THE DAILY CLIPS

December 8, 2008

News, commentary, and opinion
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Rumors continue to swirl about Holtz

BY NATHAN SUMMERS
The Daily Reflector

The future of East Carolina football coach Skip Holtz remained a hot topic Sunday.

In the immediate aftermath of the Pirates' 27-24 upset of Tulsa in the Conference USA championship game, rumors about the fourth-year coach heading to Syracuse continued to swirl.

An NFL Network report speculated Holtz, 29-21 in four seasons with the Pirates, was expected to accept the Syracuse job today. Holtz told The Associated Press that the report was "inaccurate," but did say he would like to meet with Syracuse athletic director Daryl Gross.

"I would like to have the opportunity to talk to Daryl Gross," Holtz told the AP. "But at this point, no, I'm not going through an interview process. I've made that very clear."

Holtz was the keynote speaker at the Bronko Nagurski Trophy dinner at the Charlotte Touchdown Club on Sunday night. Holtz will travel to New York today for his father's induction into the College Football Hall of Fame Tuesday night.

According to a report from The Post-Standard in Syracuse, Lou Holtz said his son would likely interview with Syracuse while in New York.

But ECU Director of Athletics Terry Holland said in a statement issued last Thursday night that Holtz had not been contacted by other universities and not asked for permission to interview at another institution.

Holland's statement confirmed the AD would grant Holtz permission to do so.

After beating Tulsa, Holtz said it would take a special opportunity to take him out of Greenville.

"I am not looking to leave, I will make that promise to you," Holtz said Saturday.

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KENTUCKY will represent the SEC and face East Carolina in the Liberty Bowl.

TULSA believes it was just far too "giving" in the Conference USA championship game.

Contact Nathan Summers at nsommers@coxn.com or (252) 329-9595.
Looking at the numbers, we have to act on HIV/AIDS epidemic

When I got in from work one day last week, my high school-aged daughter asked, “Did you know it’s World AIDS Day?”

Capable of drama that would put any actress to shame, her voice was pitched even a bit higher than one of her typical performances.

“Sure. There’s a story about it in today’s paper,” I said. I also noted that one of my sorority sisters she knows well was helping to plan events for the day and week in her role as a health educator and was quoted in the paper.

“What about it?” I asked.

She went on to explain how her school had been decked out in red. Banners and flyers were all over the building, informing the students about World AIDS Day and the disease.

“It was everywhere,” she said.

If the school’s goal was to make students aware of the worldwide observance, its mission was accomplished with my daughter. And, I’m grateful.

World AIDS Day, which is observed every year on December 1, was established in 1988 by the World Health Organization to help raise awareness and focus attention on the global AIDS epidemic. AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).

During a World AIDS Week program last week, an East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine professor said about 33 million people were living with HIV worldwide in 2007, including 2.7 million newly infected people. In the United States, more than 500,000 deaths have been reported due to HIV since the virus was discovered.

While those numbers are staggering, one of the most bothersome statistics to me as the mother of a young daughter is that AIDS is the leading cause of death among African-American women between the ages of 25 and 34.

A day or week of intense focus on the disease doesn’t change the fact that HIV/AIDS is a daily threat in our community. It also presents a daily need.

More than 800 people in Pitt County are living with HIV/AIDS, said Deborah Savage, a health educator with the Pitt County AIDS Service Organization (PiCASO). The nonprofit organization provides them support with educational services, case management, emergency financial assistance, a specialized food pantry and assistance with housing and transportation.

To assist some of their clients during the holiday season, PiCASO has decorated a Christmas tree in the Greenville Mall where wish lists are attached to red ribbons on the tree. Those wishing to fulfill a wish are asked to remove the ribbon, purchase the gift and drop it off at the PiCASO office, 609D Country Club Drive.

The Christmas tree will be on display in the mall through Dec. 15. For more information, call Deborah Savage or Samantha Green at (252) 830-1660.

HIV/AIDS day and week events help us to stay aware of the disease. The holiday season gives us the opportunity to show that we also care about those who have it.

Cherie Speller is associate editor for readership and community news at The Daily Reflector. Contact her at (252) 329-9512 or cspeller@coxnc.com.
Dr. Nour Baltagi and Dr. Berrin Ozturk, both pediatric specialists, have joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Baltagi has joined the Department of Pediatrics as a clinical assistant professor. She has a medical degree from the Universita Degli Studi Di Perugia in Italy, and completed residency training at American University of Beirut Medical Center in Lebanon and at New York Medical College.

Before coming to Greenville, Baltagi completed a fellowship in pediatric nephrology at Washington University in St. Louis.

Baltagi is board-certified in pediatrics and board-eligible in pediatric nephrology. She sees patients at the ECU Pediatric Specialty Care Clinic on Herbert Court in Greenville.

Ozturk has joined the Brody School of Medicine faculty as a clinical assistant professor.

Ozturk graduated from Hacettepe University School of Medicine in Turkey. She practiced as a radiation oncologist in Turkey before traveling to the United States for additional training.

Ozturk completed an internship in internal medicine at Long Island College Hospital in New York and residency training in human genetics at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

Ozturk is board-certified in pediatrics and medical genetics and sees patients at the ECU Pediatric Outpatient Clinic at the Brody Medical Sciences Building.
Special cooling suit helps limit brain damage.

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — It took five mighty shocks to get Cynthia Crawford’s heart to start beating again after she collapsed at Ochsner Clinic a few weeks ago. A dramatic rescue, to be sure, yet it was routine care she could have had at any hospital.

What came next, though, was not.

As she lay unconscious, barely clinging to life, doctors placed her in an inflatable cocoon-like pool that sprayed her naked body with hundreds of icy cold jets of water, plunging her into hypothermia.

“Like jumping in the North Sea,” said the cardiologist leading her care, Dr. Paul McMullan.

Days later, Crawford was recovering without the brain damage she might have suffered.

For years, doctors have tried cooling people to limit damage from head and spinal cord injuries, strokes and even prematurity and birth trauma in newborns. It’s also used for cardiac arrest, when someone’s heart has stopped.

In January, New York will join several other cities requiring ambulances to take many cardiac arrest patients to hospitals that offer cooling.

Now doctors will be testing a new and dramatically speedier way of doing this for a much more common problem — heart attacks, which strike a million Americans each year.

“It’s extremely appealing because the cooling system is non-invasive and can be used in an ordinary hospital room, said Dr. George Sopko of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, which is paying for this first-of-a-kind study.

Animal research suggests it will help, “but we need the hard evidence” from human tests to know, he said.

Heart attacks occur when an artery gets blocked, depriving the heart muscle of oxygen and blood, and causing part of it to die. But the damage doesn’t happen all at once — cells die off slowly, sending chemical messages that make neighboring cells do the same. Cooling the body to around 90 degrees from its usual 98.6 slows this down.

“Tissue that would have died, were it not cooled, can stay alive,” McMullan explained.

Half a dozen companies sell tools to do this — tubes that go into veins or the belly cavity, fancy ice bags and gel packs, blankets with cold saline inside, fans blowing cold air over patients, even a skullcap to cool the head.

Surgeons use cooling now during open-heart surgery, and promising results from a few studies several years ago led the American Heart Association to recommend it for cardiac arrest patients, whose hearts have stopped.

“The problem with all these trials is the cooling was too slow,” taking as long as six hours with some devices, said the leader of one key study, Dr. Michael Holzer of Medical University of Vienna in Austria.

That’s too pokey for treating heart attacks, where doctors must move at warp speed to open the clogged vessel and keep the initial injury as small as possible — the “time is muscle” message we often
The only big study of cooling for heart attacks — 392 patients given cold saline through a big vein — failed to show benefit, said its leader, Dr. William O'Neill, executive dean of clinical affairs at the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine.

However, the cooling was only a few degrees and took an average of 75 minutes.

“We believe the reason the trial didn’t work is they didn’t cool them fast enough,” McMullan said.

His proof: People in the study whose temperatures were below 95 degrees at the time they had their artery-opening procedures wound up with only half the heart damage of the others, who were not cooled so much or so quickly.

Which is why doctors at Ochsner have high hopes for the ThermoSuit, made by Life Recovery Systems in Waldwick, N.J., and designed by a former Air force flight surgeon, cardiologist Robert Freedman of Alexandria, La.

A pump rapidly inflates the pool-like suit until it puffs up tightly around the patient as doctors Velcro on a plastic topsheet. Tubes spray naked patients with frigid water as other tubes drain it away.

The clinic has not yet had the type of heart attack patients called for in the new study. But McMullan has used the suit on 12 cardiac arrest patients, like Crawford, and cooled them to around 90 degrees in as little as nine minutes, typically in about half an hour.

“That’s fabulous and that is very quick. That’s the kind of speed we’re going to need” for this to be practical and useful, said Dr. Lance Becker, a University of Pennsylvania doctor and Heart Association spokesman who led cooling experiments in animals.

On the morning of Nov. 11, when Crawford went into cardiac arrest, she had just arrived for an appointment to see if her badly weakened heart qualified her to be on a transplant list. A doctor-in-training found her slumped near the elevators, and emergency workers shocked her with a defibrillator to restart her heart.

Soon, McMullan and 10 other doctors and nurses were furiously working on the 56-year-old patient as more staff huddled outside a small window in the hall, craning for a peek at the cooling suit spectacle going on inside.

“Isn’t that something? Will you look at that,” one of them muttered.

Crawford’s temperature dropped to 90 degrees in about 40 minutes. Days later, her family marveled at how well she had come through.

Cardiac arrest patients usually are unconscious; heart attack patients will be given sedatives and a drug to limit shivering. The sedatives would be given anyway in preparation for the artery-opening procedure, McMullan said.

There are potential risks: Cooling could trigger a heart rhythm problem, cause loss of fluids, a blood pressure drop, an imbalance of essential body salts, even respiratory problems.

A ThermoSuit system costs a hospital around $30,000, and each single-use suit is $1,600. Federal officials have given previous grants totaling $1.3 million to develop the suit, and are spending $700,000 for the 20-patient heart attack study at Ochsner.
ECU News Bureau

East Carolina University will hold commencement exercises Saturday, Dec. 13, in Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum.

The ceremony begins with a band concert at 9:30 a.m. The commencement program is set for 10 a.m. Graduates and faculty members should check in at Gate 1 by 9:30 a.m. to line up for the processional.

This year's commencement speaker is ECU College of Education Professor Louis Warren, who received the UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching, the highest teaching award given at the university.

Warren, who teaches curriculum and instruction, holds an undergraduate degree from UNC-Chapel Hill, a master's degree from UNC-Pembroke, and a doctorate in education from the University of Georgia. After teaching in middle schools in rural North Carolina and serving as an assistant professor at Georgia Southern University, he joined the ECU faculty in 1994.

ECU's colleges, schools and departments will hold unit recognition ceremonies across the campus. For details and the schedule of the unit ceremonies, visit http://www.ecu.edu/commencement/.

Grant to help advance educational levels

The Eastern Area Health Education Center and ECU are working to advance the educational levels of administrators at long-term care facilities with help from a more than $700,000 grant.

The Department of Public Health at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, along with the colleges of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences, will work with Eastern AHEC to assemble a curriculum to enable administrators who lack bachelor's degrees to obtain those degrees. It also will allow those who have bachelor's degrees to pursue a master's of public health degree and will provide continuing education for long-term care administrators. Eastern AHEC will provide the continuing education portion.

The $710,484 grant is from The Duke Endowment. The project is also supported by the N.C. Health Care Facilities Association, long-term care providers, the ECU Department of Family Medicine and others.

"This grant will establish ECU as a statewide leader in meeting the workforce crisis in long-term care," said Dr. Lloyd Novick, chair of the Department of Public Health at ECU.

The three parts of the project — baccalaureate degree education, master's degree education and continuing education — will be valuable for professionals in the industry, said Craig Souza, executive director of the NCHCFA.

ECU will teach courses on its health sciences campus and, through distance education, to administrators and directors of nursing working full-time in the long-term care field.
ECU'S NORTH CAROLINA COLLECTION at J. Y. Joyner Library has created an exhibit celebrating the life of D. D. Garrett, a prominent African-American leader in Greenville. Above, Garrett speaks to a group of students at ECU. The exhibit is located on the third floor of the library and is open through Dec. 19. Free.

Ruth Little, a former nursing home administrator and associate professor of public health at ECU, will manage the long-term care project.

Classical Studies director named

John Given, a longtime professor in the department of foreign languages and literatures at ECU, was named director of ECU’s interdisciplinary Classics program.

Housed in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, the program offers courses in Latin and ancient Greek, with a focus on translation, and more than 20 courses in classical archeology, history, literature, philosophy and religion. Plans to create a certificate in Latin for education majors, said Given, are in the works.

Given will replace John Stevens, who served as director for the previous five years. Stevens will return to his teaching and research at ECU.

College dedicates wall

With a combined 554 years of service to their credit, faculty members gathered Nov. 7 in the academic wing of Minges Coliseum for the unveiling of the College of Health and Human Performance’s Emeritus and Distinguished Faculty Wall. The wall contains brass nameplates for all 55 emeritus and distinguished faculty members, along with their years of service and department.

Jerry McGee, president of Wingate University and HHP alumnus funded the wall in honor of his peers and professors at ECU. During the Nov. 7 unveiling ceremony, McGee also received the Outstanding Alumni Award for 2008.

Great Decisions program upcoming

The Foreign Policy Association’s Great Decisions Program will be hosted by East Carolina University Jan. 17-March 7, 2009. Sponsored by the World Affairs Council (WAC) of Eastern North Carolina and ECU, the program will run for eight consecutive Saturdays at the Rivers West Building auditorium on the ECU campus.

A range of topics, featuring academic and professional experts, is planned for the eight-week lecture series including U.S. and Rising Powers, Energy and the Global Economy, Global Food Supply, The Arctic, Egypt in the 21st Century, Cuba after Castro, Afghanistan/Pakistan, and Universal Human Rights.

The fee is $32 for all eight sessions for WAC members (textbook included) and $42 for the general public (without the textbook). The cost for an individual session is $6. ECU faculty, staff and students, as well as area full-time students and teachers, can attend for free and purchase the program book for $18.

To register for the forum, please visit the WAC webpage at http://www.worldaffairscouncilnc.org, go to Great Decisions and click on Registration.

For additional information, see the Great Decisions webpage at http://www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/greatdecisions/home.cfm or contact ECU Director of International Studies Dr. Sylvie Debevec Henning at 328-5520 or hennings@ecu.edu.

Upcoming events

- The King’s Singers present an English carol program at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 11, at Wright Auditorium. Tickets available by calling 328-4788, 1-800-ECU-ARTS, 328-4736 V/TTY.

- Selections of A.R. Ammons’s poetry and art will be featured in the Special Collections Department of Joyner Library through June 30. Free.

- See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Obama's college pledge

Of all the promises Barack Obama made during his campaign, none received more cheers and applause than his vow to make college more affordable and accessible for America's young people.

This was obviously appealing to youths themselves, many of whom now find themselves, such as Barack and Michelle Obama did, burdened with debt when they finish their educations. But equally, it was attractive to parents and grandparents who worry about how the next generations in their families can afford the education that is essential to their future well-being.

A report last week from a commission headed by Jim Hunt, the former governor of North Carolina, underlines how important Obama's pledge is — and how difficult it may be to attain his goals.

Its bottom line: College has become increasingly unaffordable to millions of middle-class and working-class Americans, and the rising barriers to campuses are costing the United States in the international competition for a trained workforce.

Here are a couple of the key findings from “Measuring Up 2008: The National Report Card on Higher Education,” published by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education:

Between 1982 and 2007, college tuition and fees rose three times as fast as median family income, after adjusting for inflation. In the past decade, there has been a 50 percent increase in the number of undergraduate borrowers and a doubling in the inflation-adjusted total of students' debts.

The affordability barrier to college is eroding America's standing in the world. Among Americans over 35 and under 64, the United States is second only to Canada in the percentage holding at least two-year degrees. But among those between 25 and 34, we lag not only behind Canada, but Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Ireland, Belgium, Norway, France and Denmark. When it comes to college completion rates, we are 15th of 29 rated nations, barely above Mexico and Turkey.

In an interview, Hunt warned that the trend threatens the U.S. economic future. It results in part from the stagnation of wages and family incomes in the past decade, and also from the severe inflation of college costs — worse even than the run-up in medical care.

With Obama and a Democratic Congress, it is likely that help for students and their families will be on the way — to the extent that budget limitations and the need for big economic stimulus packages allow.

But Hunt's message to those now sitting in the governors' chairs, as he did for so long, is that higher ed must become their priority as well. With state budgets already under duress because of slumping revenues and rising Medicaid costs, Hunt said he realizes that it will be difficult this year to protect higher education's funding, let alone increase spending.

But he said the report makes a powerful argument that the worst thing to do is to continue to raise tuition and fees, putting college beyond the reach of more and more families.

"We have to look at productivity measures for college faculties," he said. "The course load may have to increase for some professors."

That will not be popular with some of my friends at the University of Maryland and the University of Virginia. But when autoworkers are giving up — at least temporarily — some of their unemployment and health care benefits, academics may have to sacrifice as well.

As Obama clearly recognizes, the education of the next generation is not something that can be squandered, if this nation is to have a decent future.

David Broder writes about government and politics for The Washington Post.
Holtz: I’m not looking to leave

BY NATHAN SUMMERS
The Daily Reflector

TULSA, Okla. — Even as he celebrated his team’s first-ever Conference USA championship, East Carolina head football coach Skip Holtz was also deflecting rumors regarding his future.

After the Pirates’ 27-24 upset of Tulsa to claim the C-USA title and a berth in the Jan. 2 Liberty Bowl, Holtz said he did not have plans to leave the ECU program.

Rumors regarding Holtz and the coaching vacancy at Syracuse University have swirled for a couple of weeks. They even led ECU director of athletics Terry Holland to issue a statement last week saying that while Holtz had not spoken with any other universities to date, Holland would grant the coach permission to do so if Holtz asked.

But the fourth-year coach insisted he’s not trying to leave, saying only that he could “never say never” regarding the annual coaching vacancies to which he’s linked, which have also included Mississippi State and Auburn in recent days.

“It would have to be a really special situation to get me out of here,” Holtz said. “I am not looking to leave, I will make that promise to you. I don’t know what the future holds, but I certainly know who holds the future and I’m going to put my faith in him and keep working extremely hard and we’ll see where it takes us.”

Holtz called the rumors flattering, and more a reflection on what the ECU program is doing than Holtz as an individual.

Holland’s message regarding Holtz also confirmed both the coach and the AD would be in New York this weekend as Lou Holtz, Skip’s father, is inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. But Holland stressed Holtz had not been in contact with other programs, and that no attempts had been made yet by programs to contact Holtz.

“I am very happy at East Carolina, I enjoy East Carolina,” Holtz said. “We have a great group of young men that I have the opportunity to work with. I have three children, a wife, everything in Greenville. Right now, it’s a great place for our family and for myself professionally.”

Contact Nathan Summers at nsommers@coxnc.com or (252)329-9595.
Jenna Nicole Seagraves

Our precious and beloved daughter, Jenna, died in a tragic auto accident early Thursday morning, Dec. 4, 2008, in Greenville. Jenna was born in Charlotte on Feb 25, 1985, to proud parents David and Kim Seagraves of Harrisburg. She now walks those streets of gold in Heaven with her cherished Nana, Charlotte Layton Tarlton, and MawMaw Louise Seagraves. Jenna graduated summa cum laude from Central Cabarrus High School in 2003. She was a Carolina Teaching Fellows scholar and graduated from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this past Mother’s Day. She was currently pursuing her Masters of Arts in Teaching at East Carolina University in Greenville. She was to begin her student teaching at Roanoke High School in Robersonville in January.

Jenna had a love for life and people that surpassed many her age. She was very active in her church youth group and loved her many summers spent at The Masters Inn. Jenna was a mentor and tutor to many inner-city children and spent her senior year Christmas holiday on a medical mission trip to Haiti, which dramatically changed her outlook on life. Collecting and distributing clothing with Operation Warm-up for the children of Appalachia was an annual passion of hers. She felt that her life was truly blessed and after a summer in Europe wanted to return one day and teach English in Great Britain. Jenna studied abroad at The University of Manchester, England where she met many life-long friends. She had powerful influences to teach from her dearly loved Bible teacher, Miss Amy Hicks and her AP English teacher Mr. Mace.

Jenna leaves behind to grieve her early departure from this world many friends whom she loved deeply. Survivors include her parents, two sisters, Terri Seagraves and Kerri Seagraves; many aunts, uncles, and cousins she held close to her heart; and her dearest Uncle Johnny Bryant and his wife, Tracie, and their precious daughter Sophie.

Visitation will be held at McEwen Funeral Services at Sharon Memorial Park 5716 Monroe Rd., Charlotte today from 3-5 p.m. Funeral service will be held there on Sunday at 2 p.m.. The Reverends Dr. Terry Faulkenbury and her Youth Pastor Pete Rusch will officiate the service. Interment will follow at Sharon Memorial Park. Memorials may be sent to Carolina Cares About Haiti, contact aaron_barrow@med.unc.edu or the NC Eye Bank 3900 Westpoint Blvd., Suite F, Winston Salem, NC 27103. Because of her selfless act two people will be able to see the world again through her beautiful brown eyes. Rest peacefully my Precious Little Angel From Heaven. “I’ll love you forever; I like you for always, as long as I’m living my baby you’ll be.”

Please visit www.MeM.com to watch a video in memory of Ms Seagraves and sign the online registry.

The family has entrusted the arrangements and care for Ms Seagraves to McEwen Funeral Service at Sharon Memorial Park, 5716 Monroe Road Charlotte, NC 28212, 704-334-6421.
Students show care for adopted home

BY GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Reflector

Despite Friday's early morning rain and cold temperatures, ECU students showed they care about their adopted home.

Students brought furniture, clothing and food to the university's first Pirates Treasure event, sponsored by Off-Campus Student Services. The Thursday and Friday event was created to make it easier for students to donate unwanted items instead of throwing them away, said Lucia Brannon, coordinator of Off-Campus Student Services.

The items were dropped off at five collection sites throughout the Tar River-University neighborhood area.

Volunteers at the Harding Street collection site used a donated couch, coffee table and lamp to create a temporary living room in the storage container.

More than 20 people dropped off items Thursday, Brannon said. Students also dropped off clothing and non-perishable food items. Final figures were unavailable Friday afternoon.

Brannon said this week's event was designed as a trial in preparation of a larger program at the end of the spring semester.

ECU officials started the program to encourage students to donate usable items to help out people in need and reduce the amount of items entering the city's waste stream.

The city of Greenville picks up an extra 200 tons of waste during the time students move out of housing in the spring and fall.

About 90 volunteers — students, administrators, city officials and people from local neighborhoods — helped out with the collection, Brannon said.

"It's a great opportunity because the folks who live in those neighborhoods who have complained about the students get to meet the students and talk to them," she said.

"It gives students a sense of participation and a feeling of positive involvement in their community."

Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9573.

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STUDENTS
Continued from B1

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State Views

State Views is presented by the Daily Reflector to give readers a sampling of editorials appearing in newspapers through the state. The opinions reflect the views of other papers and not necessarily those of The Daily Reflector.

Edit the hate speech

Rocky Mount Telegram

University of North Carolina administrators are wrestling with an issue that seems clear-cut to a few of the rest of us.

They’re weighing freedom of speech and expression against violent, racist graffiti painted on a wall at N.C. State University after the Nov. 4 election. Even a newspaper that enjoys the freedom to print everyday anything it chooses without government intervention must draw the line when it comes to deplorable messages scribbled by people who should know better.

Freedom of speech allows one to say or write whatever one chooses. But no newspaper or university is required to offer a no-holds-barred forum for messages of hate and bigotry. The Rocky Mount Telegram certainly would not publish a letter or Speak Up item encouraging violence or using racial epithets. Why should a university offer anyone with hateful intent a public forum for expressing threats to hang the president-elect?

The UNC system can set standards and guidelines without discouraging a lively discussion on just about any issue. Offensive language and violent threats should be strictly forbidden on public bulletin boards, campus newspapers and other university-sponsored media. There are far more productive ways to express differences of opinion.

Neither newspapers nor universities can rid the community of small-minded bigotry, unfortunately. But we certainly don’t have to splash it onto our pages or walls, either.
A UNC-Duke study recommends steps the state should take to avoid water shortages in the future.

By Wade Rawlins
Staff Writer

North Carolina leaders should regulate large withdrawals of water from rivers and aquifers and develop models of how much water each river basin contains to avoid future shortages, water experts say.

The state is one of only three in the Southeast that doesn’t require industries, large-scale agriculture and other big water-users to get a permit to make withdrawals, according to a study by researchers at UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University. Without a permit system, state water officials don’t have a clear idea of how much of the state’s total flow is currently tapped and how much water there is to accommodate growth.

“We use water the same way a government or home that has no budget spends money,” said Richard Whisnant, a UNC School of Government professor. “We have no water budget. We just hope everyone will be reasonable in how they use it. ... It will be a big problem for us in the future.”

The study, commissioned by the legislature and written by Whisnant and Bill Holman of Duke University’s Nicholas Institute, identifies steps lawmakers should take to better manage water resources and avoid future shortages. Some steps may be debated during the next legislative session. Everyone who pays a water bill, from homeowners to large industries, could be affected.

Among the study’s recommendations:
- Set up a permit system for industries, utilities, municipalities and others that use 100,000 gallons of water per day or more. An estimated 1,000 to 1,500 users could be affected. Most industrial farms use 40,000 to 80,000 gallons per day and wouldn’t be affected.
- Develop planning models for each of the state’s 17 river basins to set water budgets and determine which are overextended in their water use or will be in the future. The state currently is developing basinwide models to assess water quality, but not quantity.
- Establish statewide goals for water conservation.
- Encourage water systems to charge rates sufficient to cover operating and maintenance costs.

See Water, Page 7B
Whisnant and Holman estimate that several hundred small water systems are charging rates that are too low to cover their costs or maintain their systems. Poorly maintained systems can waste large amounts of water.

The study recommends that the Local Government Commission, a state agency that oversees local government finances, send letters to local water systems seeking an explanation for rates that don’t appear high enough to cover costs. The recommendation stops short of requiring higher rates.

Policy change sought

Whisnant and Holman said the recent drought offered a glimpse of the future if the state doesn’t update its policies to treat water as a limited and precious resource. In the Southeast, only North Carolina, South Carolina and Alabama do not have a permitting system for water withdrawals.

“In the last century, we had a lot of water and not too many people,” said Duke’s Holman. “We’re moving from an era of cheap and abundant water to an era of scarce and more valuable water. Water needs to be priced more appropriately.”

Anita Watkins, legislative counsel for the N.C. League of Municipalities, which represents local governments, said the league supports developing comprehensive models of river basin water use and setting up a permitting system for big users.

“Our folks see this as a way to make sure the supply of public water is protected and that you have a level playing field,” Watkins said.

Preston Howard, a lobbyist for the Manufacturers and Chemical Industry Council of North Carolina, which represents large industries, said the group is reviewing the recommendations and hasn’t yet taken a position.

Conflicts foreseen

Demand for water will inevitably lead to more conflicts as the population grows, Whisnant said. The U.S. Census Bureau projects a state population of 12 million by 2030, an increase of more than 50 percent from the 2000 tally.

As the population rises, some fast-growing areas such as the Triangle might want to supplement existing water supplies by drawing water from other sources, including Kerr Lake near the Virginia border. That could create clashes with communities that depend on those water supplies.

Such cross-border conflicts already are cropping up. In a pending federal lawsuit, South Carolina is challenging a North Carolina decision to pipe 10 million gallons a day from the Catawba and Yadkin rivers for Concord and Kannapolis. South Carolina contends the decision leaves less water for towns and industries downstream.

Ahead of the curve

“Every time you turn around, you’re dealing with the fact we don’t really have a comprehensive set of water policies,” said Sen. Dan Clodfelter, a Charlotte Democrat and co-chairman of the Environmental Review Commission. “We have to get ahead of the curve on this or we’ll wind up in the kind of water wars they’ve had for generations out West.”

The commission, a panel of legislators that makes recommendations to the full legislature on environmental issues, will examine the study’s findings. It could recommend that the legislature implement some of them when it returns in January.

“I have a hunch there won’t be a single piece of legislation, but a bundle of different components,” Clodfelter said. “It’s such a comprehensive set of recommendations that it may be hard to get it all into a manageable form in a single bill.”

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Duke wants scholarship to rival Morehead

Director hopes to increase prestige, awareness

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

DURHAM – Don Taylor has a mild case of Morehead envy.
Taylor, 41, is the director of the Benjamin N. Duke Scholarship program at Duke University, which targets students from the Carolinas. As such, he quite often finds his program competing with UNC-Chapel Hill and its Morehead-Cain scholarship program, this state's entrenched gold standard for merit scholarships.

Duke gives 12 to 15 B.N. Duke scholarships a year. The Morehead-Cain program issued 62 scholarships last year. Each scholarship provides a full ride to its respective university.

Here are excerpts from an interview with Taylor on the scholarship program.

Q: The B.N. Duke scholarship targets students from the Carolinas. How do you compete with UNC-CH's Morehead program?
A: We've tried to be pretty aggressive in North Carolina to let students know the scholarship exists and use it to increase the number of students who apply to Duke. I go around to high schools, and a lot of times students' first reaction is, 'I can't afford Duke.' So I say, 'You can if you get the scholarship.'

The Morehead [at UNC-CH] is one of the most powerful brands in North Carolina. Everyone knows about it. The brilliance of the Morehead is that it gets high schools to recruit for them. The B.N. Duke is somewhat unknown, so one of my goals is to increase the number of people who know it exists. I want to leverage this scholarship as a recruitment tool.

Q: So the Morehead is your chief rival?
A: Absolutely. I know for a fact we compete with [the Morehead]. This past year, I think there were six kids offered the B.N. Duke and the Morehead, and we got four and they got two. There were two kids, I think, who declined to even interview for the B.N. Duke and took the Morehead. The Morehead, for the last half century, has been taking the best kids from the state and making them better. I have great admiration for it.

Q: Even though a good deal of Duke students are North Carolinians, there's still some sort of stigma in the minds of many of the state's high school students about Duke? It still seems unattainable?
A: I went to Goldsboro High. I applied only to Carolina. Carolina was a great place that changed my life. I was as likely to apply to Duke to go to college as I was to go to Mars to go to college. That's a problem that there's good students in this state who don't even apply to Duke. That's driven in part by perceived or real arrogance on Duke's part that turns people off.

What I'm saying is that the best students from North Carolina have something to offer Duke as well. I'm not willing to sit back and just accept that whoever applies, we pick from. We should go and recruit. The people of our state deserve to have their kids fought over.
It takes time, teamwork to mold a Rhodes Scholar

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL - At a reception for Rhodes scholarship finalists the night before their interviews, Aisha Ihab Saad worked the room with the confidence of someone who had been there before.

She had, in a way.

The UNC-Chapel Hill senior had already done a walk-through at a cocktail party at UNC-Ch that simulated the Rhodes reception. She had chatted up campus administrators, worked on her eye contact and polished her ability to shake hands while holding a beverage.

"The practice did help," Saad recalled this week. "A lot of people were doing it for the first time, and the nervousness was clear."

For Saad, 21, who grew up in Greenville and whose parents now live in Cary, the preparation paid off. She was one of 32 American college students recently selected for the prestigious scholarship. After graduating next year, she will spend at least two years doing fully funded graduate study at Oxford University in England.

SEE RHODES, PAGE 4A
RHODES
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

The mock reception — along with a practice interview that patterned the real thing right down to the furniture arrangement — is one small way to give students with stellar academic credentials an edge or remove a stumbling block. It illustrates the lengths to which a university will go to prepare top scholars for their shot at the big time. The creation of a Rhodes Scholar is a community effort that leans heavily on a support system of professors and academic advisers.

The payoff is significant. The student gets a huge career boost, and the university gets to brag. Rhodes Scholars are routinely trumpeted in alumni magazines and recruitment literature. UNC-CH has eight in the last seven years and 43 overall; Duke has 42 to its credit.

Like many Rhodes Scholars, Saad didn’t arrive on campus with that particular award in her sights. She learned of it at an information session put on by UNC’s Office of Distinguished Scholarships. Plenty of students are interested, and George Lensing, who directs the office, made clear that the Rhodes is a rare achievement.

“He emphasizes that it’s grueling and really slim odds that anyone makes it to the end, so do it as a personal experience,” Saad recalled. “So I went in with that mentality.”

A student must first be recommended by his or her university, and then must go through the Rhodes organization’s application process. At both points, a brief personal statement is the key that opens the door.

Crafting a statement

The statement must be succinct, direct, personal and professional, exploring both a student’s background and influences as well as very specific academic aspirations.

Considering Saad’s résumé — a Morehead-Cain Scholar fluent in Arabic and Spanish who has penned an honors thesis on the negotiation of land rights among the 10 nations that share the Nile River basin, interned in Peru and Egypt and hiked the Himalayas and the Rockies — brevity was a challenge.

The personal statements are capped at 1,000 words.

Saad started writing hers in May. Twenty-five drafts later, she finished in September.

“I have them saved, each one, on my computer,” she recalled. “You’re weighing every word, every statement.”

The finished product opens with a description of dozens of yellow-spined National Geographic magazines lining the family room of her childhood home in Cairo. The magazines contained maps of exotic places suggesting worldly adventures she might take one day.

Later in the statement, she discusses a summer interning in a Cairo hospital, another internship at the Peruvian health ministry, and time spent earlier this year in Bhopal, India, examining efforts to clean up contaminated slums. She closes by specifying what she wants to study at Oxford — a master’s degree in nature, society and environmental policy — and under whose tutelage.

By the time she’d written the final version, Saad was no longer
just going through this exercise for personal growth. She wanted the Rhodes Scholarship. Badly.

So once UNC-CH recommended her for the award, she sat down with Lensing twice a week for a month, spending hours pruning and perfecting that personal statement. A word added, a word removed. An avid hiker, she wasn’t sure whether to spend a couple of precious sentences covering her interest in building trails. At one point, the statement was too polished. She feared it had lost her voice, so she ran it by her parents and a few professors.

**Bolstered on all sides**

As she worked through several months of applications and interviews, Saad had a big dose of behind-the-scenes support from UNC-CH’s distinguished scholarships office, which offered help on everything from interviewing techniques to mundane duties such as making 10 copies of each application, personal statement and résumé that must be submitted.

She took advantage of the mock cocktail party, interview rehearsals and a trip to Duke’s Nasher Museum of Art, where she and other applicants were encouraged to study up on a Spanish exhibit in case the Rhodes interviewers wanted to talk culture.

Students at both Duke and UNC say the mock interviews — usually conducted by former Rhodes winners on each university’s faculties — can be tougher than the real thing. Julia Parker Goyer, the 2007 Duke graduate who won a Rhodes this year, said her interview with Duke representatives was “pretty adversarial, and I remember being a little shaken after it.” It paid off later, she added.

The Rhodes program breaks the United States into 16 regions and draws two scholars from each. Saad, one of 14 finalists representing Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina, was interviewed at Emory University in Atlanta.

The finalists drew numbers and Saad went first, at 8 a.m. In a 25-minute interview that passed in a blink, she discussed her family background and the introduction of democracy in Egypt, her native land, as well as her most difficult hike, her thesis topic, and the challenges growing up a Muslim woman in the American South.

An excruciating, all-day wait followed. She napped. She tried to read. She played board games for hours, commiserating with other Rhodes finalists — 14 stomachs twisted in knots.

After 7:30 that night, the committee made its decision. She had won, one of two chosen from the group. She struggled to contain her glee, lest she rub her victory in her competitors’ faces.

Credit, she says now, must go to those who helped her prepare. “They work through every detail,” she said this week. “It really feels like a team win.”

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New tool for the college interview: a Webcam

BY JANE STANCILL
STAFF WRITER

The sweaty-palmed college interview just got a little more comfortable at Wake Forest University.

Starting this month, any applicant can request a virtual interview with a Wake Forest admissions officer via Webcam and the Internet. It's part of the university's new admissions process that emphasizes personal interaction and no longer requires applicants to submit SAT or ACT test scores.

Peter Chawaga, 17, was interviewed from the warmth of the family room in his home in Haverford, Pa. He applied to Wake Forest this fall and was among the first 30 prospective students to take part in the long-distance experiment.

One afternoon after school, Chawaga sat down at his computer, making sure to shut his mischievous cat, Macy, out of the room. He took a deep breath and, looking into the Web camera, answered the admissions counselor's questions about his family, his neighborhood and the qualities he would bring to a Wake Forest classroom.

The half-hour interview was pretty nerve-wracking — at first, Chawaga said.

"It was in the comfort of my own home and I didn't have to go meet them," he said. "It became less like a formal interview and more like chatting online with my friends."

Wake Forest still encourages applicants to come to the Winston-Salem campus for a face-to-face meeting, but the virtual-interview is a good option for international students or those who don't have the time or money to make the trip, said Martha Allman, the university's admissions director.

David Hawkins, public policy director of the National Association of College Admission Counseling, said he knew of no other colleges using Webcams for student interviews. But for years now, college students in the United States have turned to the In-

SEE VIRTUAL, PAGE 10A
ternet to find their dream campus — using virtual tours, chat rooms, online applications. They've been known to e-mail professors to find out about academic programs before setting foot on campus, so it's not surprising that the virtual interview has arrived.

"It's kind of interesting that we're using the technology to be more personal," Allman said. "It allows the personality to come through and it allows us to ask them questions."

**A more thorough view**

The interview has become more important for Wake Forest in assessing the caliber of students beyond the sterile stats of a high school transcript. In May, the university announced it would no longer require applicants to submit SAT or ACT test scores for admission, citing research that shows the tests favor affluent students and aren't the best predictors of college success.

Such test-optional policies are becoming more common at schools across the United States, but Wake Forest was the first top-30 U.S. News & World Report ranked university to make the decision. The policy garnered national publicity for the university, which has seen a 22 percent jump in applications for the early deadline, Nov. 15.

The admissions staff is swamped, processing applications and conducting interviews, both in person and via Webcam.

Since June, Wake Forest has conducted 3,000 interviews with prospective students, both the old-fashioned method and the newfangled way. In a two-day period this week, after the university announced the virtual option, some 40 applicants scheduled interviews.

Many, though, aren't just relying on their charm to make the sale. So far, Allman said, the majority of applicants are still submitting test scores.

Chawaga was happy with his 1360 combined verbal and math score on the SAT, so he sent it in.

But he also wasn't about to turn down an interview for a spot in next year's freshman class.

"It felt like a real conversation," he said. "It was definitely a lot better than I thought it would be."

Some of the questions were unorthodox. He was asked to rate his geekiness on a scale of one to 10.

Seven, he replied.

"I'm a big sci-fi nerd and I love comic books," he recalled saying, "but I'm also a sports junkie, too."

The high-tech chat must have been a success.

A few weeks ago, Chawaga received word — he got in.
Eternally flushing urinals at Carter-Finley make NCSU a winner on water

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE:
Ray Brinefield, assistant athletics director for outdoor facilities at N.C. State University, can be reached at 919-513-0464.

IS SOMETHING BROKEN IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD?
We want tips from communities in Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill and Johnston and Chatham counties.
Call (919) 836-5740 and leave a message on our tip line or email us at troubleshooter@newsobserver.com. See previous items in the Triangle Troubleshooter at newsobserver.com keyword: Troubleshooter

RALEIGH - Triangle Troubleshooter received a phone call from a reader (maybe a UNC fan?) who complained about the urinals flushing nonstop in the men's rooms at N.C. State's Carter-Finley Stadium.

The caller said the constant flushing begins early on football game days (to handle the tailgating crowd), then continues all during the game. He was concerned that it was a waste of city water.

So, Troubleshooter called Ray Brinefield, assistant athletics director for outdoor facilities at NCSU, to ask about this flushing phenomenon.

He assures us the flushing is actually saving water.

Last summer, after the Triangle's prolonged drought, Brinefield's team put special valves on most of the stadium's urinals. The valves are set on a timer, and stadium officials can control how often the urinals flush — less before games and more during games.

FOLLOWING UP
Last week, we wrote about Paula Hartless, who said she never received the free North Carolina maps she had requested from NCDOT. An NCDOT official said the agency receives so few complaints from people on this topic that it doesn't keep a record of them. But this week, we heard another complaint.

Tony Ochs of Raleigh said he requested five state maps through the NCDOT Web site in the spring.

"The site indicated the maps would be sent in a couple weeks," he wrote. "I wanted a map for each car, the house, and a couple for out-of-state friends."

By late summer, he had not received the maps.

"I finally gave up, and picked up maps at interstate welcome centers," he wrote. "Maybe I'll try again after January for the 2009 maps."

Having trouble getting your maps? Let Troubleshooter know.

Staff writer Leah Friedman
Prosecutor says murder defendant had made advances toward woman’s boyfriend.

BY THOMASI MCDONALD
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH - A Durham man killed his roommate's girlfriend because he was jealous of their relationship, a prosecutor said Friday during a pretrial hearing.

Robert Lee Adams Reaves, who served as a bishop with the Living In Favor Global Network Churches in Goldsboro, is charged with murdering Latrese Curtis, a student at N.C. Central University in Durham. Curtis was stabbed to death in January, and her body was dumped along Interstate 540 in Wake County.

The bespectacled Reaves, wearing an orange-and-white striped jumpsuit, was brought to court Friday from Central Prison, where he has been held since his arrest.

Reaves’ lawyer, George Kelly, sought bond for him during the hearing in Wake Superior Court, prompting the statements from Assistant District Attorney Howard Cummings.

Cummings said investigators think Reaves had made sexual advances toward his roommate, Steven Lamont Randolph, who was dating Curtis. Randolph rebuffed Reaves, who killed Curtis in retaliation, Cummings said.

"It is the state's theory that the deceased became an obstacle to the defendant’s desires to be with Mr. Randolph," Cummings said.

Cummings said investigators have evidence that Reaves made unsuccessful advances toward other male friends and took revenge on their girlfriends.

On Jan. 29, the night before Curtis’ body was found, Curtis visited Randolph at Reaves' home, Cummings said. Curtis, who was married, then left. Reaves and drove to her own home in East Raleigh that evening.

The prosecutor did not say where the killing occurred. But he said that after killing Curtis,

SEE CURTIS, PAGE 4B
An N&O series that starts Sunday grew out of the murders of two college students.

A bhijit Mahato, a Duke graduate student, was killed in January. Eve Carson, the UNC-Chapel Hill student body president, was killed in March.

Lawrence Alvin Lovette is charged with murdering both. His friend Demario James Atwater has been charged with murdering Carson.

Lovette and Atwater were convicted of previous crimes and were on probation when Mahato and Carson were murdered.

Shortly after Lovette and Atwater were charged in the deaths of the two students, The N&O reported problems with the supervision they received.

The probation officer in charge of keeping track of Lovette never met with him. Atwater had no contact with his probation officer for more than a year.

After discovering the problems with those two cases, we wanted to dig deeper. We did. We've spent much of this year evaluating how probation works. The result is the series “Losing Track: North Carolina’s Crippled Probation System.” It starts Sunday and continues Tuesday and Thursday.

You will be shocked.
And angry. And scared.

Since 2000, hundreds of murders have been committed by probationers under the state’s watch. The computer system for keeping up with probationers is a relic — and a key state official turned down a proposal to use effective, inexpensive modern technology.

Written warnings about out-of-control probationers sit unread in a file cabinet.

After The N&O reported problems in the Carson and Mahato cases, state Secretary of Correction Theodis Beck told legislators in October he was surprised.

Referring to the approximate number of people on probation in North Carolina, Beck said, “We’re here because of the failure of two cases out of 117,000.”

Our reporting shows that’s not close to being true. The state doesn’t even know where nearly 14,000 of the probationers are.

The kind of reporting we’ve done for this series is under siege. It’s expensive. Reporters Anne Blythe, Joseph Neff and Sarah Ovaska and researcher David Raynor spent a combined total of a year working on the series. That doesn’t include the efforts of photographers, graphic artists, page designers and editors.

Our readership is higher than ever. But newspapers have been slammed by a loss in advertising. We’ve been forced to lay off employees, including journalists.

But we remain committed to investigating. We believe it is a central part of our mission. So when Pat Stith, our top investigator for 37 years, retired recently, we named a replacement — J. Andrew Curliss, who has worked for The N&O since 1997.

Curliss will work with Steve Kiley, senior editor for investigations.

No matter where you work — business, government or nonprofit — you know 2009 is going to be a difficult year financially.

I hope you will stick with us. Because we are going to stick with our investigative efforts. After reading “Losing Track,” I think you will agree this is a problem North Carolina needs to fix.