THE DAILY CLIPS

November 15, 2011

News, commentary, and opinion compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

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ECU guards against XXX
By Ginger Livingston
The Daily Reflector
Monday, November 14, 2011

East Carolina University is joining a growing roster of corporations and universities that are registering for control of their names and brands when the new .xxx domain launches in December.

The move will prevent names, phrases, key words or images associated with the university from being used by pornography websites, said Mary Schulken, the university’s Director of Public Affairs.

ECU has obtained eight .xxx domains, Schulken said. Various divisions within the university are still working to acquire others. The cost is about $200 for each domain name.

“ECU took the step of blocking key .xxx domains so that they cannot be used in a way that’s harmful to the university’s image, thus affecting its public reputation. It’s a simple, good, business practice,” Schulken said.

Among the domain names already purchased by the university are whereitsafirstdownpirates.xxx, eastcarolina.xxx, ecu.xxx, eastcarolinauniversity.xxx and eastcarolinauniversitypirates.xxx.

The .xxx domain was developed to give adult content providers a specialized location on the Internet.

There was a decadelong fight over the necessity of such a domain, but earlier this year the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, a nonprofit group that coordinates the Internet’s naming system, signed off on the domain.

A British company, ICM Registry, is operating .xxx and is responsible for assigning the names. Some in the porn industry have criticized the plan, saying it “ghettoizes” porn and would make porn sites easier to block.

Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@reflector.com or 252-329-9570.
Three shot at Greenville party
By SHANNON KEITH
The Daily Reflector
Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Two ECU students and another man were shot Sunday during a party at a student housing complex, according to the Greenville Police Department.

The incident comes two weeks after a stabbing during a party at another student complex killed a 19-year-old Fort Bragg soldier.

Sunday’s shooting occurred about 12:50 a.m. in The Bellamy Student Living, a private apartment complex off County Home Road in the Bells Fork area.

Two of the victims were on scene when officers arrived, and the third was en route to Pitt County Memorial Hospital in a private vehicle, according to a police department news release.

A police report listed the victims as Jalen Bynum, 19, of Burlington; Tyler Nicholson, 20, of Raleigh; and Johncie Wilson, 21, of Greensboro. Bynum and Nicholson are East Carolina University students, a school official said.

Officers discovered that the victims were at a party when a dispute occurred. A man pulled out a handgun during the dispute and fired into the crowd, striking Bynum, Nicholson and Wilson.

The news release said that the suspect is described as a black male, 5 feet 9 inches to 6 feet tall, with a thin build and dark complexion.

The victims were treated at Pitt County Memorial Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries, the police department reported.

The hospital reported that Wilson was treated and released. Patient information on Bynum and Nicholson was not available, a spokeswoman said.

The police news release said that the investigation is ongoing.
A stabbing at Pirates Place apartments on Oct. 29 killed Pfc. Keyonn Parkin, 19, a paratrooper from Wichita, Kan.

Christopher William Brauer, 21, an ECU student from Durham, was charged with an open count of murder in that incident.

Anyone with information about Sunday’s incident is asked to contact the Greenville Police Department at 329-3937 or Pitt/Greenville CrimeStoppers at 758-7777.

*Contact Shannon Keith at skeith@reflector.com at 252-329-9638.*
GREENVILLE—A nonprofit physicians' group has asked East Carolina University to quit using ferrets to train pediatric residents on how to insert a breathing tube, a practice the group has found at just 10 medical schools in the country.

The Daily Reflector of Greenville reported the Washington-based Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine said it's not necessary for students at the Brody School of Medicine to use ferrets because they could use simulators, which are mannequin-like medical devices.

According to a survey conducted by the committee, of the 185 pediatric residency programs in the country, just 10 use animals for endotracheal intubation training. Brody is the only one in North Carolina.

Dr. James Cummings, a professor of pediatrics and physiology at ECU, said the animals are unconscious during the procedure. A research committee that oversees Brody's use of animals supported recommendations that ferrets are a superior training method, he said.

"The main limitation of a simulator is the anatomy," he said. "You can put all the pieces in the right orientation, but you don't have living, breathing tissue. When you open it up and look inside, it's still just a bunch of plastic."

Dr. John Pippin, a cardiologist and director of academic affairs for the physicians' group, disagreed.

"They're used all over the country," he said. "Residents in other places are getting trained just fine."

The organization of physicians and scientists has written letters to Brody's dean, Dr. Paul Cunningham, asking the medical school to halt its use of ferrets.

Pippin took issue with Cummings' explanation that live tissue was better.

"Yes, it's a difference, but if that difference has no relevance to residents in the intubation or resuscitation of babies, who cares?" he asked.

Dr. Dorcas O'Rourke, chairwoman of comparative science and an attending veterinarian, said safeguards are in place to protect animals.

"I think allegations of cruel and inhumane treatment are not accurate," O'Rourke said. "They don't paint a picture of the care and attention these animals receive."
A suspect in an Oct. 29 stabbing death was defending himself and his girlfriend and was given no preferential treatment by authorities, the suspect’s attorney said Monday.

Christopher William Brauer, 21, drew a knife during an assault by U.S. Army paratrooper Pfc. Keyonn Parkin after a party at Pirates Place apartments, attorney Les Robinson said in a written statement.

Parkin, 19, was stabbed and died. Robinson said Parkin attacked Brauer without warning as Brauer and others tried to retrieve a stolen wallet from Parkin’s friend, Pfc. Robert Perry.

“After being assaulted twice and observing his girlfriend being assaulted, Mr. Brauer drew a knife to defend himself, displayed it to Parkin and warned against further assault,” Robinson said. “Parkin continued and was stabbed one time.”

Brauer approached a uniformed Greenville police officer at the scene and identified himself as the person who had used the knife, Robinson said. He is charged with an open count of murder and has been released to his parents for house arrest in Durham under a $500,000 bond.

The Pitt County NAACP and Citizens Against Racism claimed Wednesday that Brauer received preferential treatment when police allowed him to leave the area on his promise to return if charges were filed and when his bond was reduced from $1 million.

Robinson said his client’s circumstances merited the consideration he was given by police and Judge Charles Vincent, who reduced the bond.
“While community members are free to express their subjective opinions on these issues, we should acknowledge the difference between these subjective opinions and opinions based on objective facts,” the Greenville lawyer said.

Parkin, a soldier from Wichita, Kan., reportedly traveled with friends from Fort Bragg to attend a Halloween party. Perry, 19, took the wallet from a bedroom as he was retrieving his coat, police reported.

Perry was confronted by Brauer and other men after he left the apartment, police said. Parkin, unaware that Perry was being accused of stealing the wallet, went to help, police said.

Following is the statement by Robinson in full:

MEDIA RELEASE

The media has recently provided coverage on the issues of whether Christopher Brauer was given preferential treatment by the Greenville Police Department before turning himself in for service of process and whether a judge likewise gave him preferential treatment in setting his bond release conditions. Under no circumstances was Mr. Brauer given preferential treatment by either the Greenville Police Department or the judge. Comparing cases with similar facts and circumstances will support this statement and disclose a consistent application of treatment by the law enforcement community and the trial court.

While community members are free to express their subjective opinions on these issues, we should acknowledge the difference between these subjective opinions and opinions based on objective facts. Comparing factually dissimilar cases as the basis to support subjective opinions on these issues undermines the validity of these opinions. Comparing Mr. Brauer’s case to that of James Earl Richardson illustrates this point.

Mr. Richardson, after being ejected from a local nightclub, got into his car, armed himself with a pistol he had purchased earlier; drove by the nightclub; shot and killed two people on the sidewalk that had nothing to do with his ejection; and thereafter, was captured on video fleeing the scene. He met with family members in Raleigh then left the state. He never provided any statements as to the shooting itself.
Mr. Brauer and his girlfriend were attending a birthday party as invited guests. Keyonn Parkin, Robert Perry and a third associate arrived at the same party uninvited. Mr. Perry stole a wallet from one of the residents, was confronted outside the home by guests, including Mr. Brauer, and found in possession of the wallet. Without warning, Mr. Parkin appeared and assaulted Mr. Brauer. Mr. Brauer’s girlfriend tried to stop Mr. Parkin’s continued assault and was also assaulted. He assaulted Mr. Brauer a second time. After being assaulted twice and observing his girlfriend being assaulted, Mr. Brauer drew a knife to defend himself, displayed it to Parkin and warned against further assault. Parkin continued and was stabbed one time.

Mr. Brauer approached a uniformed Greenville Police officer at the scene and identified himself as the person who had used the knife. He gave a statement of the events to two officers at the scene and agreed to go to the Greenville Police Department to provide his statement to additional officers. After doing so, he was released. Later that morning, he was asked to come back to the Greenville Police Department to be interview by additional officers. He did so and then was allowed to leave. Before leaving, Mr. Brauer asked Detective Elks was it okay to go home to Durham to be with his parents. Detective Elks said it was. Mr. Brauer provided information to her to contact him if necessary.

In the early evening of November 2nd, Mr. Brauer, his family and I learned through media reports that Chief Anderson had conducted a press conference at 5:00 o’clock pm and announced that a warrant had been obtained charging him with an open count of murder. As his attorney, I immediately contacted the District Attorney and requested that Detective Elks contact me to make arrangements to turn him in to be served with the warrant. Detective Elks contacted me that night and we mutually agreed to meet at the Detention Center at 10:00 o’clock am the next morning to be served. We arrived at the Detention Center at the time agreed upon; Detective Elks arrived approximately 20 minutes later.

Contrary to Chief Anderson’s representations to the media that Mr. Brauer “was developed as a suspect through three days of interviews and information gathered by police”, there has never been any question whether Mr. Brauer was the one who used the knife. Mr. Brauer volunteered this information to Greenville Police officers at the scene and was interviewed
on 4 separate occasions. Likewise, Mr. Brauer was in Greenville at the time the warrant was issued rather than Durham as represented to the media by Chief Anderson.

At the bond hearing, the presiding Judge was advised that Mr. Brauer did not have any criminal record nor driving record; that he had lived in Durham for the last 16 years with his mother and father; that he resides in Greenville while attending ECU; and that his father had been employed with IBM for 31 years and his mother with Duke for 8 years. At the bond hearing, both the presiding Assistant District Attorney and Detective Elks advised the Judge that under no circumstances was Mr. Brauer a flight risk; such representations from the state are rare and the exception rather than the rule.

The case against Eric Sinatra Gilbert is most similar to Mr. Brauer’s case. Mr. Gilbert turned himself in like Brauer and contends that he acted in self-defense like Brauer. Mr. Gilbert’s bond was reduced from no bond to $250,000. When there is a reasonable and objective consideration of these two cases, it is clear that Mr. Brauer did not receive any preferential treatment. To the contrary, Mr. Brauer’s bond is double that of Mr. Gilbert.
Former East Carolina starting quarterback and fourth all-time leading passer Patrick Pinkney was arrested Monday and charged with eight counts of larceny by an employee, according to published reports.

The former two-time Conference USA champion at ECU was working as a manager at the Belk Department store in Roanoke Rapids in Halifax County, and is accused of embezzling $4,198.50 over eight separate occasions since February from the store he’d been employed by since 2010.

According to reports, he was released on a $4,500 unsecured bond and has a court appearance set for Dec. 14.

Pinkney was under center for many of the Pirates’ greatest moments during the Skip Holtz coaching era after he emerged from a two-quarterback system with Rob Kass back in 2007.

At the end of that season, Pinkney quarterbacked the Pirate team that beat Boise State at the Hawaii Bowl, and he helped guide ECU past Tulsa in the 2008 C-USA championship and Houston in the 2009 title game.
Panel recommends UNC-CH tuition hike

BY JANE STANCILL - jstancill@newsobserver.com

CHAPEL HILL A proposal for a $2,800 in-state tuition increase over five years moved forward at UNC-Chapel Hill on Monday, despite an alternate proposal by student leaders who hoped to phase in the hikes for future incoming students.

In a split vote, an advisory task force recommended a plan that would raise tuition by $800, or 15.6 percent, in 2012-13 for North Carolinians. Out-of-state students would see a 6.5 percent increase next year.

But that would be only the beginning of higher tuition bills. In the following four years, in-state students would pay a $583 surcharge on top of any annual percentage increases.

The proposal will go before the UNC-CH Board of Trustees later this week. But already, some trustees said the plan doesn't go far enough in raising tuition to bring in revenue following several years of state budget cuts, including an 18 percent reduction in the current year.

"My concern is that it's not sufficient to meet the demands," Wade Hargrove, chairman of the trustee board, said of the proposed increase. "It seems to me we are falling behind."
Several student protesters sat around the conference room Monday holding posters with slogans such as "Education is a Right."

The task force, which included students, trustees, faculty and administrators, split 9-5 on sending the proposal to the trustees.

If trustees approve the plan, it would still have to go before the UNC system's Board of Governors. UNC system leaders issued guidelines this year telling the state's public university campuses they could request a 6.5 percent increase in both tuition and fees. The guidelines also allow a one-time "catch-up" adjustment that would push tuition more in line with that of public peer campuses across the nation.

Even with the proposed increase, UNC-CH's tuition level would remain in the lowest quarter of similar public universities.

About 45 percent of the revenue would be set aside to cover the cost for needy students, leaving $15 million next year that the university could spend on pay raises for faculty and new hires to add course sections and seats lost in the budget cuts.

"We've got to have the ability to give faculty a raise, and we've got to get a sense of optimism among faculty employees about the direction of UNC-Chapel Hill if we want to maintain everything that we have built," said UNC-CH Chancellor Holden Thorp, who spoke to the panel before its deliberations.

Thorp said the most stark measure he's seen is UNC-CH's fall from 35th to 59th in three years in the faculty resources category in the U.S. News & World Report rankings.

"We just simply can't afford to do that anymore," Thorp said. "I wish I could think of a way to fund these things other than to increase tuition."

Student leaders worked quickly in the past week to put together an alternative to the $2,800 increase. In a plan put forth by Student Body President Mary Cooper, tuition would rise 6.4 percent for in-state students and 4 percent for out-of-state students. But incoming first-year students would pay a 5 percent supplemental increase.

Some questioned a plan that would have freshmen paying more than sophomores, juniors and seniors. But Cooper said phasing in the increase for new students would be fairer to current students and yet give future students predictability of cost.
Struggling students

She asked the task force to remember that financial aid would protect some students, but not others.

"A lot of times it's the students who are right on the border -- middle income, middle GPA students. I'm calling them the silenced demographic. ... They're the students who are right now working three part-time jobs because they otherwise will not be able to afford this university."

Michael Bertucci, chief of staff for the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, said students are willing to pay a hike, but the amount should be reasonable.

"We want to maintain the quality of the education, but we can only go so far," he said.

Bruce Carney, the provost, presented a chart that showed that UNC-CH was losing star faculty to other universities at an increasing rate.

"I view this with alarm," he said, calling the other universities "predators."

The tuition debate will continue this week when trustees meet in Chapel Hill on Wednesday and Thursday. The UNC Board of Governors will take up campus requests for increases early next year.

"It's a brutal reality," said Hargrove, the trustee chairman. "We are in an era of shared sacrifices, and there is no end in sight."

Stancill: 919-829-4559

Proposed UNC-CH tuition and fee hike

A plan to be considered this week would increase tuition by $2,800 over five years for North Carolinians at UNC-Chapel Hill. After the 2012-13 academic year, in-state undergraduates would pay an additional $583 each year for four years, plus any future across-the-board percentage increases.

Current tuition and fees:
In-state: $7,009
Out-of-state: $26,834

2012-13 proposed tuition and fees:
In-state: $7,795
Out-of-state: $28,442
Pitt County high schools are participating in a statewide college application effort this week.

Gov. Beverly Perdue has declared Nov. 14-18 as North Carolina College Application Week when students can apply to North Carolina colleges and universities on the College Foundation’s website at CFNC.org and receive in-person assistance from both high school counselors and college representatives.

South Central is setting aside time for seniors to apply today and Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Farmville Central students can go to the media center throughout the day on Thursday. D.H. Conley students can go to the computer lab on Friday. J.H. Rose will hold activities on Thursday.

Throughout the week, graduating high school seniors from more than 450 schools across the state will receive free assistance in applying to North Carolina colleges and universities. Special focus will be placed on students who are the first in their family to attend college and students who may not otherwise apply to college.

Twenty-nine of North Carolina’s private colleges and universities, as well as three of the public University of North Carolina campuses, will waive their application fees for all North Carolina students applying through CFNC.org.

In addition, the remaining 13 UNC campuses and six private institutions will waive application fees for students who qualify for the College Board fee waiver. Students who are eligible for SAT fee waivers typically are eligible for College Board application fee waivers, as well. Eligible students can get fee waivers from their high school counselor’s office. North Carolina’s 58 community colleges do not charge application fees.
College Application Week is funded through a U.S. Department of Education College Access Challenge Grant, which is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. It is co-sponsored by College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) and the Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

North Carolina’s College Application Week began in 2005 as a pilot program in one high school. By 2010, it had expanded to 470 high schools, with more than 25,000 students submitting nearly 44,000 online college applications. Nearly 72 percent of students who applied to college through CFNC.org during College Application Week 2009 enrolled in college the following fall semester, with 95 percent of them enrolling in a North Carolina college or university.

Additional information on the College Application Week event can be found at CFNC.org/CAW.

School counselors and staff can register their high school for College Application Week at CFNC.org by selecting “Register for Webinars, Seminars and Other Training Opportunities.”

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567.
Davis ROBERT WILLETT - rwillett@newsobserver.com

Butch Davis defends character, slams critics in N&O essay
BY ANDREW CARTER - acarter@newsobserver.com

After months of relative silence, Butch Davis, the former UNC-Chapel Hill football coach fired amid an NCAA investigation into improper benefits and academic misconduct, strongly defended his character in a piece he wrote for the opinion pages of today's News & Observer.

Davis also deflected responsibility for the circumstances that led to his dismissal and continued to claim he did nothing to warrant his firing.

Since UNC dismissed him in July during a multipronged NCAA investigation into misdeeds within the Tar Heels' football program, Davis had mostly remained quiet. That changed Monday, when he lashed out at critics who suggested his pursuit of a winning football program compromised UNC's academic mission.

"Any suggestion that I have placed athletic success over academic achievement is just plain wrong," Davis wrote.

Davis emphasized what he described as the importance of education and the role it played in his background and in his family.

He referenced his grandmother's Ph.D. and his father's master's degree, and wrote of his days as a high school biology teacher.

But Davis offered no explanation as to why during the 2010 season 14 of his players served suspensions for at least one game and seven missed the entire season amid the NCAA investigation into impermissible benefits and academic fraud.
Davis maintained his innocence after he was fired and reiterated it again in his essay.

"Neither the NCAA nor the university investigation even suggested any wrongdoing on my part," Davis wrote.

Davis wrote that he hoped provide "some perspective and clarity" following the completion of North Carolina officials' Oct. 28 appearance in Indianapolis before the NCAA's Committee on Infractions.

The committee is expected to release its findings - which will include punishments - within several weeks or months.

A university spokesman declined to offer a response to Davis' opinion piece and whether the university found it an accurate portrayal of his philosophy on athletics and education.

**Conflicting SAT data**

Davis wrote that during his tenure the SAT scores for incoming freshman football players rose by more than 40 points. UNC Chancellor Holden Thorp supported that claim during a September 2010 interview with The News & Observer.

In addition to the improved SAT scores, Davis in his final two seasons received a bonus worth one-twelfth of his salary because the football team had a higher adjusted graduation rate than that of the general student body.

However, data the university provided to the NCAA appeared to suggest the football team did not achieve a higher adjusted graduation rate than the student body during Davis' final two seasons.

University spokesmen on Monday stood by Davis' claim.

In his article, Davis also expressed disappointment in what he described as "the misinformation that has surrounded this entire matter."

Davis didn't elaborate, but his lawyer, Jonathan Sasser, did comment in an email to The News & Observer.

Sasser wrote: "There is no truth to the rumors that: (One) Coach Davis was fired because of (former UNC assistant coach) John Blake. (Two) Coach Davis was fired because of the tutor. (Three) Coach Davis was fired because of anything found in his cellphone records."

In addition, Sasser wrote, "There are also other bizarre hypotheses out there that are too ridiculous to merit comment."

Carter: 919-829-8944
“With the NCAA hearing over, I now hope to provide some perspective and clarity.”

Other Opinion

Davis: Education, football and my time at UNC

BY BUTCH DAVIS

In my family, education has always held the highest priority. My grandmother, who had a Ph.D., served in public education for more than 50 years. My father obtained a master's degree and worked as a history teacher, guidance counselor and later a principal. My mother was also a teacher. I also have several aunts and cousins who have been educators, principals and school administrators.

My sister and I followed in our parents' footsteps. She earned a master's degree and served as an educator as well as a guidance counselor. Before I became a college and NFL coach, I was a high school biology teacher.

I have spent my entire life around people in education. My family's focus on education played a substantial role in shaping who I am and defining what matters to me.

I have always felt it was critically important that I help students accomplish their goals and dreams both academically as well as athletically. I see
nothing wrong with student-athletes pursuing their dreams of a professional football career just as many students pursue careers in music, drama, law, business, education, medicine, etc.

From the very first home visit that I made to a high school recruit in 1979, I have consistently shared with players and their families the vision that the greatest success they can accomplish is watch their son walk across the graduation stage and receive his diploma.

The point is, having students succeed and achieve their dreams of getting a college education is one of my core principles. Any suggestion that I have placed athletic success over academic achievement is just plain wrong.

During the 10 years I was a college head coach, nine of my teams were recognized by the American Football Coaches Association for academic success. During my tenure at Carolina, the SAT scores of incoming freshman football players rose 40 points. In my last two years at UNC, the football team's adjusted graduation rate of 90 percent surpassed that of the general student body.

But academic success doesn't preclude athletic success. During this same 10-year period, 94 players I either coached or recruited went on to the NFL.

I have not spoken about this matter before, because I did not think it was appropriate. With the NCAA hearing over, I now hope to provide some perspective and clarity.

First, I want you to know how sad I am, that the recent events have affected so many people. UNC fans; the UNC community, including the facility, administration and the students; especially our student athletes, our coaches and their families; and my own family.

Second, I have been overwhelmed by the support of friends, faculty, administrators, alums, board of trustees members, board of governors members and the thousands of people who have taken the time and made the effort to reach out to me and my family.

Third, I am disappointed at the misinformation that has surrounded this entire matter. I am not going to provide a point by point rebuttal. Suffice to say much of it is just plain wrong.

While the chancellor was within his rights to do so, I believe the decision he made to end my tenure at Carolina was his alone. As I have stated before, I did not and do not agree with his decision. After all, neither the NCAA nor the university investigation even suggested any wrongdoing on my part.
When I stepped into the University of Miami job, we inherited a football program perceived as rogue and out of control. The NCAA had leveled multiple sanctions, including the loss of 31 scholarships and a bowl ban after the 1995 season. My staff and I changed the entire culture, environment and the perception of the program.

We restored a commitment and pride to education and simultaneously built a team that went 11 and 1, and beat Florida in the Sugar Bowl. The year after I left Miami, the team won the national championship and played for it again the following year. The personal and professional values I brought to the University of Miami were the same that I brought to UNC. They never changed!

When I accepted the head coaching position at Carolina my family and I had every intention of making this our last coaching stop, and our home forever. We became deeply entrenched in the community and totally invested both emotionally as well as financially in local charities and the university itself. We have made many wonderful friends - people we will cherish and appreciate forever. We are also grateful for the huge support from the UNC fans.

Make no mistake. Wanting to build a championship program is part of my life, and is important to me. But my commitment to education will always rise above it.

*Butch Davis was the head football coach at UNC-Chapel Hill from 2007 until July of this year.*
Classes to start on schedule today at UNCW after early morning search for gunman

Classes will start like normal this morning at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, hours after officials put the school on alert because an armed robbery suspect ran onto campus shortly before midnight Monday.

The man is still at large, according to an update the school sent out at 5:40 a.m. The message stated that students are free to move around the campus but should remain alert and report suspicious activity to the police.

UNCW officials said that extra security would be on campus and police were continuing to investigate the incident.

Authorities spent early morning Tuesday looking for a gunman on the campus and in areas surrounding UNCW after a man reportedly robbed someone in the parking lot of a Hardee's on South College Road. He then ran to the nearby university property carrying a small-caliber handgun, according to a press release from the school.

No shots were fired, and there were no injuries reported in the robbery, the release stated. The robbery victim was not a UNCW student.

University officials will post more updates to its website at www.uncw.edu/alert and information line at (888) 675-5751.

Check back later for more on this developing story.

- Gareth McGrath and Vicky Eckenrode
The Wilmington Star News
Published: Sunday, November 13, 2011 at 5:32 p.m.

Editorial:

**UNC leaders need to keep pressure on legislature; constitution on their side**

Wilmington’s Fred Eshelman gave more than $3 million to a special-interest group that helped elect Republicans to Congress, but he also has been a staunch supporter of North Carolina’s public universities, including UNCW. And as a member of the UNC Board of Governors, he had strong words last week about yet another proposal to increase tuition.

Instead of putting more of the cost on the backs of students and their parents, Eshelman suggested last week that the board of governors just say no, and let the Honorables “deal with it.”

“It’s counterintuitive that when the economy goes to hell, we tell people they have to pay more,” he told the board, according to published reports.

In a way, his comments are ironic. Efforts like Eshelman’s “Right Change” group helped elect Republicans to national and state offices last year, largely on a platform of cutting taxes and cutting government spending and “entitlements.” Here in North Carolina, the GOP takeover of both chambers of the General Assembly was financed largely by Art Pope, whose discount-store empire depends on low-income customers.

Eshelman is right, however, as is another Wilmingtonian, board Chairperson Hannah Gage, who says the board needs to push the legislature harder for more money for higher education. The Honorables, both Republicans and Democrats, have over the years pushed more of the burden onto students.

Another member, Burley Mitchell, reminded the board of the constitutional obligation to keep the state’s public universities as affordable as possible. And he should know a thing or two about the state constitution, being a former chief justice of the N.C. Supreme Court and all.

Supporters of letting the UNC campuses increase their tuition to the same level as “peer universities” in other states point out, accurately, that our schools are still cheaper than most comparable ones. But as Richard Lee Colvin pointed out in an opinion column that ran on Sunday’s Perspectives page, students are graduating with loads of student loan debt.
Colvin, director of the Washington think tank Education Sector, pointed out that less than 20 years ago, most college students did not need loans; now the majority do and the average student loan debt upon leaving college is more than $25,000.

It’s reassuring to see members of the board of governors pushing back and reminding the Honorables of their responsibility to one of the nation’s most respected public university systems. But it remains to be seen whether they – or Eshelman – will follow through on his suggestion to put the brakes on tuition increases. In general, the board of governors and lawmakers have approved requested tuition increases or merely scaled them back.

With every increase a few more middle-income students are priced out of the school of their choice. Nationwide, tuition is growing much faster than the rate of inflation. But some UNC board members see no alternative, given the deep cuts that already have eliminated 9,000 classes systemwide.

It is time that someone stood up and said, “Enough.”

Students and their families cannot take another substantial tuition increase. And state lawmakers and the governor are constitutionally obligated to ensure that our UNC system has the money it needs to maintain its quality.
2nd robbery blamed on student

BY THOMASI MCDONALD - tmcdonald@newsobserver.com

YOUNGSVILLE—A UNC-Chapel Hill student wanted for the robbery of an Apex bank has now been charged with robbing a second bank in Franklin County.

Police charged Gordon Miller Goodwin, 22, Friday with the common law robbery Nov. 3 of SunTrust Bank at N.C. 96 and North College Street in the heart of Youngsville's downtown.

Police Chief Daren Kirts said they have been searching for Goodwin - a senior Peace, War and Defense major - since Nov. 8, when Youngsville investigators compared surveillance photos of the Nov. 7 robbery of the SunTrust branch inside a Kroger grocery at U.S. 64, Apex, with surveillance photos of the robbery in their town.

"One of our officers saw a lot of similarities," Kirts said Monday.

Their suspect, like the robber in Apex, walked into the Youngsville bank just before 2:30 p.m. and handed a teller a note that stated he had a firearm.

"The notes are very similar," Kirts said. Both notes instructed tellers to not give him bait money or sound the alarm until he had left the bank.

The bank robber in Youngsville made off with $730 in cash, Kirts reported.

The suspect made off with $4,500 in the Apex robbery.

"He took the wrong turn, and not for a lot of money," Kirts said about the college student now facing felony criminal charges.

Apex police announced Saturday night that Goodwin was taken into custody in Atlantic City, N.J.

Atlantic City police were unavailable for comment Monday.

"I hear that his mother talked him into turning himself in," Kirts said.

McDonald: 919-829-4533
Recruiting Veterans, Columbia Finds an Impressive Applicant Pool

By MICHAEL WINERIP

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Two years ago, in an effort to attract more veterans to Columbia, Curtis Rodgers, a dean of admissions, began recruiting at military bases. Almost immediately he noticed differences between the Marines and the typical 18-year-old Ivy League applicant.

Marines are less aggressive. When Mr. Rodgers asked Sgt. Tiffani Watts at the end of a recent interview if she had any questions, the Marine answered, “I do, sir, but I don’t want to make you late for your next interview, sir.”

Marines are open about academic weaknesses. “To be forthright, sir, I did very poorly in high school,” Cpl. Leland Dawson began his interview. “It was a bit shaky, sir.”

Marines are understated. While 18-year-olds describe in detail a week they spent in Costa Rica building houses for the needy, Sergeant Watts, Cpl. Benjamin Vickery, Cpl. Tyler Fritz and Cpl. Andrew King barely mentioned their deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. “No one wants to brag about
something so terrible,” Corporal King said. “In a brief 30 minutes you can’t explain something that dramatic in your life.”

Which makes the dean’s interviews with Marines a little tougher. “They tend to play down their accomplishments,” Mr. Rodgers said.

Life has come full circle for the military and Columbia. In 1947, Columbia opened its School of General Studies to accommodate returning World War II veterans whose education was financed by the G.I. Bill. During the Vietnam War protest years, veterans all but disappeared from campus and stayed disappeared for decades.

And now, in good part thanks to passage of the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill in 2008, veterans are returning in numbers not seen in half a century. Of the 1,500 undergraduates at Columbia’s School of General Studies — which serves older, nontraditional students — 210 are veterans, up from 50 three years ago. (General Studies students take the same classes and get the same degree as other Columbia undergraduates.)

According to Wick Sloane, who writes a column for Inside Higher Ed, Columbia is the most aggressive recruiter of veterans among Ivy League colleges. Cornell is second, with 48.

A week ago, in his “Doonesbury” comic strip, Garry Trudeau took a swipe at other universities for not doing better. “Athletes? Sure. Legacies? In spades,” B. D., the Vietnam veteran, says to an admissions director. “But veterans? Some of the country’s most talented, motivated kids? Not so much!”

Yale, Mr. Trudeau’s alma mater, has eight undergraduate veterans on the G.I. Bill, according to a spokeswoman.

Recruiting visits made by Mr. Rodgers and his admissions team include the Bronx High School of Science, Lycée Français de New York, Milken Community High School in Los Angeles, Camp Lejeune in North Carolina and Camp Pendleton here in Southern California.

Columbia is one of 190 colleges in the Leadership Scholar Program, which helps Marines navigate the admissions process after leaving the Corps, although few visit bases to recruit.

In a day sitting in on interviews with the 10 applicants — all in their mid-20s — a pattern emerges: generally speaking, they once were lost, but now are found.
Mr. Rodgers asked Corporal Vickery why he had dropped out of Florida State University. “My father died, and then six months later my mother died and I left to take care of my brother,” he said. “I didn’t know what to do with myself and thought the Marines would give me a focus.”

Sergeant Watts described growing up in La Porte, Ind., with little direction or ambition. “I came into the Marines kind of a wayward child,” she said.

No more. She spent hours preparing for the interview. “I’ve been reading extra hard,” she said while waiting her turn. “I did several practice interviews with my captain. He believes in me a lot. He told me I have nothing to worry about, I’m ready.”

Midday, Mr. Rodgers did a telephone interview from Afghanistan with Corporal Fritz, who spoke quite a bit about his love for debate in high school, and how he’d read novels like “The Great Gatsby” to learn about New York. The corporal did not mention that it was midnight there; or that he’d just gotten off a 12-hour shift; or that his job is to be rushed into combat to provide backup whenever a unit from the Seventh Marine Regiment is under attack.

After hanging up, Mr. Rodgers said, “He got 2100 on his SATs.”

Mr. Rodgers brought along Columbia T-shirts for an information session with the Wounded Warrior Battalion. Most of the wounds — whether shrapnel buried all over a body or post-traumatic stress disorder — are invisible. So it was a little jarring when Staff Sgt. Jauntianne Saleigh, a counselor, raised her hand and said: “You told us some form of standardized test score was required, but a lot of our Marines don’t do well on standardized tests. They’ve suffered traumatic brain injury and have to learn to talk all over again.”

Mr. Rodgers said things were handled case by case.

Though applicants had been screened by the Marine command, there was a wide range of abilities. One corporal told Mr. Rodgers he would be taking introduction to algebra at Washtenaw Community College in Michigan in January, and hoped to enter Columbia next fall, majoring in economics and statistics.

Others would be strong candidates anywhere. In military language schools, Corporal King has learned Persian (Tehrani and Shirazi dialects); Dari, Pashto and Baluchi. During high school he had mastered German and Latin and was accepted at the University of Virginia and Emory, but as one of six children, he couldn’t afford an elite school.
He is scheduled to be deployed for his second tour to Afghanistan next month, and he hopes to enter college in September.

Several of the Marines had asked Mr. Rodgers whether he thought they’d feel out of place at an Ivy League school, although it wasn’t something Corporal King had thought much about. “After surviving firefights, sitting on a college campus with someone who doesn’t like me is the least of my worries,” he said.

Corporal King said he was pleased with his interview, but he had forgotten to say one thing: “I wanted to convey to Dean Rodgers that just because I served in Afghanistan doesn’t mean I have P.T.S.D. and will be a mental health risk to an institution.”

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Animal McMansion: Students Trade Dorm for Suburban Luxury

By PATRICIA LEIGH BROWN

MERCED, Calif. — Heather Alarab, a junior at the University of California, Merced, and Jill Foster, a freshman, know that their sudden popularity has little to do with their sparkling personalities, intelligence or athletic prowess.

“Hey, what are you doing?” throngs of friends perpetually text. “Hot tub today?”

While students at other colleges cram into shoebox-size dorm rooms, Ms. Alarab, a management major, and Ms. Foster, who is studying applied math, come home from midterms to chill out under the stars in a curvaceous swimming pool and an adjoining Jacuzzi behind the rapidly depreciating McMansion that they have rented for a song.
Here in Merced, a city in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley and one of the country’s hardest hit by home foreclosures, the downturn in the real estate market has presented an unusual housing opportunity for thousands of college students. Facing a shortage of dorm space, they are moving into hundreds of luxurious homes in overbuilt planned communities.

Forget the off-to-college checklist of yesteryear (bedside lamp, laundry bag, under-the-bed storage trays). This is “Animal House” 2011.

Double-height Great Room? Check.
Five bedrooms? Check.
Chandeliers? Check.

Then there are the three-car garages, wall-to-wall carpeting, whirlpool baths, granite kitchen countertops, walk-in closets and inviting gas fireplaces.

“I mean, I have it all!” said Patricia Dugan, a senior majoring in management, who was reading Dario Fo’s “Accidental Death of an Anarchist” in her light-filled living room while soaking a silk caftan in one of two master bathroom sinks.

The finances of subdivision life are compelling: the university estimates yearly on-campus room and board at $13,720 a year, compared with roughly $7,000 off-campus. Sprawl rats sharing a McMansion — with each getting a bedroom and often a private bath — pay $200 to $350 a month each, depending on the amenities.

Gurbir Dhillon, a senior majoring in molecular cell biology, pays $70 more than his four housemates each month for the privilege of having what they enviously call “the penthouse suite” — a princely boudoir with a whirlpool tub worthy of Caesars Palace and a huge walk-in closet, which Mr. Dhillon has filled with baseball caps and T-shirts.

The pool table in the young men’s Great Room is the site of raucous games and taco dinners. “You definitely appreciate it when you visit your friends at other schools and they say, ‘O.K., sleep on the floor,’ ” Mr. Dhillon said.

A confluence of factors led to the unlikely presence of students in subdivisions, where the collegiate promise of sleeping in on a Saturday morning may be rudely interrupted by neighborhood children selling Girl Scout cookies door to door.

This city of 79,000 is ranked third nationally in metropolitan-area home foreclosures, behind Las Vegas and Vallejo, Calif., said Daren Blomquist, a spokesman for RealtyTrac, a company based in Irvine, Calif., that tracks
housing sales. The speculative fever that gripped the region and drew waves of outside investors to this predominantly agricultural area was fueled in part by the promise of the university itself, which opened in 2005 as the first new University of California campus in 40 years.

The crash crashed harder here. “Builders were coming into the area by the bulkload,” said Loren M. Gonella, who owns a real estate company here. “It was, ‘Holy moly, let’s get on this gravy train.’ ”

But visions of an instant Berkeley materializing in the cow pastures were premature. The stylishly designed university planned for a gradual expansion, adding 600 new students a year. That has meant phased dorm construction, which is financed with tax-exempt bonds repaid by student revenue. There is room for only 1,600 students in the campus dorms, but 5,200 are enrolled.

With hundreds of homes standing empty, many of them likely foreclosures, students willing to share houses have been “a blessing,” said Ellie Wooten, a former mayor of Merced and a real estate broker. Five students paying $200 a month each trump families who cannot afford more than $800 a month.

The university’s free transit system, Cat Tracks, stops at student-heavy subdivisions. There are also limitless creative possibilities, with décor ranging from a Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority bedroom motif to an archetypal male nightstand overflowing with empty bags of Flamin’ Hot Cheetos.

Not all neighbors are amused.

“Everybody on this street is underwater and can’t see any relief,” said John Angus, an out-of-work English teacher who paid $532,000 for a house that is now worth $221,000. “This was supposed to be an edge-of-town, Desperate Housewifey community,” he said. “These students are the reverse.”

Mr. Angus pays $3,000 a month, while student neighbors pay one-tenth of that. “I think they’re the luckiest students I’ve ever come across,” he said somewhat bitterly.

Nevertheless, students quickly learn that the cul-de-sac life is not risk-free. Lance Eber, the crime analyst for the Merced Police Department, said vacant houses were frequent targets of theft, most recently of copper wiring. They also attract squatters, who sometimes encamp beneath covered patios, he said.
Ms. Wooten related a cautionary tale about four students living in a house foreclosed by a bank who continued to send rent checks to an owner who had skipped town. When the bank gave them two weeks’ notice to move out, the students went into Erin Brockovich mode and researched their legal rights. “It bought them at least three months,” Ms. Wooten said. “By golly, they’re still there.”

She added, “There are some odd scenarios going on around here.”

They include the case of absentee landlord parents like Rhonda Castillo and her husband, who bought a house for their son, Jason, when times were flush in 2005. Jason was in the first class at the Merced campus.

The untimely investment was ultimately less important than “an investment in our son,” Mrs. Castillo said. “It gave him a preview of real life: buying groceries, preparing food, doing the laundry and taking care of the yard.” (He is now in medical school, and four female students rent the house.)

Indeed, managing a four- or five-bedroom house — not to mention all the cars — can be tricky business for young people.

Sitting in her kitchen, a planet of granite, Katilyn McIntire, a human biology major, explained how she and her four roommates rotated cars — one parks on the street, two park in the garage and two in the driveway. Whoever is getting up for an 8 a.m. class parks last. After an unsuccessful attempt at tending the yard with a hand mower, they now pay $50 a month to a gardener.

The student equivalent of “keeping up with the Joneses” has emerged, too.

Jaron Brandon, a sophomore and a senator in the student government, does his homework in the Jacuzzi in his six-bedroom house, on a waterproof countertop that he rigged over the tub.

Seeking housemates, he posted a beguiling ad on Craigslist: “For a small amount more than a nameless house in the suburbs,” it read, “you could be living in a mansion right by school.”