THE DAILY CLIPS

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The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
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   The Wall Street Journal
   USA Today
   The Charlotte Observer
   The Fayetteville Observer
   The Greensboro News & Record
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   Business Week
   Time
'Tis the season of giving, and East Carolina University provides a way for students to give to a good cause.

Along with the City of Greenville and the ECU Volunteer and Service-Learning Center, Off-Campus Student Services is collecting household items such as old furniture and kitchen wear for its program, Pirates Treasure. “We're providing an opportunity to donate good items,” said Lucia Brannon, coordinator for ECU Off-Campus Student Services.

The collection started Tuesday and continues today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Willis Building on the corner of First and Reade streets. All donated items will be given to charitable organizations like Habitat for Humanity, the Salvation Army and Goodwill. ECU students and faculty are invited to take
any of the donated items they need. The City of Greenville will pick up larger items upon request.

Pirate Treasures started in 2008 because items were left behind by students at the end of the semester in the neighborhoods around campus, Brannon said.

“Good items were taken to the trash,” she said.

The amount and types of items being left put a burden on the city garbage collection, and Off-Campus Students Services wanted to stop items in usable condition from being sent to the landfills. The two came together with ECU Volunteer and Service-Learning Center to create a program in which students could volunteer, donate and find good household items.

To request item pick-up, call 328-2847. Visit www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/offcampus/pirate_treasure.cfm for more information.
East Carolina had nine players named to the All-Conference USA football teams according to an announcement from the league office Tuesday.

Headlining the Pirates' selections were senior first-team honorees Dwayne Harris and Willie Smith. Harris received first-team designation as both a wide receiver and punt returner while Smith was an offensive line pick. Despite leading the nation in touchdown passes and topping C-USA in 300-yard passing games with eight, ECU junior quarterback Dominique Davis only managed to garner an honorable mention.

Harris has been a key component to the Pirates' record-breaking offensive season. He is the Conference USA leader in receptions per game (7.8) while standing third in receiving yards per game (87.9). His 93 catches and 1,055 receiving yards this season established East Carolina single-season records. Among league players this year, Harris is tied for third with four 100-yard receiving games. The Stone Mountain, Ga., native has also added 10 touchdown receptions, second-most in a year in ECU history.

Smith, the Pirates' starting left tackle, has helped ECU to a No. 7 national ranking in passing offense (319.3 ypg) and 12th in scoring (38.2 ppg). He has provided pass protection and running holes for ECU to establish program records for offensive touchdowns (58), points in Conference USA games (346) and total points (458). Smith is the leader of an offensive line that stands 21st nationally in fewest sacks allowed per game (1.2).

The Pirates had a trio of juniors on the second team in wide receiver Lance Lewis, defensive back Emanuel Davis and kicker Michael Barbour. In addition to Dominique Davis, senior running back Jonathan Williams, senior defensive lineman Josh Smith and senior linebacker Dustin Lineback all earned honorable mention nods.
All-Conference USA

First Team

Offense
QB — G.J. Kinne, Sr., Tulsa; RB — Bryce Beall, Jr., Houston; RB — Zach Line, So., SMU; OL — Kelvin Beachum, Jr., SMU; OL — Matt McCants, Jr., UAB; OL — Jah Reid, Sr., UCF; OL — Willie Smith, Sr., East Carolina; OL — Chris Thompson, Jr., Houston; OL — Cameron Zipp, Sr., Southern Miss; TE — Johdrick Morris, Sr., Southern Miss; WR — Dwayne Harris, Sr., East Carolina; WR — Patrick Edwards, Jr., Houston; WR — Aldrick Robinson, Sr., SMU

Defense
DL — Vinny Curry, Jr., Marshall; DL — Bruce Miller, Sr., UCF; DL — Cheta Ozougwu, Sr., Rice; DL — Taylor Thompson, Jr., SMU; LB — Ja'Gared Davis, So., SMU; LB — Mario Harvey, Sr., Marshall; LB — Jamon Hughes, Sr., Memphis; DB — Philip Davis, Sr., Tulane; DB — Kemal Ishmael, So., UCF; DB — Marco Nelson, Fr., Tulsa; DB — Josh Robinson, So., UCF

Special Teams
K — Danny Hrapmann, Jr., Southern Miss; P — Kyle Martens, Jr., Rice; KR — Quincy McDuffie, So., UCF; PR — Dwayne Harris, Sr., East Carolina; PR — Damaris Johnson, Jr., Tulsa; LS — Brandon Long, Sr., Rice

Second Team

ECU selections

Offense
WR — Lance Lewis, Jr.

Defense
DB — Emanuel Davis, Jr.

Special Teams
K — Michael Barbour, Jr.

Honorable Mention

ECU selections

Offense
QB — Dominique Davis, Jr.; RB — Jonathan Williams, Sr.,

Defense
DL — Josh Smith, Sr.; LB — Dustin Lineback, Sr.,
Perdue to outline her plan on budget

BY ROB CHRISTENSEN - Staff writer

RALEIGH—Democratic Gov. Bev Perdue plans to introduce her plans for revamping state government this week, getting a jump on the Republican legislature that will take office in January.

After talking for several months about remaking state government to deal with the projected $3.5 billion shortfall, Perdue will announce her plans before a regional Chamber of Commerce meeting in Pinehurst on Thursday.

But on Tuesday she played down expectations, saying she would only talk about the broad outlines of her vision, leaving the details to her budget proposal, which she will submit to the legislature next year.

"It will be very abbreviated .... a philosophical statement about the organization of government," Perdue told reporters Tuesday. "My budget document will have all the details. But it will give you a glimpse of the overall restructuring."

The governor said she had been meeting with her advisers for the past two or three months about the budget and was getting a good sense of what she would propose in her budget to the legislature - probably sometime in February.

She said it would include "lots of downsizing and the eliminating of middle management."

Perdue already has on the table major budget cuts, after asking state agencies to come up with proposals for cuts of 5 percent, 10 percent and 15 percent. If enacted, the cuts would likely result in the layoff of thousands of teachers and other state employees.

But Perdue said she was determined to protect education, viewing it as crucial to the state's growth.
"Education is the bedrock of any kind of economic development," Perdue said.

Perdue did not seem inclined to battle the new Republican legislature on tax cuts. In 2009, Perdue backed $1.3 billion in temporary tax increases - along with even larger budget cuts - to deal with a budget shortfall.

The newly elected Republican legislative leaders have said they plan to allow the tax increases to expire next year, and Perdue suggested Tuesday she would go along. "It is not my intent right now to do any taxes," she said.

She also said she would fight to keep the state's incentives program, which offers tax credits and grants to businesses that agree to move to North Carolina and to existing state businesses that expand. She said that 49 other states offer such incentives and that North Carolina must compete for jobs.

In a sign of unease about the continuing budget crisis, the Council of State on Tuesday delayed approval of $175 million in building and repair projects. The council action came as elected leaders voiced concern about taking on added debt at a time when the state faced a projected $3.5 billion shortfall.

The projects had been approved by the legislature, but the council, which is a body of statewide elected officials, has to give approval before bonds can be sold.

"I do not want to issue these bonds at this time," Republican Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler said.

Democratic State Auditor Beth Wood and Republican Labor Commissioner Cheri Berry also voiced concern.

The delayed projects included $55 million in capital and improvements to the University of North Carolina system and the state community college system. It also included $120 million in repairs and renovations projects in state government.

The delayed projects included a $1 million fire suppression sprinkler system and fire alarm upgrade at Polk Hall at N.C. State University, a $2.1 million exterior building restoration and roof replacement at Fetzer Gymnasium at
UNC-Chapel Hill, a $455,000 roof replacement at Atkins Library at UNC Charlotte, and a $150,000 roof replacement and exterior building repair to the Criminal Justice Building at N.C. Central University.

Other projects delayed include $439,000 to replace the air-handling unit in the Labor Building, and $658,000 to replace the air-handling units in the old Revenue Building.

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A Facebook ‘Welcome’ That May Not Be

By JACQUES STEINBERG

High school seniors about to be admitted to college, take note: that authentic-looking Facebook page inviting you to join the university’s “welcome group” for the class of 2015 may be unauthorized.

A company that calls itself Roomsurf.com, and provides a service for prospective freshmen to find potential roommates for a fee, has created what appear to be official Facebook groups for next fall’s freshman classes at more than 150 colleges, including New York University, Middlebury, Wesleyan, the University of Texas and Pepperdine, according to college administrators, who noted a uniformity among the sites.

Each contains the school’s logo, as well as descriptions like, “Welcome SUNY Oswego Class of 2015” or “Welcome Tufts University Class of 2015.” None of the pages, though, make obvious reference to Roomsurf, or indicate that those who join the group will be sent promotions for the site, which was under construction Tuesday evening. (Its matching services range in price from $4.95 to $9.95, though typically the company has no authority over roommate pairings.)

J. D. Ross, a new media director at Hamilton College in upstate New York, helped trace the sites to Roomsurf — in part through an alias used on Facebook by the Web site’s founder, Justin Gaither. Mr. Ross said the company’s efforts via Facebook constituted “a deceptive marketing tactic.”

“It looks real,” Mr. Ross said, adding that the actual freshman-class groups offered officially by hundreds of colleges provide a level of mentoring that the Roomsurf groups could not possibly approximate.

Mr. Gaither, 24, who identified himself as the co-founder and C.E.O. of Roomsurf on his LinkedIn profile, said he took issue with any suggestion of deception.
When asked in a telephone interview why the name “Roomsurf” appeared nowhere on the groups’ welcome pages, he said that anyone curious about their origins need only click on the name of the groups’ creator, identified on most of the groups as Justin Blackwell. A click-through to Mr. Blackwell’s Facebook page would then reveal him to be “co-founder, Roomsurf.com.”

When asked who Mr. Blackwell was, Mr. Gaither acknowledged it was he. He said that “Justin Blackwell” was a name he used as “a Facebook account for business-related stuff” and that Blackwell was his middle name. When pressed, though, he said that the name Blackwell appeared on neither his official identification nor Florida driver’s license.

A Facebook spokesman, Simon Axten, said that the social network “prohibits the use of fake names and false identities.” Mr. Axten said Facebook was “investigating” Mr. Gaither’s endeavors.

In February, when a Washington Post blog wrote about some colleges’ concerns about Mr. Gaither — at the time his company was called URoomsurf.com — he pledged “to be more transparent.”

When informed that several of the colleges — including Tufts, Northwestern and Oswego — told a New York Times reporter on Tuesday they had not authorized the use of their logos on his groups, he said he would gladly substitute a campus photo, “if they just want to send me a message.”
The students arraigned Tuesday on a variety of offenses were, from left, Stephan Vincenzo, Michael Wymbs, Chris Coles, Adam Klein and Harrison David.

By MOSI SECRET and KAREN ZRAICK
One was a Gates Millennium Scholar from Georgia, a poet and party promoter. Another was the salutatorian of his high school class and is currently enrolled in Columbia University’s School of Engineering and Applied Science. A third was a member of the university’s student council, and another competed on the fencing team.

They would seem as unlikely as any students to be accused of participating in a drug ring that emanated mostly from a strip of West 114th Street known as Columbia’s fraternity row. Yet they are among five students at the Ivy League school who have been arrested and charged with felony drug sales, along with three people accused of being their suppliers.

The students were arrested on campus early Tuesday. The arrests followed an undercover investigation, called Operation Ivy League by the police and prosecutors, in which officers made nearly $11,000 in drug purchases from the students since July, the police said. During that time, the officers bought
cocaine, marijuana, ecstasy, Adderall and LSD, which the students applied to Altoids mints and SweeTarts candy.

Detectives said two of the students, Christopher Coles and Harrison David, both 20, said after their arrest that they began selling drugs to raise money for tuition.

“Why do you think I have to do this?” Mr. David said, according to court papers. Then, referring to his father, he added: “He won’t pay my tuition.” The police said a majority of sales took place not on the street but in the common areas and bedrooms of three fraternities: Alpha Epsilon Pi, Pi Kappa Alpha and Psi Upsilon, the university’s oldest fraternity, according to the group’s Web site. Two students also sold drugs from their rooms at the Intercultural House and East Campus Housing, the police said.

The police identified the other students under arrest as Adam Klein, the fencing team member; Stephan Vincenzo, the scholar-poet; and Michael Wymbs, the student council member. All are 20, and each was charged with a variety of drug offenses. New York City’s special narcotics prosecutor, Bridget G. Brennan, and Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly announced the charges.

Ms. Brennan’s office said Mr. David, the salutatorian of his high school class, was the main target of the investigation, which began after law enforcement authorities received anonymous tips about the drug sales. The authorities accused him of dealing with the group’s alleged off-campus suppliers, who were also charged, and he was the only student charged with selling cocaine: 20 grams, for $880, the authorities said. Undercover police officers also bought marijuana from him several times, according to court papers.

All of the students were videotaped trafficking, according to the special prosecutor’s office.

When the police searched the students’ rooms, they seized a bottle of LSD, 50 Ecstasy capsules, 15 Adderall pills, more than half a pound of marijuana and about $6,600 in cash, Ms. Brennan’s office said. Adderall is a prescription amphetamine often used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.
On campus, where students were busy preparing for finals, many were astonished at news of the arrests.

“I don’t feel like drugs are much of a problem on this campus,” said Damaris Giha, 18, a freshman. “I feel like alcohol is more of a problem. It’s not something I hear a lot about.”

An older student said drug use was not uncommon. “It’s college, so it’s the kind of place where you see a lot of drugs,” said Lew Bibler, 20, a junior. “People here are smart and they’re trying to get through college, so I see how it could happen.”

The fraternities are not as central to the social scene as they are at some other colleges, he added.

Aliya Zlotkin, 21, is not a student at Columbia but said she was a friend of Adam Klein, one of the defendants. “He’s a great guy; he’s a really exceptional person,” said Ms. Zlotkin, who described him as smart and kind, a focused student majoring in biology studies. “This just came absolutely out of the blue for him.”

Columbia’s director of media relations, Robert Hornsby, declined to comment when asked if the university was taking any disciplinary action against the students.

The university did issue a statement to students, which said, in part: “The alleged behavior of the students involved in this incident goes against not only state and federal law, but also university policy and the principles we have set — and strive together to maintain — for our community. Please rest assured we are taking this matter very seriously.” The university said drug counseling and treatment were available for students.

Three people who the police said had been the students’ suppliers were also arrested on drug charges: Miron Sarzynski and Megan Asper, whom the authorities described as his girlfriend, were arrested on Oct. 27 in Mr. Sarzynski’s East Village apartment; and Roberto Lagares was arrested on Sunday in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Mr. Sarzynski also faces kidnapping charges; the authorities said he tried to hire an undercover officer to abduct a rival drug dealer at gunpoint in retaliation for a $4,000 debt. Mr. Sarzynski
proposed holding his rival for ransom and torturing him by feeding him LSD.

“The fact that a supplier to the Columbia students was willing to kill his rivals should demolish any argument that drugs on campus is a victimless crime,” Commissioner Kelly said in the news release. “This is no way to work your way through college.”

The students were arraigned on Tuesday in Manhattan Criminal Court in front of Judge Michael R. Sonberg, and each pleaded not guilty. Mr. Vincenzo, a k a Jose Stephan Perez, according to court papers, wore a bandage over his right eyebrow, apparently the result of a tussle with police. “He fought pretty vigorously with the warrant team,” said William Novak, an assistant district attorney in the special narcotics prosecutor’s office. The students were held in custody until they could make their bond payments, which ranged from $30,000 to $75,000, for Mr. David.

Al Baker and Colin Moynihan contributed reporting.