THE DAILY CLIPS

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A decision by ECU’s student newspaper to publish full-frontal photographs of a streaker on Tuesday drew condemnation from university administrators and approval from some students.

The series of three front-page photos in The East Carolinian showed John Sieglinger, 21, being chased and taken down by university officials at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium during the halftime ceremony.

The photographs also were published Tuesday on The East Carolinian’s website.

Sieglinger, a Raleigh resident who does not attend East Carolina, started streaking in the middle of a military appreciation ceremony that was taking place on the field during halftime.

He was arrested for misdemeanor indecent exposure and first-degree trespassing and taken to the Pitt County Detention Center, where he later was released. Sieglinger also has been banned from all future university events.

Although multiple media outlets have reported on the incident, Tuesday’s photos are the first to show full nudity.

ECU Director of Student Media Paul Isom, who advises the student editorial staff, said that the decision to publish the photos was made by the students.

“I knew that we had the pictures and that a story on the incident was going to run,” Isom said. “But the decision to publish the pictures was made by the editor.”
Isom said that as a state employee, he cannot legally interfere with decisions made by the student staff.

“I would be guilty of prior review if I did that,” Isom said. “Most of the advising I do comes post-production, where we discuss what worked or didn’t work and what mistakes were made.

“However, this incident was not a mistake; it was a decision made by the staff.”

The East Carolinian Editor in Chief Caitlin Hale made the decision along with the news editor and managing editor, Hale said in a statement issued about 3:20 p.m. on Tuesday.

“This decision was made because we felt that our audience, which is primarily the ECU student body, should have access to unedited and factual photos of the streaking incident at last Saturday’s ECU football game. While the photos may be seen as offensive to some, the photos were not meant to be seen as sexually suggestive or insulting, but instead an accurate account of Saturday’s events.”

A number of students, many of whom were at the game Saturday and witnessed the incident, were amused at the publication of the photos.

“I found it hilarious,” said Eddie Barnes, 30, a senior majoring in Construction Management. “Hats off to the guy for letting it all hang out there.”

Freshmen Ashley Melvin and Chelsea Searle, both 18, said that the pictures didn’t show anything that students didn’t already see.

“The pictures didn’t bother me,” said Melvin. “I think it was funny. I was there Saturday and it made the game for me.”

“ECU was losing so bad at the half that me and my friends were about to leave,” added Searle. “This gave us a reason to stay for the rest of the game.”

Virginia Hardy, vice chancellor for student affairs, said in a statement that the university did not approve.
“The decision by The East Carolinian to publish a photo of a streaker that showed full frontal nudity was in very poor taste,” Hardy said. “The leadership at East Carolina University does not agree with that decision and does not support it.

“But The East Carolinian is an independent, student-run newspaper. As such, it is a learning environment for student journalists, who make decisions about news content — and ultimately are responsible for those decisions.”

Hardy said that university officials will be meeting with The East Carolinian staff to discuss the incident.

“We will be having conversations with those who were involved in this decision in an effort to make it a learning experience,” Hardy said. “The goal will be to further the students’ understanding that with the freedom of the press comes a certain level of responsibility about what is appropriate and effective in order to get their message across.”

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Black scholar helping ECU mark anniversary
By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Wednesday, November 9, 2011

East Carolina University will mark its 50th anniversary of integration with a visit from a preeminent black history scholar.

Henry Louis Gates Jr., director of the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for African and African-American Research at Harvard University, will deliver his keynote speech “African-American Lives: Genetics, Genealogy, and Black History” at 7 p.m. Thursday at Wright Auditorium.

Gates’ appearance is the next installment of the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series hosted by the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, which has featured names like Salman Rushdie and Gloria Steinem.

Known for his PBS documentaries charting the genealogies and histories of famous Americans, Gates is an author and literary critic who has written for Time Magazine, the New York Times and the New Yorker.
For a time in 2009, Gates was at the center of a national discussion on racial profiling when he was arrested at his Massachusetts home after being mistaken for a burglar while trying to open his jammed front door upon returning from a trip.

Before joining the faculty of Harvard in 1991, Gates taught at Yale, Cornell and Duke universities. He has received 51 honorary degrees, as well as a 1981 MacArthur Foundation “Genius Award.”

Gates is one of the nation’s foremost commentators on black history, literature, modern culture and issues.

While the first black full-time student enrolled at East Carolina in 1963, the first blacks to study on campus were school teachers who took summer courses in 1961, according to university historian and lecture series coordinator John Tucker.

“East Carolina does this transition without violence, without disruption,” Tucker said. “We did not want this moment to go unnoticed.”

Integration at East Carolina College, as it was then known, was initiated without incident, according to Tucker. In 1960 the college voluntarily changed its charter which originally stated it was for the education of white men and women.

“In many cases students confronted university administration and, in many instances, desegregation only occurred after court order,” Tucker said. “East Carolina had an exceptional group of leaders managing this who made it as smooth and practical as possible.”

President Leo Jenkins worked with prominent black pediatrician Dr. Andrew Best to make the change a positive one. They asked business professor James L. White to teach the first group of black teachers in the summer of 1961. A couple years later they encouraged Pitt County native Laura Marie Leary as the first black enrollee; she studied business administration. She was joined by 10 other black students the following year. The public schools did not fully integrate until court orders in the early 1970s.

“East Carolina led the way for Greenville and the region,” Tucker said.
According to its website, the Voyages of Discovery lecture series advances the spirit of exploration that is the hallmark of the liberal arts and has become the premier intellectual event for students and faculty of ECU, the citizens of eastern North Carolina, and a showcase for the quality of academic life at ECU.

Tickets are $10 for the general public, with complimentary tickets for ECU faculty and students. Tickets are available through the ECU Central Ticket Office by calling 328-4788.

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GWU professor resigns, accused of not teaching

By Jenna Johnson

A department chair at George Washington University’s medical school resigned last month, and the university is investigating allegations that she did not teach some of her classes but gave all of those students As.

Venetia Orcutt, an associate professor and chair of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, is accused of not teaching two out of three semesters of a evidence-based medicine course during the 2009-10 school year, according to the Associated Press, which first reported the news.

The AP obtained letters that three students wrote to the university’s provost this fall about the incident. The students say they all received “A” grades and were never given a reason why the classes were not taught.

Orcutt did not return a message left at her home on Monday evening.


The GWU School of Medicine and Health Sciences was on probation from its academic accrediting organization from fall 2008 until early 2010 for not complying with a number of standards, including not properly documenting how students interacted with patients. Student debt levels were also among the highest in the country, some students complained of mistreatment, according to a 2009 investigation by the Post.

The medical school never lost its accreditation, but at the time it was the only one of 129 U.S. accredited institutions to be on probation. It was taken off probation in February 2010.
College Inc.

By Daniel de Vise

College endowments still recovering from downturn

By Daniel de Vise

College endowments earned an average 19.8 percent in the last fiscal year. But even with those healthy earnings didn’t completely recover from the 2008 downturn.

In other words, colleges are in the same financial predicament as most of their students.

These preliminary findings come from Commonfund Institute and the National Association of College and University Business Officers, purveyors of a definitive annual survey of college endowments.

“What stands out in these preliminary figures is the fact that, despite the positive returns of this year and last, endowments still have not completely recovered from the damage inflicted by the market declines that accompanied the 2008-09 credit crisis,” the agencies said in a joint statement.

The average college endowment is worth 86 percent of its value in 2007, before the downturn.

Harvard, the wealthiest school, saw its endowment gain $4.4 billion to $32 billion in the fiscal year that ended in June. (Kelvin Ma - Bloomberg)
“It will take several more years of positive returns for endowments to recover fully from the crisis,” the groups said.

The findings are based on a survey of 284 institutions. A more detailed analysis will come in January.

Harvard, the wealthiest school, saw its endowment gain $4.4 billion to $32 billion in the fiscal year that ended in June. That’s still below its historic peak of $37 billion at the end of fiscal 2008.

Yale, the second-wealthiest institution, saw its endowment rise 22 percent to $19 billion, a mere $4 billion shy of its $23 billion peak.

The University of Virginia, a public institution that has effectively privatized itself in the face of falling state revenue, is notable as one of the first well-endowed institutions to recover completely from the downturn. Its endowment ended the fiscal year at $5.3 billion, above the historic peak of $5.1 billion.

Here, from Wikipedia, is a list of a few other university endowments in 2011, and, in parentheses, how they were valued in 2008.

Princeton: $17.1 billion ($16.3 billion)
Stanford: $16.5 billion ($17.2 billion)
MIT: $9.1 billion ($10.1 billion)
Columbia: $7.8 billion ($7.1 billion)
Penn: $6.6 billion ($6.2 billion)
Amid Anger Over Idea of Charging Tuition, an Inquiry Is Urged on Cooper Union’s Finances

By RICHARD PÉREZ-Peña

As Cooper Union officials try to quell the uproar over news that the college may start to charge tuition, some students, alumni, faculty members and college trustees are advocating an inquiry into how the school got into such serious financial trouble.

Those people say that they were blindsided by the crisis, and that the administration had not been open enough about admitting the problem and not aggressive enough about addressing it.

Their dissatisfaction burst into public view last week when the new president, Jamshed Bharucha, said that after years of running deficits, the venerable school in the East Village was headed for a crisis and had to consider drastic options like ending its century-old policy of being tuition-free.

“There are a lot of people asking for some kind of an audit, and on the face of it, there might be some justification for that,” said Richard J. Stock, a professor of chemical engineering and president of the Cooper Union Federation of College Teachers, the faculty union. “I don’t think that the previous administration tried to convey that there was a serious situation, and if you don’t convey that it’s serious, it’s hard to treat it seriously.”

Rebecca Long, an engineering student who is one of the leaders of the student council, said, “The majority of people are just hearing about it now.”

Before the board of trustees met Tuesday evening, two trustees, who insisted on anonymity to discuss internal matters, expressed similar views.

George Campbell Jr., who retired last summer after 11 years as president, asserted in an interview on Tuesday that Cooper’s financial problems had always been well documented in public records like financial statements, reports on trustees’ meetings and his annual addresses on the state of the college. And he noted that the idea of charging tuition had come up several times in the past.

But Dr. Campbell also acknowledged that he had not been as direct as Dr. Bharucha had been about the trouble, or about possible solutions, and said
that even now he would not be so open if he were still in office. “Frankly, I think it’s a mistake to have this discussion now in the public domain, before doing all the hard work to see whether there are viable alternatives,” he said.

Dr. Bharucha and Mark L. Epstein, chairman of the trustees, held a flurry of meetings Monday and Tuesday with students, alumni and staff members, trying to build a consensus behind Dr. Bharucha’s plan to have a task force investigate options and report back next spring. The president said charging tuition would be a last resort, and would not apply to anyone now enrolled.

Cooper Union was founded in 1859 to provide free education to working-class students, though in its early decades those who could pay did so. It has been tuition-free since 1902. Officials say that for most of the last two decades, Cooper Union, which focuses on engineering, art and architecture, has run a deficit, dipping into the principal of its endowment to pay for operations. Dr. Bharucha said that the college needed to find new revenue of $28 million a year by 2018, or about one-quarter of its operating budget.

Mr. Epstein cited Cooper’s low rate of donations from alumni, compared with other schools, as a significant part of its problem.

Dr. Campbell, the previous president, said that he improved alumni fund-raising in his tenure, but that it would never match elite colleges, which have fewer students from poor families, and fewer graduates who become struggling artists.

He defended his financial record over all, insisting that he had put the college on a sounder footing. “At one point in my first year, we had only about three months’ cash flow, and the endowment was down to about $100 million,” he said. By 2008, there was a balanced budget, he said, and the endowment had grown to around $600 million.

A large part of that increase was achieved not through fund-raising, but by selling assets, notably real estate near the school’s central building on Astor Place. The school had good timing, selling those properties and negotiating a new lease on the land beneath the Chrysler Building, which it owns, near the height of the real estate boom.

Cooper Union spent $166 million on a new academic building at 41 Cooper Square, replacing two outmoded buildings. To help pay for that and other projects, and to retire old bonds, it borrowed $175 million in 2006.

The college also invested $32 million of that borrowing in its endowment, calculating that the endowment investments would earn a higher rate of
return than the interest Cooper was paying on the loan. That turned out to be a bad bet when the recession hit.

Dr. Campbell said that he thought charging tuition was unnecessary, and that there were business ventures the college could pursue to make up its budget gap.

So, he was asked, why did he not pursue them?

“In 2008, the college looked like it was in pretty good shape,” he responded. “We didn’t know we were entering into an extended period of economic decline.”