THE DAILY CLIPS

November 4, 2011

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A man charged in a Saturday homicide was questioned by police that morning and allowed to leave town on a promise he would return, a judge said when he reduced the man’s bond Wednesday.

Christopher William Brauer, 21, of Durham is charged with an open count of murder in the stabbing death of 19-year-old army paratrooper Pfc. Keyonn Parkin. Brauer surrendered Tuesday and was jailed under a $1 million bond.

Judge Charles Vincent reduced the bond to $500,000 during a Wednesday probable cause hearing.

Brauer left Pirates Place apartments after the 12:30 a.m. stabbing but returned to the scene after 45 minutes, Vincent wrote on the bond reduction order.

He later was interviewed by detectives and gave a statement at police headquarters. Police allowed him to go to Durham, where his parents live, on the condition he return if asked to do so.

“The defendant asked permission to go home to Durham and return when requested to turn himself in,” Vincent wrote.
He returned Tuesday “knowing he was charged with an open count of murder,” Vincent wrote.

Brauer was taken into custody at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday when he showed up at the Pitt County Detention Center with his attorney, Leslie S. Robinson.

Parkin, a soldier from Wichita, Kan., reportedly had traveled with friends from Fort Bragg to attend a Halloween party at Pirates Place. He was stabbed following a fight over a stolen wallet, Greenville Police Chief William Anderson said Tuesday.

Parkin’s friend, Pfc. Robert Michael Perry, 19, took the wallet from a bedroom as he was retrieving his coat, Anderson said.

He was confronted by Brauer and other men after he left the apartment about 12:30 a.m.

Parkin, unaware that Perry was being accused of stealing the wallet, went to his friend’s aid, Anderson said.

Brauer pulled a knife during the argument and stabbed Parkin, the chief said. Detectives recovered the knife at another location, Anderson said.

Brauer was developed as a suspect through three day’s of interviews and information gathered by police, Anderson said.

Perry was charged with assault after he punched a man. He told The Daily Reflector that he was trying to keep people away from Parkin’s as he lay on the ground.

Perry contradicted police reports that he stole the wallet. He said he went back into the house to retrieve his jacket, got confused about which jacket was his and somehow found himself in possession of another man’s wallet.

He was confronted about it while still inside the home, he said, and did not know Parkin had been stabbed until he returned outside after returning the wallet to its owner.

Interviews with multiple witnesses revealed that Perry was confronted about the wallet after he exited the rear of the building with it, Anderson said.
Parkin, heard the commotion from the front of the building and went to Perry’s aid, the chief said.

Brauer appeared at the hearing with his parents. The suspect was visibly shaking and appeared frightened, looking down during most of the proceedings, court officials said.

As conditions of his release, Vincent ordered that Brauer may not consume alcohol or controlled substances. He must reside with his parents, subject to a 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew. He must remain at his parents’ home, except to make appearances at court, his attorney’s office or ECU, Vincent said. Brauer also may not possess a weapon.

A Thursday night check with detention center officials showed that Brauer had not been released.

Brauer came to ECU in the fall of 2008 and was enrolled when the incident occurred. As of Tuesday, he no longer was enrolled at the university, a school official said.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or 252-329-9571.
Technology has brought massive changes to the field of journalism, but opportunities abound for young people interested in telling stories through new outlets.

Area students on Thursday got to hear firsthand about news jobs and developments at the fourth annual High School Media Workshop, hosted by the School of Communication at East Carolina University.

“People are getting their news in new ways, and TV and newspapers are struggling to keep up,” said keynote speaker and TV news producer John Cooper, referring to new devices like smartphones and the rise of social media sites like Facebook and Twitter. “I can’t tell you what the next thing will be in five years, but it’s changing exponentially. That means more opportunity for you all.”

About 150 students from 20 high schools throughout eastern North Carolina attended, including Pitt County’s South Central. Most students are involved in school yearbooks, newspapers, TV or radio stations. After the speech, they went to seminars including writing, story ideas, design, TV production, social media, sports and media law.
“When ECU asked me to speak, I jumped at the chance,” Cooper said. “I remember sitting where you are now, wondering what I was going to study in college.”

Cooper, a 1989 ECU graduate, studied psychology and English before selecting the School of Communication. Today, he works as the deputy manager of the live desk for the NBC news station in Charlotte.

“I think (Cooper) really opened me up to wanting to be in journalism; I want to do TV design,” said East Columbus High School 10th-grader Raeanna Locklear, who is on her school’s yearbook staff.

As part of his speech, Cooper showed unedited interviews and a finished news segment.

“I liked the videos,” said Clayton High School senior Paige Morrison, who is on her school’s TV station. “This has made me even more interested in journalism than I was before.”

“It was very educational,” classmate Courtney Banks said.

Journalism is a window to the world and the local community, Cooper said. “It’s about storytelling,” he said. “If it’s interesting to you, it’s going to be interesting to your readers or viewers.”

Along with the ECU School of Communication, the workshop was hosted by the N.C. Scholastic Media Association, a collective that supports high school news outlets and students.

“We’re so glad that this school is committed to journalism outreach with area students,” association director Monica Hill said.

“We’re really excited about this event,” School of Communication Director Linda Kean said. “I think it serves a need for eastern North Carolina, since programs are often in Raleigh or Chapel Hill.”

The School of Communication has a multi-platform approach to journalism in which students learn about Web, print and broadcast news, according to Kean. But putting together a solid story still is at the heart of journalism.
“The basics are still absolute,” Kean said. “They have to be good reporters. If they can’t ask questions or write a story, then the method of delivery doesn’t matter.”

And news still is essential to daily life, Kean said.

“In the U.S., we take for granted that the media is free to report whatever is going on,” she said. “There’s good information out there, and there’s bad information out there. We need to be smart consumers, but we’re one of the best countries for providing news.”

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567.
Social media changes open government
By Ginger Livingston
The Daily Reflector
Friday, November 4, 2011

Are city council members holding a meeting when they exchange thoughts about a pending ordinance on Facebook? Is a county commissioner text seeking information about a building project part of the public record?

Social media is presenting new challenges about how governmental entities should make information available to the public, speakers at a forum on the state’s public records and open meetings law said.

The Sunshine Center of the N.C. Open Government Coalition at Elon University and East Carolina University’s Department of Political Science sponsored the event Thursday afternoon. About 20 university students and local government representatives attended.

A panel consisting of Steve Hawley, public information officer for the City of Greenville; Peter Romary, ECU’s director of student legal services; and Brian Colligan, editorial page editor with The Daily Reflector, discussed challenges involving access to public records and open meetings and how technology is increasing those challenges.
“Once we start electing the Facebook generation ... we’ll have no record of their discussions,” because Facebook chats produce no permanent records, Colligan said.

Most elected leaders and government staff use texting to conduct business, said Brooke Barnett, the Sunshine Center’s executive director. And there is no simple way of recording the exchanges.

While evolving technologies will continue producing challenges for keeping the public informed, people still struggle to get information stored in more traditional formats.

The Sunshine Center supports efforts to obtain information and to help governmental entities make the information available.

A challenge many people face when requesting public documents is knowing from whom to get the information.

Barnett said the center encourages governments to use a gatekeeper to supply the information.

Hawley said he encourages citizens to contact him and other public information officers. While they may not manage the records, they can direct people to the correct office.

The panel also discussed what is and isn’t reasonable when making a records request from government employees.

State law says individuals don’t have to provide their names or give a reason for making a records request.

Romary said in his experience most people ask a person’s name because it’s considered polite. Hawley said he’ll ask why a person is making a request because he may be able to provide information the person didn’t think about requesting.

Barnett said gatekeepers need to frame the questions in those contexts and not make it a requirement for releasing information.
Edward Johnson with Campbell University’s Department of Communication discussed the results of a study he did on the responsiveness of county officials to requests for public records.

Johnson’s students asked county and school officials across North Carolina to supply documents about public school building projects. Johnson said the students wanted to see if there was a pattern to why some public officials made records available and others did not.

The result was 26 counties sent all the requested information, 41 sent some documents, 25 responded but sent no information, and seven failed to do anything, Johnson said. He didn’t specify the counties.

One county was excluded from the data because of an information glitch.

No discernible pattern was identified, he said. The size or the demographics of county didn’t determine which ones complied, he said.

Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@reflector.com or 252-329-9570.
Editorial: ECU, Greenville appreciate military
Friday, November 4, 2011

A prominent but reflective portion of the East Carolina University campus pays tribute to those students who lost their lives in defense of the nation. Dedicated last year, the Memorial Walk and Freedom Wall stands next to the Victory Bell and offers students, faculty and staff a reminder of the sacrifice required to protect this nation and keep it free.

The university will lead this community in a celebration of those who bravely serve as part of the annual Military Appreciation Weekend festivities, culminating in the Pirates football game on Saturday against Southern Miss. It may be one small gesture to show gratitude, but even those moments are so important to show those in uniform a measure of respect and concern for what they do.

Welcoming those in the armed forces is nothing new to Greenville. As the hub of eastern North Carolina, the city draws the young men and women from the six military facilities located in this region. They come for the same reason as other visitors, for entertainment, restaurants, culture and shopping, as well as to enjoy a little time away from the rigorous, and often stressful, demands of military life.

The service academies or places like Virginia Tech and Texas A&M that boast civilian and military populations may have stronger ties to the armed
forces than does East Carolina. Yet, those who participate in the on-campus ROTC programs speak with pride about their experience on campus. The school offers its exceptional online education classes to soldiers at Fort Bragg so they can work toward a degree while wearing the uniform.

And there is, of course, the sacrifices made by countless East Carolina students and alumni as members of the military. The Memorial Walk and Freedom Wall pays tribute to the fallen, but also means to honor all those whose time in uniform was conducted with distinction and valor. This weekend is an extension of that effort, showing those who serve that this university and this community deeply appreciate their selfless acts in defense of this nation.

The conflict in Libya is over. The war in Iraq may be winding down. And the battle for Afghanistan rages on. These may not dominate the headlines as they once did, but in each theater are the brave men and women of this country — of East Carolina University. Pay them tribute this weekend. They have more than earned it.
Letter: City election affects ECU students
Friday, November 4, 2011

Since 2007, I have been a student at East Carolina University who has grown to deeply love everything about this community.

During my time involved on campus, now serving as student body president, I have had many interactions with the Greenville City Council. While we have always enjoyed an open dialogue about the issues, ultimately the decisions that have been made by the council in recent years have been to the detriment of our student body.

We stand at a crossroad in the community, choosing between staying the course on many policies, such as the 500-foot downtown club separation ordinance for example, and choosing to find out if the grass may actually be greener on the other side this election season.

In the immortal words of Bob Dylan, “The times, they are a-changin’.” The issues of today require a person with a unique perspective who can push this community forward, bringing together ECU’s administration, the city of Greenville and the student body.

I believe Allen Thomas can be that leader we are seeking to guide us into what looks to be a potential period of vast expansion for both ECU and Greenville. We students need a voice on City Council who will advocate for realistic policy initiatives that better integrate the students into the community.

We cannot collectively move forward without a leader who can bring all constituencies together in support of citywide goals such as revitalizing downtown or discussing future growth that is good for both the community and the university.

No matter who you support, I encourage all students to get active and engaged in this election and cast your vote on Nov. 8th.
We are impacted by these decisions just like everyone else in Greenville, so let’s stand up and start contributing to the discussion.

JOSH MARTINKOVIC

SGA President
East Carolina University
Warrant issued in rickshaw robbery
Friday, November 4, 2011

The Greenville Police Department has obtained arrest warrants against an 18-year-old male in the Oct. 15 robbery and shooting of a rickshaw taxi driver.

Police charged Marcus Jamel Harris of Greenville in connection with the attack on Damien Lovett, an employee of Peddling Pirates, the department reported Thursday.

Detectives believe Harris and another man attempted to rob Lovett as he was operating his bicycle-rickshaw at 1:40 a.m. on Johnston Street, the release said. They believe Harris shot Lovett through the legs a short time later when Lovett returned to his employer’s garage on Rotary Street.

Harris is charged with one count each of robbery with a dangerous weapon, assault by pointing a gun and possession of a firearm by felon. He remained at large Thursday night.

Additional charges against Harris and a second suspect are possible, the release said.

Lovett, 33, was peddling alone past City Market when two men flagged him down, his boss, Martin Tanski, said at the time.
One of the men rummaged through a pack on the handlebars, but there was nothing of value in it, Tanski said. They asked for Lovett’s cellphone and money, struck him and wrestled him to the ground, Tanski said.

Lovett managed to get back on the bike and peddle two blocks to the business headquarters at Rotary Avenue and East Third Street, Tanski said.

While he was talking to Tanski and another rickshaw driver, several shots were fired toward the men from a white pickup, Tanski said.

Anyone with information is asked to call the police at 329-4315, or Pitt-Greenville CrimeStoppers at 758-7777.
Few performers have had careers like Ben Vereen. He’s an actor, dancer, singer and appeared in numerous Broadway shows. He’s in the process of creating a new Broadway show that will be staged in the spring of 2012.

Vereen will use his performance at 8 p.m. today in Wright Auditorium, “An Evening with Ben Vereen,” as a way of honing the upcoming Broadway production with the working title of “Stepping Out on Broadway.” Vereen’s local show is part of East Carolina University’s S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series.

“I’m bringing fabulous musicians David Loeb, Marc Dicciani-Drummer, Tom Kennedy and Aaron Vereen and giving a retrospect of my life in theater,” Vereen said from his car in Los Angeles.

The retrospective will include singing, dancing and story telling about the people Vereen has worked with throughout his more than 40 years in show business, which include Sammy Davis Jr., Bob Fosse, Martha Graham and George Balanchine. He seeks feedback from his audience to create a show that everyone will enjoy.

“The audience is very much as part of my show. It’s not about my ego getting out. I design all my shows for my people,” he said.
While Vereen is in North Carolina, he’ll teach a master class at ECU.

“I love doing that. I’m creating a yearly program for young people to come and get lessons in acting, singing, dancing and life. I believe it isn’t about acting, singing and dancing. It’s about life choices,” he said.

Vereen was nominated for a Tony Award for “Jesus Christ Superstar” in 1972 and won a Tony for his appearance in “Pippin” in 1973. Vereen appeared in the Broadway musical “Wicked” as the Wizard of Oz in 2005. Vereen has also performed in one-man shows and actively lectures on black history and inspirational topics.

He was the first simultaneous winner of the “Entertainer of the Year,” “Rising Star” and “Song and Dance Star” awards from the American Guild of Variety Artists (AGVA). He also earned a coveted spot in the Casino Legends Hall of Fame.

“This is not about a job, this is about a continuing learning processing. I love my business,” Vereen said.

In addition to performing, Vereen donates his time to a variety of organizations, including Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, the Red Cross and his ongoing diabetes awareness campaign called “S.T.A.N.D.” He was diagnosed as a Type 2 diabetic in 2006. Since then, Vereen has sought to teach others that diabetes is a manageable disease.

“I didn’t know what was going on. I started getting tired, going to the rest room all the time,” he said. “When I found out I was diabetic, I panicked.”

Since his diagnosis, he’s become a diabetes educator, helping others learn that they can live with and manage the disease.

On Sept. 11, 2001, Vereen watched from his New York apartment window as the World Trade Center’s Twin Towers fell to the ground.

For three weeks following the event Vereen was at Ground Zero, assisting with the Red Cross in whatever way they needed.
“I saw the whole thing happen. That was my view and I wanted to do what I could to help,” he said. “It was a tough time. We still feel the pain of that day.”

Contact Kelley Kirk at 329-9596 or kkirk@reflector.com.

If you Go!

**What:** “An Evening with Ben Vereen”  
**When:** 8 p.m. today  
**Where:** Wright Auditorium  
**Cost:** $10-$35  
**Call:** 328-4788
East Carolina and Southern Miss have met in football every year since 1983. The programs were fledgling independents when the rivalry was born, regional universities scuffling to become established in Division I-A. Both found their way to Conference USA in the mid-'90s and the rivalry matured. Greenville and Hattiesburg have often been pivotal stops on the march to the East Division crown.

This season is no different.

The Pirates and Golden Eagles are both streaking. The winner Saturday afternoon at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium will seize the East lead and control the race with three regular-season games remaining.

ECU coach Ruffin McNeill understands the history of the rivalry. He split two games against Southern Miss when he played defensive back for the Pirates in the 1970s, describing those battles as "hot and heavy, but fun." He guided ECU to a wild 44-43 victory over the Golden Eagles last season in Hattiesburg.

"These two programs are similar, and have been ever since I was playing here. There are similar modes, young men from within the state playing for the team," McNeill said earlier this week.

"It has been a tough series year in and year out. Last year was a head-banging game down there. We know we'll have another one of those this season here. It'll be a very physical football game. We know we have a lot of things at stake in this game, just like they do."

Southern Miss, which leads the series 26-10, has 31 in-state players and also dips into talent-rich Alabama and Louisiana to stock its roster. The Pirates have 45 players from North Carolina, as McNeill's staff aims to gobble up every recruit – overlooked and otherwise – who hails from the eastern part of the state.

Behind a balanced offensive attack, Southern Miss has won five in a row and is favored by more than a touchdown to win this game. The Golden Eagles have won 15 of 18 in Greenville, despite dropping the past two
meetings. On Thanksgiving weekend 2009, ECU defensive lineman C.J. Wilson blocked an extra point attempt and bounded 90 yards for the decisive two points. That division-clinching rumble will live forever in the minds of the Pirates faithful.

Looking at this matchup, McNeill praised these Golden Eagles for their speed on offense and defense and the poise of veteran quarterback Austin Davis.

ECU quarterback Dominique Davis, on fire of late, will be challenged by Southern Miss' unique 4-2-5 defense.

"They pose problems because you have to be able to read it," McNeill said. "They can play different coverages on different sides. They do some neat things defensively. They can jump from man to zone concepts with the same personnel. They are well-schooled. The corners and safeties are very good at disguising."

The table could be set for another classic.

Brian Mull: 343-2034
On Twitter: @BGMull
In the aftermath of record state budget cuts, North Carolina's public universities are bracing for an angst-ridden debate over tuition increases this year - with some large hikes under consideration.

A tuition advisory group at UNC-Chapel Hill will gather in a few weeks to vote on a recommendation to raise tuition and fees by as much as $2,800 for in-state undergraduates - an increase of nearly 40 percent if enacted in one year. Recognizing that such an increase might not be palatable, the panel will consider whether it should be spread out over two, three or maybe four years, Provost Bruce Carney said.

"That's such an enormous bite on the students," Carney said. "I personally can't see doing it all in one year, or maybe even two."

At N.C. Central University, students met for several hours Wednesday to discuss the issue, but campus leaders have not settled on a tuition number yet.

N.C. State University's advisory group has endorsed a plan to raise tuition by $330 for in-state undergraduates, a 6.4 percent increase, and $660 for graduate and out-of-state students. But Provost Warwick Arden said the university may consider a larger increase if UNC system leaders give the green light.

Any tuition plan would have to be approved by an individual campus's Board of Trustees, the UNC system's Board of Governors, and ultimately the state legislature.

For the past few years, the UNC system has instituted a 6.5 percent cap on both tuition and fee increases at the public universities. In a memo to campus leaders in October, the UNC system issued guidelines for next year's tuition requests, reiterating the 6.5 percent cap.

But the guidelines also said campuses could consider one-time adjustments to "catch up" to the tuition levels at public peer universities across the nation.

'A delicate dynamic'
While still in the discussion stages, the possible increase at UNC-CH, which touts itself as the perennial leader on the "best value" college rankings, is prompting talk of protests and petitions. "There's a lot of anger and frustration," said Vishalee Patel, a sophomore from Charlotte who is a pre-med student.

UNC-CH's tuition is the second lowest among 10 public peer universities. And even if the university raises tuition and fees by $2,800, it would still be in the bottom quarter on the list.

U.S. public universities, which have seen their budgets slashed by state legislatures, are passing along bigger bills to students. Data released last week by the College Board show tuition rising more rapidly at public universities than at private ones.

In 2011-2012, average tuition and fees jumped 8.3 percent to $8,244 annually for in-state students at public campuses in the United States. The increase was 4.5 percent at private universities, which average $28,500 annually for tuition and fees. Tuition covers only a portion of higher education costs; students typically pay thousands of dollars more for rooms, meals and books.

Carney said the university must take steps to increase tuition after several years of state budget reductions, including a cut of 17.9 percent this year.

Students are noticing the impact, including bigger classes, fewer academic offerings and reduced library hours. "We've got to do something pronto, to cover our students' course section needs, faculty salaries, and make a move to help restore the size of classes and other things," Carney said. "We've been such an incredible deal for so long, and as long as the state has supplied us with the level of support they have, we've been OK. But when they take $100 million away from us, we face big holes."

Arden said his campus has suffered similar impacts from a state budget cut of $80 million. "There's a delicate dynamic here," Arden said. "What we don't want to do is unnecessarily burden the students in this process. On the other side of the coin, we are incredibly low compared with our peers in terms of the cost of a world class education here, and we want to maintain that quality and that standard."

Protests foreseen
Campus protests over tuition are nothing new. Students, feeling empowered by the Occupy Wall Street movement, are likely to respond to proposals for large tuition increases.

"I expect that some students will be very upset and will make it plainly obvious to us," Carney said. "But a number of students understand the need. They understand the value of their degree here. It's what brought them here."

Patel said it will be important for the administration to open the lines of communication with students and hear their views.

"Right now, it's just an unsettling feeling because some students don't know if they're going to even be able to come back next year," Patel said. "It's just a scary time."

Stancill: 919-829-4559

**UNC-CH vs. its peers**

UNC-Chapel Hill’s tuition and fees in 2011-12 are lower than the rates at many of its public peer campuses across the nation. The annual rates below are for in-state undergraduates.

- University of Pittsburgh $16,132
- University of Michigan $13,437
- University of Minnesota $13,060
- University of California-Berkeley $12,834
- University of California-Los Angeles $12,686
- University of Virginia $11,794
- University of Washington $10,574
- University of Texas $9,816
- University of Wisconsin $9,672
- University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill $7,009
- University of Florida $5,700
Even by the standards of the often-heated rivalry between UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State, Thursday was an eye-popper.

N.C. State coach Tom O'Brien became so angry that he was shaking after hearing UNC interim coach Everett Withers' comments about N.C. State's academics, responding that UNC had committed a "triple play" of NCAA violations.

UNC-Chapel Hill chancellor Holden Thorp and N.C. State chancellor Randy Woodson exchanged apologies.

And Withers tried to explain his original remarks. He said Thursday he was merely trying to express his pride in UNC and wasn't talking about N.C. State when he compared graduation rates and said there's a "difference" in the schools' academic environments during a taped interview that aired Wednesday.

North Carolina (6-3, 2-3 ACC) will visit N.C. State (4-4, 1-3) at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, with the Tar Heels trying to win after losing the last four matchups.

Withers started the controversy with comments on 99.9 The Fan radio that aired Wednesday night. He took jabs at N.C. State's academics and said recruits in the state need to know that UNC is the flagship university in North Carolina.

Visibly furious, O'Brien responded Thursday morning when he was told about Withers' original comments. O'Brien referred to UNC officials' Oct. 28 trip to Indianapolis to appear in front of the Committee on Infractions to answer charges of nine major violations in an ongoing NCAA investigation of impermissible benefits and academic fraud.

"Here is a guy that's on a football staff that ends up in Indianapolis," O'Brien said at his regularly scheduled post-practice media session. "...If you take three things that you can't do in college football, you have an agent on your staff. You're paying your players. And you have academic fraud. That's a triple play as far as the NCAA goes. So I don't know that he has anything to talk about or they have anything to talk about. If that's what people want in their flagship university in North Carolina, then so be it."
O'Brien was asked what he meant by "paying your players." He indicated that he was referring to the impermissible benefits players received.

"They had players accepting money from somebody," O'Brien said. "I mean, money is being given from someone to somebody, that's been documented, right? I don't know how it got there. Maybe I'm wrong saying that. But those are no-nos as far as the NCAA goes."

Thorp apparently tried to smooth things over between the schools by reaching out to Woodson. Thorp called and left Woodson a message, and the two spoke later, according to UNC spokeswoman Nancy Davis.

"Chancellor Thorp apologized, and they had a good conversation," Davis said in an e-mail.

"They're good friends, and they respect each other and their institutions."

N.C. State spokesman Keith Nichols confirmed that the chancellors exchanged apologies. "Holden and I have a great relationship," Woodson said in a statement emailed by Nichols.

"We talked this morning, exchanged apologies and we're moving on."

**Withers' explanation**

Withers addressed his controversial radio remarks Thursday.

"My statement didn't have anything to do with really North Carolina State's academics," Withers said Thursday afternoon. "It's about my pride in the University of North Carolina, what our faculty and our administration have done here, and I have a lot of pride for what this school stands for academically. That's part of the whole student-athlete experience."

Withers, a lifelong UNC fan, has spoken passionately about his appreciation for the rivalry this week. In the radio interview, he said recruits need to look at UNC's graduation rates for football players compared to N.C. State's. "You'll see a difference," Withers said. ". . .If you look at the educational environment here, I think you'll see a difference."

According to data provided by the NCAA, UNC's football team had a graduation success rate of 75 percent for the freshman class of 2004, compared to 56 percent for N.C. State.

UNC's federal graduation rate, which does not count transfers or players who left early, was 58 percent compared to 50 percent for N.C. State.
UNC's NCAA troubles

UNC's academic reputation has been under fire, though, as a result of the NCAA investigation. Tutor Jennifer Wiley provided inappropriate academic assistance to multiple players, and former defensive lineman Michael McAdoo was found to have committed plagiarism that wasn't caught by UNC officials.

UNC also is investigating irregularities in the school's African and Afro-American Studies program that came to light after McAdoo's plagiarism was exposed. UNC officials still have not been able to produce a syllabus for McAdoo's class and others taught by Julius Nyang'oro, who surrendered his African and Afro-American Studies program chairmanship in September.

O'Brien said N.C. State's graduation rate is improving and applauded the school's academic-support program for athletes for getting certified in 2010 by the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics.

"At our school, A-number one, all classes have a syllabus," O'Brien said. "Our guys go to school. They're not given grades, and they graduate. It's a little tougher here, if you have to go to school and you're expected to have a syllabus and go to class. So I think all our guys earn everything they get here. Certainly our graduates earn everything at this university."

On Thursday, Withers said he had talked to UNC athletic director Dick Baddour about his original comments, but again said his only intent was to express pride in UNC.

Staff writer Caulton Tudor contributed to this story.

Tysiac: 919-829-8942

True or false?

UNC interim coach Everett Withers and N.C. State coach Tom O'Brien traded barbs about each other's schools this week. Here is what they said and whether it was true.

1 UNC interim coach Everett Withers: "'When you have as many schools in this state as we have, and the recruiting base gets watered down a bit, I think the kids in this state need to know the flagship school in this state. They need to know it academically. If you look at our graduation rates, as opposed to our opponent's this week, graduation rates for athletics, for football, you'll see a difference.'"
**True with regard to the graduation rates.** UNC’s football team had a graduation success rate of 75 percent for the freshman class of 2004, compared to 56 percent for N.C. State. North Carolina’s federal graduation rate, which does not count transfers or players who left early, was 58 percent compared to 50 percent for N.C. State.

**2 N.C. State coach Tom O’Brien:** "If you take three things that you can't do in college football, you have an agent on your staff. You're paying your players. And you have academic fraud. That's a triple play as far as the NCAA goes. So I don't know that he has anything to talk about or they have anything to talk about. If that's what people want in their flagship university in North Carolina, then so be it."

**Mostly true.** The NCAA has accused former UNC associate head coach John Blake of working while he was with the Tar Heels for the late sports agent Gary Wichard. UNC has admitted academic fraud in the NCAA investigation. UNC has not been accused of paying players, but O'Brien later clarified his comments to say players were receiving impermissible payments from somebody, which is true.
Now it's a game

Perhaps interim UNC-Chapel Hill football coach Everett Withers was just trying to stir things up, or maybe he wanted to show the Tar Heel faithful that he takes the rivalry with N.C. State (the big game is Saturday) seriously. Some thought the departed Butch Davis didn't, which is why he lost to the Wolfpack four years in a row.

Radio shows sometimes can be dangerous, and on a recent one Withers earned a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct. He basically said that the UNC-CH football team graduation rate was better than N.C. State's (it is) and also said, "If you look at the educational environment here, I think you'll see a difference." Uh, oh. That was a needless shot, uncalled-for.

Yesterday, NCSU Coach Tom O'Brien gave better than he got, referring to the academic misconduct problems and possible NCAA penalties from Davis' tenure. He used the term "academic fraud" in reference to allegations that some players got easy rides from a professor. He said his players "earn everything they get here."

Of the two coaches' comments, O'Brien's were, ironically enough, more withering. UNC-CH Chancellor Holden Thorp did apologize yesterday afternoon, to NCSU Chancellor Randy Woodson.

Coaches and individual athletes do this "gamesmanship" business all the time, and if it's a whimsical back-and-forth about which team is better and the like, it's OK if it doesn't go too far. But it's bad form for a head coach to indulge in the kind of baiting behavior Withers exhibited, especially with his program in such an awkward position.

However, it may now be said that with his comeback, O'Brien has delivered punishment enough.
WINSTON-SALEM The UNC School of the Arts has paid $100,000 to a woman who sued the school, alleging it was negligent in hiring a former assistant police chief who she said showed her nude photos and touched her inappropriately.

The woman sued the school and the UNC system in February with the N.C. Industrial Commission. State law prohibits anyone from suing a state agency in court.

The suit alleged that on Aug. 14, 2009, Walter Lee Faye, then an assistant police chief at the school, showed the woman, who also worked at the school, nude photos of himself on his cellphone and forcibly touched her in a sexual way.

Faye could not be reached for comment.

The UNC School of the Arts did not admit any liability, and the parties have settled all claims, said Marla Carpenter, a spokeswoman for the school. She said she could not comment further.

Caitlyn Thomson, the woman's attorney, said no amount of money will fully compensate the woman for what she experienced, but the woman is relieved the matter is resolved.

"She's also smart and resilient, and a young person with a bright future," Thomson said. "Being able to put this behind her and try to move forward with her life is of significant value."

Faye, who lived in Tobaccoville at the time, was convicted in May 2010 of misdemeanor sexual battery and received a suspended 30-day jail sentence. He also is required to register as a sex offender for 30 years. He lives in Huntersville, according to an online search of North Carolina's sex offender registry.

The lawsuit specifically named Joseph Dickson, the school's former vice chancellor for finance and administration; Deb Cheesbro, the school's police chief; Faye; and Julie Risher, the school's general counsel.

The suit said Dickson was on the board of Bishop McGuinness Catholic High School when Faye was accused of sexually assaulting a student. Faye was fired in 2001 after the allegation was made.