PHOTOS COURTESY OF EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
Officers approach an East Carolina University bus near the student recreation center Wednesday during a campus lockdown after an erroneous report of a gunman.

Tweets, texts fed hysteria during ECU 'gunman' crisis
BY ANNE BLYTHE - ablythe@newsobserver.com

American universities have gone to great lengths to install special sirens, flashing message boards and mass-alert systems on campuses in the four years since a gunman massacred 32 fellow students and faculty at Virginia Tech.

But college students, with the dizzying speed and long reach of social media, have special alert systems of their own.

Their instant mass communication on Twitter, Facebook and other social media can be a good thing, emergency workers say. But it also can result in hyper-hysteria.

At East Carolina University last week, a man carrying a golf umbrella on the edge of the Greenville campus showed just how quickly chaos can ensue when misinformed students tweet, text and post to Web pages.
Two people called emergency dispatchers Wednesday morning to report a man carrying an assault rifle - accounts that set off quick lockdowns at ECU and alarms throughout the college town. Email, text messages and phone calls went out across campus. Outdoor speakers blared warnings. Cautionary information was posted to the university website.

Though practice drills have offered universities insight into how well their official mass-alert systems would work in a real emergency, ECU administrators and local law enforcement agencies got a real-life lesson they didn't anticipate.

"Social media was a real learning experience for us," said Mary Schulken, ECU director of public affairs. "We had a good deal of information that ended up being tweeted and retweeted and posted to Facebook - and some of it was very serious with its implications."

As law enforcement officers from across Pitt County embarked on a manhunt that eventually would lead them to an umbrella, not the reported assault rifle, Twitter feeds flashed and Facebook walls filled with posts. There was a report of a gunman in one campus building with hostages. Not so.

Another rumor went out far and wide that a gunman held a city bus hostage. Again, not so.

Someone else erroneously reported someone with a crossbow had holed up in a house just beyond campus. Not the case.

Concerned parents and friends read the accounts with fear. They, too, added to the mayhem.

"They were getting information from their kids on social media, taking it seriously and then following up on it," Schulken said.

**Like a whirligig**

Law enforcement officers had to take time to investigate the accounts and make sure they truly were false.

To allay the alarm and apprehension, public information officers posted accurate information as quickly as they could.

Schulken said it seemed at times last week as if she were on a whirligig propelled by misinformation, spinning faster and faster, making it all the more difficult to get back on stable ground.
"The process of information sharing, and sharing news now, is an ongoing conversation," Schulken said. "In terms of combating misinformation, you have to be more aggressive in getting the correct information out."

ECU officials are reviewing the lockdown episode to find room for improvement.

Other schools and law enforcement agencies also tried to learn from the episode.

**Social media benefits**

Though social media can create confusion in a moment of crisis, it also offers tremendous benefits, law enforcement agencies say.

Laura Hourigan, a public information officer for the Raleigh Police Department, praised the benefits of social media as another tool for reaching the public.

Sgt. Josh Mecimore of the police department in Chapel Hill, another college town full of tweeters and social media users, started a Twitter feed this summer to help disseminate information to the public.

Mecimore tweets in advance about patrol plans to set up radars, saying the goal is to stop speeding, not issue citations. Afterward, he tweets how many tickets were issued.

The day after Halloween, when a mail carrier alerted emergency dispatchers about a suspicious package, Mecimore tweeted about road closures and posted as much information as quickly as he could to keep the public informed about roadblocks and flashing lights.

Though it can be difficult to stop the spreading of misinformation, particularly when it's unintentional, Mecimore said the best way to combat inaccuracies is to post correct information as quickly as possible on credible sites.

"We just hope people would look to those sites and get their information there," he said.

Blythe: 919 836-4948
Saunders: Umbrella pokes the skittish

BY BARRY SAUNDERS - Staff Writer

Don't laugh. It's not like this is without precedent.

The Penguin, for instance, in the old "Batman" series?

Pengy possessed a pernicious parasol that, with its ability to spew poisonous gases and 500 rounds of widowmakers per second, was the bane of law enforcement.

When East Carolina University police shut down the campus for three hours recently after hearing that an armed man was roaming the campus, they had no way of knowing he was armed only with an umbrella and that it was unloaded.

See, the oblivious dude who had cops scurrying, locked and loaded, and who sent terrified students scampering was merely strolling across campus with a backpack - a backpack on a college campus? EGADS! - that had, sticking from it, an instrument designed to protect him from sun and rain.

The ECU cops aren't to be faulted. They should've taken the threat as seriously as they did, as does and should every other law enforcement agency when public safety is at stake. Lt. Patrice Vickers of the Durham Police Department told me Durham's cops "are trained to treat every threat seriously. ... The Police Department has not received calls of terrorist activity per se. We do receive calls regarding suspicious people or suspicious items."

Vigilance is good, but dang it, can't y'all make sure there's a genuine threat before you go calling the law on somebody? Have we become a nation of scaredy cats, one stricken witless by the sight of an umbrella?

Yes we have, but it's nothing new and, surprisingly, it predates the national skittishness we've developed since Sept. 11, 2001. Decades ago, my buddy Tony and I were in Atlanta looking for jobs at an employment agency when a man got up and left a brown paper bag.

Everybody in the vicinity scattered and one woman proclaimed that the man could be "one of those communist spies" sent over here by "that Bradshaw." (I figured she meant Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.)
The bag contained just an old pair of shoes the man was taking to be re-soled.

The paranoia today is the same.

What's different, though, is the overreaction - which at ECU was compounded by that darned Twitter crap. By the time tweeters had heard or misheard half the story, you'd have thought al-Qaida commandeered the ECU campus cafeteria. Oy.

Had tweeting been around when the bloke left his old shoes at the employment office, someone inside would have tweeted the cops and newspapers. Next thing you know, the building would've been surrounded by cops and reporters.

Such as happened at ECU or Wake Tech, where two weeks ago the campus was locked down after someone obviously not from here breathlessly reported to police that a man wearing camouflage and toting a rifle walked into nearby woods.

Hey, honey. This is North Carolina where, at some point, half the native population wears camouflage and walks into the woods toting a rifle.

Tell Barry what you think at 919-836-2811 or at barry.saunders@newsobserver.com
Police officers approach an East Carolina University bus near the student recreation center on campus at ECU Wednesday Nov. 16, 2011. The campus was put on lockdown after a man with a gun was reported. (Cliff Hollis/ECU News and Communication)

Lockdown review finds problems
Saturday, November 19, 2011

A review of ECU’s response to reports of an armed man on campus showed students did not receive an initial text message alert and some instructors left students unattended during the emergency.

East Carolina University announced the findings Friday and said officials are continuing to review the episode to determine how the university can improve its response to such events.

Reports of the armed man led to the three-hour lockdown beginning at 10 a.m. Wednesday. ECU police, joined by officers from the Greenville Police Department, Pitt County Sheriff’s Office and the State Highway Patrol, searched the campus and nearby neighborhoods until it was discovered that the man was carrying an umbrella.

“After every incident and every drill, we have extensive debriefings and reviews to look for ways that we can improve our response and enhance the safety of our students, faculty and staff,” Bill Koch, associate vice chancellor for campus safety, said in a news release. “We take every complaint seriously and respond as quickly as we can.”
The text problem was a result of human error, Koch said.

“A check box was missed while initiating the notification,” he said. “As a result of our review, we will have at least one additional person look at texts before they are sent.”

The university’s other emergency notification tools and procedures — including email, outdoor speakers, message boards, text messages to faculty and staff, messages on university telephones, and the university website — functioned properly, he said.
Editorial: Cracking a broken tuition system
Monday, November 21, 2011

Hearing the anguished cries of recent graduates struggling to pay their student loans in an economy bereft of employment opportunities, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill appears poised to respond by sharply raising the cost of attendance. Doing so is certain to increase the debt burden shouldered by recent graduates, making more precarious their financial plight.

Since hikes in UNC Chapel Hill’s tuition are often followed by similar moves at other UNC member institutions, schools like East Carolina University must carefully consider the effect of hoisting a greater burden on the backs of its graduates. The system that once accommodated those loans is broken and should be repaired before asking these young men and women to start their professional careers under that pressure.

In a process that unfolded before the howls of student protests last week, a task force and trustees committee advanced plans for UNC Chapel Hill to raise undergraduate tuition for in-state students by $2,800 over the next five years. Out-of-state students would also see dramatic increases, though they would be overshadowed by the 15 percent jump for North Carolina’s young men and women in the 2012-13 school year.

There is no secretive reason driving the higher costs. The economic downturn forced tough choices on the Legislature, which imposed sharp cuts on the UNC system. Republicans controlling the General Assembly held steadfast to plans for cutting the sales tax by 1 percent as well, drawing more money away from education. The result is that students bear a heavier financial burden to earn a college degree.

However, in an economy without sufficient employment opportunities for recent graduates, that leaves many holding both a diploma and a massive bill for student loans set to come due. Those fortunate to find a job still enter the workforce with a crushing debt that takes years to pay, forcing them to make decisions based on financial need rather than ability and thus hamstringing the work force’s flexibility and the nation’s competitiveness.
The system that once worked — of accepting student debt because a college degree assured higher wages — is broken. Reforming that process is critical before schools like UNC hoist on their students the need for additional debt.

College should be affordable and accessible, and decisions like this threaten to inhibit both. In a state that values education enough to codify it being “as free from expense as possible” in its Constitution, surely North Carolina can do better.
New ECU Foundation board members for 2011 are, from left, Kevin Monroe, Angela Allen, Mark Copeland, Clay Walker and Virginia Hardy.

ECU Foundation names officers, board members
Monday, November 21, 2011

The East Carolina University Foundation recently elected new officers and four new directors for the 2011-12 academic year at its fall board of directors meeting.

The new officers for the ECU Foundation are:

- **Reid Fogleman, chairman**: A 1989 graduate of ECU’s College of Arts and Sciences, Fogleman is the managing partner of Capital Food Group. He has served as vice chairman of the ECU Foundation board of directors and has been a supporter of the Access Scholarship Program.

  Fogleman has served on ECU School of Communication’s CommCrew executive board and supported the School of Construction Management with its ABC Extreme Home Makeover project in Jamesville in 2009.

- **Henry Hinton, vice chairman**: A 1976 graduate of ECU’s College of Health and Human Performance, Hinton lives in Greenville and is president of Hinton Media Group. He has served as secretary of the ECU Foundation board and received the ECU Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award in 2000.
Hinton also has served on the ECU School of Communication’s CommCrew board and as chairman of the College of Fine Arts and Communications advisory board.

- **Lisa Benton, secretary:** A 1983 graduate of the College of Business at ECU, Benton lives in Greenville and is a senior vice president of human resources for Wells Fargo. She has served as the vice chairwoman of the ECU Foundation board, chairwoman of the College of Business Advisory Council, and chairwoman of the ECU Alumni Association board of directors.

Benton has served on the ECU Board of Visitors and was recognized as an Incredible ECU Woman in 2007.

The new members of the ECU Foundation board of directors are:

- **Angela Allen:** A 1981 graduate of ECU with a degree in computer science, Allen earned an MBA from Harvard University in 1995. She lives in Vienna, Va., and works for IBM and as vice president for Global Business Services.

Allen has served on the ECU Computer Science Advisory Council and is a member of the Women’s Roundtable at ECU board of directors. She also is a donor to the Access Scholarship program.

- **Mark Copeland:** A 1996 graduate of the College of Business, Copeland is the managing partner of the Ernst & Young office in Charlotte.

He recently was recognized as one of the “Top 40 under 40” in the Charlotte business community. Copeland has served on the College of Business Advisory Council and the ECU Board of Visitors.

- **Kevin Monroe:** Monroe received his business degree in 1999 and his MBA from ECU in 2005, and serves on the College of Business Advisory Council.

Monroe played baseball and football at ECU and is a color analyst for radio broadcasts of ECU football games. He lives in Durham and is an assistant vice president at CapTrust Advisors.
- **Clay Walker:** A 1989 graduate of ECU with a degree in English, Walker lives in Potomac, Md., and is executive vice president of Fantasy Sports Ventures (an online fantasy sports company). He worked as an executive with the NFL Players Association and headed its licensing division. Walker received the ECU Outstanding Alumni Award in 2005 and has been a mainstay on the Health and Human Performance Advisory Council.

- **Dr. Virginia Hardy:** Hardy is the newly appointed vice chancellor of student affairs at ECU, serving as an ex-officio director of the ECU Foundation. Hardy lives in Winterville. She received a master’s of education degree from ECU in 1993 and has served on the Women’s Roundtable at ECU, the Thomas Harriot College Advancement Council and the Social Work Advisory Board.
A romance set in the Oklahoma territory in the early 20th century has hit the stage this week at East Carolina University.

The ECU School of Theatre and Dance’s production of “Oklahoma!” opened Thursday and will run through Tuesday. Director John Shearin and assistant director Andrew Britt, a musical theatre and professional acting senior from Smithfield, spearheaded the ECU production.

They used Lynn Riggs’ “Green Grow the Lilacs,” the play on which the original musical is based, to draw inspiration for their adaptation.

“The characters in ‘Green Grow The Lilacs’ are more realistic and truthful to the hardships of living in the territory of Oklahoma in 1905. We have tried to instill the reality of all these hardships in the musical,” Britt said.

The ECU production tells the love story of a cowboy Curly, played by Jim Dadosky of Raleigh, and a farm girl Laurey, played by Molly Deans.

Senior theatre arts student Dadosky used “Green Grow The Lilacs” along with other materials to prepare for his second lead role on the ECU main stage.
“Since (Green Grow the Lilacs) has about twice the amount of dialogue as ‘Okahoma!’, it really helped give insight into the lives of these people we’re portraying, and the heart of the play,” he said.

Dadosky also visited a horse stable with other members of the cast, met with ECU’s speech coach to work on dialect and even attempted to watch an old John Wayne Western.

“Basically, it’s nonstop preparation,” he said.

The “Oklahoma!” cast is well acquainted with the long hours preparing for opening night.

“The hours are from about 6:30 to about 11 p.m. fives times a week, but sometimes we stay later,” said Deans, who is a musical theatre performance and musical theatre education major from Durham.

The original Broadway production written by composer Richard Rodgers and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II opened on March 31, 1943, and ran for an unprecedented 2,212 performances. It triggered an onset of revivals, tours and even a 1955 Academy Award winning film adaptation of the musical.

“I’ve seen the movie so many times. I never thought as a kid, I’d be playing Laurey,” said Deans, who has her second female lead role at ECU in this musical. “Laurey is a complicated character. She has the emotional range of the Grand Canyon.”

This is not the first timeDadosky and Deans have worked together on the ECU stage. Last spring, they were in “The Jungle Book.”

“It’s funny because I first met her playing her dad in ‘The Jungle Book.’” Dadosky said. “Developing the relationship we have together on stage has been fun. Laurie and Curly are always fighting or ‘egging’ each other on, when deep down they’re really in love. It seems like a lot of people have been in that situation before, and it’s fun to play off of her.”

Britt, who has worked on 12 ECU main stage productions thus far, considers the ECU School of Theatre and Dance one of the hardest working departments on campus.
“We are trained to work as professionals, not as students, and that is exactly the way everyone has worked on this production,” he said.

A student never is guaranteed a role, so both Deans and Dadosky are unsure as to whether they will act on the ECU stage after the closing of “Oklahoma!”

But for now, they and the rest of the cast are focused on putting their long hours, voice and dance lessons and lack of sleep into producing a memorable show for the sold-out performances.

“The audience can expect a rich, exciting, and truthful production of ‘Oklahoma!’,” Britt said. “As our director, John Shearin, said on the first day of rehearsal, ‘This is not your grandmother’s production of ‘Oklahoma!’.”

**Program wins first in national competition**

An ECU program that works to stimulate the economy in distressed portions of the state won first place for excellence in the University Economic Development Association’s national competition in Indianapolis.

The ECU Community Enhancement and Economic Transformation Initiative received the top award in the excellence in leadership and collaboration category.

The winning initiative is a multi-tiered approach to regional transformation that includes the ECU Office of Engagement, Innovation and Economic Development’s Talent Enhancement and Capacity Building program, a partnership with the N.C. Department of Commerce and the Municipal Management and Innovation initiative.

Kenny Flowers, director of community and regional engagement, presented on the programs.

The Talent Enhancement and Capacity Building program supports activities that stimulate economic transformation in distressed communities across the state, including the town of Aurora and the counties of Beaufort, Edgecombe, Hyde, Jones, Pamlico and Pitt.
A recently announced $700,000 expansion by the N.C. Department of Commerce will enable support for an additional 15 communities.

The Municipal Management and Innovation initiative engages directly with small, limited-resource municipalities to address issues related to local administrative capacity and public service delivery. Towns served through this program include Aurora, Bayboro, Grifton, Hookerton, Pollocksville, Snow Hill and South Mills.

Both programs provide communities with economic development products, technical assistance and financial resources that help increase competitiveness and build stronger, more vibrant and capable communities.

Participating communities engage directly with the university, gaining access to a network of faculty, staff and students who help build a customized response. ECU has established 29 partnerships with communities across the state.

Flowers said the national recognition is one that the university shares with partners across the state and region.

“I believe it validates our community partners’ commitment to long-term collaboration with the university, while endorsing ECU’s broader focus on regional economic transformation,” he said. “It will certainly benefit our engagement efforts as we move forward.”
Nonprofit organization “To Write Love on Her Arms” founder Jaime Tworkowski takes the stage during the event at Wright Auditorium on Thursday, Nov. 17, 2011. The event promoting hope for people with depression, addiction and self-injury was hosted by ECU's Student Activities Board. (Aileen Devlin/The Daily Reflector)

**Movement targets depression**

By Jackie Drake

The Daily Reflector

Saturday, November 19, 2011

Most people who suffer from depression don’t get the help they need, but one grassroots organization making rounds on college campuses is looking to change that.

“Depression is in our lives, it’s in the room, so we want to encourage people to take those steps to get help,” speaker Jamie Tworkowski told a group of East Carolina University students at a depression awareness event in Wright Auditorium on Thursday night. “The idea is to spark a conversation that goes on long after today.”
Tworkowski founded “To Write Love on Her Arms,” a nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting hope and finding help for people struggling with depression, addiction, self-injury and suicide.

Started in 2006 as a way to tell the story of a friend in need, the movement became a global phenomenon that now has the largest online audience of any nonprofit. The group has been featured on NBC and in “Rolling Stone.” Based in Florida, the organization reaches out nationwide to encourage, inform, inspire, and also to invest directly into treatment and recovery.

“We all have our questions, when we get stuck and wish things were different,” Tworkowski said. “What a lot of us are looking for and all of us deserve is to meet people with the same questions, to know we’re not alone.”

Tworkowski, who was born in Morehead City, was working in surf gear sales in Florida when a friend introduced him to a girl named Renee. She was so overwhelmed by drugs, alcohol and depression that she considered herself a screw-up and carved the thought in an expletive on her arm with a razor blade. Tworkowski and his friends helped her get clean and get into rehab.

Compelled by the interaction, Tworkowski sat down to write Renee’s story, with the goal of changing the word she cut on her arm into words of love. He and his friends made T-shirts with her story to sell to raise money for Renee’s treatment. He got a friend in the California-based surf band Switchfoot to wear one of the T-shirts at a concert, and the story took off from there. When Tworkowski got home after a three-hour drive from that first concert, he already had a number of messages from people identifying with Renee’s story.

Today, the organization’s 14 staff members and rotating group of interns have personally responded to more than 160,000 messages from people in need in 100 different countries. They also have raised more than $1 million to fund depression treatment.

Music remains an integral part of the group, with famous bands pledging support and artists performing along with Tworkowski’s speeches.
“People were telling us, this is my story, this is my dad’s story, my girlfriend’s story,” Tworkowski said. “Most people who live in this place think they live alone. As people, we need other people. Everyone in this room is living a story right now that is unique and priceless. You cannot be replaced.”

The organization presents its story on college campuses and recently started a high school campaign. Today, Renee is recovered and still living in Florida.

“It was a great program, we had a great turnout and a lot of positive reviews from people on the way out,” said student Sameer Thadani, initiatives chair for the Student Activities Board, which coordinates programming and events on campus.

“I thought it was really great, I’m glad they offered it at our school,” freshman biology major Paisley Cookson said.

“I really enjoyed it; it was very informative,” freshman nursing major Fatima Anderson said. “It’s a good resource for us to have. I think it had a big impact on everyone.”

At the end of the presentation, Tworkowski asked who in the crowd had been touched by depression in some way, and nearly all hands went up.

Anderson said, “When you looked around and saw everyone who was affected, it showed we need to talk about it more.”

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567.
Greenville native Christie Dashiell and her Howard University a capella group Afro-Blue have made it to the top four groups on NBC’s singing competition, “The Sing Off.”

“I didn’t think that it would happen,” Dashiell said.

She and the other members of Afro-Blue have been watching the show together when they are able.

“It’s like experiencing it all over again,” she said.

Dashiell is living in New York City and attends the Manhattan School of Music. She said one of the strangest things about being on the show is that people have started to recognize her.

“It’s really weird and cool,” she said. “Someone recognized me in Times Square.”
Dashiell is the daughter of Carroll V. Dashiell Jr., director of jazz studies at East Carolina University.

“I think my dad cries every time he watches the show,” she said.

For two weeks leading up to tonight’s episode, Afro-Blue was one of the bottom two groups. For last week’s Rhythm and Blues episode, the group sang “Best of My Love” by The Emotions, and Dashiell sang lead on Mariah Carey’s “We Belong Together.”

Even though Afro-Blue was in the bottom two, the judges still gave positive reviews.

“Christie, great job, just great job on the lead. That is a really tough lead to sing ... by the end of the song you were soaring,” judge Sara Bareilles said. On tonight’s episode the groups will mash up two hit songs and perform a song of the judges’ choice. One group will be sent home by the judges, and viewers will vote on the remaining three groups.

“It was nice to hear what they said especially coming off last week,” Dashiell said following the group’s performance on last week’s episode. “It was nice to hear them have such positive comments,” she said.

Today at 8 p.m. will be the first episode in which viewers will vote to select the competition winner.

The winning group will be revealed on Nov. 28 on the live finale and receive $200,000 and a recording contract.

Contact Lynsey Horn at Lhorn@reflector.com or 252-329-9574.
Carolina Ale House donated more than $8,000 to East Carolina University's Department of Hospitality management, From left are Mindy Amerson, corporate communications officer for LM Restaurants; Joe LoGiudice, general manager of the Carolina Ale House in Greenville; and Robert O'Halloran, chairman of the ECU Department of Hospitality Management.

**Carolina Ale House fulfills donation promise to ECU Department of Hospitality Management**
Monday, November 21, 2011

Greenville’s new Carolina Ale House made good on its promise to donate 10 percent of its first week’s profits to East Carolina University’s Department of Hospitality Management.

A check for more than $8,000 was presented to the department by Mindy Amerson, corporate communications officer for LM Restaurants, and Joe LoGiudice, general manager of Carolina Ale House in Greenville.

“We are delighted to receive such a generous gift from the Carolina Ale House Family,” Robert O’Halloran, chairman of the Department of Hospitality Management, said. “Many students were present when the check was presented, and they were impressed by the restaurant’s corporate citizenship.”

The restaurant opened at 704 S.E. Greenville Blvd. on Sept. 16.

“LM Restaurants donates to an educational institution in each community where we open a new restaurant,” Amerson said. “The donation may go to a
high school, community college or university. We know that someday these students may work in our restaurants, and we want to support an educated work force.”

Carolina Ale House, established in Raleigh in 1999, operates 17 locations in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. The concept is also expanding to Charlotte this year and is slated to open a Jacksonville location and a second Greenville, S.C., location in 2012.

ECU’s Department of Hospitality Management, established as a program in 1987, is the largest hospitality department of its kind in North Carolina and one of the largest in the Southeast. Enrollment is more than 450 students.

Undergraduate degrees are offered with three concentrations: food and beverage management, lodging management, and meeting and convention management, with a minor and an MBA with the hospitality management option in five years.
A former ECU basketball player did not make fraudulent charges with a teammate’s debit card, her attorney said Friday.

Crystal Wilson was arrested June 29 after fellow player Ariana Jackson reported that her debit card had been taken from her locker at Minges Coliseum.

Unauthorized purchases totaling $423 were made on the card, according to police reports released following the incident.

Wilson’s attorney, R. Cherry Stokes, said at a court appearance Friday that his client was present in the locker room and witnessed the theft but did not participate.

Her case was continued until Feb. 6.

Wilson is charged with the two misdemeanor counts of financial card crime.

She was dismissed from the team at the end of the 2010-11 season for violating team rules.

Ashley Clarke and Kim Gay, Wilson’s teammates and the team’s two top scorers during the 2010-11 season, were charged June 24 in connection with the theft and fraud, reports indicated.

Clarke, then a rising senior guard from Myrtle Beach, S.C., was charged with one felony count of unlawfully obtaining a credit card.

Gay, an Eastman, Ga. native who recently had completed her playing career at ECU, was charged with five counts of credit card fraud, a felony count of aiding and abetting and resisting an officer.

Cases against Clarke and Gay also are pending.
Gameday security is 400 to 1
“We have a lot of ground to cover on game days.”

By SHANNON KEITH
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, November 19, 2011

ECU Police Lt. Chris Sutton’s duties on game day usually keep him out of the spotlight and off of the field.

That is, of course, until a streaker decides to make a break for it.

Sutton, 37, is the special events coordinator for the East Carolina University Police Department, and was one of the officials who chased down John Sieglinger, 21, of Raleigh, who streaked during the middle of halftime ceremonies during the Nov. 5 game at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

“I have been with the department for 11 years and that is the first time I have had to chase down a naked man,” said Sutton. “And I hope it’s at least another 11 years before I have to do that again.”

Sutton said that the Sieglinger incident is only the third time in the past 11 seasons that an individual has gotten onto the field.

“Only three times in about 66 games,” said Sutton. “And, thank goodness, the other two were clothed.”
Streaking incidents are rare at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium but Sutton said he and his fellow officers have plenty to deal with each game.

“Stadium capacity is 50,000,” Sutton said, “and we have an average of 125 officers working each game.

“That’s about 400 fans to each officer.”

As the special events coordinator, Sutton works with the ECU Athletic Department, vendors and local law enforcement agencies to provide security at the game and on the tailgating fields as well as traffic control in and around the stadium.

“We have a lot of ground to cover on game days,” Sutton said. “And I certainly couldn’t do it without the help of our officers here at the university, the Greenville Police Department, the Pitt County Sheriff’s Department and the State Highway Patrol.

“A lot of different agencies come together for these events and we always work well together.”

Sutton said that the coordination for each football season begins in February, about a month after the previous season ends.

Part of that planning is dealing with the alcohol-related situations that make up more than 90 percent of the incidents that Sutton and the other officers face each game.

“Well over 90 percent of problems we encounter at the games are alcohol-related,” Sutton said. “Whether it’s people bringing alcohol into the game or just being so grossly intoxicated that we have to eject them.”

However, Sutton said that most of the fans that attend home games are not involved in any of the disturbances.

“The majority of the people are there to watch the game and to get the game-day experience,” said Sutton. “They are members of the Pirate Nation and are there with their families to support the team.

Sutton said that the number of fans who have to be removed from the stadium can average as high as 50 per game, but can vary with the weather.
“During the beginning of the season when the weather is warm, we average about 50 ejections a game,” said Sutton. “But in November, when it starts to get cold, it drops to about 20.

Sutton said that kick-off time also can be a factor.

“A game that starts at 2 p.m. has far fewer incidents than a night game,” Sutton said. “But for a game that starts at 7 p.m., we open the tailgating areas at 1 p.m.

“That gives people a lot of time to drink before the game starts.” However, Sutton said that the ECU Athletic Department has worked with ECU Police to help promote and advocate fan conduct during events.

After a win, for example, especially against a nationally-ranked team or a conference rival, the football team now goes over to the student section to celebrate the victory.

Sutton said that this helps to eliminate the need for fans to rush on to the field.

Such an incident occurred on Sept. 6, 2008, after ECU defeated then-No. 8 West Virginia. A video circulated afterward that showed a Lenoir County deputy hitting a fan repetitively with a closed fist, which prompted an investigation. Due to the incident, ECU said that it would no longer use law enforcement agencies outside of Pitt County to provide security.

“It was an unfortunate situation,” Sutton said. “But we have tried to eliminate that happening by bringing the team over to the Boneyard to celebrate and sing the school fight song with the fans.

“Instead of the fans going out to the team, we bring the team to the fans.”

However, Sutton said, there are always those few who take the fun too far.

“Unfortunately, you’re going to have a few to deal with every game,” Sutton said. “But most of the Pirate Nation are responsible while tailgating, respectful during the game and safe going home.
“We can’t ask for much more than that.”

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Cinderella's prince played by Jurijs Safonovs and Cinderella played by Ellie Stevens during Greenville Civic Ballet's rehearsal of "Cinderella" Wednesday night. (Scott Davis/The Daily Reflector)

Ballet benefits Toys for Tots
By Kim Grizzard
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, November 19, 2011

At the end of this version of “Cinderella,” the slipper is on the other foot.

A member of the audience will waltz away with the shoes that Cinderella wore as she danced her way into the prince’s heart. The ballet slippers will be given away at the conclusion of today’s presentation by the Dance Collective.

“At the end we’re going to do something special,” said Kim Saad, artistic director of The Dance Collective and of Greenville Civic Ballet. “We’re doing a raffle this year where Ellie Stevens, who’s dancing the role of Cinderella, will bring a little girl on stage and give her the pointe shoes she’s danced in.”

The performance is the 10th annual benefit by the pre-professional dance company, which is sponsored by the Eastern North Carolina Dance Foundation. It is the fourth time in the 15-year history of the Greenville
Civic Ballet that the winter performance has been a benefit for Toys for Tots.

The company, which has previously staged benefit performances for Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center and Brody School of Medicine’s Kidney Disease and Transplant Programs, traditionally performs a Winter Wonder production featuring the second act of “The Nutcracker,” along with “Peter and the Wolf.” Two years ago, the company began swapping fairy tales, adding “Cinderella” to its repertoire.

“We feel like we need to alternate those ballets,” Saad said. “I think ‘Peter and the Wolf’ is kind of our signature ballet, but I think the young kids love ‘Cinderella.’ It’s a timeless story. It’s a girl who’s mistreated, there’s a ‘mean-girl’ element there, and then there is a handsome prince who rescues her.”

For The Dance Collective version, which stars 19 members of the company and four guest dancers, Saad played around with the story line a bit; she edited the music and designed the costumes. But what is perhaps the biggest turn in the story is the casting of Joshua Chambers as one of the ugly stepsisters.

“Until I saw my name on the cast list, I didn’t even know it was going to happen,” Chambers, the company’s assistant to the artistic director, said, laughing. “But then I was educated to the fact that in the original ballet production, men did play the roles.”

Choreographer Anna Whitlow portrays one of the stepsisters in The Dance Collective version, but when “Cinderella” was performed by England’s Royal Ballet in 1965, it featured male dancers.

“Both stepsisters were played by men,” Saad said “It’s really funny.”

Not all the male dancers in Sunday’s performance play comedic roles. Guest artist Juris Safonovs, a native of Latvia and a former principal dancer with Virginia Ballet Theatre, is the prince in both “Cinderella” and “Clara and the Nutcracker Prince.”

In addition to Safonovs, “Clara and the Nutcracker Prince” features company members and two dozen Greenville Civic Ballet guest dancers.
The performance is based largely on the second act of “The Nutcracker,” in which Clara (Natalie Shammas) goes to the Land of Sweets.

“In our version she does not go to sleep on a bed and float into a land where everything is perfectly beautiful,” Saad said. “She goes across kind of a stormy sea with moving waves.”

As Clara travels across the stage on a ship, she meets some traditional “Nutcracker” characters, including Dewdrop Fairy (Hayley McRoy). But the Arabian variation is replaced with a Peacock (Claire Tucker), who comes out in a cage.

“Year to year, from the different ballets we do, we try to change things,” said Whitlow, who joined the company 11 years ago. “It keeps it fresh; it keeps it new. New cast members bring their own personalities to the stage. It’s always something different.”

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A ruinous tuition hike

BY GENE NICHOL

CHAPEL HILL We've witnessed headlines of late, many thought we'd never see. UNC-Chapel Hill students face a "proposed 40 percent tuition increase" - story upon story proclaims. Charles Kuralt likely spins in his campus grave. Here's hoping no one tells Dr. Graham.

Of course the move was not completely unforeseen. A legislature with no affinity for institutions of the public sector - even the nation's first public university - inflicted an astonishing 18 percent cut last summer. The wound was likely administered with a trace of delight. Chapel Hill has hardly proven to be the apex of Republican politics. And the other campus communities aren't much better. Sometimes budget cutting has its rewards.

Still, even if legislative leaders have goaded us into it, the Chapel Hill tuition move is a gargantuan mistake. Here's why.

-- First, it's obvious to state, we do not operate in a vacuum. North Carolina remains amid depression. Poverty has exploded. Underemployment creeps toward 20 percent. On every system campus, students leave, abandoning their futures, because the toxic combination of rising costs and diminishing aid means they can't pay the fare.

The timing of the tuition announcement is beyond brutal. Our chancellor's goal of generating "a sense of optimism among faculty employees about the direction of UNC" must seem stunningly out of touch to hundreds of thousands of Tar Heels, much like an electric utility seeking a big rate increase in tough times.

-- Second, there is, of course, the state constitution. We have apparently come to think that "as far as practicable ... free of expense" means "well positioned" in our "peer group" of flagship universities. But this is, surely, an odd interpretation.

Places like Michigan, Virginia, Minnesota, Berkeley and UCLA operate under no such constitutional constraint. They have abandoned a commitment to low tuition with barely a whimper. If Tar Heel families can't send their kids to Chapel Hill, it doesn't make much difference that things are worse in Ann Arbor. And "free of expense" doesn't usually mean "better than most."
Third, there is an unfortunate and inexorable structural corollary when public universities move to the "high tuition" model. I have seen it, first hand, in dealing with the legislatures of Virginia and Colorado.

When the state faces great budget exigency in North Carolina, our tradition has been to shield education, including higher education, from the harshest reductions. If the overall budget must be cut, for example, by 5 percent, historically, we've tried to hold education's curtailment to 2, or 3 or 4 percent. Some other departments, then, might expect a larger whack than 5.

In Colorado and Virginia, the presumption would typically be reversed. If a 5 percent recision is demanded, higher education budgets might expect 6, or 7, or 8 percent reductions, or more. The theory, unsurprisingly, was that universities could "make it up" by lifting tuition.

Student pocketbooks, then, become indirect (and sometimes relatively covert) state revenue sources - plugging deficits across an array of fronts. Before long, public university tuition rates begin to approach those of the privates. Access, especially middle-class access, gets crushed.

-- Finally, it is crucial, especially in times of exigency, to remember who we are. When UNC is described as "the university of the people" it is not some Madison Avenue slogan crafted for a commercial at halftime. Frank Graham promised a university built upon flames of learning that "would light the heavens of the commonwealth for the poorest youth." Carolina's commitment to affordability and access - married to extraordinary excellence - is singular and defining. And bold leaders, high and low, have pressed through the most trying circumstance to make Graham's dream a reality.

The people who work here believe, potently, in that mission. They believe it strongly enough to try to assure that a rogue legislature - one that scoffs at that ennobling vision - will not, through a handful of budget votes, demand that we abandon our calling. I think most of us would prefer to defer sabbaticals, yet again forgo raises, further cut travel allotments and enlarge our teaching loads, rather than start down the road to privatization. We have skin in this game.

The cure, finally, to a legislature that fails to understand this state's history and the decisive role that affordable, empowering, exquisite public higher education has played in it, is to change the legislature. It is not to abandon Carolina's defining sense of public obligation.

Gene Nichol is the Boyd Tinsley distinguished professor at UNC's Law School and director of the UNC Center on Poverty, Work & Opportunity.
Tuition could jump under plan passed at NCSU

BY JAY PRICE - jprice@newsobserver.com

RALEIGH The N.C. State University Board of Trustees approved steep tuition increases Friday to help limit the damage from cuts of nearly $125 million in state government support in the past five years.

It's not clear exactly how much tuition would rise; details are still being worked out with UNC system officials. Tuition for in-state undergraduates would jump at least 29 percent over the next five academic years, an increase of $1,498. Tuition for out-of-state and graduate students would increase by larger amounts. Also, student fees will rise $84.45, or 6.5 percent, next fall.

Several trustees said that they weren't happy about raising costs for students but that the repeated annual cuts in the state allocation, including a 15 percent hit this year, left them little choice. "There are no easy answers," Chairwoman Barbara Mulkey said.

An annual review of tuition and fees suggested raising tuition by $330 for resident undergraduate students and $660 for graduate and out-of-state undergraduate students.

But after that process was complete, UNC system leaders decided to allow individual campuses also to add on one-time "catch-up" increases. The formula, based on tuition at peer universities around the country, likely would allow NCSU to raise tuition $1,168 for in-state undergraduates, though school officials said they are still working out the calculations.

The trustees approved the increase without stipulating the exact amount, and said it would be spread over five years beginning next fall.

Faculty needs

University officials have said much of the money would be used to hire more tenure-track faculty to fight growing class sizes and the loss of classes and class sections.

Chancellor Randy Woodson told trustees Friday that graduate enrollment had climbed 48 percent in the past 12 years and undergraduate enrollment 30 percent, while the number of tenured and tenure-track faculty had risen only 2 percent.
Some also would be used to bolster student counseling, to help them deal with the trickier path to a degree created by the shrinking number of classroom seats. And at least 25 percent of the money is expected to be used to help students who receive need-based financial aid.

Trustee and Student Body President Chandler Thompson voted for the $330 tuition increase and the higher fees, but against the catch-up money. Thompson had said she couldn't vote for it because it had been sprung on students only Thursday, and they deserved a chance to study and weigh in on the idea.

About half a dozen students came to the meeting to express concern about how the proposal was handled and how the money might be used. Patrick Devore, a senior meteorology major, urged trustees to postpone a vote until their next meeting to give students time to review it.

**Student support**

Senior Class President John Tucker, a political science major, said he learned of the proposal Thursday from Thompson. They spread the word, and Thursday night, he said, they and other student leaders read nearly 100 return emails, about evenly split.

"That told me that information is key," Tucker said "The amount of info they got in this process wasn't enough, but yesterday we got this information out, and it was incredible how many students would support a tuition increase if they know what it's going for."

The most common theme among students who supported the additional tuition was increasing the amount of faculty, and getting faculty and staff salary increases. Tucker said students recognize the importance of quality faculty in maintaining NCSU's reputation and the value of their diplomas.

Dan Eckert, a junior computer science major from Raleigh, said tenured faculty seemed more interested in research than teaching and fears the money would be taken from students and used on faculty who wouldn't actually teach much.

Mulkey told the students the trustees cared about them and their concerns. "I can assure you that we have your best interests at heart," she said.

The UNC Board of Governors must approve the increases.

Price: 919-829-4526
WINSTON-SALEM A student at Wake Forest University has been named a Rhodes Scholar for his work studying the molecular structure of proteins - research that could lead to the discovery of new drugs to combat chronic diseases.

Brandon Turner, of Fontana, Calif., is one of 32 American students who have been awarded all-expenses paid scholarships to study at prestigious Oxford University in England.

Turner said he wants to pursue a master's degree in global health science and public health, then use his knowledge to study the growth of chronic diseases like diabetes and cancer in developing countries.

"I want to analyze and design effective interventions that will hopefully address this growing problem, with particular emphasis on physical activity, nutrition, and sanitation. However, I also want to be active in advocating for policies that will address health inequalities and chronic diseases," Turner said.

Turner also plays rugby and volunteers regularly at a Winston-Salem homeless shelter. He spent one summer teaching people how to use computers and building computer labs in Cameroon, said Tom Phillips, director of the Wake Forest Scholars program.

"Brandon has an unusual balance of quantitative gifts and humanitarian spirit. He is fearless, whether attacking biophysical computer imaging or speaking at international science conferences or racing with a rugby ball," Phillips said.

Turner's research is vital because many chronic diseases are caused when proteins don't function properly, said Jacquelyn Fetrow, Reynolds professor of computational biophysics.

"Brandon has worked with me since the second semester of his first year," Fetrow said. "His contributions to my research and to the lab group rival those of graduate students."
Trash remained outside the Yale Bowl on Sunday, a day after the Harvard-Yale game.

**Fatal Accident at Yale Bowl Highlights Tailgating Debate**

By THOMAS KAPLAN

NEW HAVEN — For administrators at Yale and Harvard, it is a nightmare to be confronted every other fall: how to best regulate the student tailgate area at the alcohol-fueled, tradition-bound spectacle known reverently as the Game.

Students, most of them with high SAT scores and low interest in football, lobby fiercely for the right to forsake their studious dignity for one Saturday morning and guzzle cheap beer while tromping in a muddy field. Some may eventually stumble into the Yale Bowl or Harvard Stadium; many others will not.

University administrators and students have haggled endlessly over tailgate rules in recent years. Officials have sought to curtail chronic underage drinking before the annual Harvard-Yale game, and students have fought to preserve their day of revelry.

The tailgate rules, whose annual release is breathlessly chronicled by student newspapers on both campuses, have been formulated largely to prevent the
sort of calamity that happened on Saturday: an accident that killed a woman outside the Yale Bowl.

The police on Sunday identified the woman as Nancy Barry, 30, of Salem, Mass., who died when a U-Haul truck carrying beer kegs to a fraternity party accelerated into a crowd. Two other people were hurt: Sarah Short, 31, a student at the Yale School of Management, who remained hospitalized on Sunday, and Elizabeth Dernbach, 23, a computer lab assistant at Harvard’s Division of Continuing Education, who suffered minor injuries.

Ms. Barry, who worked in fashion design, was not affiliated with Harvard or Yale. She had traveled here for the weekend to visit Ms. Short, a friend from high school, according to The Boston Globe.

“We’re not blaming anybody,” Ms. Barry’s mother, Paula St. Pierre, told the newspaper. “In my heart, I’m just hoping she didn’t suffer.”

The driver of the U-Haul, Brendan Ross, a Yale junior from the St. Louis area and a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, has not been charged. A spokesman for the New Haven police said that Mr. Ross had passed a field sobriety test after the accident and that the U-Haul had been impounded for forensic testing.

Mr. Ross’s lawyer, William F. Dow III, said Sunday that the crash “appears to be the result of a vehicle malfunction.” He added, “Brendan and his family express their sincere condolences to the family of Nancy Barry for this tragic accident.”

Mr. Ross’s fraternity brothers have said he was not drinking before the crash. Alcohol has been the focus of officials who draw up the rules for the Harvard-Yale tailgate, which, while perhaps not particularly impressive to someone from an institution with a major college football program, is the most-anticipated social occasion, not to mention drinking occasion, of the year for many Harvard and Yale students.

“I was in the dean’s office for 20 years, and 10 of those years drove me crazy,” said Betty Trachtenberg, a longtime dean of student affairs at Yale, who retired in 2007 and now watches student tailgating from afar. “Drinking, tailgates and football seem to be synonymous, and you can’t separate one from the other.”

Harvard has tended to have tougher rules; it does not allow kegs at the tailgating, for example. It has also banned U-Haul trucks in recent years because of the damage they were causing to the fields where the tailgating was held. The trucks also caused another problem: Students had a habit of climbing them and turning their roofs into impromptu dance floors.
“You’re probably 12 or 14 feet off the ground up there, and it’s wet, and it’s dangerous,” said Matthew W. Mahan, who was president of Harvard’s student government when the university began cracking down on the trucks in 2004. “People definitely fell off the tops.”

In recent years, arguing over tailgating rules has become almost as much a part of the tradition of the Game as football. Alumni — who gather in a separate area for more refined celebrations that often include linen tablecloths and cheese wedges — protested a rule that Yale imposed in 2005 ordering that tailgating end when the football game reached halftime.

When the Game was played here in 2007, the battle was over U-Hauls. Yale officials considered banning them, citing safety worries; the student government objected, saying students needed a way to transport food, grills and coolers. The officials ultimately backed down. This year, there was confusion over whether Yale’s residential colleges could serve alcohol at their tailgates; it was ultimately allowed.

On Saturday, the accident cast an unsettling tension over the tailgating as word of it spread and an announcer at the game asked for a moment of silence for the woman who was killed. Yet many students did not learn of the death until well into the day: Students at the party of one residential college enjoyed corn chowder and fajitas only feet from a line of police tape.

Closer to the campus, there were ritual signs of the Game’s aftermath. Outside a fraternity on High Street, one student waved his arms to help a friend back a U-Haul truck into a tight parking space and unload a grill. Two doors down, at Sigma Phi Epsilon, a young man plucked plastic cups from a bush.

Later, a young woman in a blue and white scarf curled up in the fetal position on the steps of the house. Two young men in letter sweaters, perhaps accustomed to such a sight, walked by her without pause.

Yale announced Saturday that it would conduct a full review of its tailgate policies, including what vehicles are allowed. But students tended to dismiss concerns about pregame partying, noting that new rules — including the imposition of a wristband system this year — had made the event tamer.

“People are liable to make bad decisions, but at least they are making bad decisions in broad daylight surrounded by a lot of people,” said Peter Wilczynski, a Yale senior who is a freshman counselor. “It’s a lot safer than a lot of places people would be Friday or Saturday night.”

Nora Caplan-Bricker contributed reporting.
The D.C. region’s university presidents gathered this week in a downtown Washington suite. After they shut the door, George Mason’s Alan G. Merten said: Let’s talk about Penn State.

Yes, his peers responded, diving into a discussion of how to prevent a similar institutional crisis on their own campuses.

“It’s on everyone’s agenda,” Merten said afterward. “We are all asking, ‘What do we need to change?’ ”

Penn State trustees fired President Graham B. Spanier and football coach Joe Paterno last week after former defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky was charged with sexually molesting several boys. Paterno and Spanier were criticized for what was seen as a tepid response to initial allegations of abuse.

The charges raise questions about the culture of college athletics, but they prompt even more about how universities are run.

Presidents across the country are reviewing procedures for handling reports of crimes or unethical behavior and assessing how comfortable faculty, staff and students are in using those whistleblower systems.

Many called events of the past two weeks a watershed.

They drew comparisons with the 1999 collapse of a bonfire stack at Texas A&M University, which killed 12 people, and the 2007 shootings at Virginia Tech, where a student gunman killed 32 people and himself.

In the first case, colleges were spurred to beef up risk assessment.

In the second, they were forced to revamp emergency notification systems and review how mental-health cases are tracked and treated.

In interviews, local presidents said at least three lessons are emerging from the Penn State scandal:

1. **Create a culture of openness and protect whistleblowers.**

The morning after Spanier was fired, University of Virginia President Teresa A. Sullivan told her governing board that she had made a point in an annual
evaluation of commending a vice president who confronted her about a mistake.

“I must set a tone that says bad news can rise to the top of this organization without any messenger being shot for bearing it,” she told the Board of Visitors on Nov. 10, according to a copy of her remarks. Reporting policies and procedures are only effective, she said, if top leaders send the message that it’s safe to lodge complaints.

“In the current economic circumstances, people are very worried about losing their jobs,” Sullivan said in an interview. So there has to be a “policy to not go after people.”

On Wednesday, Georgetown University President John J. DeGioia sent staff and students a mass e-mail with links to policies and instructions for what to do if they suspect child abuse.

On Thursday, George Washington University President Steven Knapp sent a similar message and provided information about anonymous tipster hotlines.

“It is always tempting, whenever a problem emerges and especially in today’s environment, to circle the proverbial wagons and minimize the significance of what has occurred,” Knapp wrote. “But that temptation has to be resisted.”

2. Ask tough questions, even when a school’s image is at risk.

This lesson applies to presidents and boards. Often, a president’s primary goal is to maintain and build the school’s image. If the reputation improves, the president is a hero. If it is tarnished, the president is blamed.

“Like in the Navy, if your ship hits the ground, you are fired,” said Catholic University President John H. Garvey. “It’s a very difficult job, and more difficult than it was 50 years ago.”


As the job has become more complicated, presidential contracts have become more detailed and salaries have increased. The median compensation for college presidents was $375,442 in 2009-10, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education. At Penn State, Spanier made more than $800,000.
Presidential contracts, salaries, hirings and firings are usually overseen by governing boards, typically composed of wealthy donors with successful careers and close ties to the university. They meet a few times a year to approve high-level decisions, vote on policies and set tuition rates, but they are seldom involved in day-to-day operations.

Anne Neal, president of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, said boards must assert a stronger role, asking hard questions of college leaders. “There has been for many years a rubber-stamp culture on our college boards. These are boosters,” Neal said. “The whole of higher education has become so much about reputation, and not values and education.”

3. Strengthen oversight of athletics.

Two other major college football scandals have erupted this year. In May, Ohio State University Coach Jim Tressel resigned after it was revealed that he was aware of players breaking NCAA rules. In August, a University of Miami football booster went public with claims that he gave 72 football players and recruits cars, cash, lavish outings, bounties for on-field play and more.

In both cases, university presidents said they were unaware of problems. Although the NCAA requires presidents to maintain institutional oversight over athletic departments, it can be difficult to challenge powerful programs that generate national attention, scholarship dollars and alumni support.

Still, “there is no sport, no coach that is bigger than a university,” Merten said.

George Mason vaulted onto the national radar when its basketball team made a Cinderella run to the Final Four in the 2006 NCAA tournament. Soon after, the school reported a 20 percent increase in applications and a $3.6 million jump in donations. In 2008, U.S. News & World Report named George Mason the No. 1 “up-and-coming” school.

At the beginning of every season, Merten said, he meets with the basketball team to explain his expectations. This fall, he framed it this way: If he showed a random person on campus two photos, one of a basketball player and one of a Nobel Prize winner (George Mason has two on its faculty), chances are that person would recognize the young athlete but not the esteemed professor.

“You are the most visible people on campus — you are the most visible people in our community,” he recalled telling them. “You have extra responsibility.”
The New York Times

November 20, 2011

California University Puts Officers Who Used Pepper Spray on Leave

By BRIAN STELTER

The University of California, Davis, said Sunday that two police officers had been placed on administrative leave after using pepper spray on seated protesters at the campus on Friday during a demonstration aligned with Occupy Wall Street.

Videos of the encounter, widely distributed over the Internet, showed two police officers in riot gear dousing the protesters with pepper spray as they sat on a sidewalk with their arms entwined.

Reflecting widespread anger over the police behavior, the university chancellor, Linda P. B. Katehi, said on Sunday that she would insist that an investigation of the matter be completed within 30 days. On Saturday, she said it would take 90 days.

Meanwhile, students and others affiliated with the Occupy U. C. Davis movement scheduled new protests for Monday and Tuesday.

A Facebook page for the protests asked attendees to call for Ms. Katehi’s resignation and to “show solidarity and support to the students who were beaten and sprayed by U. C. Davis police in riot gear.”

The Facebook page also suggested a way for sympathizers to donate tents and pizza for the protests. Another Internet site, an Amazon.com page that was established to solicit donations, indicated that about 100 tents had been given by Sunday evening.

The use of pepper spray came after students and other protesters set up tents on campus in a show of support for the Occupy movement and in solidarity with earlier protests at the University of California, Berkeley.

The reactions to it — cries of police brutality and pledges to reconvene protesters on a larger scale — seemed to mirror the reactions in New York, Seattle and elsewhere when the police quelled recent protests with force.

As police officers moved to take down the tents at Davis on Friday afternoon, some protesters on a sidewalk on the campus quad linked arms and refused to stand.
In one of the many YouTube videos of the episode, bystanders chant, “Don’t shoot students” before an officer shakes a pepper spray canister and walks before a line of seated protesters, spraying them. The protesters’ faces and clothes are quickly covered in the orange-tinted spray.

Some protesters are heard screaming and crying as they are arrested. One bystander is heard shouting: “These are children! These are children!”

Eleven protesters were treated at the scene after being sprayed, and two of them were then sent to the hospital. Ten protesters were arrested on misdemeanor charges of unlawful assembly and failure to disperse and were later released, according to the university.

After the episode, a police official suggested that the officers felt threatened and encircled by the protesters. The videos, however, show no evidence of threats from the protesters.

The university said Sunday that it had been flooded with comments, including some from alumni who pledged to stop donating.

“We’ve been inundated with people sending messages,” said Mitchel Benson, the associate vice chancellor for university communications. “It literally brought down our servers.”

In her statement on Sunday, Ms. Katehi said: “I spoke with students this weekend, and I feel their outrage. I have also heard from an overwhelming number of students, faculty, staff and alumni from around the country. I am deeply saddened that this happened on our campus, and as chancellor, I take full responsibility for the incident. However, I pledge to take the actions needed to ensure that this does not happen again.”

The president of the University of California system, Mark G. Yudof, did much the same on Sunday, saying in a statement that he was appalled by the images and that he would convene the system’s 10 chancellors to discuss “how to ensure proportional law enforcement response to nonviolent protest.”

“The time has come to take strong action to recommit to the ideal of peaceful protest,” he said.

In the capital, Sacramento, protesters marched to a home owned by Gov. Jerry Brown on Saturday to denounce what they called violence perpetrated by the police.
Elsewhere Saturday, 13 members of an Occupy group in Washington were arrested after occupying an abandoned school building, according to local reports.

On Sunday, the police in Oakland, Calif., where tear gas was fired at protesters last month, evicted protesters at an encampment that had been set up a day earlier in a vacant lot. The protesters were given time to move their tents.

Saying public safety remained her first priority, Mayor Jean Quan said in a statement, “We will not tolerate lodging on public property, whether in parks or open space; it is illegal.”