Balinda and John Ferree watch a slideshow of old photographs of Kennedy visiting ECU's campus. The Ferree's donated pages of teletype from a local radio station after Kennedy's assassination, to the ECU university archive on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2011. (Aileen Devlin/The Daily Reflector)

Original teletype is page out of history
By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Wednesday, November 23, 2011

Most Americans who are old enough remember where they were when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.

Balinda Ferree was working at her father’s radio station in High Point when the news came over the wire and printed from the station’s teletype machine for announcers to read. At 19 years old, Ferree grasped the significance of those typed pages and saved them for years.

Now those pages from history have a home at East Carolina University. Ferree and her husband, John, formally signed over the 130 pages to the ECU University Archives in a small ceremony on Tuesday.

“It’s still moving after 48 years,” Ferree said at a reception at Joyner Library’s second-floor gallery, where enlarged copies of the pages were on display along with other Kennedy memorabilia. The event coincided with the anniversary of the Nov. 22 tragedy in Dallas.

“I can’t tell you how proud we are to do this,” Ferree said. “We are so genuinely happy that this has a home. We feel this is our honor.”
Ferree rediscovered the pages she had tucked away as a teenager when she recently remodeled her home in Seagrove. “I said, ‘Oh my gosh. I had almost forgotten about these,’” she recalled. “This is history, this cannot be thrown out.”

Ferree contacted her local libraries, who put her in touch with ECU. “This is important in our life and to the country; we want this to be used,” Ferree said.

The pages outline news developments from the moment of the shooting through the funeral. Teletype was sent over telephone wires a letter at a time from The Associated Press or United Press International to machines at various news outlets. Pages containing news of the Kennedy assassination are worth about $100-$300 each, according to university historian John Tucker.

“Regardless, it is a treasure for historians interested in news dissemination and of course the JFK tragedy as well,” Tucker said.

Ferree vividly remembers the teletype machine in the radio station. “It was the loudest typing you ever heard; it was tremendously noisy,” she said. “It typed all the time, day and night.”

Ferree knew right away she wanted to keep the pages telling of Kennedy’s death. “It was the most important thing I ever heard tell of,” she said. “It meant something to me as a Kennedy supporter. It was very tragic and personal for us. Everyone remembers where they were. That’s all the more reason to save these pages. This is a part of that time.”

The exhibit also contains photos of Kennedy’s visit to East Carolina College and Greenville as a presidential candidate in 1960, as well as local displays of mourning after the assassination. Leo Jenkins, president of the college at the time, gave a eulogy in which he said Kennedy’s visit made him “part of this campus.”

The pages “make history come alive,” library Dean Larry Boyer said.
The pages have been digitized, and copies are available for public viewing. The original pages have undergone restoration and preservation treatments and will be stored.

While the ECU archives don’t usually collect artifacts of national history, according to university archivist Kacy Guill, “we’re happy to have it here and make it available,” she said.

Kennedy’s visit “was a big event here at the time, to have a presidential candidate come to campus,” Guill said. “It had a big impact on not just the campus, but on the town as well.”

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Afro-Blue bows out of 'The Sing-Off'
By Lynsey Horn
The Daily Reflector
Wednesday, November 23, 2011

The a capella group featuring a Greenville native gave its final performance on Monday’s episode of NBC’s “The Sing-Off.”

Christie Dashiell and Howard University’s Afro-Blue were sent home after delivering what the judges called a “soul-stirring” performance. On this week’s episode, the groups performed their signature mash-ups before being challenged by the judges with songs chosen for each group.

Afro-Blue took on an arrangement of “I Believe I Can Fly” by R. Kelly and “Fly” by Nicki Minaj featuring Rihanna.

“Nice blend of that Afro-Blue style along with the gospel feel to it. It had a soul, a spirit to it. It lift everybody up,” judge Shawn Stockman said.

For their next performances, the groups were challenged by the judges with songs they felt were appropriate for their respective sounds.

“Afro-Blue (has) such a classic sound, and they’re just masters of the traditional chords and traditional jazz sounds, so we chose Sam Cooke’s ‘A Change is Gonna Come’,” judge Ben Folds said.

The performance was followed by a standing ovation from the audience and judges. Judges praised the group by calling the performance “just phenomenal” and “absolutely soul-stirring.”
The judges were especially complimentary of Dashiell’s lead vocals.

“Christie, you just killed it,” Folds said.

“You are other worldly, my friend. Christie, you are an angel,” Sara Bareilles said.

Despite the judge’s praises, Afro-Blue was in the bottom two with Dartmouth Aires and had to compete in a final “sing-off” in which they sang renditions of previous songs from the show.

Afro-Blue sang “American Boy” by Estelle but ultimately was sent home. The group then sang “It’s Only Just Begun” by The Carpenters as its final performance as members of the three remaining groups cried.

“It’s just been quite the journey for Afro-Blue. We’ve learned so much,” group member Danielle Withers said before leaving the stage. “We’re going to take this with us wherever we go and I’m sure we’re going to go lots of amazing places from here.”

The live finale of “The Sing-Off” will air Monday at 8 p.m.

Contact Lynsey Horn at Lhorn@reflector.com or 252-329-9574.
ECU’s main campus along with at least three surrounding public schools were locked down for three hours on Nov. 16 in response to a man on Fifth Street carrying an umbrella that was mistaken for a rifle. While I appreciate the desire to protect those who are by law disarmed while on educational property, these events clearly illustrate problems created by not permitting literally tens of thousands of law-abiding citizens the means of effective self defense.

Recent history demonstrates that mass murderers are attracted to these types of gun-free zones. Establishing gun-free areas was intended to decrease violent crime, but clearly has had the opposite effect. Now, in addition to attracting violence, these areas are subject to inefficient and distracting lock downs that further limit freedom and liberty.

What are the risks associated with the tactics themselves? Adrenalinized officers clearing buildings with helicopter gunships circling overhead? Even given such draconian responses, is the defense provided adequate? At Virginia Tech the murderer entered a building and chained it from the inside. A similar approach would not have been prevented on Nov. 16 and unfortunates trapped inside would have been as defenseless as the Virginia Tech victims were.

The system that worked well for the better part of two centuries needs reconsideration. Our state has an excellent system established for authorizing concealed carry. Over the last 16 years, more than 330,000 of these permits have been issued and no violence-related problems have been reported.

It is time to eliminate all barriers to where these safe, sane and law-abiding citizens can carry. The further we distance our society from the personal right to bear arms, the less safe and less productive we will become.

KEN SODERSTROM
Greenville
UNC posts ad for football coach
BY ANDREW CARTER - acarter@newsobserver.com
Published in: North Carolina

CHAPEL HILL The University of North Carolina posted a job advertisement on its website for its football coaching position. According to the posting, North Carolina is searching for a candidate who can "manage and administer the UNC Football Program within university, ACC and NCAA rules and regulations."

Former Tar Heels defensive coordinator Everett Withers has been serving as interim coach since Butch Davis was fired in July before the start of practice amid an NCAA investigation into impermissible benefits and academic fraud within the program.

Withers, who on Saturday will coach the Tar Heels against Duke in their final home game of the season, would not speculate this week on his job status. He said Monday that he shared conversations about it with Bubba Cunningham, the athletics director who began work last week.

"I believe I'm a candidate (for the job)," Withers said.
University football spokesman Kevin Best said Tuesday the university is required to post any opening.

According to the job advertisement, the university prefers a candidate to have "two years of successful intercollegiate coaching and recruiting experience at the NCAA Division I level."
The ad refers interested candidates to direct their questions to Cunningham.
Entrepreneur David Washington Shares Inspirational Story at East Carolina University

Author of "Life is a Choice: A Guide to Success in Life" Will Encourage Middle School Students and High School Students to Attend College


AVID stands for Advancing Via Individual Determination. The program is focused on encouraging middle and high school students to attend college. The event provides students with an opportunity to explore their educational options after graduation. The students participate in college access and enrichment activities.

According to Ms. Christa Monroe, Lead Coordinator for the Office of Professional Development and Student Outreach, "The purpose of this event is to provide students in the AVID program the opportunity to come to visit our campus and gain insight about East Carolina University's offering with the hopes of encouraging some to choose teaching as a career." The AVID day will start with a keynote address from Dr. David Washington, who is a speaker and author of the forthcoming book "Life is a Choice: A Guide to Success in Life."

"There is a real need for this type of event in our communities. We must invest in our young people to help them succeed," said Dr. Washington. Washington's topic for the keynote speech will be success in life. He will
explain the fundamental methods of achieving success. The keynote will also address the role of perspective, effort and courage in reaching personal goals. According to Dr. Washington, "People need practical and actionable advice to develop their own life plan."

Dr. Washington is no stranger to participating in programs of this nature. He was also a keynote speaker for the 2011 Minority Male Mentoring Conference sponsored by the North Carolina Community College System and the North Carolina Strive Gala in September of this year.

"We heard so many wonderful things about Dr. Washington and we are excited about having him speak during our event. We believe that what he has to say will be an inspiration to the students attending," stated Monroe.

About Dr. David Washington

Dr. David Washington is CEO of Washington & Company, a business consultancy and training company. He is the author of the book "Life is a Choice: A Guide to Success in Life" ( www.lifeisachoicebook.com ). He has been published in the Leadership and Organizational Management Journal, Franklin Business Law Journal, and the Ethic and Critical Thinking Journal. He has worked with various corporate and social organizations. He is a former faculty member of the Poole College of Management at North Carolina State University, where he received the Outstanding Teacher and the SGA Distinguished Professor Awards. He has been a guest on NPR affiliate station WSHA in Raleigh, WHUR-FM in Washington D.C. and other media outlets. He holds an MBA from Webster University, MSA from Central Michigan University, and PhD from North Carolina State University. His passion is to educate, encourage and entertain people to reach their full potential.

For information about Dr. Washington's speaking programs, please go to http://www.DrWashingtonSpeaks.com.

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