THE DAILY CLIPS

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Instructor Tamar Rogoff, center, helps Paige Gillespie with a leg exercise during a conference entitled "Moving Beyond Limitations: A Choreographer's Approach to Cerebral Palsy," in the East Carolina University Heart Institute Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2010. (Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector)

Choreographer, actor move beyond limits
By Lynsey Horn
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, November 18, 2010

Despite having no official medical training, a choreographer has helped an actor who suffers from cerebral palsy to better control his body and improve his life physically and emotionally.

Choreographer Tamar Rogoff and Gregg Mozgala, an actor who suffers from cerebral palsy, were at the East Carolina Heart Institute on Wednesday to present their program “Moving Beyond Limits: A Choreographer's Approach to Cerebral Palsy.” Rogoff saw Mozgala perform the role of Romeo and was moved by his talent and intrigued by his balance issues. She approached Mozgala about working with him as a dancer and performer.

“I thought Tamar was a kook. You're a choreographer and you want to dance with me?” Mozgala said. “She was genuinely interested in me as a dancer, an actor and a performer not just my CP. She created a very safe place.”

Rogoff and Mozgala have been working together every day for two years and have created a theatrical dance piece called “Diagnosis of a Faun,” in which two professional dancers, Mozgala and a doctor play the roles.

Mozgala plays the faun, a mythical half man, half goat creature who was known to push boundaries and was more desirable than the mythical Greek god Apollo. Mozgala says that before he met Rogoff, he had a perception of himself as monstrous and his body was something he was fighting against. Since he has started working with her, he says he has gotten to know his body and tries to live the role of the faun.
Because of his cerebral palsy, Mozgala's body is so tense that even walking is not an instinctual action for him. When working with him, Rogoff helps Mozgala discover each part of the body.

“It's much easier for him to dance than walk,” Rogoff said.

Controlling his muscles is still a constant endeavor for Mozgala but it has become easier over the past two years.

“It's a balance between what my body thought it could do, where it thought it had to operate and what it could actually do,” Mozgala said.

During the program, Rogoff and Mozgala described their work and experiences. Mozgala performed and showed clips from performances of “Diagnosis of a Faun.” An interactive movement session that demonstrated their techniques and strategies also was held as part of the program.

Rogoff and Mozgala are trying to spread awareness about their work.

“We decided to support each other in this experiment,” Rogoff said.

Contact Lynsey Horn at Lhorn@reflector.com.
Editorial: Connector project overdue
Thursday, November 18, 2010

When completed, the 10th Street Connector project will provide a critical link between Pitt County Memorial Hospital and the eastern half of Greenville, as well as a more attractive entrance to the city from the west. For five years the community has watched the plodding progress of the project, awaiting the start of what promises to be a tremendous improvement.

Since construction will require the relocation of several homes and businesses, it is critical that care is taken to ensure fair compensation be awarded to those affected. Their inconvenience is an unfortunate by-product of this community priority, and they should not be asked to bear an unfair burden for a project that promises to serve the whole of Greenville.

For motorists coming to the city from the west, what now begins as U.S. 264 and Stantonsburg Road before becoming Farmville Boulevard past Memorial Drive then forces a decision to either turn left onto 14th Avenue or right on 14th Street. There exists no straight thoroughfare leading to downtown Greenville or East Carolina University, nor an easy way for emergency responders to travel from the hospital to those locations.

In order to create such a roadway — one that serves citizens' safety needs and the aesthetic desire to have a grand entrance to the city — the 10th Street Connector project was born. The proposed four-lane thoroughfare would take travelers directly onto 10th Street from Farmville Boulevard, bypassing turns and carrying vehicles over the railroad tracks that bisect Dickinson Avenue.

Building such a roadway in an area populated by homes and businesses has been understandably complicated. The chosen route for the connector will force the acquisition
of about 30 homes and 24 businesses, with federal and state funds paying for land purchases. Homeowners will also benefit from a fund established by the Greenville City Council, and some business owners protested the absence of a similar fund for them at this week's hearing.

Their concerns are valid and deserve the community's attention. No one group, be they homeowners or business owners, should bear the brunt of the entire project.

But it should also be recognized that in the course of 50 public hearings these last five years, all affected or interested have enjoyed ample opportunity to have their say. Action has been taken and preparations made. This project will be a benefit to the city and should proceed expeditiously, with fair and just compensation given to all involved.
GREENVILLE

Robotic lung resection performed

A surgical team at University Health Systems and the East Carolina Heart Institute performed the first robotic lung resection in North Carolina on Nov. 10.

Dr. Sharon Ben-Or, a thoracic surgeon and assistant professor of cardiovascular sciences at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, performed two cases, both involving the right lung.

The first case involved a malignant lesion. The second case involved an aspergilloma (fungal infection). Both patients are doing well. The surgeries took place at University Health Systems’ Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

“The robot allows for 3D movement inside the lung. The instruments provide better visualizations to perform the procedure,” Ben-Or said.
Michelle Parker Quick

WINTERVILLE - Michelle Parker Quick, 41 of Winterville went to be with the Lord Monday, Nov. 15, 2010. She was surrounded by family and friends. A memorial tribute to Michelle's life will be held on Thursday at 3 p.m. at Peace Presbyterian Church with the Rev. Dick Tucker officiating. A private graveside service will be at Pinewood Memorial Park.

Michelle was born in Rocky Mount on May 19, 1969, to Ann Miller Parker and James Thomas Parker. She graduated from East Carolina University in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality Management with a Business minor.

She was a member of Peace Presbyterian Church in Winterville and has been employed with Southern Bank of Greenville since 2008. Prior to Southern Bank, Michelle was employed at the Hilton of Greenville and served as the Senior Sales and Catering Manager from 1994-2006. She was active in the Greenville Pitt County Chamber of Commerce, serving as Chamber Ambassador from 2000-2008. She was recipient of the Chamber Ambassador Award in 2000. Michelle enjoyed spending time with family, friends and her son, Grayson, the light of her life. She was a vivacious woman with a heart of gold and she will be missed by all that were blessed to have known her.

She was preceded in death by her father, James Thomas Parker; maternal grandmother, Vera Miller; and paternal grandmother, Nora Parker.
She is survived by her husband of 16 years, John Quick; son, Grayson Kendall Quick; mother, Ann Miller Parker; brother, Scott Parker; mother-in-law, Barbara Quick; Uncle George and Linda Miller; cousins, Ashley and Peyton Miller; brother-in-law, Russ and wife Debbie Quick; brother-in-law, Tracy and wife Wendy Quick; nephews, Tyler and Tanner Quick; and nieces, Hannah and Jill Quick.

She was also survived by dozens of friends who will remember her as not only their loyal friend, "Shelly," but a devoted wife, daughter and mother steadfast in her faith. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your favorite charity or contributions may be made to Peace Presbyterian Church, attn.: Grayson Fund, 301 Guinness Drive, Winterville, NC 28590.


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UNC faculty member resigns over racy text messages

BY MANDY LOCKE - Staff Writer

Monty Cook, hired this summer by the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism and Mass Communications to lead an innovative online news operation, resigned Tuesday amid allegations that he has sent sexually explicit messages to a female student.

Cook, a UNC alumnus, left The Baltimore Sun as senior vice president and editor earlier this year to take a post as executive producer of UNC-CH's Reese Felts Digital News Project.

Journalism School Dean Jean Folkerts said that the situation came to light last Friday evening when the student's former boyfriend confronted him about the texts. Cook alerted Folkerts, who immediately engaged human resources and the university's lawyers.

"I want everyone to know that we acted as quickly as possible when we knew," Folkerts said Wednesday evening.

Folkerts said Cook had been engaged in a relationship with a female student for several weeks. The student confirmed the relationship and showed Folkerts the messages.

Folkerts said she called Cook on Tuesday and informed him that she would recommend his termination. He resigned instead.
According to a letter released by the University Wednesday night, Folkerts banned Cook from the university and forbid contact with the female student and all students at the journalism school.

Efforts to reach Cook failed Tuesday night. Folkerts said Cook has already left the university.

Cook is married and has two children, according to student journalist Shane Ryan, who blogged about the scandal on reesenews.org, the project's website.

Reese Felts Digital News Project launched its online interactive site at the beginning of November to test theories about journalism and marketing in a digital age. Cook's annual salary for leading the project was $135,000, according to a university spokesman.

Folkerts met with students at the project Wednesday afternoon to alert them of Cook's departure.

"They were discouraged that there was a disruption," Folkerts said of the students. "They put faith in professors, and that faith was violated. But they are very anxious to make this site a really great project."

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RALEIGH, N.C. – The University of North Carolina system should streamline how campuses calculate what money they need to justify yearly enrollment changes because the current formula is prone to errors, and tie increases in funding to academic success, the Legislature's watchdog agency said Wednesday.

The Program Evaluation Division's report for General Assembly members focused on the formula administrators use at 15 of the 17 UNC-system schools. It's served as the basis for an additional $386 million in state funds over a six-year period ending in 2009 that ultimately comprised 16 percent of the UNC system budget that year.

While the overall system does a reasonable job determining the number of projected student credit hours, individual campuses overestimated enrollment by as much 12 percent at North Carolina A&T State University or underestimated by up to 5 percent at East Carolina University in 2009, the report said.

When faculty, staff and other administrative costs are added in the equation, a small error in one area can lead to swings reaching millions of dollars when UNC comes to the Legislature seeking money. The UNC system also didn't justify to administrators beyond past expenditures why they add 11.5 percent more to their requests to fund libraries to meet the enrollment demand and 54 percent for "general institutional support," the report said.

"UNC enrollment funding is based on inaccurate projections, with projecting inaccurate funding as its consequences," lead evaluator Michelle Beck told an oversight committee. "The formula's complexity contributes to the projection errors."

The report comes as UNC is likely to face a third consecutive year of steep spending cuts for a campus system of more than 220,000 students, an
increase of 60,000 over the past 10 years. The General Assembly returns next year expecting to close a $3.2 billion budget gap next summer and a Republican majority that has vowed not to increase or extend temporary taxes. Outgoing UNC system President Erskine Bowles has said a 10 percent budget cut would mean trimming $270 million and 1,700 jobs.

In a written response to the report, the UNC system said the current funding formula, which began in 1999 after perceptions the old per-student method didn't recognize cost difference in academic disciplines, is based on accurate data but will never be completely foolproof.

Overall, UNC system enrollment of more than 5 million student credit hours have been within 0.5 percent of projections the last two school years, said Jeff Davies, chief of staff to Bowles. Changing the broader enrollment funding formula to a more simplified model could be easier to manage but could lead to funding inadequacies, Davies said.

While there are some mistakes in measuring financial needs for certain campus disciplines, Davies said he stood by the system data.

"We don't think our projections are inaccurate," Davies told the committee. "They're the absolute best projections that we have. They're based on past performance."

Davies said the UNC Board of Governors already has been planning on meeting one report recommendation -- to tie enrollment growth funding to academic performance. The board could decide by January whether campuses can seek extra funds from the General Assembly or tuition increases if they meet goals for graduation rates and keeping students in school.

Beck said the board's performance funding looks more like incentives for extra funding, rather than making funds for expanding the student body contingent on meeting academic goals.

The report also said the General Assembly should require the UNC system to establish procedures and policies for campuses developing enrollment projections and what happens to extra money a campus received if they overestimate enrollment growth. Davies said the system agreed.
Alcohol panel ready to act on caffeinated malt beverages

BY MANDY LOCKE - Staff Writer

RALEIGH–The state Alcoholic Beverage Commission will likely heed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's warnings about the ill effects of caffeinated malt beverages and ban them from store shelves in North Carolina.

The drinks, which taste like beer but pack four times the buzz, carry so much caffeine stimulation that federal authorities say they are unsafe.

The ABC Commission meets this morning and will discuss the drinks and the FDA's warnings. The commission, which has authority to regulate all alcohol sold in the state, will likely vote to ban the beverages from stores, said spokesman Agnes Stevens. The prohibition could take effect in as soon as a few days.

Researchers for the FDA found the drinks hazardous because the caffeine can mask some of the sensory clues drinkers use to determine how intoxicated they are. Other studies suggest that drinking high caffeine malt beverages is associated with risky behaviors that may lead to hazardous and life-threatening situations.

The drinks are sold in colorful 12-ounce cans that cost between $2 and $3 each. Shoppers find them near beer in convenience stores and groceries. Federal authorities are promising tough action, too. In a news release Wednesday, the FDA said companies producing the caffeine-spiked beer are in violation of federal regulations because the product is not "generally recognized as safe."

If companies don't correct the problem, federal authorities are threatening to seize their products and issue an injunction to keep them from making the drinks.

It may not come to that.
One company, Phusion Products, which makes Four Loko, announced Tuesday its intention to remove caffeine from its products.

Gov. Bev Perdue, who last called on the companies to stop selling them in the state, applauded the FDA's move. She promised swift action by the ABC Commission.

"This is about public safety," Perdue said. "I called for these alcohol energy drinks to be pulled from the North Carolina market because there are serious questions about the health risks of these products. Clearly the FDA agrees."

Four states - Washington, Michigan Utah and Oklahoma - have banned the products. The ban followed the hospitalization and one death of students at Central Washington University who had consumed the drinks.

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Can't Pick a College Major? Create One

By SUE SHELLENBARGER

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Megan Kolb was so passionate about music, theater, dance and the production of stage shows that when the time came to choose a major in college, she couldn't decide which to pursue.

So she combined them all and made up her own major: performing arts management. Ms. Kolb, the only student with that degree when she graduated from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst last year, has already landed a job as a project manager for a New York City production company. "How great is it to be able to say, 'I created a major that I love and care about, and then to pursue a career in it?' " the 23-year-old says.

More than 900 four-year colleges and universities allow students to develop their own programs of study with an adviser's help, up 5.1% from five years ago, based on data from the College Board, a New York-based nonprofit organization of colleges and universities. University officials say at least 70 go a step further, providing programs with faculty advisers, and sometimes specialized courses, to help students develop educational plans tailored to their interests, while still meeting school standards.

The programs can spark students' enthusiasm for learning and sometimes equip them for complicated, cross-disciplinary jobs or emerging career fields. But parents are often wary, fearing their kids will drift too far from training for a real, paying job. Some employers look askance at do-it-yourself majors, too, saying their novelty leaves room for confusion about what, exactly, the grads can do.

Nevertheless, the number of organized programs is growing, says Margaret Lamb, director of the University of Connecticut's individualized major program, which enrolls 150 of the university's 21,500 undergraduates. Indiana University, with an enrollment of
about 30,000 undergraduates at its Bloomington campus, has seen its individualized-majors program grow about 15% in the past decade. Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C., recently broadened student access to cross-disciplinary majors, and the University of Alabama and others are adding faculty or other resources. Philadelphia's Drexel University is launching one next fall. The programs work especially well for students seeking a bachelor's degree in a specific career or research field. Anna Rogers, of Bloomington, Ind., who is working on her first bachelor's degree at age 47, says she has been fascinated by the mysteries of the ocean floor ever since she watched "Sea Hunt," an underwater-adventure TV series, as a child.

When she didn't find exactly the major she wanted at her in-state school, Indiana University, she worked with advisers in its underwater science and museum programs to create one—underwater archaeology. She is studying shipwrecks at the university's research sites in the Caribbean and hopes after graduating in 2011 for a career preserving undersea artifacts and tourist sites.

"My individualized major has allowed me to travel and experience history first hand," Ms. Rogers says. "It has been really exciting" to do research that relates directly to her career plans, she says.

An individualized major also works well as an entree to law or medical school, "but it doesn't open every door," says Dan Gordon, an associate dean and director of the program at UMass in Amherst, where 250 of the campus's 20,000 undergraduates have individualized majors. They don't work as well for students who want to earn a doctoral degree in a highly tracked academic field such as chemistry, he says.

Designing your own major takes a lot of effort, plus skill in selling yourself and your major. At most universities, students must persuade at least one professor to sponsor and advise them. They must tie their major to a specific field of work or future study. Most are required to produce a weighty final project or paper.

UConn senior Catherine Pomposi wants a career in forecasting climate change. To create the major she wanted—environmental analysis coupled with statistics—she had to persuade three professors in the geography, ecology and evolutionary biology, and sociology departments to serve as her advisers. "I hope I'll have an advantage in applying
for grad school, because I've designed my own program and already done research" in the field, Ms. Pomposi says.

Some colleges don't allow individualized majors in the belief that faculty and other curriculum experts are best equipped to know what students need to learn, and that traditional majors are based on decades of sound scholarship. Also, individualized major programs take a lot of work by professors who must advise the students, draining faculty time and resources at a time when budgets are tight.

The create-your-own-major programs still spark eye-rolling on campuses, partly because of their loopy past. Born of student demands for academic freedom in the 1970s, many early DIY major programs were pretty offbeat. Puzzle master Will Shortz earned a degree in enigmatology (the study of puzzles) from Indiana University in 1974. And at Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass., back then, a student majored in the marketing, design and aerodynamics of "flying disks," presumably Frisbees. Alan Goodman, Hampshire's dean of faculty, says advisers today require students to tie majors more closely to their planned fields of work or research.

The programs also are drawing a growing number of aspiring entrepreneurs, Dr. Gordon says.

Mike Miklavic, a 2009 grad who majored in entrepreneurship and Web development, says the UMass program enabled him to take both business and computer-science classes while doing internships and launching his own business on the side. He recently signed on as a vice president at CampusLive, a Boston startup that builds social networks on individual college campuses. Creating his own major gave him "a unique opportunity to do a lot of real-world work while taking classes," he says.

Students also know many mainstream majors aren't much help finding a job. Some 27% of workers who graduated from college 10 or more years ago still haven't found a job related to their college major; 12% said it took five years or more to find a job in their field, and 21% said it took three years, says a recent survey of 2,042 college-educated workers by CareerBuilder, a Chicago-based job-search website.

Anya Kamenetz, author of "DIY U," a new book critical of higher education, says that
while creating your own major doesn't solve other big problems at colleges and universities, such as high costs, "it does introduce the idea that students should be in charge of designing their own learning plans."

When Pete Merzbacher chose to major in "globalization studies" at UMass, Amherst, his parents were happy to see how excited he was about it, says his mother, Peg, of Norwell, Mass. But they also wondered how it would look on his resume. "I spent one night Googling 'globalization studies' " to try to learn what direction he might take, Ms. Merzbacher says. While she has faith in Pete, she was a little worried that "people will look at 'globalization studies' and say, 'Omigod, what is that? Like basket-weaving?' "

Pete Merzbacher, too, says he "was nervous that I was in this self-designed program that not a lot of people had heard of."

After a summer spent as a farm worker, Mr. Merzbacher decided to apply his classroom learning about global food problems to creating urban gardens on vacant lots in blighted city neighborhoods. He soon won a $5,000 fellowship and began providing summer jobs for low-income youth. He plans after graduating next year to start a business setting up gardening projects for schools, civic groups and nonprofits. Looking back, the responsibility of choosing his own courses "forced me to take that knowledge and channel it into something productive," he says.

In another advantage, the programs allow students to plunge into emerging fields. Justin Carven, a Hampshire College mechanical-design major who studied biofuels, went on after graduating in 2000 to start a Holyoke, Mass., company promoting vehicles powered on vegetable oil.

The programs allow students to try to anticipate job shifts, Dr. Goodman says.

"While schools are struggling to put together majors in sustainability or green building, here a student can go ahead and say, 'This is what I want to do and this is how I want to do it,'" he says. With luck, their goals will mesh with the jobs of the future.

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