A rapper who performed at East Carolina University on Monday was arrested and charged with several marijuana violations, according to jail records.

Cameron Thomaz, 22, who performs under the stage name Wiz Kalifa, was charged with trafficking marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and maintaining a place for the sale of marijuana.

Thomaz performed Monday night at Minges auditorium and was arrested by East Carolina University police after the show. He was placed in Pitt County Detention Center about 1:40 Tuesday morning in lieu of a $300,000 bond.

Nine others also were booked into the jail about the same time facing the same charges. The men also were arrested by East Carolina University police. It's unclear if the arrests are related.

Marijuana use is a central theme in Thomaz' act.

More details will be posted as they become available.

His arrest was captured and place on You Tube by fans.
Rapper Wiz Khalifa arrested after NC concert

(AP) – 48 minutes ago

GREENVILLE, N.C. (AP) — Rapper Wiz Khalifa and 10 of his colleagues have been arrested on marijuana charges in North Carolina.

East Carolina University spokesman John Durham said Tuesday that police arrested the rapper, whose real name is Cameron Thomaz, shortly after a campus concert Monday night. Durham says officers had noticed a prevalent odor of marijuana around the backstage area.

Each of those arrested was charged with three drug counts, including maintaining a place for the sale of marijuana.

Officials at the Pitt County Detention Center said Pittsburgh-based Thomaz posted $300,000 bond Tuesday morning. His record company did not immediately return a message seeking comment, but Thomaz posted a message on Twitter saying, "jail sux."

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Members of ECU's Gospel Choir practice for an upcoming performance at the Howell Building last week. (Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector)

Gospel music is evolving praise
By Kristin Day
The Daily Reflector
Monday, November 8, 2010

Each Thursday evening, the Howell Science Complex experiences an eruption much different than any one might find in a lab. Thanks to the East Carolina University Gospel Choir, the building's main auditorium explodes in high decibels and vibrato, as dozens of students gather to prepare for their next performance.

Where 20 minutes previously the seats were filled with students dictating key points of a biology lecture, the first five rows of seats are filled with tenors, basses, altos and sopranos who follow the strict direction of their leader, Quentin Brandell Powell.

After a quick stretch and a few warm-up exercises one evening, the projection screens at each side of the room are illuminated with the words to a new song: “I Finy mahn bein Chy st Heizuhnukre cher.”

Powell remains at the front, somewhat appropriately dressed in a camouflage T-shirt reading “Waging War” as, with good humor and supreme professionalism, he directs his soldiers of song. He points out individuals and commands them to sing, checking their pitch as they learn the unfamiliar tune.

“You gotta have confidence,” Powell says to one timid crooner. “Whether this note is right or wrong, we're going to sing it.”

Then it's onto another round of choruses, and the listener hears the real lyrics in resounding harmonies: “If any man be in Christ, He is a new creature.”
“Pretty gooood,” director Powell sings back.

The “good” doesn't come without a lot of practice. Every Thursday from 6-9 p.m., members say they partake in these “intense” rehearsals. Shelia Tucker, co-adviser (with Tarrick Cox) for the ECU Gospel Choir, said she's only been working with them during the last semester, but has been impressed with the students' dedication. In September, when the heavy rains closed schools and roads throughout the county, Tucker said she naturally expected the choir to cancel practice. Instead, 55 members showed.

“I was totally stunned and taken back,” she said. Here, where churches are a stone's throw away from the next, the sung gospel is a steadfast tradition, even as it transforms into contemporary genres — even hard rock and rap — and choirs make way for emerging worship teams. Although not considered a religious organization, the ECU Gospel Choir maintains an institution sprung from the spirituals of the 18th century — a practice passed from parent to child through many generations.

“The church that I attend, the choir doesn't really sing,” ECU Gospel Choir president Chris Cooper said. “It's a praise team that sings and the choir only sings like one Sunday. So yes, keeping the choir thing alive (is important), especially around Greenville.” “It's a way that we can give back to the community,” said Trumane Lee, treasurer. “Especially being at a college they support in this area. That's the least we could do for the community.”

“I feel like we're helping the organization stay alive,” Cooper said. “We don't want it to dwindle so we do as much as we can, considering all the other things we have going on, to keep it afloat and running smoothly.”

That's not to say the worship teams and contemporary musicians don't have their rightful spot in worship services. Gospel music is an ever-evolving form of praise that brings congregations to their feet each Sunday morning and ministers not just to the people in attendance, but to the musicians themselves as well.

**Destined for gospel music**

Singer Andro C. Brown, for instance, says she always knew she was destined for gospel music but, for reasons she still doesn't fully understand, she resisted her calling for years. Her father was president of her church's choir and as a little girl, Brown sang as was expected. But at home, her father was abusive and her focus turned to boys during adolescence; Brown's friends abandoned her when she became a teenaged mother. Years later, she was married and living in Germany, where she started singing in a choir again. However, she was drowning in marital problems and wasn't interested in making music a big part of her life. Finally, Brown turned to God, and everything fell into place.
“God said, ‘Look, you have to make a choice here,’” Brown recalled. “‘I've been calling you since you were a girl to sing for me and you have not listened. So now you have to make a choice on who you're gonna serve.’”

With her marriage saved and a return to Greenville, an audition for an Easter pageant at her church, Reimage Church of Winterville, led her to sing solo. Then God told her to make a CD, she says, “Songs of Worship,” which can be purchased on iTunes, Amazon.com or through her website, www.shoutlife.com/AndroBrown. She's working on a CD of originals now.

Since returning to gospel music, Brown's provided backup vocals for the play “A Good Man Is Hard to Find” and landed one of the main roles in another production, called “Mamma Why,” among other regional performances. Today, she will sing again at Reimage, 3950 Victory Lane, during the 10 a.m. service. (She expects to sing at approximately 10:35 a.m.)

“I look back on things now,” Brown said, “and I look at all the opportunities that God could've just let me go, but he didn't. ... I guess after all God knew better than I did. He saw the talent in me, more than I did.”

The relationship with God is key for most gospel singers. From preparing for a show to ministering throughout a performance, it's all about sharing in love and faith. “The best part is seeing the lives of people being changed and people coming up to you saying, ‘You really blessed me with this song,’” Brown said. Coming from a small church with a traditional choir and now praising under a worship team, Brown sees the significant ways gospel music has changed — but, she says, change is good.

“Now it's completely different,” Brown said, “and I'm like, ‘Oh, OK. You mean I can serve you here too?’ People just need to realize it's OK to change. As long as your focus and your motive is serving Him, regardless of what church you're in.”

Along with the connection to God, the cathartic feeling of belting out your favorite hymn is intoxicating in itself, and will keep gospel music at the forefront of worship services.

It's a draw so powerful that even college students — all while juggling classes and part-time jobs — continue to devote their precious free time to their choir. “Singing is one of those things that just attracts people,” Cooper said before their Thursday night practice began. “And you get to sing something that you love, like gospel music.”

Contact Kristin Day at kday@reflector.com or 329-9579.
Duke suspends student tailgating after teen found unconscious

From Staff Reports
Duke University has canceled student Tailgate activities for this Saturday's game against Boston College after a teenager was found unconscious at the end of last weekend's celebrating.

In a letter e-mailed to all students at 10 p.m. Monday, Larry Moneta, vice president for student affairs at Duke, said student Tailgate "has long lost its value as a pre-football, spirit building activity and has become increasingly dangerous in every iteration."

While the letter did not specifically cancel student tailgating for Duke's final game of the season against the University of North Carolina over Thanksgiving, the e-mail said that Duke will develop a new type of game-day celebration for 2011.

The Duke student newspaper, The Chronicle, reports the teenager was found unconscious in a portable toilet following tailgate festivities before last Saturday's game against Virginia. The paper described the teen as the sibling of a Duke student.

In his letter, Moneta acknowledged Duke's victory over Virginia but said "the positive experience in Wallace Wade was dampened by an incident in tailgate ... an incident involving a teenage youth which easily could have been tragic."

"This incident has vividly revealed that tailgate as is practiced at Duke must come to an end," Moneta wrote.

Moneta said the university would work with students on ideas to celebrate the 2011 season "with the class and spirit for which Duke is known."

According to tailgating guidelines posted on the university's website, last Saturday's tailgating festivities ran from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The game against Virginia began at noon.

A DukeCard is required to get into the tailgating area and each cardholder is allowed one guest.

According to the guidelines, student groups are limited to 30 cases of beer per group or nine cases per vehicle. Individuals walking into the tailgate zone are limited to a six pack of beer and must provide identification.
Tailgate participants, the rules state, "must demonstrate responsible and respectful behavior towards their peers."

Standing or sitting on top of cars is prohibited.

The guidelines specify minor and major violations. A major violation, the guidelines state, include throwing beer cans or standing on top of cars.

Minor violations include failure to follow the cup policy, which requires all canned beverages to be poured into cups.

Serious violators, or those with repeated minor violations, are typically banned from a future tailgate event.

**E-mail from Duke official to students**

*Text of e-mail sent by Vice President for Student Affairs Larry Moneta to all Duke students concerning tailgating.*

Dear students,

Last Saturday, many of us enjoyed a terrific, hard fought victory over Virginia in Wallace Wade Stadium. I want to acknowledge the tremendous effort of our team and wish more students could have been on hand to celebrate this win. Unfortunately, the positive experience in Wallace Wade was dampened by an incident in tailgate...an incident involving a teenage youth which easily could have been tragic.

This incident has vividly revealed that tailgate as is practiced at Duke must come to an end. It has long lost its value as a pre-football, spirit building activity and has become increasingly dangerous in every iteration. Thus, there will be no student 'tailgate' this Saturday in advance of the game against Boston College.

Over the spring, we will work with students, Athletics and many others to develop a new form of football game day celebration....one that will support our student athletes, be safe and healthy, and showcase the pride of "Dear Old Duke". We will invite your ideas and suggestions and be prepared to celebrate the fall 2011 season with the class and spirit for which Duke is known.

But, before we focus on next year, we have critical games ahead and need your full support of our team. I really hope that you'll all turn out and cheer on the team to a win over Boston College. With the UNC game over Thanksgiving weekend, this will be the last time this year for most of you to show your support. Please join us in Wallace Wade this Saturday!

Larry Moneta Vice President for Student Affairs
State operations on the examining table

By Jack Betts. The Charlotte Observer
RALEIGH–Gov. Bev Perdue has a long list of North Carolina firsts attached to her name since coming to Raleigh as a state representative 23 years ago. Among others, first woman to become lieutenant governor, first woman to become governor.

Starting next year, she'll also become the first governor in more than a century to face a General Assembly controlled by the Republican Party and bent on doing things a different way.

Republicans gained control of the Senate with 31 members to the Democrats' 19 - a veto-proof majority that can ignore a governor's threat to veto a bill. House Republicans will have at least 68 votes, including that of unaffiliated candidate Bert Jones, a conservative. If they can attract several conservative Democrats, House Republicans could also be veto proof.

These are the sorts of things that on their face pose a huge problem for Perdue, a booster of traditional Democratic programs and values. So nominally, at least, the 2010 election appeared to present a problem for Perdue's legislative program and a blow to her chances for re-election in 2012 if she chooses to run again.

But appearances are deceiving. The 2010 election presents Perdue some opportunities. "I think she has an opportunity to get things done that she could not have done if her party had remained in power," notes Sen. Tom Apodaca, R-Henderson, part of the group planning the Senate transition.

One that immediately comes to mind is Perdue's long-touted but as-yet undelivered plan to reorganize state government and reduce or eliminate overlapping programs. Perdue also proposes to eliminate unnecessary rules, though she has not yet unveiled what she would toss out.
The governor likely would have faced some opposition to cutting certain programs or agencies from Democrats who were responsible for adopting them in the first place. But her reorganization plan might dovetail with part of Republicans' plans to cut the state operating budget by $3.5 billion or more, eliminate a $1 billion temporary tax increase that helped balance the budget the past two years and look for ways to further cut state taxes.

In some respects, says Apodaca, "She'll find more flexibility" than she might otherwise have encountered.

"The bottom line problems that face this state are not partisan," says Perdue spokesperson Chrissy Pearson. "They are economic." Both Perdue and Republicans are talking about the same priorities, she adds: balancing the budget, fixing the economy and growing more jobs.

UNC President Erskine Bowles has already launched a debate over how to cut a major portion of the state budget. He suggested that eliminating a campus of the UNC system would be preferable to constantly cutting into the academic strength of every campus. He's not for closing any campus, mind you, but his mentioning campus closure puts a once-taboo topic on the table and expands the debate before it begins.

Rep. Thom Tillis, R-Mecklenburg, and a leading candidate for speaker, believes the only way his party can achieve such dramatic budget cuts is literally to examine every program and function of government, starting from scratch. Republicans will look to Perdue soon for her priorities in cutting the budget. He hopes this will be a bipartisan working relationship. If we do it right, she can still protect the things she wants and we can achieve our goals, too," Tillis said.

Perdue has ordered state agencies to prepare plans for significant cuts to their budgets. The UNC Board of Governors, for example, has come up with plans for 5 and 10 percent cuts. Republicans have, of course, been looking for months at things they'd cut, though they have not identified them yet. There's talk of cutting the budget by 20 percent or more - and if that happens, there will be real pain for those served by the state as well as for those who work for the state.

On the chopping block could be state jobs, perhaps furloughs for some, entire programs such as incentives packages for recruiting jobs, special
transportation projects, funding for nonprofit organizations, elimination of courses at UNC and community colleges, support for private colleges - the whole range of funding the state provides for a vast list of purposes.

And there could be significant changes in the way services are paid for - including changes in the state employee health plan. Republicans didn't put these programs in place, and don't have an allegiance to them, either. "It is a matter of priorities," notes Tillis.

Like the Democrats, Republicans have both moderate and conservative members, and the Senate Republican majority may be a little less interested in ideological issues than Republicans in the House, where members such as current Minority Leader Paul "Skip" Stam, R-Wake, also a contender for speaker, have strong interests in social issues as well.

The key, says Tillis, is realizing that his party has to come to grips with the budget and improve the state's economy and job opportunities first. "We cannot address in one session all those things we have wanted to do over the last century," he says.

Jack Betts is a Raleigh-based columnist and associate editor for The Charlotte Observer. He can be reached at jbettscharlotteobserver.com.
November 8, 2010

**Justices Hear Case on Taxing of Students**

By ADAM LIPTAK

WASHINGTON — “How do you draw the line,” Justice Sonia Sotomayor asked at a Supreme Court argument on Monday, “between a student who is working and a worker who is studying?”

The case concerned medical residents, who work long hours as part of their studies, providing care to hospital patients. They are often paid more than $50,000 a year.

Under a 2005 Treasury Department regulation, residents are subject to Social Security taxes, notwithstanding a statutory exemption for work performed by students who regularly attend classes, as residents do. The regulation says that students who would otherwise qualify for the exemption lose it if they work more than 40 hour per week, even if they learn from what they do.

According to a brief filed by residency programs that are seeking tax refunds, there are about 100,000 residents in 8,000 programs nationwide. According to a government brief, medical residents are subject to about $700 million in Social Security taxes each year.

Theodore B. Olson, a lawyer representing the programs seeking refunds, told the justices that they are fundamentally educational, including “a rigorous core curriculum” with “hundreds of classes, conferences, lectures, laboratory research, written exams, grades and intensive, hands-on clinical patient training under the supervision of faculty members.”

But Matthew D. Roberts, a lawyer for the government, said residents were “workers who are working between 50 and 80 hours a week over many years for substantial salaries” and so “are precisely the kind of workers whose employers should be supporting the Social Security system and who should be earning credit towards disability and survivor benefits.”
The fact that residents may learn something in the process should not be determinative, Mr. Roberts added.

“Many, many individuals pursue their jobs for the primary purpose of learning, like judicial law clerks, like other apprentices,” he said. “But they are not covered by this exemption.”

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg responded that the law only allows the exemption to students enrolled and regularly attending classes at schools, colleges and universities.

Mr. Roberts said that helped his case. Since there is no general exemption for wages paid to apprentices, he said, the Treasury Department made a reasonable judgment in interpreting the law so as not to create “a special exemption for apprentices who happen to be employed by schools, colleges and universities.”

The argument in the case, Mayo Foundation v. United States, No. 09-837, also included questions about Supreme Court clinics at law schools, architectural apprentices and work-study programs.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. said the difficulty of distinguishing among them was a reason to allow the Internal Revenue Service to decide the matter.

“This is basically a very familiar situation of an apprentice who is both an employee and both a student, and to try to draw the line in some categorical way doesn’t make sense,” he said. “The only way you can draw the line is to have somebody say: This is going to be the line. And if anybody is going to say it, it ought to be the I.R.S.”

But Mr. Olson said the particular regulation at issue was arbitrary and counterintuitive. “If you are too much of a student, you are not a student,” he said. “It is backwards.”

Justice Sotomayor, the argument’s most active questioner, said many jobs have an educational component. “Aren’t we learning in every case that we’re hearing?” she asked, referring to the members of the court.
Tuition is a more honest, accurate description of the fees charged for educational costs, officials say. But the move marks a philosophical shift from the state ideal of offering a tuition-free public college education.

Ending a decades-long tradition, the California State University plans to start using the word "tuition" instead of "fees" to refer to the educational costs it charges to students.

The move marks a fundamental philosophical shift in the ideal of offering Californians a tuition-free public college education, a principle enshrined in the state's master plan for higher education adopted 50 years ago.

California students have long paid fees for specialized or optional services such as health, housing and recreation. But in recent years, as the state has been hit by recessions, its public colleges have increasingly charged students hefty fees to help cover their educational costs as well.

Tuition is a more accurate and honest description of the charges, Cal State officials said. It is also in line with the label most widely used by colleges and universities across the country.

"It's a case of truth in advertising and saying, 'Let's be honest with ourselves and honest with everyone else,' " said Robert Turnage, the university's assistant vice chancellor for budget.

Cal State Chancellor Charles B. Reed is expected to issue an executive order to implement the change by the end of the year and will also specify which campus charges will continue to be called fees, officials said. Cal State trustees will be briefed on the change at a board meeting that starts Tuesday. Informally, the university will begin using the new term immediately.

University of California regents are expected to consider a similar wording change at their meeting in San Francisco next week, UC spokesman Peter King said.

At the meetings, both boards also are expected to approve increases in those charges. Cal State leaders have proposed a two-step undergraduate fee hike of 5% for the rest of this school year and an additional 10% for next year. UC leaders will consider an undergraduate increase of 8% for next school year.

Basic fees for undergraduates now top $10,000 annually at UC and $4,200 at Cal State.

Of the likely terminology change, Cal State and UC officials noted that in 2009, the state's use of the word "fee" had threatened federal financial aid assistance to veterans,
which is based on the amount of "tuition" charged to resident students. The universities had to fight to restore the aid.

Christopher Chavez, president of the Cal State Student Assn., called the shift "unfortunate," but said it will have little practical effect on students.

"It's sad that we're moving away from the ideal, but students are going to be paying the same, no matter what it's called," said Chavez, who attends Cal State Long Beach.

The decision by the state's public universities is being driven by a grim reality, said Kevin Woolfork, budget policy coordinator for the California Postsecondary Education Commission.

For the current fiscal year, residential student fees will generate $4 billion for Cal State and UC on top of $6 billion in state general funds, he said. About 600,000 students are enrolled in the 23-campus Cal State and 10-campus UC systems.

"It used to be that for every dollar of student fee revenue the universities got about $12 or $13 in general funds, but now it's about $1.33 in general funds for every dollar of student fees," Woolfork said. "There's really been no move to increase taxes to buy out student fees and they now make up such a large share of operating costs that it would be hard to roll that back."

The move toward tuition disturbs many, though.

"It's being billed as a harmless shift in terminology that has no significance, except that it does," said Lillian Taiz, president of the California Faculty Assn. and a history professor at Cal State L.A. "It's an erosion of support of the backbone of higher education that makes our state so unique."

A report in July by a legislative joint committee on the master plan reaffirmed its basic tenets of universal access, affordability and high quality. Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, the committee's co-chairman, said the governor, legislators and the public must agree on a framework of shared costs and said it was not a good idea to change the terms used.

"It unfortunately will be seen as walking away from the commitment of the state to affordable public education for all eligible students in California and this is not a time we want to walk away from that," said Ruskin (D- Redwood City). "The governor and Legislature now must recommit themselves to that policy and find a way to fund it."

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