

Spartan Echo

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TOP STORIES INSIDE



Employment Weekly is a weekly paper listing available jobs in the area. This may be useful for students looking for part-time employment. Photo was taken from a news stand in Norfolk Va. Photo by Ciara N. Simmons.

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QUIET STUDY

A quiet room is put in most libraries and is used for studying. Photo was taken at Indian River Library in Chesapeake Va. Photo by Ciara N. Simmons.

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Gov. Terry McAuliffe delivers his first speech before the General Assembly at the state Capitol in Richmond, Va., Monday, Jan. 13, 2014. (AP Photo/Richmond Times-Dispatch, Bob Brown)

Political gifting subject to influence ill-informed

By Danielle Kirsh

During his campaign, Terry McAuliffe campaigned to sign an executive order giving himself and his family a \$100 gift cap because of the “Gift Gate” scandal during McDonnell’s term as governor.

At an ethics forum on Dec. 4 in Richmond, state Delegate Bob Marshall insisted that it is going to be hard for McAuliffe to keep his gift limit of \$100. The state currently requires all politicians to disclose all gifts that are more than \$50.

Marshall said that if McAuliffe was to go around the country during Hillary Clinton’s

anticipated presidential campaign, how could he not violate his own executive order?

Because of McDonnell’s family gift scandal, where his daughter received \$15,000 as a wedding gift from the head of Star Scientific, there is a lot of debate about what can be considered a gift.

“You can’t stop [gift giving], but you can report it,” said Marshall.

Marshall also said that some gifts are harder to track than others. He said if former president Bill Clinton received a golfing tip from a professional

who would otherwise charge, would it still be considered a gift?

Washington Post reporter Rosalind Heldman said the ethics laws in Virginia are “vague” and “lack uniformity,” but that the tip from a professional golfer is considered a gift.

Marshall said most gifts are hard to track, especially those that McAuliffe may receive if he goes around the country campaigning with Hillary Clinton.

“The public needs information to understand influence,” said Marshall.

NSU mourns passing of Dr. Murray

By Danielle Kirsh

Norfolk State University’s Director of Theater Dr. Clarence William Murray, Jr. passed away on Jan. 6, after serving the English and Foreign Languages and Theater departments for over 20 years.

Dr. Murray was born in Catholic Hill, South Carolina on June 30, 1951. He attended public schools in Colleton County, and went on to study at South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, South Carolina in 1972 and Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas in 1978.

In 1988, Dr. Murray received his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Dr. Murray is survived by his wife of 39 years, Mrs. Betty Abrams Murray, who is also a professor at NSU, his four children, his sister, in-laws and 17 nieces and nephews.

Dr. Murray touched many lives outside of his family, especially those he worked with in the English department at NSU.

Professor of English Dr. Annie Perkins said Dr. Murray “never met a stranger.”

“He had a sense of humor that was infectious,” said Dr. Perkins, “and he was truly a gentleman and an artistic genius. His personal afflictions never interfered with his work. He was one of the most courageous people I knew.”

See *Passing of Dr. Murray*, page 3

Numerous studies, clinics call hookah smoking “growing threat to public health”

By Ciara N. Simmons

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Mayo Clinic and the American Lung Association are just a few organizations that regard hookah smoking as a threat to the public's health.

The popularity of hookah smoking has grown significantly among young adults in the United States. Hookah bars, which remain largely unregulated, traditionally include booths with hookahs, or water pipes used to pass charcoal heated air through a tobacco mixture.

The tobacco can be flavored or have additives that reduce the nicotine content, but the user is still receiving about the same amount of nicotine as he or she would with a cigarette.

The CDC reports that 22 to 40 percent of college students

use hookahs. Many users report that hookah smoking makes the user feel “high;” others describe it as the “head rush” many cigarette smokers experienced after their first cigarette.

Some hookah users, however, are one-time users who, despite how safe their experience was, are just not impressed with the practice.

Senior biology preprofessional major Christian Ezeagwu said, “Honestly, I didn't feel anything. I went with four friends, it lasted like 30 minutes and there were disposable tips for everyone.”

According to the American Lung Association, many hookah smokers consider the practice less harmful than smoking cigarettes. However, the social activity has been linked to diseases also caused

by cigarette smoking such as lung and stomach cancer and reduced lung function.

“Hookah smokers may actually inhale more tobacco smoke than cigarette smokers do because of the large volume of smoke they inhale in one smoking session, which can last as long as 60 minutes,” said a study by the Mayo Clinic.

Aside from the possible nicotine dependency that could develop from long, frequent smoking sessions, the spread of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and herpes is also possible due to the shared hookah mouthpieces or poor cleaning and upkeep.

Generally, is hookah smoking a more health conscious alternative to cigarette smoking? Studies around the world say no.



The standard design of a hookah used in hookah bars. Photo was taken at Lazy Dayz Hookah Bar located in Norfolk Va. Photo by Ciara Simmons.

Interested in joining the
Spartan Echo team?
We meet every Tuesday
and Thursday at 12:30 p.m.
in the Student Center, Rm.
344.
ALL majors welcome!

...passing of Dr. Murray

■ Continued from front page

Dr. Murray was known for helping to bring to life the Century Cycle plays of August Wilson.

“He was a visionary,” said Dr. Perkins.

He frequently involved school-age children in his plays and took his own students to Scotland and many other places to help progress their knowledge of the theater.

Assistant Professor in the English and Foreign Languages department WaNelle Anderson said Dr. Murray was a “consonant professional.”

“He loved everything about

the theater and loved to share theater with his students,” Anderson said, “we will miss him forever.”

Dr. Murray had a specific plan for how he wanted the new theater to look when Brown Hall is renovated.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Sandra DeLoatch said Dr. Murray's plans for the theater would be honored when the renovations are complete and it will be a tribute to his accomplishments and his life at NSU.

Dr. Murray's life was celebrated on Jan. 16 in “A Cel-

ebration of Life” memorial service where theater students shared their favorite memories of Dr. Murray, acted out a scene from one of August Wilson's plays and sang songs like “Good Vibrations” from the play “Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope.”

Dr. Murray's son, Dr. Clarence Murray III, wants students and faculty of NSU and those who loved Dr. Murray to move on and don't dwell too long on the passing of his father.

“Go on,” he said, “go on.”