THE DAILY CLIPS

October 19, 2010

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

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

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@.ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481
Bass may be on the move
The Daily Reflector
Tuesday, October 19, 2010

Media reports surfaced Monday that Jimmy Bass, East Carolina's Senior Associate Athletics Director for External Operations, may be close to accepting the Athletics Director position at UNC Wilmington.

Bass has reportedly met with UNCW's search committee about filling the role left vacant by Kelley Mehrtens, who stepped down on Sept. 27. Mehrtens was appointed AD at the school in the summer of 2007.

A Dunn native, Bass worked for ECU as Assistant Athletics Director for Marketing from 1989-94 and returned to Greenville to accept his current position in 2006. Bass spent three years as executive director of Wilmington's Seahawk Club from 1986-89.
Chapel Hill hopes Halloween is easier to control this year

CHAPEL HILL Franklin Street will reopen to traffic at midnight as community leaders again try to restrict the size and rowdiness of Chapel Hill's Halloween celebration.

In the past, as many as 80,000 people have headed downtown for the event. But arrests, drunkenness and fewer costumed revelers have sapped the event of some of its spirit and safety, town officials say.

"Because this year's Halloween is on Sunday, our message this year is one of moderation," Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt said. "People have school and work in the morning, so have a good time, but leave early and celebrate responsibly."

In 2008, the town enacted "Homegrown Halloween" restrictions that reduced the crowd estimate to 35,000. Last year, 50,000 people showed up, costing the town $197,024 in management costs. Twenty-two people were cited for alcohol-related issues, and eight were taken to UNC Hospitals, according to the town.

The plan this year is to restrict traffic access to downtown through lane and street closings starting at 7 p.m. There will be no bus shuttles, although Safe Ride buses will operate for UNC-Chapel Hill students. Alcohol checkpoints will be in place at the event, and DWI enforcement will take place with cooperation from the state Highway Patrol.

The town will work with downtown bar and restaurant owners to restrict alcohol sales after 1 a.m. All ABC permit holders among downtown bars and restaurants will keep customers from entering or re-entering after 1 a.m.

Parking
Residential streets near downtown will be closed except to residents of those streets and their guests.
There will be little to no parking close to downtown, and there will be no place for charter buses to drop off or pick up passengers. Law enforcement officers will direct charter buses entering downtown to the outskirts before any passengers are dropped off.

Vehicles parked on streets to be closed will be towed beginning at 6 p.m. Vehicles illegally parked will be ticketed and towed, with a minimum recovery cost of $103.

Downtown restaurants and bars will close at 1 a.m. to new patrons. They also will charge a minimum $5 cover charge to patrons not attending a private event. In addition, downtown convenience stores that sell alcohol will either close or stop selling alcohol at 1 a.m.

Items, even as part of a costume, that can be used as weapons or could be mistaken for weapons will be confiscated. This includes items made of wood, metal, cardboard or hard plastic.
Federal prosecutors say they reached a plea agreement with an Oxford teenager whom they accused of being a part of an online prankster world in which conspirators lodged false bomb threats and then broadcast the emergency responses to paying audiences.

Ashton Lundeby, 17, has agreed to plead guilty to conspiring to help make bomb threats to Purdue University and other places in at least a dozen states from his home computer, according to a petition filed last week in an Indiana federal court.

A federal judge is scheduled to hear the matter Wednesday.

Lundeby, who turns 18 next month, has been jailed in an Indiana youth detention center since March 2009, when federal agents confiscated computer equipment from the Granville County home where he lived with his mother and a sibling.

Annette Lundeby said this week that her son agreed to the plea arrangement because he thought he would be freed sooner.

Mary Hatton, a public information officer with the federal prosecutor's office in the Northern District of Indiana, said on Monday it was unclear whether Lundeby would be sentenced at the Wednesday hearing. The plea has not been officially entered, and the teen could still decide to take his case to trial.

As part of the plea arrangement that Lundeby struck with federal prosecutor Kenneth Hays, the teen agreed to acknowledge his role in hoaxes that occurred between July 2008 and March 2009, according to the court document filed last week.
**Pseudonyms used**

Lundeby, according to the plea document, did not know the true names of many of his co-conspirators. He used the pseudonym "Tyrone" and joined forces with others he knew only as "J.T.," "Vaultackie," "Britfag," "Does Not Afraid" and "Delicious Cakes" to place bomb threats at universities, high schools, a middle school and FBI offices.

UNC-Chapel Hill, Clemson University, Florida State University and Boston College were among the sites targeted. According to the plea document, Lundeby has acknowledged calling police departments in Fort Wayne, Ind., and West Lafayette, Ind., on Jan. 31 and Feb. 15 in 2009, and falsely claiming that bombs placed around college campuses there were about to detonate.

**'Swatting' alleged**

In indictments associated with Lundeby's case, prosecutors called the acts "Swatting" -- making false emergency reports that prompted responses from special weapons and tactics, or SWAT teams.

Lundeby and his co-conspirators, according to the prosecutors, used elaborate computer gaming techniques to disguise their voices and identities, then transmit threats and watch live through video surveillance and webcams as law enforcement teams responded.

Lundeby's mother has maintained that her son is not guilty of the federal crimes he has been accused of committing. She said on Monday that she wondered whether he had been framed by online pranksters who "did it for the lulz," using a catchphrase that describes trolling - mischief intended to provoke reaction - and Internet drama.

According to some of the Web lore associated with the phenomenon, trollers experiencing remorse from the drama can clear their consciences by saying three times "I did it for the lulz."

**Case has many twists**

Lundeby's case drew the attention of bloggers and others early on after his mother tried to rally support for her son, then only 16, saying he had been detained as a domestic terrorist under the USA Patriot Act.
At that time, the case was not in adult court, and documents were sealed from public scrutiny, as federal law allows. But Indiana prosecutors issued a statement to dispel the idea that Lundeby's case had anything to do with the Patriot Act. They acknowledged that a teen had been accused of making bomb threats to Purdue University and detained in Indiana while awaiting court proceedings.

Since then, Lundeby's case has taken many twists and turns.

At one juncture in his case, Lundeby, a teen without a high school diploma or equivalency degree, was representing himself. Since then, several lawyers have been appointed to the case and then dismissed at Lundeby's request.

Then last week, one of the two lawyers who helped negotiate the plea arrangement died after a period of declining health.

Annette Lundeby, in an interview, became emotional in talking about her son's problems.

"The only reason he's pleading is because he wants to come home," she said.

anne.blythe@newsobserver.com or 919 836-4948
Professors from East Carolina University delivered a presentation Monday to members of the local Sierra Club at the Gateway Technology Center on an undergraduate class geared toward fostering a cross-cultural understanding of climate change.

The class, entitled G3230, partners pairs of American students in an online dialogue with counterpart students in five other countries, including Brazil, China, India, Mexico and Pakistan.

Brazil, China, India and the United States are four of the major contributors of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, said Dr. Elmer Poe, assistant vice chancellor for emerging academic initiatives at East Carolina University.

“We can’t fix climate change for the world,” Poe said. “Only by working together are we able to solve these problems which have grown much larger than any particular nation or any particular people.”

The basis of the course, which has been in the works since 2003, is intercultural dialogue.

“What we do with our project is we use regular Internet technologies to bring ECU students together with students from around the world,” he said. “We’ve got to sit an Indian down with a North Carolinian and let the Indian say, ‘Well, look, the climate’s screwed up because number one you screwed it up for the last hundred years, and number two, we think it’s rather hypocritical for you to say ‘Let our people continue to starve while you’re already fat.”

The goal is to find a reasonable solution, he said, which means “India is still not going to get fat.”
To get the dialogue going, the global understanding course was born. Dr. Rosina Chia, assistant vice chancellor at East Carolina University, said because Eastern North Carolina is “not very wealthy,” students primarily cannot study abroad simply because they don’t have the money.

“If they can’t go out, let’s bring ‘out’ into our own classrooms,” Chia said. In the course, East Carolina students communicate with other pairs of students on a range of topics including everything from structural child rearing techniques to cultural traditions to the effects of technology on culture in an effort to foster a better intercultural understanding.

In assignments, students also delve into such controversial topics as life philosophies and the impact of prejudice and stereotyping.

“It’s mutually beneficial to all cultures,” Poe said.

Through the course, guest speakers from the U.S. State Department come to students live from Washington, D.C., to deliver lectures and answer student questions.

The questions come from every student enrolled in the course both in the United States and the partnering countries.
The nerd turns:
A cappella singers suddenly the popular kids on campus

By Jenna Johnson
Washington Post Staff Writer
Monday, October 18, 2010; 10:49 PM

When the Saxatones and the other five a cappella singing groups hold their annual rush at Georgetown University, hundreds of underclassmen race to sing for each ensemble. The audition process is so extensive that it might remind some students of getting into college in the first place: Paperwork and surveys. Ever-narrowing lists of callbacks. Passionate persuasion. Offers and rejections. Initiation ceremonies featuring singing, traditional rites and, most of the time, drinking.

For decades, a cappella was a tradition that thrived mainly at Ivy League institutions and small liberal arts schools. But a cappella is enjoying an explosion on all manner of campuses, with new groups popping up every year, burgeoning national a cappella competitions and, for the first time in about half a century, a high profile in the popular culture.

Ben Folds recorded a CD with a group of college a cappella ensembles. NBC hosted "The Sing-Off," a nationwide a cappella contest. Fans of "The Office" know that the character Andy Bernard is obsessed with his a cappella alma mater, Cornell's Here Comes Treble. Oh, and remember that episode of CBS's "How I Met Your Mother" when a group of former singers at Yale reunited at a rooftop Halloween party? (About 7 percent of Yale undergraduates sing in one of the school's 15 a cappella groups; there's even a Singing Group Council to govern the scene.)

"A cappella was kind of dormant," said Michael Winters, president of the University of Virginia Hullabahoos, a men's group known for wearing colorful robes during concerts and throwing huge after-parties. "Then, all of a sudden, it's something everyone knows about."
Although it's long been cool to consider a cappella a particularly geeky college pursuit, that rep has shifted of late. On many campuses, singers say they've been surprised to find themselves morphing into sexy celebs of sorts.

"People will come up to us and be like, 'Oh! You're a Saxatone,'" said Ryan Zimmerman, a Georgetown junior who is studying abroad this semester. "There's a celebritydom factor. That's a little weird."

"I highly doubt if I auditioned for this group today, I would make it," said Christina Cauterucci, a former Saxatone who graduated from Georgetown in May and remembers much leaner times for her group. "Our street cred has risen significantly."

The Saxatones like to say theirs is the campus's "newest and hottest" coed group. When they started seven years ago, they sang oldies, were never invited to campus concerts and had trouble recruiting members. The repertoire slowly became more contemporary - instead of the Jackson 5, they sang Train, Taylor Swift and Katy Perry. They never turned down gigs and gradually built a fan base.

There's no single explanation for the a cappella explosion. YouTube and a growing number of young people who know their way around professional recording technology have helped spread the word about accomplished singing groups.

YouTube has even created a few fleeting sensations. The Singing Knights of Carleton College in Minnesota covered Daft Punk's "Harder, Better, Faster, Stronger" while wearing their traditional white dinner jackets. The video got 5.2 million views. Noteworthy, a group at the University of California's Berkeley campus, sang and danced to Lady Gaga's "Poker Face" in gold vests and bright blue shirts for 3.2 million viewers.

And then there's the "Glee" factor. For years, singing groups have been adding more contemporary music to their mix, trading traditional doo-wop tunes for hot pop and adding beatbox vocal percussionists. Then the Fox television show "Glee," about an oddball group of students in a high school glee club that covers hit songs, became a hit.

Some groups - like Yale's Whiffenpoofs and Harvard's Krokodiloes - resist fully "Glee"-ifying, staying true to their old-school roots and playlists.
divided between classical numbers and Great American Songbook hits of the 1930s and '40s. Often, such groups are protecting generations-old traditions and their brand, which earns them thousands of dollars for road trips and CD deals through singing at private functions and alumni events.

"For God's sake, the logo of 'Glee' is making a loser sign," said Winters. (His Hullabahoos cover lots of popular songs but won't touch Lady Gaga. "Lady Gaga doesn't really . . . show ourselves off.")

The popularity of a cappella has translated into tougher competition at the annual auditions. At Georgetown, each group generally fills a handful of spots each year, leading students to say that the odds of getting in are even steeper than those they faced to get into the highly selective college.

Experience isn't nearly as important as skill. Some who try out arrive on campus having spent years singing with a high school a cappella group. Others don't even know what a cappella is. (One former Saxatone still gets ribbed for having brought a guitar to his audition.) Most a cappella singers have no plans to pursue a musical career; they're just looking for a way to keep singing.

"I'm the kid who sings just walking around," said Tim DeVita, 18, a Georgetown freshman. He and a friend, Alex Field, studied the groups' Web sites and watched dozens of YouTube performances. They asked around to learn each group's reputation.

The campus's oldest group, the all-men Chimes, has been around since 1946. The Chimes have their own rowhouse near campus, don't usually sing anything more modern than the Beatles, and operate like a frat, with pledges who have to clean the house after keggers and aren't allowed to sit on the couches during rehearsals.

Two years ago, students launched another men's group, the Capitol G's. Then there are the Saxatones and two other coed groups, The Phantoms, who have opened for the Black Eyed Peas, and Superfood. The sing mostly contemporary songs. A women's group, the GraceNotes, has been around for 30 years and is known for wearing short skirts that sometimes barely pass the fingertip test.
The groups sometimes compete to snag each new class's standout performers - a guy who can beatbox, a woman whose belting voice can easily fill an auditorium, someone who loves the daunting task of rearranging Top 40 songs.

DeVita and Field - both with years of music experience - auditioned for every group they could. DeVita sang "Stand By Me;" Field went with "Ordinary People." DeVita received offers from all but the Saxatones, and Field got offers from every group.

As they made up their minds about which group to join, the freshmen tagged along to the ensembles' initiation ceremonies. The Chimes serenaded them on the quad, Superfood shared their favorite beverage and a Cranberries song, and The Phantoms went on a scavenger hunt.

The two friends weighed fun against prestige, and coed against all-guys. They considered each group's repertoire. Then they both chose the Phantoms - and a new core of their college experience.

"Now that I'm in it, I realize it really is a huge time commitment," DeVita said. "I see them more than anybody."
Make the Most of a Starter Job

By RUTH MANTELL

With the tough labor market, many recent college graduates may take jobs outside their field and settle for lower salaries than they might have hoped for. But there are steps college grads can take to better position themselves for success down the road.

Entry-level workers can take positions that teach them universal skills they'll need throughout their career, says Rosemary Haefner, vice president of human resources at job website CareerBuilder.com. "Even if a position isn't what you want, it may be rich in experience."

Transferrable Skills
For example, working in customer service can hone your communication skills. And while younger workers may not want to deal with annoyed customers for their entire professional life, being able to effectively communicate can lead to rewards, Ms. Haefner says. "If you look at a lot of the decisions that managers make about promoting individuals, a lot of it comes down to the ability to communicate."

A sales job also can yield valuable skills, she adds. "It will teach you how companies work. You learn fundamental Business 101 skills."

Jonathan Kandell, assistant director of the University of Maryland Counseling Center, says transferrable skills are important. "Is there a position that can train you to do something that you might need later on?" he asks. "Hopefully, [workers just starting out] would be able to find something about a particular job that they feel they can get something out of."

Forty-nine percent of recent college graduates and those about to graduate said they will "consider taking a job outside their field of interest or study in 2010," according to the 2010 "State of the College Workplace" report from job website Monster.com.

Meanwhile, 36% of workers with college degrees said they wish they had chosen a different major in college, and 19% of all workers with college degrees are employed in a job outside their chosen field, according to a recently released report from CareerBuilder.com.

A lower starting salary also is something many recent graduates are having to contend with. Some 29% of recent college grads reported a starting salary greater than $36,000 this year, down from 51% in 2009, according to the Monster.com report.

So how long should a college graduate keep a job that he or she doesn't really want? "It's not so much a question of the actual amount of time," Ms. Haefner says. "It's how long do you have to be there in order to feel that you have gained those skills that you can then transfer to the next job."

But workers should stay with a company long enough to avoid burning bridges, even if it's not the right industry for them, says Carolyn Wise, senior education editor with job site Vault.com. "You would never
want a potential employer to call up a former employer who says how awful you are," she says. "You want to at least learn the position and show that you take it seriously."
Recent graduates should look for opportunities in sectors that are hiring right now, such as retail, accounting and information technology, says Mark Kantrowitz, publisher of Fastweb.com and FinAid.org, even if it's not their ideal spot.
And he doesn't think such detours will hurt future job prospects.

"Nobody is going to look at your employment record during this time and say because you took a job as a grocery bagger or a construction worker instead of a job in writing you are...not qualified [to be] a magazine editor," he says. "Everybody recognizes that during a downturn there is higher unemployment and people take the job they can get to pay the rent."

Once hired, you should "make yourself more valuable to the company," Mr. Kantrowitz adds. They may pay you more and give you more opportunities. You can, for instance, volunteer to take on extra or more difficult work or cover the tasks of co-workers while they are away.

**A Foot in the Door**
That said, it's important to gain experience in your chosen field, experts say.
For people who can't get their full-time, ideal spot right out of school, there are some ways to get your foot in the industry or company of your choosing.
For instance, you can inquire about part-time or temporary positions, internships or volunteer work. Such positions will give you a chance to network. And if your bosses love you, there may be opportunities for a full-time spot, says Kera Greene, a New York-based career counselor.

"You have to get the experience in the industry as close to the occupation that you are interested in," Ms. Greene says.
—Read more at marketwatch.com.
Write to Ruth Mantell at ruth.mantell@dowjones.com