause ask your doctor if you can stop them. Many risk reductions you can accomplish for free and in fact many will save you money.

Why wouldn't you want to take advantage of this free health care? You can't afford not to.

Recognize your own modifiable risks and begin to make changes. Encourage a friend, co-worker or family member to join you and help reduce the risk of breast cancer from its imposing one-in-eight rate for women. Please increase your knowledge and work toward a healthier you.

CLAUDIA H. DALY, M.D.
Greenville
Listening to and reading the media pundits' sophomoric comments on the University of North Carolina's athletic debacle reminds me of the old spaghetti westerns when the mob screamed, “Let's give 'em a fair trial then string 'em up!” Based upon Duke's rush to judgment, probably not the wisest course of action.

Beside the possibility of paying restitution to students and coaches wrongfully accused of poor judgment, the university is caught between fulfilling Title IX mandates by the federal government on one hand and compliance with the zealous regulators at the NCAA on the other.

Noah would find it difficult to navigate these waters.
Not too long ago, neither Mia Hamm nor Charlie Scott would have been allowed to participate in the athletic arena at the oldest state-supported university. In this light, achieving excellence on the athletic field has not only enhanced the integrity of the university, it has justified the very reason for its existence.

JOE EXUM
Snow Hill
Grant supports ECU's new insurance concentration

The Independent Insurance Association of North Carolina donates more than $40,000 to the College of Business to help fund programs and scholarships.

East Carolina University's new concentration in risk management and insurance has received a grant from the Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina (IIANC) to help fund program operations as well as new scholarships.

IIANC board members and staff members presented more than $40,000 to the College of Business recently at the office of Hooker & Buchanan in Greenville. The IIANC also has pledged to fund student travel to conferences and related field trips.

"We are deeply grateful to the IIANC for its investment in our students and programs," Rick Niswander, dean of the College of Business, said. "Its support will help us provide superior instruction in risk and insurance and will also provide numerous opportunities for our students."

Established in fall 2009, the risk management and insurance concentration provides state-of-the-art instruction in the growing field of insurance. The program prepares students for employment in three major areas: insurance agency work, insurance company careers, and risk management. It is directed by Dr. Brenda Wells in the College of Business, who has more than 20 years of experience in the field.

"The IIANC has generously funded our program here at ECU, and for that we are very grateful," Wells said. "But their support for the program hasn't stopped with an initial gift — they continue to provide the resources we need to attract the best student talent. We're poised to become a nationally recognized program in the near future as a result."

Wells said in less than one year, ECU's insurance concentration has grown to more than 30 students, thanks to support and encouragement from the IIANC.

The IIANC is a professional trade association representing nearly 1,000 independent insurance agencies and branches across the state. The organization's mission is to advocate for independent insurance agents and to satisfy the business and professional needs of its members.

The IIANC has a long history of supporting higher education and recently completed a program of endowed scholarships at colleges and universities across the state. The IIANC also established a faculty chair for risk management and insurance at ECU in 2007.
Dr. Tithi Biswas and Dr. Daniel Fried have joined the faculty of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Biswas and Fried joined the Department of Radiation Oncology as clinical assistant professors.

Biswas comes to the Brody School of Medicine from Philadelphia, where she was a faculty member at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. She has medical degrees from the University of Calcutta and completed residency training at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research in India and at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York.

Biswas also completed a fellowship in radiation oncology at the University of Rochester and an internship in surgery at New York Hospital Medical Center in Queens.

Biswas' research and clinical interests are gastrointestinal, lung and breast cancer, lymphoma and stereotactic body radiosurgery.

Fried comes to the Brody School of Medicine from Winston-Salem, where he was a faculty member at Wake Forest University. He completed his medical degree and residency training in radiation oncology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Fried also has a doctorate in epidemiology and a master's degree in biostatistics from UNC-Chapel Hill and a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Chicago.

Fried's clinical and research interests are prostate, breast and lung cancer.

Biswas and Fried are certified in radiation oncology by the American Board of Radiology.

They see patients at Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center. Appointments are available by calling 744-2900.

Dr. Yvonne Carter, an infectious disease specialist, has joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Carter joined the Brody School of medicine as an assistant professor of internal medicine. She comes to Greenville from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she completed fellowship training in infectious diseases and a master's of public health degree.

Carter completed her medical degree and residency training in internal medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore. She has a bachelor's degree in biology from Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans.

Carter is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Carter sees patients at Doctors Park No. 6. Appointments are available by calling 744-5500.
Hospitals competing to sign up Triangle's doctors

Triangle hospitals are racing to take over local physicians' practices.

In one of the largest examples, the UNC Health Care System finalized a deal late Friday to affiliate with Wake Heart & Vascular Associates, a huge cardiology practice in Wake County long associated with WakeMed. It's part of UNC's bigger push to expand its heart business.

UNC, WakeMed and the Duke University Health System have formed similar partnerships with dozens of local physicians this year.

The deals are being driven by recession, looming health reform, cuts in Medicare and in other reimbursements, and increasing competition.

The trend will reshape this region's medical landscape. It will give hospitals more control over the health market, a key foundation of the local economy. And it will affect physicians' livelihoods and change how patients receive care for years to come.

Doctors are seeking the safety of hospital systems, which can help manage practices, pay to upgrade technology and negotiate with insurers. Hospital officials want to lock in physicians who can refer patients and increase the use of such important moneymaking services as anesthesiology and heart surgeries.

"This consolidation of practices is a large-scale, national phenomenon that is now coming to the Triangle in earnest," said Bill Roper, CEO of the UNC Health Care System. "The health-care sector has been so fragmented. Bringing all of this together in a constructive and thoughtful way will be good for patients."
For now, patients won't see much change except for new signs at their doctors' offices. "There are a lot of people in North Carolina who have an affection for things in light-colored blue," Roper said.
But as more physicians affiliate with specific hospitals, consumers could face restrictions on where they get procedures done. The larger coalitions of hospitals and physicians will hold more clout with insurers, and could drop health plans that won't cooperate.

"More organization improves the ability to look at the whole picture of care," said Adam Searing, project director of the N.C. Health Access Coalition, a consumer advocacy group in Raleigh.

"The downside is you could end up where you have just a few choices for patients," he added. "The one thing that's clear is that it's preparing for a new health care market. It's really about who's going to get the money from insurers and dole it out to everyone else."

**Economy drives change**

Affiliations with hospitals allow doctors to focus more time and attention on patients, and less on business issues such as hiring and collecting bills. But it also means that doctors, who value autonomy, must answer to new bosses.

"Difficult economic times are driving them into these situations," said Bob Seligson, CEO of the N.C. Medical Society, which represents about 12,000 physicians across the state. "It's a bit early to tell what the impact will be on patients and doctors. In some cases, big medical systems do a real good job, and sometimes they don't."

Hospital ownership of doctors first took hold in the Triangle in the 1990s, as managed care drove economic changes.

But many physicians chafed at the system, and hospitals lost money. Many of the marriages broke up; earlier this decade, doctors reverted to independent practices.

**'90s trend reappears**

Now the pendulum is swinging back, spurred partly by the federal health overhaul. Nationally, one in six doctors worked for a hospital last year, and the number is increasing rapidly, according to a 2009 report by the American Medical Association.
WakeMed has added more than 50 outside physicians to its network in the past year and now has more than 150. On Oct. 1, WakeMed formed a partnership with Raleigh Cardiology Associates, a practice of eight heart doctors that started in 1979. WakeMed officials are negotiating with more practices.

This month, UNC and Rex Healthcare, a for-profit subsidiary of UNC since 2000, formed the Triangle Physician Network, a Morrisville-based nonprofit arm that's starting with 15 practices and 60 physicians. Others are expected to join.

It's not certain the agreements will work any better this time around, but hospital officials say that the federal health overhaul is forcing permanent changes to the entire system.

"The winning organizations will be the ones that understand how to work carefully and effectively with doctors," Roper said. "Those that try to be dictatorial and autocratic won't be successful.

"Are doctors going to be able to be totally independent and do whatever they want on a whim? Absolutely not."

**Millions at stake**

UNC's partnership with Wake Heart is a major competitive move. The deal, which is scheduled to go into effect in January, shifts a cardiology practice with 23 physicians and a dozen locations in Raleigh, Wake County and Eastern North Carolina into an affiliation with UNC and Rex.

Wake Heart discussed an affiliation with WakeMed, which runs the state's busiest heart center on its flagship campus in Raleigh; but the two sides couldn't agree on terms.

UNC's Roper and Wake Heart's president, Dr. Michael Zellinger, declined to comment on the financial terms of their deal. They say that UNC is not buying the practice or writing a check to Wake Heart, but Roper added that "their fortunes and ours will be intertwined."
The affiliation will help Wake Heart and UNC collaborate on research and preventive care, Zellinger said, and will allow the practice to expand its scope statewide. Wake Heart patients will have more access to clinical trials and new therapies being studied at UNC.

**What affiliation means**

UNC and Wake Heart officials say the physicians will continue to do procedures and provide care at WakeMed's heart center, where the group has its largest office. At stake are millions of dollars in patients' care every year. A bypass surgery can easily cost more than $100,000 plus follow-up care, and require a week's stay in the hospital.

"We are not abandoning WakeMed in any way," said Zellinger, who helped form the practice in the mid-1980s. "We thought this would allow us to maintain our independence with what's coming in health care."

But the practice is becoming part of the UNC Health system. In the future, Roper said, it will do some of its work at Rex and at UNC.

**Challenge for WakeMed**

Some local physicians will choose to remain on their own, as some did during earlier consolidation periods. They may thrive by emphasizing that they can offer more time with patients and a more personal touch in a smaller setting, said Seligson of the medical society.

But rising costs of running a practice, dealing with insurers and government programs, and other economic pressures may force more to sign with hospitals, he said.

Affiliation deals have different financial structures. Some involve sharing the cost of running the practice and revenue. Or a hospital takes over managing the practice and pays the physicians' salaries.

It's safe to assume Wake Heart physicians took the better deal when they chose to affiliate with UNC over WakeMed, Seligson said.

Wake Heart physicians, including Dr. James Tift Mann III, broke the news to friends on WakeMed's board of directors as the deal was wrapped up late
last week. Zellinger, the Wake Heart president, met Friday evening with WakeMed CEO Bill Atkinson to tell him.

Atkinson said it's too soon to tell what the UNC deal means, but he downplayed the implications for his hospital's important heart business.

"We've been together for a long time," he said, referring to Wake Heart. "We value their presence from a clinical standpoint," and WakeMed never had a role in running the practice's business anyway. But he dismissed any notion that UNC's affiliation with Wake Heart isn't part of its bigger strategy to win more heart business in Wake County: "They're not doing this for entertainment."

Although WakeMed, like other area hospitals, is participating in the rush to strike deals with physicians, Atkinson isn't happy with the broader trend.

"We're shifting people from place to place, and that doesn't really do anything more than rearrange the chairs," he added. "A lot of this is brought on by fear of health-care reform and looking for the safest place to be. I'm not sure what that does to help us as a nation make health care better or more cost-effective."

**Medical center chess**

UNC's latest deal could create new challenges for WakeMed. Rex is planning to build a new heart center on its main Raleigh campus, as part of a $120 million expansion proposed in June. UNC and Rex will want to coordinate patient care at their centers in Raleigh and Chapel Hill.

UNC's recent decision to give its sole heart surgeon in Chapel Hill a big raise to keep him from leaving reinforces the health system's commitment to providing more heart care. In August, Roper gave Dr. Brett Sheridan a raise to $600,000 - the most a heart surgeon has ever earned at UNC.

"We did what we had to do to retain him," said Dr. Cam Patterson, UNC's cardiology chief. "Similarly, we need to expand our footprint for heart and vascular services across the state. [Affiliating with Wake Heart] is a big addition to our footprint in Wake County."

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Legacy loophole

CHAPEL HILL There is a good deal of populist rage in the air. Some is, no doubt, misguided. American populism has a checkered history.

But some is just good common sense. I know my old man would have thought that bankers who drove the economy over a cliff in a frenzy of dishonesty and greed, and then paid themselves millions in bonuses wrung from the tax dollars of waitresses and construction workers, ought to be horsewhipped. And my old man was often right.

Given the tenor of these times, it might be that we'll begin to pay more attention to ways in which the wealthy and the elite bend the rules in their favor, marginalizing the rest. I think that's the hope of Richard Kahlenberg, editor of a new book unabashedly titled "Affirmative Action for the Rich: Legacy Preferences in College Admissions."

The American legal, educational and political cultures have been obsessed, for over three decades, with the traumas of racial affirmative action. State constitutions have been amended, Supreme Court decisions have cascaded, politicians have declared their fealty to "merit-only" processes, and faculty and students have often become polarized through colliding visions of "equality."

Ironically, legacy admissions - bold preferences for the children of alumni in elite private and public universities - dwarf our timid commitments to racial affirmative action. They also present no conflict between viable equality interests - balancing individual fairness with the need to remedy past subordination - like racial preferences do.
Rather, legacy admission programs reject merit-based equality in favor of heritage and bloodline. It is hard to imagine a more frank and frontal transgression against the American promise. Still, affirmative action for the kids of alumni proceeds unmolested, even unquestioned. We are well accustomed to the already privileged getting their way.

**I have worked at four public universities** - Carolina, William & Mary, Colorado and West Virginia - in various positions, high and low. Each employed significant alumni preferences. Kahlenberg's book suggests that, nationally, over 90 percent of elite universities use potent legacy preferences; and an applicant's chances are improved by at least 20 percent if he can claim such favored status.

In the recent years examined, Harvard admitted 40 percent of its legacies, compared to 11 percent of applicants overall. Princeton took 42 percent of the alumni sons and daughters who applied, despite an overall acceptance rate of 9 percent. (Unsurprisingly, a Princeton study revealed that legacy admittees had "lower SAT scores and grade point averages" than the rest of the class.) Brown enrolled 33.5 percent of legacies, though taking only 13 percent of the pool generally. Penn did essentially the same. A quarter of Notre Dame's student body were alumni kids.

On the home front, Kahlenberg identifies UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. State and Duke as ready practitioners. Duke drew the most attention. Of the 1,700 members of the 2007 entering class, a record 230 (16 percent) were alumni children. According to a 2008 study, the legacies were more apt to be white, Protestant, private school-educated and wealthy than the rest of the class. They also did not perform as well. Similarly, in 2002, 91 percent of the legacy early admits at the University of Virginia were white; 1.6 percent were black and 0.5 percent were Hispanic. A leg up, once again, for the well-positioned.

**When pressed, elite institutions claim that alumni preferences are necessary for one reason: money.** Happy grads deliver much-needed cash. Kahlenburg's book, though, is replete with studies indicating it's not so. Besides, it's a demeaning argument in the first place. Imagine a university explaining to a rejected applicant: "We denied your right to an equal chance because someone else paid us to do so."
The selective colleges and universities of the United States are unique and disproportionate portals to our corridors of opportunity and power. They are not, however, fair ones. They reflect a studied framework of economic privilege - where the wealthy work to purchase ascendancy for their children. That might be easier to countenance in a land less boastful of its commitment to equal dignity and opportunity for all.

Legacy preferences by public universities are a flat and undeniable violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. They patently transgress Article One of North Carolina's constitution as well. A legislature committed to equal access for all Tar Heels who support the university system with their tax dollars would outlaw the practice. And private universities that skew admissions to favor lineage violate the 1866 Civil Rights Act - which bans discrimination on the basis of "ancestry." No one actually believes that an admissions program committed to equality needs to ask: "Who is your daddy?"

Law professor Gene Nichol is director of the UNC Center on Poverty, Work & Opportunity.
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Britain Looks to Graduates to Pick Up the Tuition Tab

By D. D. GUTTENPLAN

LONDON — What is a university education worth? Who derives the benefits? And who should pay for it?

These were just some of the questions that pushed their way onto the front pages here last week after the publication of “Securing a Sustainable Future For Higher Education,” the results of a yearlong inquiry into higher education and student finance in Britain.

Better known as the Browne Review after the inquiry’s chairman, John Browne, the former head of BP, the report called for the cap on tuition fees at British universities, now set at £3,290, or $5,275, a year, to be scrapped in favor of a free-market approach paid for by the students themselves — but only after they graduate and are earning more than £21,000 a year.

“Students do not pay charges, only graduates do; and then only if they are successful,” the report said. “The system of payments is highly progressive. No one earning under £21,000 will pay anything.”

Lord Browne added in an interview with the BBC, “If you choose to go into a job which doesn’t pay very much or if you choose to go out of the workforce to build a family, you won’t have to pay it back.”

In addition to recommending that students bear a larger share of the costs, the report also called for increased student choice in higher education. It suggested this be done partly by allowing the more popular educational institutions to expand to meet demand, partly by mandating a uniform standard of information (including likely future earnings for each course) be made available to prospective students, and partly by proposing to expand the total number of university places by 10 percent over the next three years.
The report also proposes that part-time students should be treated the same as full-time students financially. (Under the current system, full-time students in Britain are given a government loan to cover the full costs of tuition; part-time students are required to pay their fees in advance.)

Tuition fees would be limited only by what the market will bear — though if universities were to charge above £6,000 a year the government would claw back a portion of the increase to pay for the costs of providing up-front finance. Fees at Oxford, Cambridge and other members of the Russell Group of 20 leading British universities are widely expected to quickly rise above £10,000 a year, with less prestigious institutions presumably charging considerably less.

If implemented, the Browne Review’s suggestions will reshape the landscape of British higher education — and perhaps act as a spur across Europe, where global competition for the most talented students has left many countries wondering whether their own approaches to higher education are sustainable. Ireland, which abolished tuition fees in the mid-1990s and is now facing an acute shortfall in public funding for education, is paying particularly close attention to developments in Britain.

“The world has moved on,” said Ellen Hazelkorn, head of the Higher Education Policy Unit at the Dublin Institute of Technology. “Universities here think they’re going to keep getting the same level of support from the state. There’s not a hope of that.” Yet any party that re-introduces tuition fees would be signing its own death warrant. “Politically it’s almost impossible,” Dr. Hazelkorn said.

The politics aren’t much easier in Britain, where all 57 members of Parliament from the Liberal Democrat Party — the junior partner in the country’s coalition government — last month signed a pledge to abolish tuition fees. But Vincent Cable, the Liberal Democrat who serves as Business Secretary, last week called that promise “no longer feasible,” telling the House of Commons he found Lord Browne’s proposals “fair and affordable.”

David Willetts, the Universities Minister, said last month that he hoped to be able to implement the overhaul by the start of the 2012 academic year, which would mean legislation drafted and approved by Parliament in the coming year. But with the Labour Party favoring a graduate tax — a method
of paying for education considered and rejected by the Browne review — and many Liberal Democrat members saying they still oppose any increase in tuition, the government will have to fight — and possibly make compromises — to get any bill through.

In his recent memoir, former Prime Minister Tony Blair writes that he came closest to losing his own job not over the Iraq war but over an earlier increase in tuition fees, when a government with a 167 vote majority scraped through by five votes.

According to Andreas Schleicher, an official in the education directorate of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the answer to who pays for higher education depends largely on how society views the benefits. “In the United States and Japan university education is viewed as a private good — something whose benefits accrue mainly to the individual,” he said. “So in those countries student fees can be very high, and are paid either by the students themselves or by their parents and families. In Japan a whole extended family can be expected to contribute.”

Dr. Schleicher contrasts this with “the Nordic model, where they believe higher education is a social good, like clean water or paved roads, so they make it free for everyone, paid for by high progressive taxes. For people from disadvantaged social backgrounds, who may be nervous about accumulating high levels of personal debt, this approach eliminates the risk factor.”

Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden currently do not charge any fees for university education.

Dr. Schleicher gives the existing British system high marks. “It’s a question of where you make the dividing line between social benefit and individual benefit,” he said. “Having tuition fees lets students share some of the costs; a high level of government subsidy lets you address questions of equity and access.” But in an interview in advance of the Browne Review he seemed to endorse many of its changes as well. “The current system isn’t differentiated,” he said.

With government block grants paid directly to universities providing the bulk of funding, there is little incentive to respond to changing student demands.
Letting “funding follow the student,” as the Browne Review proposes, would encourage innovation, he said. Allowing successful universities to expand “lets you influence the supply side as well,” he added, and universities who demonstrated “skills in caring for disadvantaged students” could be rewarded with additional funding.

Though the report calls for current levels of government funding for higher education to be maintained, that seems unlikely given the coalition government’s commitment to cutting 25 percent across the board from most government departments. Even if public investment in education could be protected, the report calls for the funds to be directed mainly toward science, technology, medicine, nursing and “strategically important” languages. Subjects such as literature, classics or history would presumably have to get by with less.

Yet any move to reduce university funding is liable to meet bitter opposition — not just from students and faculties, but from politicians who point to figures showing that while the public cost of university education across the members of the O.E.C.D. is about $36,000 per student, the public returns (in the form of higher tax receipts and social insurance payments and lower transfer payments) is $86,000.

In Britain the figures are $95,000 on an investment of about $45,000 per student. But with the O.E.C.D. also showing a financial benefit to the individual student of $207,000 for British men, and $153,000 for women, who obtain a university degree over the course of a lifetime, Ellen Hazelkorn at the Dublin Institute of Technology says that she, too, has “come round to the idea of cost-sharing.”

Free well-funded university education “would be lovely,” she says, “but you try to get higher taxation through the legislature of any country right now.”