Lockdown ends; man had umbrella

By The Daily Reflector

A man reported to be carrying a gun toward ECU's campus actually was carrying an umbrella, officials said today.

Reports that he was carrying a gun prompted a three-hour long lockdown of East Carolina University and a large search of campus and the surrounding area by armed police. Officials ended the lockdown just before 1 p.m., and a campuswide email from Chancellor Steve Ballard said the reports turned out to be unfounded.

Scores of police with guns and rifles drawn responded following two 10 a.m. reports that the man was walking on Fifth Street downtown toward campus. A search produced no arrest, officials said, and no hostage situations took place.

Officers searched city and university buses, the Rivers Building and other campus facilities, the downtown area and a residential area near campus. Police confirmed at a news briefing at 1:30 p.m. that the man had a large umbrella in his backpack that witnesses mistook for a rifle.
Ballard expressed relief in the campuswide email: "East Carolina University will always err on the side of campus safety when these situations arise. Our response by faculty, staff, and students was timely and professional."

The man was located near downtown by a reserve Pitt County Sheriff's Office deputy, officials said. The deputy instantly recognized that it was the same man in surveillance photos captured earlier in the day, Sgt. Carlton Williams of the Greenville Police Department said.

The man was interviewed and allowed to leave because he had broken no laws, Williams said. Officials at the news conference did not have the time when the encounter took place. Williams was trying to confirm the timing this afternoon.

People walking on campus during the lockdown were ordered to move inside buildings or to leave the area. Some were momentarily detained by officers. Assistant Chief Dawn Tevepaugh did not have a number of how many people were detained, but said there were no armed encounters with citizens.

As of 12:30 p.m., police were continuing to clear buildings of students and staff, including a floor-by-floor search of the Rivers Building, according to reports from ECU and at the scene.

ECU buses were being used to ferry people away from Rivers to College Hill, where they were asked to stay at Todd Dining Hall. At 12:45 p.m., large crowds were milling about outside and talking on cellphones. They were being allowed to leave via automobile.

At 12:50 p.m., the lockdown was ended on the medical campus.

Sgt. Carlton Williams of the Greenville Police Department said at 12:30 p.m. no hostages had been taken, despite reports on social media. He did not know if a gunman was in the Rivers Building, or if a gunman was on campus at all.

Williams asked the public to refrain from posting unconfirmed reports on Facebook, Twitter and other social media because it was hampering their efforts.

He also asked people to respect the lockdown and continue to avoid moving about on campus.

Police received two reports of a man walking on Fifth Street downtown toward campus with a rifle. The man was described by Williams as a male with a backpack and what appeared to by a long rifle.
A city camera also photographed the man, Williams said. Police from Greenville, East Carolina University and other agencies conducted a search of a wide area around campus. At least one State Highway Patrol helicopter was involved in the search.

Officers with guns drawn at 11:15 a.m. were pointing them in the direction of a home at 4001 Johnston St. in the area of Rotary and Third streets. One officer was speaking to a person at the house.

An officer later appeared on the roof of the house. Guns remained drawn but not pointed. A square-block area around the area of Johnston and Rotary was blocked.

As of 11:45 a.m., that scene had been cleared by officers.

Officers at 11 a.m. were pointing weapons at one of four GREAT city buses at the transfer station at Fourth and Reade Street.

They left the scene after a search of the buses and headed west on Fourth Street after five minutes or so.

Officers also were searching the area around the Rivers Building at that time, according to reports from the scene.

Loud speakers warned students and staff to seek safe areas. The university also dispatched alerts to students and staff via text and Twitter.

A message over the speakers warned of a police emergency and told everyone to stay inside as officers from Greensville and East Carolina police began searching the campus area near Fifth and Cotanche and other locations. Officers from the Pitt County Sheriff's Office and the State Highway Patrol joined the search.

Officers also were searching downtown and campus and city bus services and in neighborhoods near campus. Highway Patrol helicopters had joined in the search as of 11:30 a.m.

Wahl-Coates, Elmhurst, C.M. Eppes and Sadie Saulter school also went on a modified lock down as a precaution, according to the Pitt County Schools.

In a modified lock down, instruction continues but the doors to the school are locked and no one comes or goes outside.

In a full lock down, instruction stops and students and faculty get into a safe place away from windows/doors.
Editorial: Responsibility for student safety

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Each year, thousands of young men and women — the vast majority having graduated high school only months earlier — converge on Greenville and Pitt County as they begin study at East Carolina University. That creates a tremendous burden of responsibility for the community, which is charged by proxy with the care and protection of the students during their time in the East.

That said, this community should not be asked to go it alone and needs young people to make choices that respect their self-interest and those of their friends. The university offers tremendous leadership in that regard, but two recent incidents involving East Carolina students may signal it is time to review those efforts and strengthen the school’s relationship with the city in the interest of public safety.

Arguably more than any other weekend in Greenville, the annual Halloween festivities worry law enforcement and demand considerable coordination between local officers and those from surrounding areas brought in to assist managing thousands of people who flood downtown. While there were no problems in that key city district this year, an East Carolina student was arrested and charged with murder in the stabbing death of a U.S. Army
paratrooper following an alleged altercation between the two at an off-campus party.

By contrast with Halloween, last weekend was expected to be comparatively slow due to the Pirates football team playing in Texas. Instead, three people were shot — two of whom were East Carolina students — at another off-campus party early Sunday morning. An investigation into those events continues, but it appears another skirmish led to violence.

These two events are generally unrelated, save for the involvement of students attending East Carolina who are not native to the community. What’s more, both incidents occurred at off-campus parties, where actions may have been influenced by excessive alcohol consumption. It would be reckless to leap to conclusions, but these parallels alone give cause for consideration.

This remains a community where people should be cognizant of their surroundings and the company they keep. That is not to say that those who attend East Carolina are at fault — let law enforcement and the courts determine blame — but only to serve as a reminder of the responsibility shared by the city, the university and students themselves. Instruction and guidance are important components of the college experience, and this community cannot afford to fall short when measured by that expectation.
Clint Bailey, assistant vice chancellor of university marketing and publications, speaks during the Chamber of Commerce's Power Luncheon at the Brook Valley Country Club on Tuesday. (Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector)

**ECU has big economic impact**

By K.j. Williams
The Daily Reflector
Wednesday, November 16, 2011

A recent report found that East Carolina University has a yearly economic impact of $3.3 billion in North Carolina, and an unrelated survey shows the school has made strides in polishing its public perception, officials told members of the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber Commerce on Tuesday.

“If you look at our roots and where we are today, it’s an American success story,” said Michael Dowdy, ECU’s chancellor for university advancement, referring to the school’s image. “So, I think we did come away feeling very good about the university.”

He said a task force identified the need for up-to-date statistics on the campus’s economic effect, which was produced by Mulu Wubneh, a professor and chairman of the planning department with assistance from his graduate students.

Dowdy said the project began about 18 months ago. It produced specifics to buttress statements about the university’s position as a major economic driver. For each $1 appropriated by the General Assembly, there is a return of $13.64, Dowdy said.
ECU’s yearly effect on eastern North Carolina alone amounts to $1.8 billion. It results in the creation of about 17,500 jobs in addition to its own workforce of about 5,500, according to the report.

The largest contributor of $707.8 million or 39 percent is the result of ECU employee spending and the second largest of $601.2 million or 33 percent comes from student spending.

Another $353.6 million or 6 percent comes from spending unrelated to payroll, and an additional 6 percent or $107.9 million from capital expenditures. Spending from visitors to the campus produced 3 percent of the total or $63.7 million.

The second ECU speaker, Clint Bailey, assistant vice chancellor of university marketing and publications, said improvements at the campus, along with efforts to promote the university, appear to have produced results.

This year’s survey of several thousand people, drawn from potential students, their parents and the business community, showed gains had been made in the university’s reputation, Bailey said.

In 2002, the responses that produced the highest agreement included opinions that ECU was a “party school” and was “easy to get into,” he said. That earlier survey targeted a different group of participants — people who had applied to ECU.

Survey answers to 25 criteria were given on a scale of one to 10. In general, scores lower than five indicated a negative perception, and higher numbers indicated a more positive perception.

This year, the campus received its highest marks for “friendliness,” which Bailey noted was important but not the area that officials see as the most important.

“That is a positive thing but we really don’t want it to be the first thing,” he said.

A “party school,” the top response in 2002, showed a decrease. “In 2011, it’s dropped and that’s a good sign,” Bailey said.
Other top scores were for diversity and school spirit. And the survey showed that people considered the school to be more competitive in terms of admissions, which Bailey attributes to new admission standards.

“It’s still going to let us grow, but will let us grow in terms of retention (of students),” he said.

Participants gave higher marks in 2011 compared to 2002 in key categories including the quality of programs and instruction.

The area of academic excellence also showed gains. “We’ve got a ways to go there, but its definitely positive momentum,” Bailey said.

The perception that ECU gives students personal attention was one of the areas that gained the most.

“It’s really a strength at ECU,” Bailey said.

Participants also gave the campus a higher score in terms of ECU maintaining a safe physical environment.

“It’s not everything’s perfect and we’re done,” Bailey said. “What it shows is positive momentum.”

Contact K.J. Williams at kwilliams@reflector.com or 252-329-9588.
Letter: ECU integration history clarified
Wednesday, November 16, 2011

History is hard to keep straight. Dates and assigning due significance to them are major problems. The Daily Reflector merits praise for excellent coverage of the Nov. 10 lecture at ECU by Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., professor of African-American studies at Harvard University. However, the Reflector’s Nov. 13 editorial, “ECU’s peaceful integration,” is not entirely accurate. The Reflector notes that Gates’ lecture marked the anniversary of desegregation at East Carolina, but then refers to the anniversary as “pending.” The editorial cites the 1962 enrollment of Laura Marie Leary as “East Carolina’s first black student” as the monumental moment in the process of desegregation. Of course this implies that the fall of 2012 is the year for a celebration. Perhaps another celebration is due, but the 50th anniversary of the desegregation was properly celebrated this year.

Leary (Eliot by marriage) was East Carolina’s first full-time black student. Her enrollment the fall of 1963 (not 1962) was preceded by successive groups of black teachers taking courses first in the summer of 1961, and again in 1962, under the instruction of Dr. James L. White, professor of business at ECC. When Leary enrolled in 1963, the campus had already desegregated. The teachers who took summer courses in 1961 and 1962 remain anonymous, but reports in the Reflector from that time establish that desegregation occurred in 1961.

The editorial’s worst error was interpretive: In crediting Dr. Leo W. Jenkins exclusively, the piece omitted a figure of monumental importance, Dr. Andrew Best, a black physician and community leader who worked with Jenkins. Best also worked with county physicians to desegregate the hospital and with businessmen to do the same in our community. Best and Jenkins were treasures among men in the history of social progress in the East.

JOHN A. TUCKER, Ph.D.
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East Carolina University
Tuition rocket

Again and again, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has enjoyed the flattering characterization as the "people's university." But a proposal to raise tuition on the order of $2,800 over five years threatens to amend the compliment. "Some of the people's university," perhaps, or "a university for those who can afford it."

The idea is ill-timed. North Carolina's 10.5 percent unemployment rate is above the national average. Tens of thousands of jobs have been lost. Thousands more have seen their income dramatically decline in the wake of the severe recession. And trustees, most of them financially secure, even wealthy, propose to raise the cost of a public education that by constitutional directive is supposed to be "as close to free as practicable."

Yet UNC-CH Chancellor Holden Thorp says the university needs the money to, among other things, "get a sense of optimism among faculty employees about the direction of UNC-Chapel Hill." The working people of North Carolina could use a little optimism, too, because their livelihoods are threatened (and some have been lost) and many are worried not about getting raises but about just getting by.

Weak connection?

Where is the connection to the families of North Carolina who have supported this university with their tax dollars? Are trustees oblivious to the fact that such an increase could price some middle-class students and their families out of an education, or frighten others off? That's the risk even though, under a proposal to be considered by the trustees, about 45 percent of the additional tuition revenue would be channeled into financial aid.

Families in the middle - not wealthy, but with enough assets to take them out of the range for aid - would especially be squeezed by this increase, which would amount to 15.6 percent in 2012-13.

Yes, the university took a tremendous (and ill-advised) budget cut of 18 percent from the General Assembly. Yes, it needs to maintain quality. And yes, even with a large tuition hike, it would remain in the lower quarter for tuition charged at similar schools. But the "bargain" at Chapel Hill, and at
other branches of the UNC system, has brought back to the state unimaginable dividends.

One who knows is C.D. Spangler Jr., president of the system for 11 years. Spangler has fought tuition increases tenaciously for his entire career, and often views the proposals as morally wrong. And in a recent appearance with three other former UNC presidents (Molly Broad, Erskine Bowles, William Friday) and current President Tom Ross, Spangler spoke against tuition hikes and laid out a 10-point, two-year plan for the entire system to save money without hurting instruction, or students.

**The specifics**

Among his recommendations: a moratorium on sabbaticals (paid leaves of absence) for faculty; a salary freeze; a 10 percent cut in administrative expenses; a halt in out-of-state travel; restricting scholarship money to in-state students; deferring expansion of athletics facilities; and raising tuition charges to out-of-state students to cover the full cost of their education.

Spangler also called for the transfer of training programs for registered nurses to less costly community colleges, and for a delay in other program expansions (no new law schools, etc.). And he called on the wealthiest 1,000 people in the state (himself included) to cover the tuition of 10 in-state students each year.

Universities may resist some of those ideas, but Spangler believes any tuition increase at UNC-CH would be a financial roadblock to people like his parents, a farm family from Cleveland County. Spangler himself was the first in his family to attend college, something that's still relatively common on UNC campuses. The former president offers a stern reminder of the importance of staying true to that mission of education for the people, even at the great research university in Chapel Hill.
UNC-CH students to protest rising cost

BY LANA DOUGLAS - STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL UNC-Chapel Hill students plan to protest a proposed 40 percent tuition increase at the board of trustees meeting today.

Students with the "Strike the Hikes" coalition plan to meet at 1 p.m. in the Pit outside of the student union and march to the trustees' meeting at the Carolina Inn at 1:30 p.m.

The coalition will deliver 1,000 signatures from UNC-CH students against the proposed tuition increase for 2012-13, according to a release.

Ana Maria Reichenbach, a senior at UNC-CH, said the increase is a step toward making UNC-CH more like a private institution and would keep some students from graduating.

"Many of the students at the university can't afford another tuition hike," Reichenbach said.

"Of course the quality of education concerns us, but also, framing the debate in a different way," she said. "What about those who can't afford to be concerned about the quality of education because they won't be in this school (if the tuition increase is approved)."

The proposal to increase in-state tuition by $2,800 over the next five years moved forward Monday when an advisory task force approved the plan in a 9-5 vote.

If the UNC-CH trustees approve the plan, it will go before the UNC system's Board of Governors.

If passed, the plan would raise tuition next year from $7,009 to $7,795, or 15.6 percent, for in-state students and from $26,834 to $28,442, or 6.5 percent, for out-of-state students.
The University of North Carolina Wilmington Board of Trustees won't decide until December how much of a tuition increase to request for next school year, but the tuition debate has begun at the state and local levels.

The UNC system issued guidelines to individual campuses allowing them to request a 6.5 percent increase in tuition and fees. But the campuses may also propose increases beyond that to "catch up" to rates of peer institutions.

That could lead to requests for significant tuition hikes at some schools, although any "catch-up" increases should be phased in over a number of years to lessen the impact on students.

The requests will be considered by the UNC Board of Governors at a meeting in February.

After a 6.5 percent increase this year, in-state undergraduates at UNCW are paying about $200 more in tuition than they did a year ago, but they are still paying less than students at peer institutions.

UNCW officials said a university committee is taking many factors and financial pressures into consideration as it draws up its tuition request, including reductions in state appropriations over several years, uncertain funding for enrollment increases next year and the fact that faculty and staff haven't received salary increases in four years. But also, at $5,595 a year, UNCW already has the third highest tuition and fees in the state, trailing only N.C. State and UNC-Chapel Hill.

Sammy Pisano, student body president, said any tuition increase is "definitely going to be difficult for everybody to grasp" and would affect some students more than others.

But given the economic situation and reductions in state funding to universities, many students understand the need for additional revenue for the campuses to continue to provide a quality education, he said.

Meanwhile, five Wilmington-area members of the Board of Governors will have a hand in the tuition decisions. The debate comes as universities are
struggling after four years of General Assembly-imposed cuts, but also as many families and students can't afford higher tuition costs.

Two board members from Wilmington – Chairwoman Hannah Gage and recent appointee Fred Eshelman – helped frame the debate at last week's Board of Governors' meeting in Chapel Hill.

Eshelman, founder of Wilmington-based PPD, suggested that the board refuse to raise tuition and force the General Assembly to "deal with it."

"It's absolutely counterintuitive if you say when the economy goes to hell, we make people pay more," Eshelman said.

Board chairwoman and Wilmington resident Hannah Gage said historically the board has raised tuition when times are bad because the General Assembly cuts funding.

She said Tuesday that it is "unlikely, based on history, that there would be zero tuition increase, but the campuses may not get what they're asking for either."

Gage said many new variables are in the equation this year. Republicans took over control of the General Assembly for the first time in decades, half of the board members started their terms this year and the 17-campus UNC system has a new president, Thomas W. Ross.

"There's not a lot of clarity right now," Gage said.

Ross is expected to release his recommendations on tuition in January.

Gage also stressed that the university system is already cutting costs in many ways, such as offering more online courses, cutting administrative expenses and eliminating under-enrolled or duplicated programs.

"Four consecutive years of cuts now, and the low-hanging fruit is gone," she said. "We've cut our budget by $1 billion, and campuses are desperate about how they can keep good faculty and provide quality education."

Raiford Trask III, a Wilmington developer in his first year on the board, said he's awaiting more information before forming an opinion about tuition.

"I'd like to look at what the campuses come back to us with," he said. "I'd also like to look at general and administrative costs. I think there's still some progress we could make there."

That said, Trask said it's important that the system be able to retain its best faculty, who could be recruited away by other institutions.
Board member Tommy Harrelson, of Southport, said the university system's first effort should be in cutting expenses wherever possible, and only after that should any tuition increases be considered.

"No one should make decisions about tuition without looking at both sides of the ledger," he said.

Harrelson said he doesn't know many people and businesses from Southeastern North Carolina who haven't suffered in this economy.

"I think we have to be aware of that and make sure whatever is spent toward education goes to the students and that they are less affected than anybody," he said.

Irvin A. Roseman of Wilmington is also on the board of governors.

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The Wilmington Star News

Published: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 7:41 p.m.

**UNCW officials say warning system worked**

By Brian Freskos
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A robber who reportedly held up a couple of women in a parked car outside a fast-food restaurant late Monday night set off alarms across the University of North Carolina Wilmington campus when he fled toward the school.

Classes began like normal Tuesday morning as the warnings for those on campus to stay inside was lifted at 5:40 a.m., with the university advising students that they could move freely again but should remain alert and report suspicious activity.

The incident drew added attention because the university's emergency alert procedures became a topic of concern in July when officials failed to notify students about a shooting on the outskirts of campus that wounded one man.

Following the lapse, officials undertook a review of the system that found issues with its software and how personnel manage their time in the event of an emergency.

Monday's robbery amounted to a real-life test on whether changes adopted since the summer gave university police the right equipment and procedures to swiftly alert the student body to a crisis.

Officials said Tuesday the new system worked as it should.

Unlike in July, when the first information was sent two hours after the shooting, campus police warned students about the gunman minutes after the nighttime robbery.

The robbery, reported just before midnight, unfolded in the parking lot of a Hardee's at 429 S. College Road, police said.

A man clad in the bandanna and a black, hooded sweatshirt approached the passenger side of a car, pointed a small-caliber handgun at the two women inside and told them to hand over their money and cell phones, police said.

The women complied, relinquishing their phones and a wallet, before the assailant ran away.
Witnesses told police that the robber ran between College Acres Drive and Randall Parkway, which is on UNCW campus, said Lucy Crockett, a spokeswoman for the Wilmington Police Department.

No arrests had been announced in the case by Tuesday evening.

No shots were fired, and the robbery victims were not UNCW students.

Still, the school put students on alert that a gunman was on campus, warning them through email and text and voice messages to go find a safe and secure location, lock the doors and stay away from windows.

Later, officials put a breaking news banner on the university's website, disseminated updates through social media and opened a hotline, said Joy Davis, a university spokeswoman.

Extra security was at the campus as morning classes started Tuesday.

UNCW Police Chief David Donaldson said that dogs tried to follow the robber's scent but loss track of him on Randall Parkway, suggesting the robber escaped in a car.

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Jun Sim, a Malaysian student attending the University of Nebraska, takes a photo of an ear of corn during her visit to a farm near Hooper, Neb. The number of international students to U.S. colleges rose during the 2010-11 academic year.

More foreign students studying in USA
By Mary Beth Marklein, USA TODAY
Updated 22h 9m ago

International students and their dependents contributed more than $20 billion to the U.S. economy last year as record numbers of foreigners enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities, reports to be released today show. The numbers of U.S. students earning college credit abroad also is on the rise.

The number of international students at U.S. colleges and universities rose 4.7% to 723,277 during the 2010-11 academic year, says an annual report by the Institute of International Education (IIE), which has tracked data since 1949.

Enrollments of international students have overcome a four-year period of flat or declining growth that began in 2002-03 and reflected concerns about safety and U.S. immigration policies after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Enrollments have been on the upswing since 2006-07 and grew 32% over the past decade, IIE data show.
The number of U.S. students earning college credit abroad also increased, by 3.9% in the 2009-10 academic year, the latest year for which data are available, IIE said. The previous year, the number of U.S. students going abroad had dipped slightly for the first time.

State Department officials viewed increases in both directions as evidence that earlier declines were short-term trends. "Young people who study abroad gain the global skills necessary to create solutions to 21st-century challenges," said Ann Stock, assistant secretary of State. "In turn, international students globalize our campuses and communities."

China, the top country of origin for international students, sent 157,558 undergraduate and graduate students to the USA, up 23% from the previous year.

Among the top five sending countries, which together account for more than half of all international students, enrollments from South Korea increased by 1.7%. But U.S. schools saw drops from India (down 1%), Canada (2.1%) and Taiwan (7%).

Year-to-year fluctuation among countries is typical, often dictated by factors such as the economic or political climate and natural disasters, IIE President Allan Goodman says.

According to the Commerce Department, international students contribute more than $21 billion to the U.S. economy through tuition and living expenses, which include room and board, supplies, transportation and health insurance and support for dependents.

An analysis of economic benefits published today by NAFSA: Association of International Educators provides a slightly more conservative estimate, a net of about $20.23 billion.

The analysis, conducted by Jason Baumgartner of Indiana University, found that nearly $28 billion in spending by foreign students was offset by $7.7 billion in U.S. support such as funding from a U.S. college, the U.S. government or a private sponsor.
Flocking to U.S.

Enrollments of foreign students in the USA increased 32% in the past decade:

Source: Institute of International Education

By Julie Snider, USA TODAY