THE DAILY CLIPS

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Greenville Police arrested two more suspects Wednesday afternoon in connection with a residential robbery and shooting near East Carolina University. Another suspect is still at large.

James Johnson, 18, of 101 Howard Circle, and Kendrell Blount, 18, of 1801-A West Conley St., were taken into custody shortly before 3 p.m. Wednesday. Both were charged with 10 counts of armed robbery, one count attempted armed robbery and one count first-degree burglary.

Johnson and Blount are high school students at South Central High School, Chief William Anderson said at a news conference Wednesday afternoon, and one of them was arrested on school grounds.

Anderson asked the public's help in locating 21-year-old Christopher Taylor, 512 W. 14th Ave. Taylor is believed to be the third member of a group that escaped the scene in a black Geo Prism.

"Anyone who would commit a crime like this would have to be considered armed and dangerous," Anderson said, and later added, "We are taking every step we can to bring him to justice."

Four other suspects left in a red Saturn and were apprehended Tuesday, shortly after Drew Daly, 23, was shot twice in the chest when seven men robbed him and 11 other people at gunpoint at 607 E. Fourth St. about 3:10 a.m.

Daly remains in the hospital and is believed to be in serious condition Anderson said.

The crime is attributed to an "increase of gang activity throughout the city." Anderson would not say which gang the youths were affiliated with.

He reiterated that police will increase patrols in the neighborhood where the shooting occurred.

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Our Views

Staying safe

Lower crime comes through partnerships

The home invasion early Tuesday morning that landed an East Carolina University student in the hospital with two gunshot wounds stands as the latest episode of shocking violent crime to affect the neighborhood bordering the college. It undermines confidence in public safety there, and leaves university officials struggling to calm students’ fears.

A forum this week confirmed East Carolina students worry about their safety, both at the school and in the areas around campus. Addressing those concerns — as well as the growing anxiety over crime across the city — will require a commitment across the community to assist law enforcement and provide the necessary resources to capture and punish criminals.

When a lone gunman killed 32 students and faculty at Virginia Tech in April, East Carolina was one of many schools that launched a thorough review of campus safety. The school conducted a survey of about 4,000 students in late April and early May to determine their thoughts on safety and the things they do that might put their safety at risk and released the results Monday.

Campus safety was a concern of 80 percent of those responding, though an overwhelming number of students — 91 percent — considered themselves safe when walking across campus during the day. However, many responding students engage in risky behavior, with 43 percent saying they walk home alone at night often or sometimes, and only 39 percent saying they've ever used the safety transport services offered by the university.

The university’s safety program on Monday touted the many positive university initiatives aimed at bolstering student safety. It was a stroke of bad luck that saw it happen the day before an early morning shooting sent a 23-year-old student to the hospital. That student was the victim of a home invasion and a robbery while with friends at an off-campus dwelling.

Greenville police have arrested six people connected to the crime and believe the attack may be gang related.

East Carolina officials admit there is little they can do to keep students safe in those situations. Rather, the episode highlights the type of incident where lower crime in the city would have also served the university’s safety goals. Greenville and East Carolina police cannot be present at every corner. But the rise in crime — and certainly the heightened fear in this community — indicates that devoting more resources to law enforcement, gang prevention, juvenile justice and other progressive measures is needed.

Students should feel safe on a college campus. And East Carolina should be proud of its work in that area, and its positive response to April’s tragedy at Virginia Tech. But it will require a greater effort across the community — achieved by building partnerships between across the city — to improve public safety for both students and citizens.
Dangerous staph germ could be stopped

By Lindsey Tanner
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Testing all new hospital patients for a dangerous staph “superbug” could help wipe out a germ that likely kills more Americans than AIDS, consumer advocates say and early evidence suggests.

Yet few U.S. hospitals do it, and many fight efforts to require it. Why?

Jeanine Thomas, who nearly died from the drug-resistant staph bug, says the reason is simple: “Doctors don’t want to be told what to do.”

The Chicago suburbanite’s personal crusade led Illinois this year to become the first state to order testing of all high-risk hospital patients and isolation of those who carry the staph germ called MRSA.

Powerful doctor groups fought against it. The testing and isolation of patients would be too costly, they said. Many other germs plague hospitals that also require attention. Experts said a more proven approach would focus on better hand washing by hospital staff — a simple measure tough to enforce.

Yet, Thomas prevailed. Similar measures passed this year in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. And Thomas’ national crusade to make hospitals test for MRSA and report their infection rates gained steam last week after a Virginia teenager’s death from the germ and a govern-

The real agony emerges in adolescence. As children go through puberty, two things happen to make getting enough sleep problematic: They need more sleep than prepubescent children, not less — 9 to 10 hours a night — and their body clocks shift to a later time to fall asleep and, consequently, a later awakening.

Amy R. Wolfson, a psychologist at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass., and Mary A. Carskaden, a sleep researcher at the Brown University School of Medicine in Providence, R.I., have found that few adolescents sleep the amount they need. The average eighth-grader sleeps less than eight hours, and more than a quarter of high school and college stu-

years has been associated with increased risks ofdiscipline, sleepiness in class and depression, not to mention trauma.

With televisions and their rooms, many teens resist the temptation to stay up late especially because they begin to produce the sleep hormone melatonin until 1 a.m., p.m. in most adults.

Then there is the pragmatic fact that starting times. Many are compelled to leave for school before class by 7:30.

A study of more than school students in Minnesota that when some school starting time to 8:40 a.m. students had more days...
STAPH
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der bite that doesn't heal, but it can turn deadly if it enters the bloodstream or morphs into a flesh-eating wound.

Yet, many infection control experts oppose required testing for it in hospitals. Many note that MRSA is just one of dozens of risky germs that often infect people in hospitals—particularly those with weakened immune systems or open wounds.

But Lisa McGiffert doesn't buy it. The director of the Consumers Union's campaign to stop hospital infections calls that "an argument of distraction."

"Certainly there are other superbugs and they should be tackling those, too," said McGiffert. "To eradicate hospital-acquired infections is going to take a comprehensive effort" that should include testing hospital patients, she said.

About 1.7 million Americans each year develop infections from various germs while hospitalized and almost 100,000 of them die, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. MRSA accounts for only about 10 percent of these infections. Other worrisome bugs include C. difficile (an intestinal infection), vancomycin-resistant Enterococcus (linked with intestinal, skin and blood infections), and drug-resistant Acinetobacter (which can cause pneumonia, skin and blood infections); none of them accounts for more than 10 percent of hospital infections.

MRSA infections have hogged attention, partly because they're on the rise. And, acknowledges the CDC's Dr. John Jernigan, "MRSA likely accounts for a disproportionate amount of illness and death" because of its strength and resistance to mainline antibiotics.

CDC recommendations for fighting drug-resistant bugs list MRSA testing as an option. However, the agency says it's unclear whether that works better than other measures. Those include judicious use of antibiotics, hand washing, and wearing gloves, gowns and other protective gear.

"We don't think (testing is) a silver bullet to that problem," Jernigan said.

The Joint Commission, an independent, nonprofit group that sets standards for the nation's hospitals, doesn't have specific rules on how to prevent MRSA.

The commission's Dr. Robert Wise said the organization wants to see evidence that MRSA testing and other measures work.
Hunting season

Hiring a ‘headhunter’ to find a chancellor for UNC-Chapel Hill could give short shrift to well-qualified internal candidates.

Once again, a search committee seeking a chancellor for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has corporatized the process, with a plan to spend over $100,000 to hire a Dallas-based company that specializes in finding university presidents. The various caveats in the agreement with R. William Funk and Associates are evidence in themselves of the misguided nature of this decision.

Consider that the committee’s agreement with Funk includes promises that he personally will handle elements of the search, that he will not conduct another major university president or chancellor search while in the early stages of the UNC search (he already has one under way for the University of California), and that he won’t recruit the person hired in Chapel Hill for another university for five years after that person takes office at Chapel Hill. He’s also obligated to do a replacement search if the choice for UNC-CH departs within a year.

Good grief. The oldest state university in the country, one of the top public institutions in the land, has to get all these promises regarding the recruiting of its next leader? This is preposterous. But the search committee led by trustee Nelson Schwab has fallen into the mentality of a corporate-style process, in which they think that to get anyone worthwhile they have to look far afield. And of course, this is a business for Funk, who’s carried out searches that involved nearly 70 sitting presidents. He can’t be blamed for simply doing business.

But we’re not talking here about an obscure institution. UNC-Chapel Hill has thousands of faculty members, along with a multitude of deans and other administrators, from whom a chancellor could be chosen. If the university is not training its own leaders, then it is in serious trouble.

There’s also ample history showing that great leaders can come from within — Bill Aycock, at the time a law professor, became one of the best and most beloved chancellors in the university’s history. Others have come from the faculty. William Friday, founding president of what is now the UNC system, was educated in the system as an undergrad and law student and spent his entire career there. He didn’t need search committees to help him find chancellors.

The people who are on the search committee, which is replacing retiring Chancellor James Moseley, are supposed to do this job. They should be looking for candidates. They should be taking and making calls. They emphatically should be talking to contacts on the campus to explore the possibilities that may now exist with people on the teaching faculty or in the administration. UNC President Erskine Bowles, a graduate of the university with long-time family connections there, has a role here as well.

To turn a critical part of the process over to an out-of-state third party is absurd. And no, it’s not being provincial to say that trustees should first look at people who are currently at Chapel Hill. An internal candidate could bring valuable knowledge and experience to the job, and hit the ground running. That person also could be expected to know the ways of the UNC system and the legislature, important factors indeed for any chancellor.

A “national search” may sound impressive, but it’s not necessarily any better than a search that doesn’t go far from home.
Free speech for campus
candidates

WASHINGTON

The speech policeman's lot is not a happy one, as the University of Montana at Missoula is learning. Herewith a tale about the mess that institution has made by regulating political speech.

Perhaps the university noticed the praise that speech rationers in Washington receive when, in the name of combating corruption or the appearance thereof, they regulate, as with the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law, the timing, quantity and content of political speech. In any case, the university has a rule that limits candidates for student government offices to spending a maximum of $100 when campaigning among the university's 10,000 students.

The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) allocates student activity fees, which are public funds, and lobbies students, the university administration and the state legislature on policy matters. In April 2004, Aaron Flint ran for the student senate. During the campaign, a large number of posters critical of him appeared around the campus. He believes they were placed by the University of Montana College Democrats and the liberal Montana Public Interest Research Group. Neither group is subject to the expenditure limits applied to candidates.

To counter this opposition, Flint spent $214.69 of his own money on professionally made posters and pizza for his campaign workers. He won. But because he spent an impermissible $114.69 — tough to buy seven large Domino's pepperoni pizzas — in order to respond to unregulated speech, ASUM removed him from office. This presumably taught the university's students important lessons about the civic danger posed by many posters (too much political speech) and too much pizza, and about dignity of the law.

Flint took the university to court, charging that his rights of political speech and association had been violated. A district court, genreflecting before the university's academic autonomy, declared the $100 limit a reasonable measure to "ensure all students enjoy equal access to the educational benefits available through student elections and governance."

Now, that is a novel argument. Equal "access" to the educational benefits of student politics would be diminished if more political advocacy were permitted. Unpersuaded, Flint appealed, but his appeal took him to the epicenter of novel argumentation, the reliably liberal and frequently reversed 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

It ruled against Flint, arguing that the university's limits on political speech are reasonably related to two permissible institutional objectives — providing "student candidates a valuable educational experience" and maintaining the election process as an educational tool, rather than an ordinary political exercise. Two things were unexplained: What is the nitty educational value of an election process that is not an ordinary political process? And: How does severely limiting political speech serve "a valuable educational experience"?

Anyway, last summer the U.S. Supreme Court, while upholding the right of a high school to restrict speech advocating the use of illegal drugs, stressed that students' rights are greatest with respect to political speech and ideological speech. And Justice Sam Alito, joined by Justice Anthony Kennedy, stressed that the ruling "provides no support for any restriction of speech that can plausibly be interpreted as commenting on any political or social issue."

Courts have spun a complex tangle of law distinguishing different degrees of permissible regulation of speech depending on which kind of "forum" it occurs in — a "limited public forum," a "designated public forum," even a "metaphysical forum" (it is not physical). In this case, the forum is neither mysterious nor small nor the university's property: The $100 limit covered an individual's political advocacy not just on campus but on public sidewalks and streets throughout Missoula, where many students live.

If the Supreme Court takes Flint's appeal, it will see that the university is indeed teaching students a lesson about politics — the pernicious lesson that politics should be conducted under tight restrictions on advocacy. The university is preventing students from learning such essential civic skills as how to raise and allocate political money for advertising and organizing. Thus do the grossly anti-constitutional premises of McCain-Feingold seep through society, poisoning the political body.
Golden LEAF chief to retire

Foundation noted for spurring creation of biotech jobs, retraining of workers

BY TIM SIMMONS
STAFF WRITER

Valeria Lee, president of N.C. Golden LEAF, will retire in March.
Lee, 65, was a program officer at the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation of Winston-Salem before taking the job as Golden LEAF’s first president in 2000.

Golden LEAF was created in 1999 to distribute half of the $4.6 billion directed to North Carolina over 20 years as part of a national tobacco lawsuit settlement.
The Golden Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation, based in Rocky Mount, has awarded more than 580 grants worth more than $219 million since it was created.

The grants are intended to help communities that are struggling economically because they once depended on tobacco production. Given that stipulation, the foundation was criticized at times for not spending more in rural areas.

But Lee said she was particularly proud of the foundation’s efforts to create jobs in the biotechnology field and its support of education and workers’ training in general.

Much of that training was done at the state’s community colleges, which received more than $25 million for training programs since 2000. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent each year on scholarships alone.

"Under her leadership, Golden LEAF has assisted hundreds of community college students who in turn, help foster the growth of the state’s overall economy," said Karen Yerby, who administers the statewide Golden LEAF scholarship program for community college students. "She will be missed."

Lee, who has a long history of civic involvement, said she has no immediate plans after she leaves the foundation.

"I’m looking forward to having some time for myself, some time to reflect," she said.
The foundation’s board will begin a search for Lee’s successor immediately.

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Old playground gets new life
UNC agrees to let mountain bike group refurbish trails in Carolina North

BY JOE MILLER
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL

Dirt bikers discovered its rambling passages in the 1960s, joggers fell in love with its foot-friendly surface during the running boom of the 1970s. It was one of the first places local mountain bikers went when off-road cycling arrived here in the late 1970s. Who knows how long the bikers have been here?

For at least two generations, people have been playing in the woods blanketing Carolina North, UNC’s 900-acre parcel two miles north of the main campus. And during that time the university has looked the other way, allowing recreation if not encouraging it.

Concern that the property was falling into neglect caused UNC to reconsider its approach to the tract. Late last year it created a property management plan that included the hiring of two permanent and two part-time employees to tend to the land on a daily basis.

Last week, the school took another step toward boosting the tract’s recreational value by agreeing to allow Triangle Off Road Cyclists, a local mountain bike club, to design, construct and maintain trails on the property.

“There’s been a lot of trail building going on haphazardly,” Carolyn Elkind, UNC’s associate vice chancellor for campus services, said last week. “We need to get a handle on it.”

No one is sure how much trail is on the tract, which is bound roughly by Bolin Creek and Homestead Road to the south and north, Airport Road to the east and to the west by a line three-quarters of a mile west of Seawell School Road. UNC and the Triangle Off Road Cyclists (TORC) say 15 to 20 miles is a good guess. The number is

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squishy because volunteer trail builders are constantly blazing new paths, resulting in a mishmash of hard-to-follow unmarked trails.

That's one of the first things UNC hopes to change with its new approach. "We're going to put up signage along entrances, mark trails better, make them more accessible," says Effland.

Unmarked openings

For the uninitiated, getting into the trail network is akin to leaning against a bookcase to find the secret passage in a castle. There's an unmarked entrance at Wilson Park and there are several subtle drop-ins along Seawell School Road between Chapel Hill High School and Seawell Elementary. Once you finally are inside, orienteering becomes a valuable skill.

UNC also was motivated to step up management by concerns over erosion and deterioration of natural resources. "We needed to put some framework around the way the land was used," says Effland. "You could go out there and dig and build yourselves a jump or whatever you wanted without regard for the environmental aspects of what you were doing.

"That's a big advantage of our relationship with TORC," she adds. "They specialize in trails, in sustainability of the resource."

Leading the way

TORC is a volunteer organization formed two years ago as an umbrella group of various local clubs that existed throughout the Triangle. Though it is volunteer, it now oversees design, construction and maintenance at most of the public mountain bike trails in the Triangle, including Lake Crabtree and Harris Lake county parks, the Beaverdam area at Falls Lake State Recreation Area, Little River Regional Park and in Garner. In addition, it is spearheading development of mountain bike trails at the new Forest Ridge Park in North Raleigh and at the Brier Chapel development south of Chapel Hill.

Though the agreement is intended to protect the land and preserve parts of it from development, some longtime patrons are leery of what the agreement might mean.

TORC President Stewart Bryan says the initial goal is to reroute or eliminate that end, he says TORC probably will begin working on the older, more worn trails west of Seawell School Road. Otherwise, expect the integrity of the network to remain the same.

"We don't anticipate radically changing the challenge level from what it is now," says Bryan.

"There's a range of trails and challenge levels, up to pretty advanced. There's not set restrictions on what we can and can't do at this point."

That's good news to Michael Oehler, who has ridden the trails — typically referred to by the locals as the Chapel Hill High School trails — for 10 years.

"The runners, the mountain bikers, the hikers, we all use these trails," said Oehler, as he wrapped up a ride Monday morning.

"It's a great place to ride."

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