THE DAILY CLIPS

November 2, 2009

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 FAX: 252-328-6300
Students will vote, but not in mass

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector

Saturday, October 31, 2009

Student leaders at East Carolina University say some of their peers will vote in this year's municipal election, but not the in the numbers some candidates and business owners are banking on.

Candidates and campaign fliers have frequented East Carolina University's campus during the last couple months. Student Government Association President Brad Congleton said the students appreciate that and are showing more interest than in previous years.

"The student vote will be a huge deciding factor in a couple of the races, in my opinion," Congleton said.

But he added that the challenge is reaching students and to get them registered. He said only 3,000 voted in student elections on campus, and when it comes to local politics, many are registered in their hometowns. There have been e-mails going out from some students reminding classmates and friends to hit the polls, Congleton noted.

Students involved in Greek life have seen plenty of pandering this political season. But Interfraternity Council President Patrick Sebastian said Greek leadership focused more on providing information about registration and voting than offering endorsements.

"It's not going to be a turnout like it was last year," Sebastian said of student voters. "But there will be an increase."

In past elections, students felt like City Council decisions don't affect them so they shouldn't vote, he explained. They're realizing now that zoning and ordinances ranging from occupancy laws to nightclub restrictions are worth their attention.

"We may only be here four, five or six years, depending on grad school, but we are members of this community," Sebastian said.

He added that he was pleased at the range of candidates that have visited the IFC or other organizational meetings, because it allows students to think critically and make informed choices.

Politicians aren't the only ones asking for student support. A group of downtown club owners also is trying to motivate the young masses.

"We're definitely reaching them," said Kevin Howard, owner of downtown nightclub Catch-22 and G-Vegas Magazine. "We're out there shaking hands and kissing babies more than the politicians ... I can get a voice across."

Howard said owners registered nearly 700 students by offering registration forms at their bars and clubs, and visiting sports organizations, clubs, sororities and fraternities. A Pitt County Board of Elections employee confirmed the board saw an influx of registration forms, many of which were new registrations, come in before the Oct. 9 deadline.

Another part of that campaign means using social media Web sites — particularly Facebook — to encourage students to get out and vote. Online groups "Greenville Residents Against the City Council's 'Anti-Downtown' Proposition" and event listings stressing early voting have attracted hundreds of students in support of the bar
owners’ concerns.

One controversial flier outlines their impression of what current City Council members are trying to advance and a list of candidates they endorse. It states “The City Council wants your money and your parents money. That’s all they want.”

“They are inflammatory,” Howard admitted. “They are intended to scare and shake people to the core. If we can get 1000 students to vote for who we want, we can shift the entire election.”

Rob Waldron, owner of Five 19, is less optimistic. He said he was hopeful students were hearing club owners’ concerns until he met one this week who was more concerned with recycling initiatives, and thought the bar owners should pay to keep them safe.

“Right now we’re just letting the chips fall where they may,” he said.

If students vote, club owners are prepared to thank them. Howard said anyone with an “I Voted” sticker will get in his nightclub free of a cover charge.

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.

Copyright 2009 The Daily Reflector All rights reserved. --
'Best Doctors' list includes 40 Brody physicians

Forty physicians from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University have been chosen by their peers for inclusion in the 2009-10 "Best Doctors" list.

The annual list is compiled by Best Doctors Inc., a Boston-based group that surveys more than 30,000 physicians across the United States who have been included in the listing, asking whom they would choose to treat themselves or their families. About 5 percent of the physicians who practice in North Carolina make the annual list. A partial list of the state's best doctors is in the November issue of "Business North Carolina."

The ECU physicians on the list are: Drs. Diana J. Antonacci, John M. Diamond and Kaye L. McGinty, psychiatric medicine; Drs. Joseph D. Babb, W. Randolph Chitwood Jr. and Charles S. Powell, cardiovascular sciences; Drs. Mary Jane Barchman and Paul Bolin, nephrology; Dr. William A. Burke, dermatology; Drs. Paul P. Cook and Keith M. Ramsey, infectious diseases; Dr. James J. Cummings, pediatric neonatal-perinatal medicine; Dr. Paul R. G. Cunningham, surgery; Drs. Raymond Dombroski and Edward R. Newton, obstetrics and gynecology; Drs. David N. Collier, Irma Fiordalisi, Glenn Harris, Karin Marie Hillenbrand, Thomas G. Irons, Dale A. Newton, William E. Novotny, Kathleen V. Previll, Michael Reichel, Debra A. Tristram, Charles F. Willson and Judy Wheat Wood, pediatrics; Dr. David A. Goff, internal medicine/pediatrics; Drs. David Hannon and Charlie J. Sang Jr., pediatric cardiology; Drs. Yash P. Kataria and Mani S. Kavuru, pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine; Drs. Lars C. Larsen, Robert J. Newman, Kenneth K. Steinweg and Ricky L. Watson, family medicine; Dr. Daniel P. Moore, physical medicine and rehabilitation; Dr. Ronald M. Perkin, pediatric critical care and sleep medicine; Dr. Eric A. Toschlog, surgery and critical care medicine; and Dr. Emmanuel Zervos, surgical oncology.
Uphill climb: Pitt economy better positioned than most

Monday, November 02, 2009

Comments from a visiting N.C. Department of Commerce official last week reaffirm Pitt County’s position of relative strength in the manufacturing sector with positive potential for economic growth.

While industries and workers in and around the county are feeling the pinch of this economic recession along with the rest of the country, the positive outlook is a welcome building block for the long road to recovery.

“When you come to Greenville, you see a very vibrant town,” said Dale Carroll, deputy secretary for the N.C. Department of Commerce. “This is a very vibrant and diverse economy and we are very optimistic about it for the future.”

Touring three manufacturing plants in Greenville, Carroll pointed to the area’s strong work force and its access to higher education.

While many areas of the state and nation are stagnant at best, Greenville and Pitt County continue to grow. Building projects and expanded programs at East Carolina University, Pitt Community College and the area’s large medical community are feeding, and being fed by, the relatively stable local economy.

That stability continues to draw more people to Pitt County, where home sales have moved up a little and the unemployment rate is slightly down.

The jobless rate in Pitt County has fallen by 1.2 percent since June, when it peaked at 11.2 percent. And recent reports show the number of homes sold in the county climbed to 942 in the past six months, up from 572 for the previous six-month period.

But along with the positive numbers, it’s important to note that at 10 percent, Pitt County’s unemployment rate remains slightly higher than the national average. And the volume of home sales, while on the upswing, remains 30 percent lower overall than last year.

Pitt County is indeed blessed to have an economic engine fueled by a diverse mix of contributors that include agriculture, education, health care, business and industry. But we face the same difficult challenges the rest of the nation must overcome in order to climb out of a weak economy.

It’s nice that state leaders recognize the positive attributes that make our economic engine a strong one. But the hill before is us a long one, and this community must remain focused on maintaining and nourishing that engine.

Copyright 2009 The Daily Reflector All rights reserved. - -
Space race: PCC expansion serves community

Sunday, November 01, 2009

With the smallest amount of space per student in the state’s community college system, administrators at Pitt Community College scramble to accommodate its growing student population at every term. Even with recently completed construction, the school desperately needs additional space to provide a superior academic experience to those who desire it.

This week, the PCC Board of Trustees adopted a plan for growth that will guide the school’s expansion for the next decade, providing a clear vision for how construction of new facilities should proceed. But while the need for that additional space is immediate, a grim economic climate means that tremendous challenges remain before PCC can provide to its students the type of campus their educational ambition deserves.

East Carolina University receives ample attention as a premier academic institution in this community, but PCC similarly serves a crucial role in providing higher education opportunities to thousands each year. Students can enroll in associate degree programs, get an early jump on college classes and learn a new skill or trade toward a new career — three options that help develop a more diverse and appealing work force for Pitt County.

PCC is so successful, in fact, that it has exceeded the capacity of its infrastructure. With a space deficit of 259,000, the school ranks last among the state’s 58 community colleges for space per student and desperately needs to add facilities to accommodate the expected growth of its student population in the coming years.

This week, the Board of Trustees took a step toward that by approving a master plan for growth. It outlines six phases for construction of new buildings as well as the renovation and expansion of existing facilities to create additional space. When complete, the school will have 382,000 more square feet of classrooms and support buildings to serve students.

With a total price tag of $60.3 million, however, PCC still faces an uphill climb to see this plan come to fruition. The economic recession has whittled public budgets down to the bare bones, though voters’ 2007 approval of a quarter-cent increase in the sales tax will help provide some funding.

Securing the remainder should be a community priority. PCC serves as a vitally important resource here, and its continued development benefits the county. Funding PCC’s expansion is an investment in Pitt County’s future.
Costumed clubbers overtake downtown Greenville

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector

Sunday, November 01, 2009

Thousands of costumed clubbers headed downtown when the rain and clouds cleared Saturday night for the annual downtown Greenville Halloween party.

Police prepared for an expected crowd of 15,000-20,000 partygoers, and warm weather drew an early crowd as students from East Carolina University began to pour through the entry checkpoints at 8:30 p.m.

Greenville police had the downtown area cordoned off to traffic and lit up as it has been for the past several years, and a strong showing of law enforcement officers kept a close eye at every corner to assure the celebration was safe.

Costumed entrants to the area were stopped by five lines of officers with hand-held metal detectors, checking for firearms, weapons and other contraband forbidden inside the downtown club area.

City police were supported by an additional group of officers from area police departments, the Pitt County Sheriff's Office and other county agencies. Basic Law Enforcement Training students from Pitt Community College also were on hand for support.

"We have planned since July with our mutual aid partners for every possible scenario," scene commander Lt. David Ivey said.

Command officers met with downtown club owners and managers last week and reviewed basic areas of concern, such as occupancy limits, adequate coverage at que lines and the use of plasticware instead of metal, Ivey said.

Club managers said they were ready, too.

"We have an established clientele now, so we don't have any problems with cooperation and behavior," Kevin Chesson, manager of the Pirates Den on Fifth Street, said.

Tony Frazier, manager of the Fifth Street Distillery, said he added extra staff and made sure his doors had extra coverage at the entrances, as did Chesson.

"We really haven't done anything different this year than we did last year, despite the events of the summer, with the exception of adding extra staff," Frazier said, referring to the June 30 shooting deaths of two men outside The Other Place.

Matt Blackman, owner of The Other Place, said he felt comfortable with the preparations law enforcement made for keeping the area outside the clubs safe, and will do the same inside.

"We'll be keeping a close eye on the number of people we allow into the club at a time," Blackman said. "When we reach capacity, we allow one person in for each person who walks out."

The customers and revelers seemed unconcerned about security and were cooperative with the officers who patted them down, checked purses and bags, and screened for weapons.

One person was arrested for possession of a bag of marijuana found at the checkpoint, an officer said.
Other than that, lines into the party area moved quickly and smoothly.

The Alcohol Beverage Control Board allowed an extra hour of drink sales due to the daylight-saving time change that occurred at 2 a.m. today, and commanders prepared their officers for the conditions that an extra hour of drinking might create among the young partygoers, Ivey said.

"If they have too much to drink and it affects their behavior, they will be escorted out of the area and not allowed back in," Ivey said.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or (252) 329-9571.

Copyright 2009 The Daily Reflector All rights reserved. - -
Trust me, this won't hurt a bit

Jennifer Walden, 29, a hand therapist working with Eric Fitch, 12, at Raleigh Orthopaedic Clinic in Raleigh, arrived to work Friday as a pirate in celebration of Halloween. Having been a Pirate at East Carolina University, she wanted to pay tribute to her alma mater with her costume. For a list of Halloween events, see Page 2B.
IDSA: Hospital Changes Decreased Antimicrobial Use

Electronic medical record usage also led to decreased rate of *Clostridium difficile* infection

Oct 30, 2009

FRIDAY, Oct. 30 (HealthDay News) -- At a tertiary-care hospital, implementation of an electronic medical record with a computerized physician order entry led to reductions in antimicrobial use and the rate of *Clostridium difficile* infection, according to research presented this week at the annual meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, held from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1 in Philadelphia.

Paul P. Cook, M.D., of East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., and colleagues analyzed the periods before and after the Pitt County Memorial Hospital implemented the electronic medical record system in July 2007.

The researchers found that overall antimicrobial use declined by 18 percent, and observed the largest reductions in the use of quinolone and clindamycin (56.8 and 48.3 percent, respectively). They also found that the rate of *C. difficile* infection declined by 26.2 percent.

"The use of an electronic medical record and computerized physician order entry that incorporates clinical decision support is recommended by the Infectious Diseases Society of America as a means of promoting judicious antimicrobial use," the authors write.

Several study authors reported financial relationships with various pharmaceutical companies.

More Information

Copyright © 2009 ScoutNews, LLC. All rights reserved.
The Washington Post

Ranks of millionaire college presidents up again

By JUSTIN POPE
The Associated Press
Monday, November 2, 2009 8:32 AM

-- The fast-growing group of millionaire private college and university presidents hit a new record in recent years, and it's likely more college leaders will make seven-figure salaries once the slumping economy rebounds.

A record 23 presidents received more than $1 million in total compensation in fiscal 2008, according to an analysis of the most recently available data published Monday by the Chronicle of Higher Education. A record one in four in the study of 419 colleges' mandatory IRS filings made at least $500,000.

Topping the list is Shirley Ann Jackson at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., whose total compensation the Chronicle pegged at nearly $1.6 million. She was followed by David Sargent at Suffolk University in Boston, who made $1.5 million. However, one-third of his compensation had been reported as deferred compensation last year and counted as salary this year - an example of the difficulty of making straightforward compensation comparisons.

Overall, median compensation for the group rose 6.5 percent to $359,000, and 15.5 percent at major private research universities, to $628,000. The figures essentially cover the 2007-2008 academic year.

Those averages have almost certainly flattened or perhaps fallen since then, with numerous presidents - including Jackson - taking voluntary pay cuts this year amid widespread budget-cutting at their institutions.

But experts say the upward trend will almost certainly resume eventually. It may frustrate parents who are paying higher tuition, but experts insist the salaries reflect supply and demand.

"The baby boomers are retiring," said Ray Cotton, a Washington D.C.-based lawyer and expert on presidential contracts and compensation. "Boards are in a scramble competing against each other for the remaining available talent."

But the 24-7 nature of the job and the stresses stemming from the recession have made it unappealing to prospective candidates.

"Some people just don't want anything to do with the job because it keeps them up at night," said Chronicle editor Jeffrey Selingo. "In order to attract and retain good talent they're going to have to pay for it. They may take a little break now because of the economy, but these pieces are still in place."

Still, colleges will have to absorb the public relations hit that comes with offering seven-figure compensation to an academic leader. The average price of tuition plus room and board at four-year
private colleges surpassed $39,000 last year, according to the latest figures from the College Board.

The Chronicle noted that 58 institutions charged more than $50,000 this year, up from just five last year. A number of those schools pay their presidents more than $1 million, including New York University, Columbia and Vanderbilt.

The Chronicle also identified three former presidents who received compensation of more than $1 million in 2007-2008, topped by retired George Washington University president Stephen Trachtenberg, whose benefits package was valued at $3.67 million. It identified 85 colleges paying at least a former president or other high-ranking official at least $200,000, typically in deferred compensation and bonuses.

"You wonder if these colleges are giving away the store when they sign contracts with employees," said Sen. Charles Grassley, Rep.-Iowa, who has been a longtime critic of pay practices at not-for-profit institutions.

The latest survey does not include presidential salaries at public universities, which have been rising in recent years but are generally lower than at top private institutions. Last year, just one public university president, Ohio State's Gordon Gee, earned more than $1 million.

Nine private college presidents exceeded the $1 million mark in last year's survey of the 2006-2007 data.

Jackson, a physicist and former Clinton administration official, has clashed with Rensselaer faculty and been criticized for spending time away from campus to serve on six corporate boards. But she volunteered this year to return 5 percent of her base salary - which the Chronicle reported at just more than $1 million in fiscal 2008 - to be used for student scholarships. All salaries for senior administrators are frozen this year, RPI said.

Jackson received a strong statement of support from the university.

Applications to the school have doubled, research volume has tripled, and $690 million has in new construction and renovations have taken place in Jackson's decade as president, said William N. Walker, Vice President, strategic communications and external relations, in a statement issued by the school. A request to interview Jackson was denied.

"The value she contributes to the Institute far exceeds the amount she is paid," Walker said.
ECU Notes: Story of Wright brothers’ work still drives professor

ECU News Services

Sunday, November 01, 2009

In his newest work on the Wright brothers, Larry Tise pieces together the puzzle of the brothers’ first powered flight in 1903, their perpetual secrecy, and the moment when the world discovered their amazing flying skills in May 1908.

"Conquering the Sky: The Secret Flights of the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk" focuses on the brothers’ covert tests in May 1908 as they played a game of cat-and-mouse with international press reporters and nosy Outer Banks locals and raced the clock to produce flying technology that could be used by the governments of Europe and the United States.

"So many of the letters written by the Wright brothers while in Kitty Hawk have not been published," said Tise, who is the Wilbur and Orville Wright Distinguished Professor of History at ECU.

Tise grew up in North Carolina and always was interested in the Wright brothers. During the centennial of their famous 1903 flight, he started working seriously on the Wright brothers’ North Carolina story.

"We know the story of the first flight on Dec. 17, 1903, but what happened after that day hasn’t been told. This is the story of what happened after that first flight. Most people are not aware that the Wright brothers came back to Kitty Hawk for further test flights," Tise, who teaches history in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, said.

Between 1903 and when their work was shown to the world in 1908, the Wright brothers worked privately and secretly on their flying machine. Meanwhile, would-be French aeronauts were working publicly and were being well documented in the process.

"Everyone assumed that the French group was way ahead (in the technology race)," Tise said. The Wright brothers knew that eventually they would have to fly publicly and headed back from Dayton, Ohio to North Carolina to prepare, he said.

In 1908, they hoped and believed that they could continue work in secret on the Outer Banks. However, as soon as they got back to Kitty Hawk, word quickly spread through the community. "Conquering the Sky" focuses on the seven-day period in 1908 when the Wright brothers went from relative anonymity to worldwide recognition as virtual cult celebrities of flight.

"Word had gotten out — totally fictional — that they were flying out over the ocean. Newspapers around the world published that as fact," Tise said. "The New York Herald and the London Daily Mail, two of the leading newspapers on technological innovations of the day, sent reporters to the Outer Banks. They were interested in the advancement of new weapons."

Tise pointed out it’s important to remember that the famous image of the Wright brothers’ flight on Dec. 17, 1903, wasn’t published until Sept. 1, 1908.

The brothers kept that image — along with others taken in 1904 and 1905 documenting their work—filed away in their shop in Dayton. So, even though the Wright brothers had carefully documented all of their flights at both Kitty Hawk and Dayton, the reporters did not accept their claims and they chased the story tirelessly.
“During a period of seven days in May 1908, the Wright brothers’ flying machine and their flights came to be observed vicariously, and thus publicly, by the world’s press,” Tise wrote in the book’s preface.

Even though “Conquering the Sky” focuses on the historical details of the Wright brothers work and travels, it is written in a conversational tone for general readers with an interest in this part of American history, Tise said. It’s not written as a history textbook; instead it focuses principally on Wilbur Wright’s point of view.

Each chapter of the book opens with a historical photograph, such as the lifeguards at the Kitty Hawk Life Saving Station who served the brothers as construction assistants and ground crews.

“Most historians treat the Wright brothers as great American heroes,” Tise said. “I see them partly as tragic figures. Once they had the invention, they wanted to be like Henry Ford and Alexander Graham Bell and become rich off their invention and work.”

Tise is not finished with his study of the Wright brothers. He is now editing the North Carolina-related papers of Wilbur and Orville Wright, which have been at the Library of Congress since 1949. Tise plans to distill the 4,000 pages of material he has transcribed to produce a complete edition on the Wright brothers’ experience and heritage in North Carolina.

**ECU Neuroscience Symposium planned**

Alzheimer’s disease will be a topic of discussion at the 11th annual East Carolina University Neuroscience Symposium on Tuesday in Greenville.

The daylong event will be at the Edwin W. Monroe Eastern AHEC Conference Center at 2000 Venture Tower Drive. It’s free and open to the public. Opening remarks are at 8:30 a.m., and the first speaker begins at 8:45.

Speakers will cover the latest information regarding molecular mechanisms promoting nerve growth and directions for treatment of neurological diseases and disorders.

Dr. Donald Price, director of the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at Johns Hopkins University, will deliver the keynote address titled “Alzheimer’s Disease, Models and Experimental Therapeutics: Translational Medicine for the Future.”

Other speakers are from ECU and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center.

The program is jointly sponsored by the 2009 Grass Traveling Scientist Program, a chapter grant from the Society for Neuroscience, the Harriet and John Wooten Laboratory of Alzheimer’s Disease and Neurodegenerative Disease Research.

For information about the event or to register, visit http://www.ecu.edu/neurochapter.

**Medical student receives state award**

Brandon Yarns, a third-year medical student at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, has received the Marc Amaya Award from the North Carolina Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

The award recognizes a student who represents academic excellence, character and who also has a strong interest and meaningful experience in child and adolescent psychiatry.

Yarns accepted the award at the September meeting of the N.C. Psychiatric Association in New Bern and attended the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry meeting Oct. 24-Nov. 1 in Honolulu.

**Upcoming Events:**

Monday: The author of “The Near Surroun,” Nancy Mitchell will read her poetry at 8 p.m., in Bate Room 1031. Free and open to the public.

Friday: Lecture by Gloria Steinem, “Reflections on Feminism,” 7 p.m., Wright Auditorium. Complimentary tickets are available to ECU students, faculty and staff, and are $10 for the general public. Visit www.ecu.edu/voyages.

See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Seeing Hokies on TV doesn't change Holtz's plan

By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector

Sunday, November 01, 2009

East Carolina football coach Skip Holtz watched every play of North Carolina's upset of Virginia Tech last Thursday night.

For all he saw, he doesn’t see any reason to tweak his own team’s game plan for the Hokies’ Thursday trip to Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, especially considering the Pirates themselves also proved to have a winning game plan in their own upset of Tech last season.

“We’ve just got to look at it and say, what can we do within our system?” Holtz said of the 5-3 Pirates’ preparation for the Hokies. “You don’t say each and every week, let’s take their game plan or their game plan because their game plan may be great for them if they have the personnel to do it. We’re going to stick with what we do.”

Holtz said game planning must include extracting important tidbits and tendencies from all of an opponent’s previous games, not just the last one.

While the fine-tuning happens when players and coaches begin breaking down one-on-one matchups during film study sessions, watching the live television broadcast can help coaches get a feel for what kind of offensive rhythm and style an opponent will present, according to Holtz.

The fifth-year coach also said last week’s telecast was a good preview for the environment that generally surrounds Thursday night games broadcast nationally on ESPN.

“Watching the game itself on TV gives you an idea of the flow and the type of football game, the competitive nature that it was, the type of atmosphere that you get on Thursday night,” Holtz said. “But then when we come in here and watch the film, and you take all that out of it, then it just gets down into the scheme.”

As for last year’s blocked punt triumph over the Hokies on opening day in Charlotte, Holtz admits he’s watched the film a handful of times in the last week alone, perhaps making game prep a little easier this year.

But Holtz said it’s important to avoid relying solely on what he sees on tape.

“As coaches, we probably break things down too much, we overanalyze things too much,” Holtz said.

Lindsay injury

Senior rushing leader Dominique Lindsay will likely be battling at least some pain in his previously injured shoulder and ankle for the rest of the season, but Lindsay clearly isn’t planning on letting it stand in the way of his playing time.

After practicing in a limited capacity last week leading into the Pirates’ game at Memphis, Lindsay erupted for 139 yards against the Tigers.

While the pain likely hasn’t gone, especially in the ankle he injured Oct. 17 against Rice, Holtz said his lead back is actually doing fine heading into ECU’s final non-conference tilt against Virginia Tech.

“He is much better from where we started,” Holtz said of Lindsay, who has a team-best 570 rush yards this season. “He’s the same as he was at the (Memphis) game, so we started this week much farther ahead than we were a week ago. He’s not limited at all.”

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or (252)329-9595.
The Washington Post

Football takes over tonight at Va. Tech
Campus commotion delights and frustrates at the same time

By Mark Viera
Washington Post Staff Writer
Thursday, October 29, 2009

BLACKSBURG, VA. -- Tara Green, 20, of Frederick, is a Virginia Tech senior with a double major in marketing and management, entrepreneurship and innovation technology. But like other students here, she won't be in class on Thursday night. Instead, she will be tailgating in preparation for the Hokies' contest against North Carolina, which she dubbed "the most exciting game of the season."

Both of Green's evening classes on Thursday were canceled because No. 14 Virginia Tech (5-2, 3-1 ACC) hosts the Tar Heels (4-3, 0-3) that night. To the angst of some faculty members, it is common for afternoon classes at Virginia Tech to be canceled before Thursday night home games.

Some faculty members interviewed for this story said that while there has been no official mandate handed down by the school, it has been implicitly suggested that they cancel afternoon classes before Thursday night games in order to clear campus parking lots. While students may welcome an early start to the weekend, such a notion does not sit well with those who say it sends a message that athletics are more important than academics.

"I'm highly annoyed by the misplaced emphasis on athletics at the university," Jan Helge Bohn, an associate professor of mechanical engineering at Virginia Tech, said in a telephone interview. "It infuriates me. The fact I have to move my car and go home and terminate work is outrageous in an academic community."

An e-mail sent by the school to students, faculty and personnel on Monday said Virginia Tech President Charles W. Steger had approved the closing of all university offices at 4 p.m. on Thursday, with the exception of those directly supporting classroom instruction. The message said classes would not be canceled.

Larry Hincker, Virginia Tech's associate vice president for university relations, said the choice to cancel classes has always been left to the discretion of each faculty member.

"Practically speaking, it is difficult to have a night class, not because you're going to lose a big chunk or your students -- you will -- but moving around on campus is difficult when you have 65,000 visitors," Hincker said in a telephone interview, later adding: "It's problematic, but it is once a year. And we give the faculty the right to structure their schedule. If they have a class, they have a class."

At the University of Maryland and the University of Virginia, school officials said classes and university schedules have not been canceled or altered for Thursday night home games.
North Carolina, which hosted Florida State last week for its first Thursday night home game, sent employees home two hours early to avoid traffic jams -- and the employees had to make up those lost work hours. Before its Thursday night game against North Carolina State in 2002, Clemson canceled classes after 1 p.m. Since then, the university has avoided scheduling Thursday night home games in order to avoid the disruption.

At Virginia Tech, many parking lots on the south and west side of campus have to be vacated before Thursday games to accommodate the football traffic. Those with passes can park on the north side of campus, near many academic buildings.

"It's just totally backwards in terms of their priorities," said Carole Browne, a co-chairman of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics, a group of university faculty senates that promotes reform in college athletics. "They should be more worried about the football traffic and getting their students to class, rather than the football fans getting to the stadium."

ESPN began televising ACC games on Thursday nights in 1991. Virginia Tech's 19 Thursday night appearances have helped raise the Hokies' profile nationally. Among ACC schools, only Georgia Tech, which has played 23 games, has appeared more often in ESPN's Thursday night slot.

"If you can get on Thursday night and play well, I think it does a lot for your program; it does a lot for name recognition," Hokies Coach Frank Beamer said. "I think it certainly has helped us with recruiting and getting into homes and people knowing more and more about Virginia Tech. I think it's been a big factor in changing the status of Virginia Tech football."

Virginia Tech only has one Thursday night game in Blacksburg this year, and some faculty members say they see the Hokies' occasional weekday home games as a minor blip in the academic calendar. Thomas Gardner, the Clifford A. Cutchins III professor of English at Virginia Tech, said he "can live with the disruption."

Gordon Kirk, a professor of mechanical engineering at Virginia Tech, said having a prominent football team "does great things for the university, much more so than somebody discovering something in their PhD dissertation, which five people read. That's true, and we're going to have to live with it."
November 2, 2009

OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

Teach Your Teachers Well

By SUSAN ENGEL

New Marlborough, Mass.

ARNE DUNCAN, the secretary of education, recently called for sweeping changes to the way we select and train teachers. He’s right. If we really want good schools, we need to create a critical mass of great teachers. And if we want smart, passionate people to become these great educators, we have to attract them with excellent programs and train them properly in the substance and practice of teaching.

Our best universities have, paradoxically, typically looked down their noses at education, as if it were intellectually inferior. The result is that the strongest students are often in colleges that have no interest in education, while the most inspiring professors aren’t working with students who want to teach. This means that comparatively weaker students in less intellectually rigorous programs are the ones preparing to become teachers.

So the first step is to get the best colleges to throw themselves into the fray. If education was a good enough topic for Plato, John Dewey and William James, it should be good enough for 21st-century college professors.

These new teacher programs should be selective, requiring a 3.5 undergraduate grade point average and an intensive application process. But they should also be free of charge, and admission should include a stipend for the first three years of teaching in a public school.

Once we have a better pool of graduate students, we need to train them differently from how we have in the past. Too often, teaching students spend their time studying specific instructional programs and learning how to handle mechanics like making lesson plans. These skills, while useful, are not what will transform a promising student into a good teacher.

First, future teachers should continue studying the subject they hope to teach, with outstanding professors. It makes no sense at all to stop studying the thing you want to teach at the very moment you begin to learn how.

Meanwhile, students should learn their craft the way a surgeon learns to operate: by intense supervision in a real setting with expert mentors. Student-teachers are usually observed only twice during a semester and then given a written evaluation. But young teachers, like young doctors, should work side by side with skilled mentors, getting plenty of feedback, having plenty of opportunities to observe and taking on greater and greater responsibility as they improve.

Teacher training can also learn from family therapy programs. Therapists spend a great deal of time
watching videotapes of themselves in action, reflecting on their sessions and discussing the most difficult moments with senior therapists to explore other ways they might have responded. In much the same way, young teachers need to record their daily encounters with their classrooms and then, with mentors and peers, have serious, open-minded conversations about what's working and what isn't.

Teachers must also learn far more about children: typically, teaching students are provided with fairly static and superficial overviews of developmental stages, but learn little about how to watch children, using research and theory to understand what they are seeing. As James Comer, a professor of child psychiatry at Yale, has argued for years, if we disregard the developmental needs of our students it's unlikely we'll succeed in teaching them.

One more thing is required — give as many public schools as possible the financial incentives to hire these newly prepared teachers in groups of seven or more. This way, talented eager young teachers won't languish or leave teaching because they felt bored, inept, isolated or marginalized. Instead, they will feel part of a robust community of promising professionals. They will struggle and learn together. Good teachers need good colleagues.

To fix our schools, we need teaching programs that are as rich in resources, interesting, high-reaching and thoughtful as the young people we want to attract to the profession. Show me a school where teachers are smart, well-educated, skilled and happy to be there, and I'll show you a group of children who are getting a good education.

*Susan Engel is a senior lecturer in psychology and the director of the teaching program at Williams College.*