Streaker stripped of visitation rights
By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector
Tuesday, November 8, 2011

A man who streaked during the halftime ceremony at ECU’s football game will be banned from university property and future events, the campus police chief said Monday.

Chief Scott Shelton said the department will issue the “lifetime trespass warning” against John D. Sieglinger, 21, of Raleigh. Sieglinger was arrested Saturday and charged with indecent exposure and first-degree misdemeanor trespass after he ran naked onto the field during ceremonies honoring the service of military men and women.

Sieglinger is not an ECU student, the university reported Monday. A Facebook page under his name said he graduated from Sanderson High School and attended Wake Technical Community College.

“The university deeply regrets the disrespectful behavior that occurred during halftime,” Chancellor Steve Ballard said in a statement. “ECU is justly proud of the dedication and leadership of our military men and women, and to have events that honored them disrupted this way was unfortunate.”

YouTube videos posted after the game against the University of Southern Mississippi show Sieglinger hopping walls in the student section and running onto the field.

The man streaked through the east end zone, did a cartwheel at the 40-yard line, danced across the 50-yard line and had turned to head back before he was tackled, according to witnesses.
“When he came out of the stadium seating to run onto the field, he was more than 50 yards from where he was seen earlier,” Shelton said. “His intent and plans to avoid security and staffing personnel were clear.”

Athletics staff and campus officers captured Sieglinger on the field, according to the police incident report and witnesses.

He was transported by a Greenville Police Department van to the Pitt County Detention Center, where he was booked and held on $1,500 bond, the report indicated.

Sieglinger told police he “woke up Saturday morning and had the idea he was going to ‘streak’ at the ECU football game,” Shelton said.

With bond money collected ahead of time, he carried through with his plan, Shelton said. He is scheduled for a Dec. 5 court appearance.

The university has a multi-level security plan for each football game, Shelton said, including stadium entrance, grounds safety, surveillance and response and Bagwell Field security.

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Five years ago, at the behest of then-University of North Carolina president Erskine Bowles, the UNC Board of Governors capped annual tuition increases for the 16 UNC campuses at 6.5 percent.

That cap, already massaged upward in the ensuing years, came during a decade when the U.S. inflation rate never exceeded 4 percent.

It came as college students graduated with rising amounts of college loan debt.

In 2010, college loan debt rose again, an average of 5 percent, with the average graduate taking on $25,250 of debt.

In North Carolina, college graduates left school with an average of $20,959 in college loan debt in 2010, according to the Project on Student Debt.

But 47 percent of college students in the state were able to graduate without any debt, meaning that the amount is typically higher — often double — for those who graduate with debt.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for recent college graduates is 9.1 percent. The figure doesn’t reflect how many of those recent college graduates are working as bartenders and waitresses.
Despite the picture that these figures paint, some officials at North Carolina’s public universities want the 6.5 percent cap to go away.

At the time that it was put in place, Bowles explained that the cap would bring more price certainty for students and their parents. What’s changed? Certainly not the economy or the job market. No, university officials appear bent on another round of tuition hikes far in excess of inflation because of state legislators’ cuts to the university budget.

A tuition advisory group at UNC-Chapel Hill is considering a recommendation to raise tuition and fees by up to $2,800 for in-state undergraduates, an increase of 40 percent. (If any members of the advisory group are UNC system graduates and over 40, they probably paid less for tuition and fees than the amount of the proposed increase.)

New UNC system president Tom Ross and the current UNC General Administration encouraged such proposals by telling campus administrators that they could consider one-time adjustments to catch up to “peer universities.”

Lost in the talk of “peers” is that the bigger UNC schools include a private university among their peers. Duke and Vanderbilt are not the peers of and do not have the same missions as UNC system schools, no matter the big dreams of school administrators.

Some of those peer universities also don’t have to worry about a little proviso in the North Carolina constitution which requires that UNC tuition be “as free as practicable.”

Setting aside peers and constitutional provisions, university officials should take a serious look at what they are doing to their students by loading them down with mountains of debt.

No wonder commodities traders in Chicago post a sign from their office tower reading, “We Are the 1%.” No wonder the brightest have no interest in teaching.

The message coming from our universities is plain: Get yours when you can. We are.

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The low-down

Raising public university tuition to make up for budget cuts is a bad idea on several counts, including timing.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and many of its sister institutions in the UNC system can point to other "peer" universities around the country (those with which they compare in size and quality) and with regard to tuition and fees, say, "We're low. Way low. Cheap. Maybe too cheap."

And you know what? They're right. Higher education is a bargain in North Carolina, at the public institutions which so many young people attend.

So why is there resistance on many levels to proposals to raise tuition, almost every time the subject comes up?

First, the state constitution mandates inexpensive access to colleges and universities.

Second, the state's leaders always have seen accessible higher education as a dividend-producer. Graduates stay in North Carolina, raise the quality level of the workforce, and contribute their skills in science and medicine and law and the arts and business to their home state.

Third, the state still has many lower-income people who share a common goal: to get their kids a good education, a better and easier life than they had. Thus, helping them attain for their kids that goal of a college education and all that comes with it and after it is a dream the state has wanted to nurture.

In the middle

Fourth (and the list could go on), despite financial aid programs that can be ample, private higher education is priced out of the reach of many; their hope lies in a public university. That applies especially to children of middle-class backgrounds, who may not qualify for much financial aid and whose families increasingly find college expenses a strain.

But universities say, again not without good reason: How are we supposed to meet expenses, to grow, to pay faculty? It's on their minds now, with the General Assembly having cut, for one example, $100 million from UNC-
Chapel Hill. Other UNC system schools have taken hits as well. In response, some administrators and trustees look toward raising tuition and fees. And there's talk that the increases could be substantial.

However, with the state unemployment rate running at 10.5 percent, with hundreds of thousands of families having to cut back because of stagnant or declining wages and with thousands of layoffs of state employees, the university should avoid tuition and fee hikes now. Yes, it's easy to say. But the timing could not be worse.

**Where is it?**

So where might this money be found? By cutting expenses that seem reasonable in good times but may not be so in these times: costly outside "searches" for deans and other senior personnel, travel to conferences that might be accessed via computers, cutbacks in unoccupied middle-level administrative jobs which exploded in the fat times of the last couple of decades (associate vice chancellors, assistant vice provosts), and yes, some just plain cutbacks.

Will students feel it in the classroom? To some degree they will, particularly at the smaller institutions where the academic bureaucracies are not so large. But consider the pain felt by regular public school students, crowded 30 or more to a classroom. Or consider public school teachers, who are going into their own pockets for simple supplies. Or state agencies, where inspectors are doubling up duties thanks to layoffs.

Virtually everyone, particularly those working people in the middle class, feels some pain in these hard times. Universities and their employees (including those professors with guaranteed employment, or "tenure") cannot expect to be exempted. And to place another burden on students would be the worst alternative possible for new revenue.
Pitt County commissioners on Monday said they are frustrated that the local ABC Board, despite increased first quarter sales, sent less revenue to the county compared to the same period last year.

Pitt County’s Board of Commissioners and ABC Board have been locked in a dispute since the spring about revenue payments ABC is required to give the county.

The commissioners want ABC to give $1.1 million to the county, an amount similar to payments made in previous years.

ABC officials say new state budgeting requirements prevent the agency from committing to that amount.

The ABC Board said this spring it could only guarantee $408,000 in revenue would go to the county, which comes from taxes dedicated to the county. The Pitt County ABC Board will do its best to meet the $1.1 million goal, ABC Administrator Teresa Campbell said.

The first-quarter sales for fiscal year 2011-12 were $279,583 higher than the same period in fiscal year 2010-11. Campbell attributed the increase to East Carolina University’s home games in September.

ABC’s first-quarter payments to the county were $103,933, which is $233,272 less than the payment made in fiscal year 2010-11.
That change didn’t sit well with the commissioners.

“We have been working together, discussing this issue for some time,” Commissioner Jimmy Garris said. “It appears to me the operating philosophy of your organization has changed over the last several years.”

Campbell said the ABC Board needed about $200,000 from its first-quarter sales to purchase inventory for the upcoming holiday season.

Under questioning from Commissioner Beth Ward, Campbell said the board had more than $1 million in working capital on hand that it could have used to purchase the holiday inventory.

It appears the ABC Board has other priorities, Commissioner Glen Webb said.

“It seems to me the (ABC) board has become antagonistic toward this board,” Webb said. “I think the (ABC board’s) goal isn’t to make a payment in the county but to build a new store.”

Campbell said the ABC Board has set aside its plans to purchase land and construct a new store. It also has halted plans for renovations to its existing stores.

Other action taken by the board included:
- A split vote on a request to approve a priority list of highway projects for the Greenville Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The organization, which is made up of representatives from Greenville, Winterville, Ayden, Simpson and the unincorporated areas of Pitt County, identifies transportation priorities for the area.

The state Department of Transportation changed its system for setting project priorities, having groups assign points to projects.

Staff asked the commissioners if they wanted to assign points to a project to build a bridge across the Tar River which would connect U.S. 264 and N.C. 33.
Commissioner Tom Johnson, who is the county’s representative on the MPO, asked that the board delay the vote and perhaps call a special meeting to discuss the issue. Johnson said he believes the other proposal before the commissioners favored municipalities over the unincorporated areas.

Other commissioners said the bridge project was what unincorporated Pitt County needed and had the support of municipalities. When the vote was taken Johnson, along with Commissioners David Hammond and Ephraigm Smith, voted against the proposal. Commissioners Glen Webb, Jimmy Garris, Beth Ward, Mark Owens Jr. and Melvin McLawhorn voted for the change.

- The board unanimously approved the renting of 2,408 square feet in the county’s Technology Enterprise Center on North Greene Street to East Carolina University.

ECU researchers need the space to outfit a lab being used to study the results of blast injuries from improvised explosive devices.

The county’s Industrial Development Commission will spend $51,725 to upfit the space for the lab. The university will pay $32,508 annually over the next three years to rent the space.

- Commissioners unanimously approved the county’s zoning ordinance text to add “halfway house” to the table of permitted uses.

- Staff reported the boundary lines for several county fire districts were being reconfigured as part of its plan to switch its method for funding figure services in the county.

The county wants to establish fire service districts that would levy a fire tax on all property owners in the districts. Currently, only people with property within five miles of a fire house pay the tax. The county made that a policy years ago because only people in incorporated areas who lived near fire station received insurance breaks.

Staff discovered that among its 20 fire districts there are 129 properties located closer to a fire station than the one they are assigned, County Manager Scott Elliott said. Reassigning these properties could reduce the insurance premiums of the owners, he said.
New Hanover High School band student to play in Macy’s Parade

By Larry Sackett, StarNews Correspondent

On Thanksgiving Day, 14-year-old New Hanover High School freshman Thomas Lee will represent North Carolina in the 85th Macy’s Day Parade in New York City.

Thomas, who has been playing the French horn for three and a half years, is among 185 students from across the nation selected to perform in Macy’s Great American Marching Band. Students are selected from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia based on their musical ability and achievements.

“I think it’s amazing,” Thomas said. “I didn’t really expect it.”

It will be his first visit to New York City. His mother, Ann Cavileer, and older brother Zach, 15, are going with him.

“This is such an amazing opportunity for Thomas,” his mother said. Thomas also has two younger sisters.
Thomas is a member of New Hanover High School’s marching and concert bands, and was selected in 2010 to join the North Carolina All-State Band after winning a top chair in the Eastern All District Band.

He won scholarships to attend East Carolina University’s summer band camp the last two years.

Thomas started playing trumpet in sixth grade, but switched to the French horn at a teacher’s suggestion. He plans to attend East Carolina University and play in the university’s symphonic band.

“My goal is to be a high school band director and teach music,” he said.

Ray McCoy, director of bands at New Hanover High School, has been teaching for 23 years.

“Thomas is one of the four or five best freshman musicians I’ve seen,” he said. “He’s humble, works very hard and takes instruction well.”

The 185 Macy’s band members will go to New York City on Nov. 19 and rehearse under the direction of Auburn University Director of Bands Richard Good and John Woods of Ohio State University.

It won’t all be practice, however, as Macy’s will take the musicians sightseeing and to a Broadway play.

Macy’s Parade organizers estimate that 2.5 million people will watch the parade along its two miles from Central Park to Macy’s Herald Square at 34th Street and Seventh Avenue. More than 50 million viewers are expected to see the parade on television.

Wesley Whatley, creative director of Macy’s Parade and Entertainment Division, said the company invites 10 to 12 bands each year to participate in the Thanksgiving Day Parade, in addition to its own marching band, in which Thomas is performing.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity for these music students to share the experience of the parade and New York City, “Whatley said.
Wisdom from five UNC presidents

Forty years after the creation of the 16-campus UNC system, the five living presidents will join together this week for a conversation about leading the state's public universities.

The free, public event is Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Memorial Hall on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus.

Former Gov. Jim Holshouser will lead the discussion. Joining will be emeriti presidents William Friday (1956-86), C.D. Spangler, Jr. (1986-97), Molly Corbett Broad (1997-2005), and Erskine Bowles (2006-2010), as well as current President Tom Ross, who took the reins this year.

The UNC system has a long and storied history, starting with the charter of the Chapel Hill campus in 1789. In 1931, the legislature expanded the University of North Carolina by adding two other campuses — N.C. State University and UNC Greensboro. By 1969, three more campuses joined: UNC Charlotte, UNC Asheville and UNC Wilmington.

The 1971 legislation brought North Carolina’s ten remaining public universities, which had until then been legally separate, into UNC on July 1, 1972. In 2007, the N.C. School of Science and Mathematics, a public residential high school, was added as the 17th institution.

The presidents will surely touch on the history of taxpayer support for UNC and the university's role as an economic engine for the state. And now that sizable tuition increases are on the table in Chapel Hill, expect to hear some mention of Article IX, Section 9 of the state constitution. That's the provision mandating that North Carolina provide higher education to its people free of expense, "as far as practicable."
The Wilmington Star News

Published: Monday, Nov. 7, 2011 at 8:13 p.m.

Artist Terry Sellers Harrison, left, and 2012 NC Azalea Festival President Chuck Kays unveil the art for 2012 NC Azalea Festival at UNCW's Kenan House on Monday. Mike Spencer

UNCW study looks at Azalea Festival's economic impact on area

By Wayne Faulkner
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The 2011 North Carolina Azalea Festival had a total economic impact on Wilmington's economy of more than $50 million, according to a UNCW study released Monday.

More than $48 million of that was local and visitor spending, according to the study by a group of University of North Carolina Wilmington faculty members.

More than $1.6 million was spent directly or indirectly by the festival, and the value of 15,000 volunteer hours was put at $438,000.

It was the first study of how the festival benefits Wilmington economically. The study's lead author presented the report Monday night at UNCW's Kenan House, where Azalea Festival organizers also unveiled next year's festival painting to event supporters.

The economic impact study was conducted by associate dean of research Stephen Meinhold, economist William "Woody" Halland Jim Herstine and
Nancy Hritz of UNCW's School of Health and Applied Human Sciences. More than 2,000 festival attendees were interviewed as part of the research. The four faculty members volunteered their time, and there was no outside funding, Meinhold said.

The festival impact represented about 20 percent of Wilmington's total economic activity for festival week in April, he said. The vast majority – 93 percent – of people who attended the festival were local – from New Hanover, Brunswick and Pender counties, the study found. Seven percent were overnight visitors.

About 165,000 people attended the festival, Meinhold said. Average household spending by a local festivalgoer was $47, and the average overnight visitor spent $625, according to the study.

The study broke out the components of that $47, with food accounting for $20; entertainment, $12; retail and souvenirs, $10; transportation and gasoline, $4; and parking, $1.

Among overnight visitors' expenditures were $277 for accommodations and $123 in retail and souvenirs.

The study also broke out the most popular events, showing that 71 percent of local festivalgoers attended the street fair; 40 percent, the circus; 21 percent, the parade; 11 percent, the Avett Brothers; and 6 percent, Darius Rucker.

Among overnight visitors, 89 percent attended the street fair; 25 percent, the parade; 15 percent, the Avett Brothers; 12 percent, the circus; and 10 percent, the house tour.

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They call it “the match.” Every year, thousands of graduate students in clinical psychology pick the hospitals and clinics where they would like to do yearlong internships. They rank their choices. The internship programs also rank the applicants.

A computer algorithm then digests the lists in an attempt to link mutually desired applicants and programs. But in recent years the process has broken down: In psychology, there are simply not enough internships to go around.

The issue is on the minds of many graduate students in psychology right now, with the application season for next year’s internships in full swing. Last year, 937 students, or 24 percent of those who applied, were not accepted by any of the sites they had chosen — and students must complete internships to earn their degrees and venture out into the workplace.

“These results are unacceptable,” Melba J. T. Vasquez, the president of the American Psychological Association, wrote in April.

Students who do not match must hunt for unaccredited internships, positions that can hobble their careers. Almost half end up without an internship at all and must try again the next year. According to a 2007 study by researchers at the University of Texas, 44 percent of graduate students who did not match were not able to find a program placement, and many if not most of them had to put off graduation by a year.

“It means that there are people who are taking student loans and spending years in this training who could go out and provide a service to the public, and they’re stuck,” said Robert E. McGrath, director of the doctoral program in clinical psychology at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey.

In some smaller cities and towns, counseling programs for the elderly, the poor and children do not have enough intern psychologists to see all the patients who need treatment, even as a weak economy and high unemployment drive up demand for the programs’ services. The American Psychological Association recommends that students select a doctoral
program with high match rates. (Schools are required to publish them.) Nevertheless, even top students at highly regarded schools sometimes do not match because they did not include enough of the less competitive programs in their list or did not rank those programs highly enough to convince the admissions officers of their enthusiasm.

Joanna Wolfson was an A student “with distinction” at Fairleigh Dickinson, which, along with her essays, recommendations and unpaid clinical experience, made her a top prospect from a highly regarded graduate program. Nine internship programs called her in for interviews, and then she went through the match.

“By the terms of the internship, I felt very prepared,” Ms. Wolfson said. “I was applying with an application I was proud of.”

Yet she failed to find a match. “When it sunk in, I just felt it was the end of the world for 24 hours,” Ms. Wolfson said. “I went through all the emotions, being disappointed, being very upset, though in time I accepted it more.” She had to put off graduation by a year, hoping to gain more experience while working on her dissertation.

Psychology students who do not match endure a free-for-all known as “the scramble,” a high-speed process in which, over a few days, they reapply to programs with unfilled positions. In 2011, there were just 1,138 unfilled psychology internship positions in the country.

The problem stems from another kind of mismatch — between the number of students in the nation’s 373 psychology programs and the number of internship slots. The number of enrolled students is growing twice as fast as the number of internships.

“You can’t cram 4,100 students into 3,100 positions,” said Greg Keilin, the director of psychology training at the University of Texas and the coordinator of the national psychology matching program.

The problem has been mounting for years, with the number of unmatched applicants increasing 117 percent since 2002.

Several training directors say part of the problem is that schools, particularly in California and Florida, are composing entering classes of 50 to 75 students, even though enough nearby internships may not be available.

The imbalance is less severe in New York, where clinical psychology programs accept only a dozen or so new students every year. Cynthia D. Belar, the A.P.A.’s executive director for education, said graduate programs
could ameliorate the problem by authorizing their own internships, even if they’re not accredited.

Unaccredited internships can be high-quality programs, said Mitchell L. Schare, the director of clinical psychology at Hofstra University. Often the administrators of these programs simply do not want to go through the expense or long commitment of getting accredited by the A.P.A.

But many postdoctoral fellowships and university teaching positions, as well as jobs at veterans’ hospitals, are open only to psychologists trained in accredited internships.

Creating an internship can be expensive. A psychology intern who works 40 hours a week seeing both hospitalized patients and outpatients is paid a salary — $20,000 to $30,000 is the average in New York — and the psychologists who supervise them may lose face time with patients. In some states, including New York, hospitals cannot bill patients for visits to interns.

Susan M. Sussmann, the director of psychology education at NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia hospital, which has 10 internships a year, said her hospital had explored increasing internships. But, she added, “if it gets too big, we won’t give out stellar training.”

Still, the problem with the way the matching process works out, according to experts like Barry A. Farber, a professor of psychology and education at Teachers College at Columbia University, is that it weeds out “not just marginal students but terrific students.”

“How can these students not have matched?” he asked.