THE DAILY CLIPS

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Shooting, robbery suspects arrested

GREENVILLE POLICE Detective R. Williams, right, escorts suspects from Tuesday's armed robbery and shooting at an East Fourth Street house from the police department to a van to be transported to the Pitt County Detention Center on Tuesday afternoon.
ECU student shot during early robbery

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Greenville police arrested four men in connection with a Tuesday morning home invasion that left an East Carolina University senior recovering from two gunshot wounds.

Drew Daly, 23, originally of Hillsboro, was shot twice in the chest with a .357-caliber Magnum after seven men, allegedly affiliated with a local gang, robbed him and 11 other people at gunpoint at 607 E. Fourth St. about 3:10 a.m. Tuesday, Greenville Police Chief William Anderson said during a news conference. He said Daly was in serious condition Tuesday afternoon.

Anderson said officers believe there was an altercation between Daly and one of the suspects.

"A weapon was possibly taken from one of the suspects and that is when the victim was shot," Anderson said.

Greenville police arrested four suspects shortly after the robbery and shooting.

An officer spotted a Red Saturn driving from the area at a high rate of speed and ignoring several stop signs, Anderson said.

The officer stopped the vehicle on Elizabeth Street and detained the four people in the car, who matched descriptions given by victims, Anderson said.

Kendrick Montel Little, 20, of 1709 W. Conley St. was identified as the shooter, Anderson said.

Little faces a charge of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill along with numerous other charges.

Marcus Brandon Bell, 18, of 300 S. Memorial Drive; Benny Tyrico Clark, 19, of 905 A Imperial St.; and Keyvon Clifton, 17, of 110 B Paul Circle also were ar-

See SHOOTING, A13
SHOOTING
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rested.
All four suspects face one count of first-degree burglary, 10 counts of armed robbery, 10 counts of first-degree kidnap
ning and one count of attempt
ed armed robbery.
Bell also was served with outstanding warrants for con
spiring to sell marijuana and conspiring to deliver marihu
na in unrelated incidents.
An ECU police officer ob
served a second suspicious ve
hicle, a black Geo Prism, leaving the area of the robbery.
The officer attempted to stop the car at the corner of Fourth and Nash streets, but the three occupants jumped from the vehicle and fled on
foot, Anderson said.
Both vehicles were seized
and are in the custody of the
Greenville Police Department.
A weapon also was recovered,
Anderson said.
Officers did not know the
amount of cash and property
taken from the robbery vic
tims.
Officers continued to in
terview the suspects, who ad
mitted affiliation with a local
gang, Anderson said.
Detectives are investigating if the four suspects have been
involved in other recent armed robberies, strong armed rob
beries and home invasions in
the Greenville area, Anderson
said.
Anderson said the victims were holding a gathering at
the house when the robbery
occurred. He said the victims
and the suspects did not know
each other.
“Our belief is that the sus
pects saw the crowd and used
that as a motive to target the
location,” said Anderson. “We
believe it was a crime of oppor
tunity.”
Anderson spoke while
standing before maps used for
the recently created Robbery
Response Plan. He said offi
cers have increased patrols in
several areas of Greenville to
reduce armed robberies and
made more than 50 arrests in
the past month.
While the shooting occurred
outside ECU police jurisdic
tion, it caused alarm on cam
pus, said Michelle Lieberman,
director of student safety and
off-campus and community
services. The incident high
lights how hard it is to keep an
open college campus safe, she
said.
It’s “very challenging for us
to try to continually figure out
ways to educate and promote
safety to our students when we
keep having these things that
occur,” she said.
The robbery’s timing was
particularly frustrating, Li
berman said. It occurred less
than 12 hours after a campus
safety forum that drew more
than 150 students and employ
ees. Lieberman shared results
of a survey on safety taken
this past spring.
Forty-five percent of 3,900
respondents said they feel un
safe in the areas around cam
pus; 28 percent said they do
feel safe in neighboring areas.
By contrast, 60 percent to 90
percent said they feel comforta
ble on campus, with fewer
feeling secure at night.
ECU safety officials urge
students to avoid dangerous
behaviors — walking alone at
night, letting strangers in dor
mitories — but it’s difficult to
address what happened Tues
day morning, when the stu
dents robbed did not appear
to engage in unsafe behavior,
Lieberman said.
“What do you do with a situa
tion like this?” she said. “I
can talk to students all day,
but how do you prevent an
incident like this from occur
ring?”
The ECU Police Department
will post more officers in areas
adjacent to campus, Lieber
man said. They’ll also hold pat
trols seven days a week, rather
than the current Wednesday
through Sunday.
Anderson said the Green
ville Police Department also
will increase patrols in the
neighborhood.

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tacted at jhumphries@coxnc.
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ECU HumorFest

East Carolina University is hosting its first-ever HumorFest, Nov. 1-3. Author Jill McCorkle, National Public Radio poet Andrei Codrescu, and rock-'n'-roller Texas novelist Kinky Friedman are the keynote speakers.

Codrescu and dancer Claire Porter will present "Stretching Muscles and Words" at 7:15 p.m. Nov. 1 at Mendenhall's Hendrix Theater. Friedman will talk satire and sing at 8 p.m. Nov. 2 at Wright Auditorium.

A luncheon and reading with McCorkle is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Nov. 3 at Mendenhall Student Center. Tickets for each event are $15 in advance, $20 at the door.

Tickets and other events, including a cream-pie toss Nov. 1, can be found online at www.ecu.edu/humor. Call 328-6723 or 737-1107 or e-mail ecuhumorfest@ecu.edu for more information.
GUC seeks voluntary water cuts

The Daily Reflector

Greenville officials asked the community on Tuesday to voluntarily cut water consumption by half.

The request comes on the heels of Gov. Mike Easley's call for the state to cut water consumption by 50 percent between now and Halloween.

"... Each of the state's public water systems, including GUC, will be required to record daily water usage and report the information to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources each week," said Ron Elks, Greenville Utilities Commission's general manager and chief executive officer. "This data See GUC, A13

STATE DROUGHT: Seventeen water systems have regular water supplies of less than 100 days given current conditions including Raleigh, Rocky Mount and Durham. B1

COMING THURSDAY: A look at how Pitt County is addressing the water shortages.

GUC

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will be used to determine future steps that may be taken to reduce water consumption and avoid a water supply emergency in our state."

East Carolina University already is undertaking conservation methods, according to a news release.

The university has announced the water wall and cloud machine near Joyner Library are off line, along with the outside pool at the Student Recreation Center; lawns won't be watered except for newly installed plants and no university vehicles will be washed, except garbage trucks.

The most recent drought map of the state shows that 71 counties, including Pitt, are experiencing exceptional drought, which is the most severe category. The remaining 29 counties are in extreme or severe drought.

"Although availability of water and treatment capacity has not been a problem for GUC thus far, we don't know what challenges the future may hold. This has been a prolonged drought, and we do not anticipate it ending any time soon," Elks said.

The National Weather Service in Newport was predicting a 60 percent chance of showers today and tonight with rainfall amounts ranging from one-tenth to a quarter-inch. There is a 40 percent to 50 percent chance of rainfall from Thursday to Saturday.

CONSERVING WATER

For more water conservation ideas, visit www.guc.com or www.governor.state.nc.us and click on the "Water Conservation Tips" link.

People also may call GUC's Energy Services Office at 551-1525.

Elks urged people to follow these water conservation tips: don't water lawns and shrubbery; don't wash cars; turn off water while shampooing, shaving or brushing teeth; only run dishwashers or washing machines when full and avoid using sink disposals for food scraps.
$100,800+ to find new chancellor

UNC-CH headhunter not needed, some say

BY JANE STANCILL  
STAFF WRITER

UNC-Chapel Hill has signed a contract with R. William Funk and Associates, a Dallas headhunting firm that will be paid $90,000 plus administrative costs and expenses in the search for a chancellor.

The chancellor search committee interviewed three consultants recently and settled on Bill Funk, who is well-known in higher education. He has conducted more than 250 searches for education leaders, including nearly 70 sitting presidents. Funk was dubbed “the matchmaker” in a Chronicle of Higher Education cover story two years ago.

The contract specifies that Funk will personally perform key elements of the search. In addition to the flat fee of $90,000, he will charge $10,800 in administrative costs plus any out-of-pocket travel expenses. The money will come from nonappropriated sources, the university said.

Funk is already doing a high-profile search for the University of California system president. He agreed not to initiate another major university president or chancellor search during the early stage of UNC-CH’s search. He also promised not to solicit the person hired as UNC-CH’s chancellor for five years from the date he or she takes office.

The contract specifies that Funk would do a replacement search if the chancellor were to leave office within a year for any reason except death or disability. Funk was criticized for a search that turned out badly at the University of Tennessee, where John Shumaker resigned the presidency in 2003 after a short tenure because of a scandal involving spending and misuse of the university airplane.

Some suggested Funk failed to adequately check Shumaker’s background. Funk testified at a Tennessee legislative hearing about the process. He told the UNC-CH search committee he was completely exonerated.

Search committee members said they were impressed by Funk’s experience, reputation and broad contacts. The panel’s chairman, Nelson Schwab, a university trustee, said he was confident Funk would conduct a successful search.

But not everyone is convinced a consultant is necessary.

Art Padilla, an N.C. State University professor who wrote a book about university presidents, said he agrees with the late Clark Kerr, a University of California president who was skeptical of headhunters. Kerr said if a university is good enough, it doesn’t need a search firm, and if it’s not, a search firm won’t do any good.

“Carolina is one of the premier universities in America,” Padilla said. “As an alumnus, I wish they would hire a good internal candidate.”

In corporate America, Padilla said, executives are routinely promoted from within companies. Higher education institutions should do more to groom leaders, rather than hire consultants to search for outsiders, the professor said.

The committee will hold public forums on Friday and Tuesday to hear suggestions about the next chancellor, who will succeed the retiring James Moeser.
N.C.’s dentists are caring

BY STEVEN D. SLOTT  
BURLINGTON

I am a private dentist whose practice consists primarily of Medicaid patients. I also founded and am the director of a free portable dental clinic that relies on hundreds of volunteer dental providers who deliver over $1 million per year in free treatment to the needy of our state.

As such, I’m dismayed that fault for problems with access to dental care continues to be laid primarily at the feet of dentists, with little consideration given to major contributing factors.

POINT OF VIEW

Dentists certainly share the responsibility, but equally important is the priority given dental needs by decision-makers and society in general.

It’s easy to say that dentists should treat more Medicaid patients. After all, medical providers do so, even to the point of providing dental services to those whose dentists do not want to treat (as I’ve recently read in news articles).

If one insists upon comparing medical care with dental care, remember that frequently physicians are reimbursed by Medicaid at higher than the dental rate of 55 percent to 65 percent of normal charges. Dentists say raising reimbursement to the 80 percent level would double the number of dental Medicaid providers.

A 30 percent rate increase in Virginia in 2005 provides evidence. Prior to the increase, 13 percent of Virginia dentists provided Medicaid treatment. After the increase the number more than doubled to 27 percent.

Dental services are lengthy and expensive to perform. Procedures done in dentists’ offices are comparable to medical procedures done in hospital operating rooms, rather than in private medical offices. Given that dental overhead — the cost of equipment, supplies and staff — is routinely 65 percent to 75 percent of income, the current rate of dental Medicaid payments barely approaches meeting basic costs.

Certainly a dental practice can survive on Medicaid. However, the result is frequently a constant battle to meet expenses in a chaotic, unpredictable and frustrating office environment. That shouldn’t be demanded of anyone desiring to use his or her dental education in this important way.

It’s simply a matter of priorities. We must decide whether providing dental care for the needy is important enough that dentists are able to offer that care without losing money in the process.

SO, WHAT HAVE OUR DENTISTS DONE? In Virginia and most other states, dental Medicaid is limited to children. Yet North Carolina has a comprehensive program for children and adults due to the efforts, through the years, of the N.C. Dental Society, working with a cooperative state legislature. And despite the relatively low level of reimbursement, fully 25 percent of all dentists in this state do accept, to a significant degree, Medicaid reimbursement.

Free dental services, valued in the millions of dollars, are rendered to the needy each year by thousands of our dentists. The Give Kids A Smile program of the N.C. Dental Society recently completed its fifth year of providing a day of volunteer care to indigent children. Since 2003, more than 9,100 dental volunteers have provided in excess of $5.4 million in oral care to more than 70,400 children. The N.C. Missions of Mercy all-volunteer, portable free dental program delivers over $1 million per year in donated treatment to thousands of needy individuals who would otherwise go without.

Due to cooperative efforts between our Board of Dental Examiners, the Dental Society and legislature, state law has been changed to allow easier pathways for out-of-state dentists to move to and volunteer in North Carolina without sacrificing the excellent quality of care we have fought so hard to protect.

A newly approved Joint Plan for Dentistry will increase the number of dentists here. As opposed to states that have chosen to increase the supply of dentists by drastically cutting educational, training and licensure requirements, our state has chosen the correct way — funding expansion of our highly regarded UNC dental program and creation of a new, top-quality dental school at East Carolina University.

As one who has long been an advocate for greater efforts to deal with the access problem, I am satisfied that our dental community has indeed stepped up and is taking strong action. I am proud of my profession for its caring, concerned attitude and of the efforts being made to provide for all of our citizens.

Steven D. Slott, D.D.S., is president of the Open Door Dental Clinic of Alamance County.
BY JERRY ALLEGOOD 
STAFF WRITER

GREENVILLE — Four men have been charged in an armed robbery near East Carolina University early Tuesday that left an ECU student from Hillsborough hospitalized with gunshot wounds.

Police said the victim, Drew Daly, 23, a senior art major, was shot twice in the chest with a handgun and was in serious condition at Pitt Memorial Hospital.

Greenville Police Chief William Anderson said the four men, who said they were affiliated with a local gang, apparently targeted a house where a party had been held.

"They saw it as a crime of opportunity," he said.

Several suspects, at least three of them armed, forced their way into the home at 607 E. Fourth St., about 3 a.m. Police are still searching for three others who fled from a car stopped by ECU police shortly after the incident.

Police identified the men they charged, all from Greenville, as Kendrik Montel Little, 20, of 1709 Comley St., Marcus Brandon Bell, 18, of 300 S. Memorial Drive, Benny Tyrice Clark, 19, of 905-A Imperial St., and Keyvon Clifton, 17, of 110-B Paul Circle.

All were charged with one count of first-degree burglary, 10 counts of armed robbery, 10 counts of first-degree kidnapping and one count of attempted armed robbery.

Little was also charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill in the shooting of Daly. Officers served outstanding warrants on Bell for conspiracy to sell and deliver marijuana that were unrelated to the robbery.

Anderson said there had been an increase in strong-arm robberies — those involving physical force and intimidation — and armed robberies in which a gun was involved in some parts of the city.

In response, he said, police targeted various parts of the city to identify suspects. He said 50 arrests have been made in the past month.

He credited the quick arrests to programs by his department and the ECU campus police.

Police who responded to the robbery observed a red Saturn speeding from the area and disregarding stop signs, Anderson said. Police stopped the vehicle several blocks away and arrested the four Greenville men.

An ECU police officer saw a second suspicious vehicle, a black Geo Prizm, leaving the area and tried to stop the car. Three occupants jumped from the car and ran.

ECU spokesman John Durham said university officials have held programs to advise students about safety and crime prevention. He said campus police will increase foot and car patrols in adjacent neighborhoods.

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