THE DAILY CLIPS

September 14, 2009

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

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ECU Notes: Pirate Bikes offers a greener way to travel

ECU News Services

Sunday, September 13, 2009

A new program through East Carolina University’s Parking and Transportation Services is putting abandoned bikes back on the streets.

“Pirate Bikes” offers refurbished bikes to members of the ECU campus to use for a semester. Abandoned bicycles on campus, after a waiting period, become property of Parking and Transportation Services.

Looking for a way to put those bikes to good use led the staff to launch Pirate Bikes in mid-September, said Karen Mizelle, interim assistant director with Parking and Transportation Services.

Painted purple and gold (of course), the bikes and locks can be borrowed from Parking and Transportation Services for a semester. Faculty, staff and students are eligible to participate and must sign a waiver. If the bike is not returned in a ride-able condition, then the participant will be charged $50.

“We want to promote greener transportation on campus,” Mizelle said. “If we can get more people to ride bikes, then that means less cars on core campus.”

The program has 15 bikes with 9 bikes having been already checked out for the semester to eight students and one faculty member.

Rob Wall with Parking and Transportation has completed the refurbishing of the bikes. Some only needed a new tube in the tires, while other bikes needed much more work.

Every bike is checked to make sure the tires will hold air, the brakes work, gears work or are in a position that allows the bike to be ridden, the chain isn’t rusted, the rims aren’t bent, and the seat is still there and ride-able.

“There was quite a bit of work on some of them to make sure they were safe to be ridden,” Wall said, who seemed to enjoy working on the bikes on weekends. “I’m technically inclined. I like figuring out how things work.”

Mizelle admitted the bikes’ paint jobs are more eye-catching than pretty. “We didn’t paint them to be beautiful,” she said. “We wanted them to be easily identifiable as part of the Pirate Bikes program.”

Parking and Transportation Services paid for the costs of getting the bikes back ready for the road — mainly new inner tubes for the tires and the paint. Five bikes were donated to the program.

“A student, staff or faculty member who doesn’t know if they would use a bike on campus can try this out for a semester,” Mizelle said.

The Pirate Bikes program would like to expand in the future and allow short-term bike use, such as picking up a bike at College Hill and riding it to the Rivers Building. However, the problem has been how to secure the bikes at different locations across campus to make them available to participants but not thieves.

“We want this to be a campus-wide project. We encourage people to donate their bikes, if they no longer use them, and if someone has an idea on how to improve the program, we’d love to hear it,” Mizelle said.

If you’re interested in using a Pirate Bike, contact Parking and Transportation Services at 328-6294 or e-mail parking@ecu.edu.
Biblical scholar is Whichard Professor

This academic year, a new visiting professor at ECU will provide students, faculty and the general public the opportunity to learn more about the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, ancient Israelite history, and Early Judaism.

Isaac Kalimi, professor, Biblical scholar and historian, is serving as the 2009-10 David Julian and Virginia Suther Whichard Distinguished Professor in Humanities in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

"There are wonderful colleagues here, and I have a pleasure to work with them and contribute to this great institution," Kalimi said.

During his stay as Whichard Distinguished Professor, Kalimi will teach a course each semester and offer several open, public lectures. Topics for the lectures will include the Hebrew Bible, ancient Israelite history and historiography, early Judaism, Rabbinic thought and literature, and Jewish-Christian relationships.

This fall, while serving in the Department of Philosophy, Kalimi will teach "The Man and the Myth: King Solomon as Reflected in the Early and Late Biblical Stories and Histories." In the spring, he will teach "Introduction to Hebrew Bible/Old Testament."

Kalimi is a prolific and internationally recognized Biblical and Jewish studies scholar and historian. He received his Ph.D. from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Israel, where he studied the history of the Jewish people and Biblical studies. Since completing his post-doctoral studies at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, Kalimi has held faculty appointments, visiting fellowships and professorships at institutions in Israel, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States.

Kalimi holds membership in many professional societies, and has had many consultant assignments for scientific boards of institutes and journals, including serving on the editorial board of Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies, and as associate editor of Old Testament Abstracts, a publication of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

He is the recipient of many awards and fellowships from organizations that include the National Endowment for the Humanities.

He is the author of 10 books, and he has edited or co-edited six other books and more than 60 scientific articles in scholarly collections and journals.

His book "The Reshaping of Ancient Israelite History in Chronicles" was the recipient of the 2006 R.B.Y. Scott Book Award, which is awarded annually by the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies for "an outstanding book."

ECU physician receives service award

Dr. Gloria Frelix, an assistant clinical professor of radiation oncology at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, has received the National Medical Association's James P. Whittico award for outstanding service.

Frelix was recognized for her leadership in cleaning up a toxic waste dump in her hometown of Columbia, Miss., where people were dying of cancer and other diseases due to toxic waste.

Frelix, president of the Old North State Medical Society and a leader in the National Medical Society, also recently served on a consensus panel on cancer disparities conjointly with the American Cancer Society and the National Medical Society.

The panel recently published a 57-page report on disparities.

Frelix has also been selected for the 2010 class of the North Carolina Medical Society Foundation Leadership College.

Upcoming events:

Thursday and Friday — Hurricane Floyd Symposium, organized by ECU's Center for Natural Hazards Research, the City Hotel and Bistro in Greenville. Featured speakers include former Gov. Jim Hunt and Richard Moore, former secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. Visit http://www.ecu.edu/rencifloyd/index.html.

Sept. 20 — Orchestra Concert, 3 p.m., Wright Auditorium. Program includes Carl Nielsen's Concerto for Clarinet, Opus 57 with guest soloist Christopher Grymes, and Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 2 in D major, Opus 73.

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

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Karen Taylor and Chris Raynor were to be married Saturday. Less than four hours before the ceremony, Raynor was killed in an automobile accident. Photo from Taylor and Raynor’s wedding Web page

Wedding day veers from joy to horror

Groom is mourned instead of being married

BY SADIA LATIFI, Staff Writer

RALEIGH - Friends and family traveled from all over the country for the wedding of the couple who, everyone agreed, were meant to be together.

But instead of entering the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart to laughter and wedding bells Saturday, the guests were handed a program for a memorial service.

Father Salvatore Busichio shared the heartbreaking news: Groom Chris Raynor, 28, had been killed in a car accident less than four hours before he was to be married.

Raynor, an East Carolina University graduate who worked at a construction company in Raleigh, was heading to breakfast with two of his groomsmen on the cool Saturday morning when their vehicle was hit by a car that ran a red light at the intersection of Glenwood Avenue and Westgate Road. Raynor, who was sitting in the back seat without a seat belt, was ejected from the car. He was hit by a third car.

Police charged the driver of the car that ran the red light, James Howard Early, 52, of Asheville, with misdemeanor death by motor vehicle.

In a hotel room about seven miles away, bride-to-be Karen Taylor was sipping champagne and celebrating with her bridesmaids.

Raynor had sent her a text message earlier that morning.
"He started off my day with a text message saying, 'Yay,' and he went on with the text message, saying, 'I'm so ready,'" she said through tears to WTVD Saturday night. "And I think he is ready. I think he is ready for heaven."

The news was paralyzing.

"We were all with Karen getting ready, and we were very excited and happy," maid of honor Abby Jacobs said. "When we got word, everybody was in tears and in shock."

In an hour, the Saturday service went from a wedding to a memorial.

Busichio, who was to officiate the 11 a.m. service, said one guest almost fainted when she heard the news.

"I've never heard anything like this before, and I've been doing this for decades," he said.

But religious leaders quickly came up with a 35-minute memorial service. Taylor, who hadn't yet dressed for the ceremony, didn't plan to attend at first, Busichio said.

"She was going to go home, but I said to her, 'You must stay. You will regret it if you leave,'" he said. "She was so valiant, and the service was beautiful."

When the groomsmen who had been in the car with Raynor arrived, they took their seats in one of the wooden pews and were inconsolable. Nobody expected Taylor, a first-grade teacher at Sanford Creek Elementary, to rise and speak. But she did.

"She gave a beautiful talk. She was very calm," Busichio said.

Relatives of Taylor and Raynor were too upset to talk on Sunday.

At the rehearsal dinner the evening before, Raynor had spoken passionately about Taylor's strength.

"She started her speech by saying, 'Last night, [Chris] told me I was a strong woman, and he's giving me strength now to speak,'" Jacobs said. "She was so brave, and I knew she felt like that's what [Chris] would have wanted her to do. It was like he had taken over her body a little."

Her words left the roomful of loved ones speechless.

Family and friends didn't cancel the after-ceremony reception at Caffe Luna downtown. Instead, they tried to celebrate Raynor's life. It was getting unbearable for Taylor, though, so the bridesmaids took her back to the hotel.

Jacobs introduced the two to each other at her birthday party three years ago. The pair hit it off immediately but spent six months traveling back and forth between Raleigh and Sylva, where Taylor lived after graduating from Western Carolina University. It took some convincing, Jacobs said, but Taylor agreed to move to Raleigh.

Warm and sincere

Friends said Raynor was worth it.

"He's like Mr. Rogers if you X out all the corniness and nerdiness," said groomsman Andrew Bowman, Raynor's best friend since eighth grade. "He has a very gregarious personality. He was warm, sincere, and he was a people pleaser."

Raynor, who went to Leesville High School, cooked great ribs and loved extreme sports like rock climbing.
"He looks like Chris Farley, but the hilarious thing is that he's one of the most athletic guys I know," Bowman said.

And he was completely smitten with Taylor, Bowman said.

"He always put Karen first," Bowman said. "He is the epitome of the type of guy you want dating your sister or daughter."

Proposal over pancakes

But he was nervous about proposing. He asked Bowman and his friends for advice on finding the right ring. He finally popped the question in November over a pancake breakfast.

"Every day they woke up ready to conquer the day," Jacobs said. "It was so amazing that two people with that zest for life had found each other."

The couple often went to farmers markets and parks with their dog, Charlie.

Today, they would have set sail on a honeymoon cruise to Key West and the Bahamas.

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More than a game: Pirates victory lifted spirits in region

By Tony Castleberry
The Daily Reflector

Friday, September 11, 2009

While Greenville residents were watching the floodwaters rise to unprecedented levels, swallowing homes and businesses, the players and coaches on the East Carolina football team were watching televisions in their Columbia, S.C., hotel rooms.

The Pirates, who had beaten South Carolina, 21-3, on Sept. 18, 1999, couldn't return to the ECU campus after the victory because of Hurricane Floyd, one of the most destructive storms to ever hit the eastern seaboard. The team was able to keep up with what was going on in Greenville through phone calls to family and friends, but with Floyd's impact making national news, many Pirates stayed glued to TV sets when they weren't practicing or watching tape of their next opponent, the mighty Miami Hurricanes.

Still, digesting TV news reports and talking with folks in Greenville only provided limited information, and that didn't exactly provide relief.

"The worst part was we didn't really know what was going on back home," said Kevin Monroe, a senior defensive back on the '99 team who is from Greenville and attended J.H. Rose High School. "We didn't head to Columbia thinking we'd be there for a week."

But the hotel did become ECU's home away from home and, whether they knew it or not, the challenges the Pirates faced that week forced the team to develop a trust in each other that helped lead ECU to one of the best football seasons in school history.

Shifting focus

Turning the focus toward the Miami game sounds like quite a task given the team's predicament.

But Steve Shankweiler, an offensive line coach on the '99 team who was in his second stint at ECU at the time, said that, after some problems early in the week, the team held productive, efficient practices.

"It was a deal where I'm not sure some of it didn't become mutiny (right after the storm)," said Shankweiler, who returned to the Pirates coaching staff a third time in 2005 and is currently the co-offensive coordinator and offensive line coach. "The fact that we had beaten South Carolina made it a whole lot easier, obviously. The fact that we were getting ready to play a team like Miami made it a whole lot easier. The timing of the two games couldn't have been better for us."

Despite just having lost to the Pirates, South Carolina did its share to help ECU, allowing the Greenville crew to use its practice fields, weight and training rooms and video equipment. East Carolina even got a helping hand from a Columbia sporting goods store, which let the Pirates use Carolina Panthers jerseys during practice since the only uniforms ECU had were its away game jerseys.

But no matter how much help a team in East Carolina's situation got, it wouldn't have worked out as well as it did without a strong leader like then-head coach Steve Logan.

"I think that coach Logan did an unbelievable job of keeping everybody focused on the task," Shankweiler said.

Samien Jones, a junior offensive tackle on the '99 team, credited Logan and his staff for helping the team maintain some sense of normalcy under abnormal conditions.
"The coaching staff did a good job keeping everything as close to normal as they possibly could," said Jones, who's now an assistant coach at D.H. Conley. "We still worked out and lifted as if we were back home. The schedule was pretty much still the same, so it didn't feel any different from that standpoint."

Logan, the winningest coach in Pirate football history, did a lot more than prepare his team for the Miami game, which had to be moved to N.C. State's Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh after Floyd hit.

Knowing that some of his players would be returning to Greenville to find their apartments and dorm rooms ruined or at least badly damaged, Logan went into action.

"(Logan) and some people here in town organized a way to guarantee that the kids that lost their belongings would have a place when they got back, would have furniture, would have a refrigerator full of food to help them get started," Shankweiler said. "He was able to reassure the kids that, 'Hey guys, I know what you're seeing on TV and I know what everybody's saying, but I promise you, we're going to take care of you.' The community kind of put their problems aside, got behind the football team and took care of them."

Raleigh-bound

The Pirates departed Columbia for Raleigh on Sept. 24, 1999, to take on the then ninth-ranked Hurricanes. They had been away from Greenville for 196 hours — a little more than eight days — by the time they kicked off against Miami on Sept. 25.

Although ECU was 3-0 with wins over West Virginia and South Carolina under its belt, the Pirates would have been excused if they'd felt like serious underdogs against the 'Canes.

After all, the '99 Miami team had a roster littered with future NFL stars like Reggie Wayne, Santana Moss and Clinton Portis. Plus, the Hurricanes were able to practice at their home campus, sleep in their own beds and adhere to their normal schedule leading up to the game.

Miami didn't even have to play a true "road" game against ECU after the decision to play in Raleigh was made.

"That Miami team was talented, more than we were," Monroe said. "(But) we were 3-0 and feeling good about ourselves. We wanted to keep that momentum going."

Although N.C. State has been less than hospitable to the Pirates and their fans over the years, many of the ECU faithful, who had plenty of reasons to stay home, made the trip to the Capital City and tried to turn Carter-Finley into Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium West.

And the ECU fans succeeded.

Game time

East Carolina overcame a 20-point deficit to beat Miami, 27-23, in a game that saw each team take the other's best punches. Quarterback David Garrard had a huge game, completing 30 of 46 passes for 328 yards and tossing the game-winning touchdown pass to Keith Stokes with less than five minutes to go in the fourth quarter.

Monroe recorded 11 tackles for ECU's defense, which held the 'Canes scoreless in the final two quarters.

East Carolina trailed 23-3 at halftime, but Monroe said it didn't take long for the momentum to change in the second half. The thousands of Pirate fans on hand, many of whom left flood-damaged homes and apartments behind them, played a major role in the comeback.

"The fans really got behind us after halftime," Monroe said. "It was the most unbelievable atmosphere. We weren't in Dowdy-Ficklen, but it felt like we were."

"A lot of the people out there had nothing to go back to. They rallied around that team, and that's why we knew, in the fourth quarter, they were putting all hope and faith in one game, one team. We had to make it mean something for them."

It absolutely meant something to East Carolina fans, as Shankweiler found out following the game.

"When the game was over, I was headed to the locker room," Shankweiler said. "Some woman, I don't who it was, probably in her 70s at the time, walked up and grabbed me and hugged me. She said, 'Coach, thank y'all for what you've done for us.' When she said that, it just put into perspective how much that game meant to this part of the state and to the people who had bigger problems than we had."
Jones said he realized the effort it took for Pirate fans just to make it to the game. But supporting the hometown team, and eventually watching ECU pull off one of the greatest upsets in school history, helped Greenville residents put their worries aside, if only for a few hours.

"I've heard stories from people who've said that it took them four or five hours just to get to Raleigh to go to the game, but they were glad they were there," Jones said. "For us to be able to give them that one moment to forget about everything that was going on back home, to enjoy that experience, meant a lot."

Reality check

It didn't take long for reality to set in for the Pirates after their thrilling victory.

The team's bus ride back to Greenville ended after midnight, 224 hours after it had left for Columbia. The city the players and coaches saw when they returned barely resembled the one they departed more than nine days earlier.

"A lot of the worst flooding had receded by the time we got home, but it was still unbelievable," Monroe said. "Guys' apartments were just destroyed. ... Guys had to stay with teammates or wherever they could find a place to stay. We really had to come together the following few weeks. It was really tough to see all that destruction."

Garrard, who along with Logan could not be reached for comment for this story, was named the Conference USA Offensive Player of the Week after his performance against Miami. A press conference was scheduled on Monday to announce the honor, but Garrard couldn't attend the gathering. He was busy moving into a new place because his apartment had been flooded.

The quarterback was one of nearly 20 ECU players who had to find new homes and replace their belongings. That process took a while, and things didn't return to normal for a long time, but the Pirates pushed through. They won at Army the next week to move to 5-0 and finished the regular season with an 8-2 record.

East Carolina lost its final game of the '99 campaign, 28-14, against Texas Christian in the Mobile Alabama Bowl. But ECU's team had already cemented its legacy with the win over Miami and the joy it brought — and sometimes still brings — to flood victims all over eastern N.C.

"Ten years later, people still come up to me and tell me it's greatest game they've ever seen," Monroe said.

Added Shankweiler: "I don't know if you could say they could forget about (Floyd), but if (the win over Miami) gave everybody a reason to put a smile on their face, then yeah, it was certainly worth all the effort we gave."

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Otero Dance Company opens SRAPAS 2009-10 season

The Daily Reflector

Sunday, September 13, 2009

If you're interested in world-class performances in music, dance and theater, look no further than your own back door.

East Carolina University's S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series offers one-night productions by world-class artists. This year's series begins at 7:30 p.m. Thursday with the Otero Dance Company's production of "Rhythm and Passion," which is an exploration of a variety of Latin dances such as the tango, salsa and gaucho.

The series began in 1962, when Rudy Alexander scheduled four performances in the student center. Since then, the series has offered more than 350 performances, drawing more than half-million patrons. From headlining masters—Yo-Yo Ma, Andrés Segovia and the London Philharmonic Orchestra—to rising stars, the series brings some of the biggest and brightest names in the industry to the region. All performances are held at 7:30 p.m. in the Wright Auditorium in the center of ECU's campus.

Thursday: The Otero Dance Company presents "Rhythm and Passion"

The Otero Dance Company's "Rhythm and Passion" is a two-hour exploration of the most popular Latin dances including the romantic and seductive tango, the vibrant salsa and the exciting gaucho. The company was founded by Argentine siblings Gloria and Claudio Otero and has been featured in television commercials, shows and films. They've made appearances in Germany, Canada, Mexico and throughout Asia including Japan, Korea and Thailand.

Gloria Otero trained with master dance teachers from the time she turned 8. At 15, she received a Certified Title as a Dance Instructor from the Conservatorio Alquistur in Buenos Aires and formed her own dance troupe.

Claudio Otero started dancing at age 4, demonstrating considerable talent. He went on a national tour of Argentina with the stars of "Tango." In the United States, Claudio's tango and gaucho performances earned him the Bronze Star Halo Award for Outstanding Contributions to the entertainment industry by the Southern California Motion Picture Council.

The company's dancers are also master teachers who offer private and group classes throughout southern California for a variety of dance styles: tango, salsa, Latin, ballroom, hip-hop, swing and Pilates.

Nov. 5: Reduced Shakespeare Company's "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)"

"The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)" is all 37 Shakespeare plays in an irreverent, fast-paced 97-minute romp. The production was London's longest-running comedy with 10 years at the Criterion Theatre.

Since its 1981 origins in California, the Reduced Shakespeare Company has created six stage shows, several TV programs and numerous radio pieces. They've performed at the White House, Lincoln Center, London's West End, The Kennedy Center, Seattle Repertory Theatre, American Repertory Theatre and Montreal's Just For Laughs Festival.

The trio has taken its shows worldwide to Israel, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan, Malta, Belgium, The Netherlands, Singapore and Bermuda—plus countless civic and university venues throughout the United
States, Great Britain and Ireland.

Nov. 17: Pianist Yeol Eum Son

At 23, Korean-born Yeol Eum Son's highly versatile and accomplished performances earned her a silver medal at the 13th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition held earlier this year.

As part of her winnings, Son was given a three-year concert tour of the United States and a recording contract with Harmonia Mundi USA.

She was a featured soloist with the New York Philharmonic on several occasions and most recently as part of the orchestra's historic visit to Seoul. Son has also performed with the Israeli and Warsaw Philharmonic orchestras, the NHK Symphony and Tokyo Philharmonic orchestras in Japan, and Germany's Baden-Baden Symphony Orchestra.

Her performance of the Brahms Piano Quintet with the Takács Quartet during the Cliburn's semifinal round earned her the Steven De Groote Memorial Award for the Best Performance of Chamber Music. Her complete competition performances are available for streaming at www.cliburn.tv.

Jan. 14, 2010: The Chuck Davis African American Dance Ensemble

The Chuck Davis African American Dance Ensemble presents “A Taste of Blue Grass/Brown Earth.” Inspired by the original African banjo, the work, which premiered in April 2007, is a ceremonial transition of the banjo in Africa to the banjo tradition of the North Carolina Blue Ridge Mountains.

In 1968, the Chuck Davis Dance Company was founded in New York City with Chuck Davis as the artistic director. The company performed to rave reviews in the New York area and elsewhere in the United States, gradually establishing itself as one of the nation's premier Afro-American dance companies.

A trip to Durham in 1980 for the American Dance Festival hooked Davis on North Carolina. He and the company returned each year until 1983 when it became obvious to Davis that he needed to establish a dance company in North Carolina, and the African American Dance Ensemble was born.

The Ensemble is comprised of nine musicians and dancers under Davis' leadership as artistic director. Its mission is to preserve and share the finest traditions of African and African American dance and music through research, education and entertainment. With the motto, “Peace, love, respect for everybody,” the ensemble celebrates traditional African culture to encourage interracial cooperation, cross-cultural understanding and societal analysis.

Jan. 28, 2010: St. Lawrence String Quartet

With 20 years and more than 2,000 performances, the St. Lawrence String Quartet has established itself as a world-class chamber ensemble.

In 1992, the quartet won both the Banff International String Quartet Competition and the Young Concert Artists International Audition.

Their first recording, “Schumann's First and Third Quartets,” was released in May 1999 to critical acclaim. The CD received the coveted German critics award, the Preis der Deutschen Schallplattenkritik, as well as Canada's annual Juno Award. BBC Music Magazine gave the recording its “highest rating,” calling it the benchmark recording of the works. In October 2001, EMI released their recording of string quartets of Tchaikovsky. In 2002 their recording Yiddishbbuk, featuring the chamber music of the celebrated Argentinean-American composer Osvaldo Golijov, received two Grammy nominations. Their most recent recording of Shostakovich Quartets was released in July 2006.

Highlights of their 20th anniversary season last year included the popular series Sundays with the St. Lawrence for Stanford Lively Arts; a performance at Carnegie Hall with Todd Palmer of a Carnegie-commissioned work by David Bruce; concerts throughout North America including Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Washington, D.C.; a tour of Europe that included Amsterdam, Geneva, Stuttgart, and Bern; five new string quartets by Canadian composers; and the world premiere of a new string quartet by John Adams.

Feb. 11, 2010: Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra

The Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1978 as an outgrowth of the need for the symphonic repertoire of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries to be broadcast throughout Russia for the benefit of its
citizens. It was decided that the orchestra should broadcast performances on a weekly basis.

The Orchestra expanded its activities into Russian television, including projects with Korean KBC and German ZDF. In 1980 the orchestra created a major subscription series in Moscow's Tchaikovsky Hall and Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory.

April 15, 2010: Chanticleer

Chanticleer is named after the "clear-singing" rooster in Geoffrey Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales." Chanticleer was founded in 1978 by tenor Louis Botto, who sang in the ensemble until 1989 and served as artistic director until his death in 1997.

The San Francisco-based ensemble is known as "an orchestra of voices," blending the 12 all-male voices that range from counter-tenor to bass. They are also known for their original interpretations of vocal literature, from Renaissance to jazz.

Named 2008 Ensemble of the Year by Musical America, Chanticleer will perform more than 100 concerts during its 2009-2010 season. They will tour 21 of the United States and 12 foreign countries including appearances at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Vienna's Musikverein and Prague's Rudolfinum.

In 2009, Chanticleer made debut appearances in Ireland and the People's Republic of China and will return to the latter in June for Expo 2010 in Shanghai. Highlights of the 2009-10 season will be Chanticleer's first National Youth Choral Festival in San Francisco in March, appearances at two American Choral Directors Association conferences, the release of a new recording, "Best of Chanticleer," and a new DVD "Fireside Christmas with Chanticleer."

April 20, 2010: Suzanne Vega

Regarded as an innovative artist, neo-folk singer-songwriter and author Suzanne Vega is credited with the revival of modern folk music. Her song "Tom's Diner" was used as an early trial of the MP3, a digital audio file, giving her the distinctive title of "mother of the MP3."

Rolling Stone named her first album among the "100 Greatest Recordings of the 1980s." Her sophomore CD released in 1987 "Solitude Standing" went platinum.

Two of Vega's songs, "Luka" and "Tom's Diner," reached the top 10 of various international chart listings. "Tom's Diner" was originally an a capella version on Vega's album, which was then remade in 1990 as a dance track produced by the British dance production team DNA.

Her work has been featured on soundtracks including "Dead Man Walking," "Pretty in Pink" and "The Truth About Cats and Dogs."

The shows

Thursday: Otero Dance Company
Nov. 5: Reduced Shakespeare Company
Nov. 17: Pianist Yeol Eum Son
Jan. 14, 2010: Chuck Davis African American Dance Ensemble
Jan. 28, 2010: St. Lawrence String Quartet
Feb. 11, 2010: Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra
April 15, 2010: Chanticleer
April 20, 210: Suzanne Vega

All performances are at 7:30 p.m. in East Carolina University's Wight Auditorium.

For tickets
Call: (252) 328-4788 or (800) ECU-ARTS
Visit: www.ecu.edu/srapas
Open chancellor search is best for NCSU

BY JOHN DRESCHER, Executive Editor

If ever a chancellor search should be open, it's the one for the next leader at N.C. State University.

That won't happen unless UNC system President Erskine Bowles changes his mind. But it's in the university's best interest -- and his own -- for him to do so.

There are two basic ways to run a search for a chancellor of a public university here.

A board of trustees can secretly recommend at least two finalists to Bowles.

Or the university can conduct a public search in which it brings finalists to campus to meet students, faculty and staff members. Then Bowles picks one to recommend for final approval by the system's Board of Governors.

Bowles recently said he does not want to disclose names of the finalists.

"My job is to get the best field, ... and I think if we have to make their names public, it would reduce the quality of the field," he said.

Given the events of recent months at NCSU, Bowles should rethink his position.

The job is open because Bowles lost confidence in Jim Oblinger, the former chancellor. Oblinger could not remember the events that led to the hiring of Mary Easley, then first lady, at NCSU in 2005. Oblinger long said he was not involved; e-mail showed he was. He resigned, as did NCSU's provost and board chairman.

That's a lot of trauma for one year. NCSU is a great university; it will recover. But Bowles could speed the healing by engaging key constituents -- students, faculty, staff and alumni. NCSU needs a process that inspires confidence, not cynicism.

Would some candidates decline? Possibly. But when Appalachian State conducted an open search in 2004, no candidate dropped out. The NCSU post is such a great job that Bowles won't have any trouble attracting strong candidates.

As the leader of the UNC system, Bowles needs to manage his risk in two key areas:

• He needs the faculty on board. Without faculty support, the new chancellor faces an uphill climb.

• He needs to avoid hiring a candidate with a serious blemish in his or her background. No company that checks references can match the power of public exposure, including scrutiny from the faculty and The N&O. A public process helps avoid hiring the wrong person.

Finally, Bowles, 64, needs to get this right for his legacy.
Bowles is probably one of the best public managers this state has seen.

But he has lost some of his shine in the last year.

He underestimated the scrutiny Mary Easley's 88 percent pay raise would get. He approved a severance package for Oblinger that his board scaled back.

And he let the growth in administrative jobs race beyond the growth in students even though he had said it was a priority to be lean in administrators.

Good managers don't set priorities and then lose sight of them, and Bowles knows that's what he did.

So there's a lot at stake for NCSU and for Bowles. If he wants to get the right leader, his odds improve dramatically by opening up the search.

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University boards eye joint meetings

UNC-CH and NCSU trustees might get together twice a year.

BY JAY PRICE, Staff Writer

RALEIGH - The fast-growing web of academic connections between rivals N.C. State University and UNC-Chapel Hill has prompted their respective trustees to ponder holding joint meetings twice a year.

Lawrence Davenport, chairman of the NCSU trustees, told his board Friday that he had called his counterpart at UNC-CH, Bob Winston, to broach the idea, and that Winston was receptive.

The state's two leading public universities, Davenport said, should have a closer working relationship, and the networking meetings, paid for by the trustees, could help.

The two schools, despite their sometimes bitter meetings on the football field and basketball court, have a growing partnership on many fronts, Davenport said. They include a joint degree program in biomedical engineering that started in 2003, various smaller projects and the budget challenges facing all state schools.

NCSU's faculty publishes research with more co-authors from UNC-CH than from any other university, he said.

Still, some may view the notion of a closer relationship as akin to treason. Davenport didn't rush things by seeking a commitment Friday. Instead, he gave the other NCSU trustees a little time to get comfortable with the idea.

"Just think about it and let me know," he said.

For those who might be shocked at the idea of Interstate 40 diplomacy, it gets worse. Turns out that the two universities' student body presidents are ahead of their elders.

Not long after Davenport's revelation, NCSU Student Body President Jim Ceresnak, who also sits on the board, admitted to other trustees that he recently was at a social event attended by his UNC-CH counterpart, Jasmin Jones.

And they danced. Together. In public.

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Judy C. Hudson

Judy C. Hudson The funeral services for Judy Corbett Hudson, 70, will be conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Greenwood Cemetery. The family will receive friends prior to and following the service. Judy, daughter of the late Manuel and Arlene Nobles Corbett, was a native and lifelong resident of Greenville. She graduated from Greenville High School, class of 1957, and later attended East Carolina University, where she earned both her undergraduate and masters degrees. She was a career educator and taught locally at D.H. Conley High School prior to her retirement in 1984. Mrs. Hudson was preceded in death by her husband, Aubrey D. Hudson, in 1993. She is survived by a number of cousins. Arrangements by Wilkerson Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences at www.wilkersonfuneralhome.com.

Published in The Daily Reflector on September 14, 2009
First-year students Alex Sewell of Raleigh and Kathleen Harrell of Durham meet while picking up their books. 
Corey Lowenstein, Staff photo by Corey Lowenstein

First year students Andrew Rogers, 24, of Pittsburgh, left, and Rob Patchett, 22, of Kannapolis pick up their books. ‘I wouldn’t have come here if it wasn’t at this location,’ Rogers said. 
Corey Lowenstein, Staff photos by Corey Lowenstein

Campbell Law School moved to Raleigh for the vibrancy of the city’s legal community. 
Corey Lowenstein, Staff photo by Corey Lowenstein

Campbell law comes to town

Rural charms of Buies Creek give way to new downtown Raleigh digs
BY MANDY LOCKE, Staff Writer

RALEIGH - Last year, Campbell law students emerged from their windowless basement study area each day for the same three lunch options: Chick-fil-A, Quiznos or Chinese food.

Things have gotten fancier for Campbell’s law students, who Monday will trade their rural Harnett County campus for a state-of-the-art office building in downtown Raleigh.

They’ll peer out floor-to-ceiling windows in the student common area and ponder lunching options such as chilled buckwheat noodles at Sono or truffled mac and cheese at The Mint. From the library, amid books about western legal theory, students can spy the happy hour crowd gathering at The Borough, a corner bar. Wherever they go, they might bump into the state’s top prosecutor, Roy Cooper, or Senate Majority Leader Tony Rand emerging from the legislature.

First-year students spent Friday getting acquainted with their new digs. They flipped through an orientation packet that included a visitor’s guide to Raleigh’s hot spots; Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker welcomed them and talked up the revived downtown. Some older students plotted a lunch run to The Raleigh Times, a restaurant on Hargett Street. A group of young women chatted near an elevator about having seen a few Supreme Court justices earlier in the day.

"I want our students walking to lunch, going to the General Assembly and embedding themselves in this legal community," said Julie Beavers, director of career services and professional development.

This was exactly the point. Campbell University resettled its 450-student law school in the state’s capital hoping to harness the vibrancy of the city’s legal community to benefit its students. Though Buies Creek’s corn fields and starry skies had their charms, university leaders sought a hustle and bustle their students could find in an urban hub.

"There’s an incredible community of lawyers and judges in Raleigh, and I’m tickled to be a part of that now," said Jessica Scott, a third-year law student who lives in Raleigh. Campbell is just two blocks from the law office where Scott interned this summer, and she plans to shuffle back and forth this year.

School leaders are seeking more of that interaction. Next month, the state’s business court will relocate to Campbell Law School and begin hearing cases there. School officials are inviting out-of-town lawyers to find respite and work space in their library. Some of the classrooms have been fashioned after courtrooms so students can practice making arguments and learn the decorum of courtroom appearances.

In some ways, Campbell Law School came to its students. Several years ago, school leaders realized a large portion of their second- and third-year law students were commuting 45 minutes to Buies Creek from Wake County, wasting hours that they could be spending doing schoolwork.

"In some ways, this wasn’t really about giving us a competitive edge but helped us take an edge off," said Jerry Wallace, president of Campbell University.

This move has been in the works for nearly three years. Some students and faculty anchored themselves in Raleigh even before the school officially opened.

Rick Lord, a contract law professor, bought a condo catty-corner from the law school a year ago. From his corner office, he can spy his wife making dinner at The Dawson, one of the new condominium projects dotting Raleigh’s skyline in recent years.
"My wife and I are always ready for an adventure," Lord said.

For now, university leaders hope students temper their appetite for adventure, at least until they buckle down with their books.

When asked what the school was doing to make sure students find their way around Raleigh, Dean Melissa Essary said she was most concerned with students getting settled academically.

"What we need them to do is start studying Monday," Essary said with a laugh. "There's nothing about this location that will make their curriculum less challenging."

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Related Content

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Katherine Clarke, 9, reacts to a scary story. She came with her grandmother, Mary Imms of Cary.
Corey Lowenstein, Staff photo by Corey Lowenstein

R.L. Stine, left, the writer of the 'Goosebumps' series, meets fan Daniel Magen, 9, of Rolesville, center, as Benjamin Roberts, 10, of Apex, right, devours one of Stine’s books at the 2009 N.C. Literary Festival.
Corey Lowenstein, Staff photos by Corey Lowenstein

Parker Klinck, 10, of Durham, gives his scariest face while posing with 'Goosebumps' author R.L. Stine.
Corey Lowenstein, Staff photo by Corey Lowenstein
'Goosebumps' author is a hit at festival

BY MATT EHLERS, Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL - The N.C. Literary Festival at UNC-Chapel Hill this weekend has plenty of what you’d expect from a celebration of the written word: authors rubbing elbows with fans, speaking seriously about their craft.

There’s also a make-your-own-puppet station, face-painting and appearances by a big red dog.

The festival’s motto is "a celebration of reading and writing," director Amy Baldwin said, and "who better to share that with than children?"

Wool E. Bull, The Berenstain Bears and Clifford the Big Red Dog strolled around campus Saturday, offering high fives and posing for photographs. But the big literary draw for kids was R.L. Stine, author of the hugely successful "Goosebumps" series, who spoke to an overflowing tent of several hundred fans.

Stine invited his audience to help him craft a scary story. Dozens of hands shot up each time he asked for a suggestion, resulting in a story about a boy named Benjamin, a beat-up yellow Camaro filled with spiders and a ghost with blood-red eyes.

Humor in the fright

Stine, who wrote 87 books in the original "Goosebumps" series, said he liked to mix humor into his scary stories. The kids followed his every word, ooohing in all the right places as he read from a yet-to-be published book, "Little Shop of Hamsters."

After the reading, Stine moved to another tent to sign books, with hundreds lining up to meet the man who invades their dreams.

Iris Seaton, 11, lives in Chapel Hill and had Stine sign a copy of "Say Cheese and Die Screaming." Iris appreciates the humor in Stine’s well-crafted stories.

"They have good plot lines, and the characters are funny," she said.

As they left the autograph table, her grandmother, Kathy Seaton, thanked Stine for bringing so much joy to people. She said she was happy to bring her granddaughter and a friend to meet Stine.

Seeing the series' creator, and hearing him read a story, "makes it so much more vivid," she said.

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Festival activities

Festival activities today

The N.C. Literary Festival continues today. Among the highlights are a story time with Ronald McDonald, a session with writers Cassandra King and Janis Owens, who will speak about fiction and food writing, and a keynote presentation by Clyde Edgerton and Mike Craver, who will perform a musical rendition of Edgerton's novel "The Bible Salesman."
The festival is free and open to the public, but tickets are required for the Edgerton event. For more information, go to www.ncliteraryfestival.org. The festival is organized jointly by the libraries at UNC, Duke University and N.C. State University, with additional support from N.C. Central University.

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The Washington Post

Sebelius: Swine flu shots may start early October

The Associated Press
Sunday, September 13, 2009 8:34 PM

WASHINGTON -- The nation's first round of swine flu shots could begin sooner than expected, with some vaccine available as early as the first week of October, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Sunday.

Sebelius said she is confident the vaccine will be available early enough to beat the peak of the expected flu season this fall and that early doses are intended for health care workers and other high-priority groups.

"We're on track to have an ample supply rolling by the middle of October. But we may have some early vaccine as early as the first full week in October. We'll get the vaccine out the door as fast as it rolls off the production line," she told ABC's "This Week."

The possibility of early shots follows encouraging news from last week about the swine flu vaccine. Researchers have discovered that one dose instead of two could be enough for healthy adults, and protection could begin once vaccinated within 10 days instead of three weeks.

"That's great, which means we'll have a lot more vaccine," she said. "We also have seen a robust immune response within 10 days, instead of three weeks as was feared."

Sebelius said the vaccine doses will be distributed immediately to designated locations across the country once they are available.

"Every state has a plan saying these are the sites to get the vaccine as quickly as possible into people's arms. That's where the distribution will go," she said.

"So, the first week in October, we expect some of the vaccine to begin to roll, and by mid-October, to have the kind of supplies we were talking about. But we may have some available earlier. And we'll get it out to states as fast as it comes off the production lines," Sebelius said.

One dose means tight supplies of H1N1 vaccine won't be stretched so badly. Had it taken twice that dose, or two shots apiece, half as many people could have received the vaccine.

The winter flu vaccine is widely available now, and health authorities urged people last week to get shots now before swine flu shots start arriving.

In addition to concerns about swine flu, doctors also expect some garden-variety flu this fall as well, an
SPOKANE, Wash. -- Washington has the highest incidence of swine flu among college students - nearly triple the rate of Georgia, the next highest state, an American College Health Association report said Thursday.

With the biggest college campus outbreak in the country, Washington State University in Pullman has pushed the state's rate to 366.8 cases of swine flu per 10,000 students, far above the national average of 18 cases per 10,000 students, the association said.

The number of swine flu cases among students is surging across the country as more colleges open for fall classes. The report counted cases through last Friday, and the association has been getting swine flu numbers from 236 colleges that serve 2.7 million students.

"We're all hoping it never gets as bad as it does in Washington," said Dr. James C. Turner of the University of Virginia, who is president of the association. "That remains to be seen."

Other states are also getting hammered. Georgia is second in cases - 909 - and in incidence rate - 125.6 per 10,000 students. North Carolina has 773 cases and a rate of 49.4 per 10,000 cases.

Washington State's outbreak shows little signs of abating. The school reported that 128 students contacted health officials with flu-like symptoms on Wednesday, and one high-risk patient has been hospitalized for dehydration but was expected to recover.

The university's incidence rate could grow higher. As of last Friday, the state reported 919 cases of swine flu among college students - most coming from Washington State.

But Washington State in recent days has been reporting 2,500 cases of swine flu among students.

The university initially underreported its cases to the college health association, thinking it should only count flu cases diagnosed by a doctor, Paula Adams of the university's Health and Wellness Services said.

But the association is asking its members to also count students who call health services to report flu symptoms, but don't come in to be checked, Turner said.

The high numbers at Washington State are difficult to explain, Turner said. But officials at the school have speculated that its early start date, in late August, gave the H1N1 virus more time to spread among the student population.

Nearly all patients at the school have reported only mild symptoms and have recovered in three to five days.
Nationally, 7,002 cases of swine flu on college campuses were reported through last Friday, Turner said. Illnesses have been mild, with no deaths and just a handful of hospitalizations.

But with many colleges around the country just starting classes, how big the outbreak will become remains a mystery, Turner said.

"We don't know exactly how this will go across the country," Turner said. "We've never tracked this before."

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On the Web:

http://www.acha.org
Police: Found body is likely missing Yale student

By PATRICK SANDERS
The Associated Press
Monday, September 14, 2009 8:41 AM

NEW HAVEN, Conn. -- Police are hunting for the killer who stuffed a body believed to be that of a Yale University graduate student behind a wall in the high-security laboratory building where she worked.

Police found the body around 5 p.m. Sunday, on what was to have been 24-year-old Annie Le's wedding day.

A friend said Monday the doctoral student never showed signs of worry about her own personal safety at work, although she did express concerns about crime in New Haven in an article she wrote last year.

"If she was concerned about (it) she would have said something to someone and they would have known," Jennifer Simpson told CBS' "The Early Show." "And Jon (her fiance) would have known, her family would have known, friends would have known."

Simpson called Le, a pharmacology student from Placerville, Calif., friendly and affable to everyone.

"She was a people person," Simpson said. "She loved people. She loved life. We just can't imagine anybody wanting to harm Annie."

Another friend, Laurel Griffeath, echoed those thoughts on NBC's "Today" show.

"I can't even imagine someone mad at Annie, much less wanting to hurt her," Griffeath said.

Police are analyzing what they're calling "a large amount" of physical evidence.

They will not discuss suspects, other than to say Le's fiance is not a suspect and has assisted in the investigation. It was unknown Monday morning when an autopsy would be performed.

The building where the body was found is part of the university medical school complex about a mile from Yale's main campus and is accessible to Yale personnel with identification cards. A network of some 75 video surveillance cameras are trained on every door.

Campus officials have said that the security network recorded Le entering the building by swiping her ID card about 10 a.m. on Sept. 8, and have been baffled before Sunday's gruesome discovery that she was never seen leaving.
The university planned a candlelight vigil at 8 p.m. Monday at the Ivy League university. The Yale Daily News says an e-mail to the Yale community invites participants to "bring a candle and join us in solidarity."

Yale President Richard Levin offered support to Le's family and her fiance, Columbia University graduate student Jonathan Widawsky. The couple was to marry Sunday in Syosset, N.Y., on Long Island's north shore.

"The family and fiance and friends now must suffer the additional ordeal of waiting for the body to be positively identified," Levin said.

Le wrote an article that was published in February in the medical school's magazine. The piece, titled "Crime and Safety in New Haven," compared higher instances of robbery in New Haven with cities that house other Ivy League schools. It also included an interview with Yale Police Chief James Perrotti, who offered advice such as "pay attention to where you are" and "avoid portraying yourself as a potential victim."

"In short, New Haven is a city and all cities have their perils," Le concludes. "But with a little street smarts, one can avoid becoming yet another statistic."

Le, who worked in a laboratory in the five-story building's basement, was reported missing Sept. 8. Her ID, money, credit cards and purse were found in her third-floor office.

More than 100 local, state and federal police had been searching the building for days, using blueprints to uncover any place where evidence or Le's body could be hidden.

Investigators on Saturday said they recovered evidence from the building, but would not confirm media reports that the items included bloody clothing.

On Sunday morning, a state police van drove down a ramp into the building's basement area. Authorities also sifted through garbage at a Hartford incinerator Sunday, looking through trash that was taken from the building in the days since Le went missing.

Yale students on Monday called the finding sad, but some said the discovery doesn't make them feel less safe at Yale.

"Obviously it's a city and there are safety concerns," said 18-year-old Peter Spaulding, a student from Maryland. "It can happen anywhere. You have to go on with life."

Law student Lindsay Nash of West Chester, Pa., said she doesn't sense a heightened level of fear on campus.

"There's always an attention to safety here," she said. "I think there's perception that you need to be careful regardless."

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Associated Press reporter David Collins and freelance reporter Katie Nelson in New Haven contributed to this report.
UNC-CH protesters to face judge

BY JESSE JAMES DECONTO, STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL - Seven young activists will go to court today on charges they disrupted two former congressmen who spoke about immigration at UNC-Chapel Hill last spring.

Only one of the protesters is a UNC-CH student, Morehead-Cain scholar Haley Koch, a senior accused of holding a banner in front of another student who was introducing former U.S. Rep. Tom Tancredo, a Colorado Republican known for his anti-immigrant stance. The others were banned from campus for two years after their arrest a week later at former U.S. Rep. Virgil Goode’s speech.

Students for a Democratic Society rallied about 30 protesters inside the building where Tancredo spoke, and some shouted him down. YouTube videos and media coverage sparked critics to call the protesters’ actions undemocratic, but some witnesses say campus police inflamed the situation.

Protesters complain

In May, nearly 20 members of the UNC Protesters Defense Committee, which formed because of the Tancredo incident, filed a complaint with the campus police about the April arrests. Police spokesman Randy Young said investigators tried this summer to interview complainants but couldn’t reach them and concluded officers had acted appropriately.

Officers forcibly removed Koch and another woman from a classroom during the introduction of Tancredo. Police also chased protesters from the building with pepper spray and a Taser.

The protesters' complaint alleges officers threw Koch to the ground, pulled another woman’s hair and pepper-sprayed at least eight students. Protesters also said police targeted political activists but ignored other campus disruptions, including a dance party with 3,000 revelers in Davis Library. Young said investigators found no evidence to support these claims.

Plea deal possible

Assistant District Attorney Jeff Nieman is eager to dispose of the protesters’ cases. He may again offer them deferred prosecution or a plea deal, which they rejected in June.

Two defendants already are scheduled back in court next week on charges that they violated the order to stay off campus. Michael Bandes, 25, and Jack Wilson Groves, now 19, were arrested on the first day of classes after a campus police officer saw them walking eastward along Cameron Avenue near the Coker Arboretum.

If Bandes pleads guilty to disorderly conduct, he might have to pay court costs and a judge-ordered fine, as he already had prosecution deferred on a shoplifting charge in 2008.

The others, with no criminal records, could have charges dropped after six months if they agree
to stay off the campus, commit no other crimes, perform 24 hours of community service and pay a $200 community service fee, Nieman said. "Unless you have a prior record, you can't get jail for it," Nieman said.

Meanwhile, policymakers continue to debate the issue that got lost amid the protests. This week, the state Board of Community Colleges will decide whether to admit illegal immigrants at out-of-state tuition rates -- a policy that has changed four times since 2000. The proposal from the board's policy committee would give priority to lawful U.S. residents and require a diploma from a U.S. high school.

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