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The Blue Banner

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Campus News

Increase in defaults

A new government audit that shows an alarming increase in the default rate for Supplemental Loans for Students (SLS) may help build political enthusiasm in Congress for a bill to bar first-year students from getting such loans, sources said.

"The bill adds credence" to the bill, passed by the house but stalled in the senate, to cut off first-year students from Supplemental Loans, said Rick Jerue, staff director of the House Post-secondary Education Subcommittee.

First-year students, Jerue said, are more likely to drop out and default on their loans.

"Students attending proprietary schools generally have higher default rates" than students at other kinds of two-year and four-year campuses, said William Gainer of the Government Accounting Office (GAO), which conducted the new audit.

The GAO found SLS defaults grew from \$14 million in 1987, its first year, to \$247 million in 1989.

Society of Nerds

Nineteen students showed up for the first meeting of Harvard's newest social club, the Society of Nerds and Geeks (SONG), in October.

The club aims to "encourage the outside world to take more notice of nerds and geeks, and to recognize our value," organizer Jeremy Kahn told the Harvard Crimson, the campus newspaper.

Kahn said the club will hold BYOB (Bring Your Own Books) parties, match members with "learning partners," show movies like "Revenge of the Nerds" and "Real Genius," and hold an "all-geek dance where only non-dance music will be played."

Too tall to play

Six-foot, seven-inch Iowa State student Daniel Hartman said he answered all the questions correctly and beat 100 other ISU students in a contest to appear on MTV's "Remote Control" game show, only to be unfairly disqualified from the show at the last minute because he was too tall.

It's true, confessed MTV publicist Irene Fu. Although Hartman's knowledge to TV trivia qualified him as a finalist to appear on the show, he was too tall to participate safely in a regular "Remote Control" feature in which contestants are strapped to a big wheel and spun around.

Tree farm tours

Four area Christmas tree farms will offer tours this holiday season.

Eaton's Christmas Tree Farm, Gentree's Choose and Cut, Sandy Holler Tree Farm, and Ox-ford Farm, all members of the WNC Christmas Tree Growers Association, will provide tours explaining the Christmas tree growing business, wreath and garland making demonstrations, and opportunities to select, cut or dig your own tree for the holidays.

For more information concerning group tours and reservations, please call 259-5800.

From CPS, press releases and staff reports

Weekend Weather

The extended forecast for Friday through Sunday calls for fair weather becoming much colder Friday and Saturday with highs in the upper 30s to low 40s and lows reaching down into the 20s.

A chance of rain Sunday, possibly resulting in snow flurries. Highs Sunday near 50 with lows mostly in the 30s.

Jim Owen
Atmospheric Sciences

Students meet Bernstein in Washington

by LeeAnn Donnelly

Staff Writer

Last weekend, six mass communication students traveled to Washington, D.C., to hear Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Carl Bernstein speak at the Investigative Reporters and Editors College Conference.

Bernstein is most noted for his work for the Washington Post in the Watergate scandal of 1974.

According to student Sandra Roland, the highlight of the conference

was having lunch with Bernstein. "You don't often get the chance to hear advice from someone from the pinnacle of your profession," said Roland.

Roland said 1110 college journalists representing 25 states and 140 colleges and universities made up the audience. "You could tell the whole conference was in awe of him," said Roland. "You could hear a pin drop. It inspired all of us. We came out saying we wanted to go out and investigate."

Bernstein offered advice to beginning journalists, encouraging them to work in city hall, said Roland. "Bernstein said never to betray a source," said Roland.

"The time flew. I didn't want Bernstein to stop talking. He was so interesting. He would have talked longer if they would have let him," said Kim Cooley, a mass communication major.

Many Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists

conducted the seminars. Topics included how to develop sources, how to research public documents to expose wrongdoing, and how to be objective.

The seminars were scheduled from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and participants had to choose between one of three sessions in each time block. "Between seminars, we (UNCA students) got together to talk about what we learned. We compared notes," said Roland.

Cooley attended a seminar

called "Getting the Proof," featuring Bill Dedman, the 1988 Pulitzer Prize winner, who now works for the Washington Post. Dedman exposed the savings and loan controversy in Atlanta, Ga., while working for the Atlanta Journal and Constitution. "He was very entertaining and personable, which kept my attention," said Cooley.

Vicki McCoy attended a seminar that focused on developing news sources.

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Spirit sign dispute resolved

by Kimberly Cooley

Staff Writer

The dispute over hanging spirit banners in the Civic Center during basketball games has been resolved, according to Chris Brown, vice president of Student Government Association.

During the Nov. 14 basketball game in the Civic Center between UNCA and Spirit Express, fraternities and sororities tried to hang the banners they had made in support of the basketball team. The student groups were approached by Asheville City Police telling them they could not hang their banners in the center, according to David Bass, pledge marshal for Sigma Pi fraternity.

When members of these student groups approached UNCA Athletic Director Ed Farrell during halftime about the banner problem, "he brushed them off and wouldn't give them an explanation," said Derick Woods, Sigma Pi brother.

"There are approximately 350 students in the Greek system at UNCA, and they make up a large percentage of support during basketball games," said Russell Ratcliff, Sigma Pi president.

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Go Bulldogs!
The UNCA Bulldog mascot takes a break from "work" at the men's basketball game on Nov. 14 with a young Bulldog fan.
Photo by Diane Maney

New fund entertains students

by Benny Smith

Staff Writer

For the first time, UNCA now has a "popcorn fund" that will be used for refreshments for home entertainment between faculty and students, said Alex Miller, director of development at UNCA.

"The purpose of the popcorn fund is to reimburse faculty members for money spent on refreshments when entertaining students in their homes," said Miller. "So the appropriate coinage, the 'popcorn fund,' fit the description of students having popcorn, soda or other kinds of snacks in the homes of UNCA faculty members."

According to a fact sheet from university relations, the popcorn fund is just a part of the \$8,000 university support system for academic advising.

The remaining part of the \$8,000 is divided into categories of general support and special academic staff training.

"It is important for students to know that the university is willing to spend \$8,000 to try to develop some type of support system for UNCA students," said Miller.

The university developed this system

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Recycling program begins

by Vicki McCoy

Assistant News Editor

The ecology club has implemented a recycling program for aluminum cans on campus, according to Patrick Lilly, president of the club.

"Jim Efland gave us the go-ahead to put out the barrels for the program on Tuesday," Lilly said. "We have signs above each barrel. They are gray and hard to miss."

Members of the club and other volunteers will pick up the aluminum cans every Tuesday and more often if necessary, Lilly said. The barrels will be for all

aluminum and steel cans.

Lilly said the barrels will be located in all buildings on campus except the residence halls, the library and Carmichael Hall. According to Lilly, the residence halls already have a recycling program, and there are no drink machines in the library. However, according to Lilly, Chancellor David G. Brown said he wanted to find a suitable location for the barrels in Carmichael Hall.

Brown said he only questioned the Carmichael Hall location because he did not want the barrels to

be in the way of students.

Lilly said he hopes this program is just the beginning of other recycling efforts on campus.

"This program will show the community that we are environmental leaders. Hopefully, the Chancellor will continue to be a catalyst in promoting environmental awareness on this campus and in the community," Lilly said.

"It's going to be a growing concern of the nation and the world," Lilly said. "We can't stop it, so we might as well go along with it."



Patrick Lilly places recycling bins for aluminum cans on campus.
Photo by Paul Adams

Art department bans smoking in Owen

by Pam Guthrie

Staff Writer

The art department faculty has banned smoking in Owen's first floor gallery and the second floor lobby, according to Tucker Cooke, the head of the art department. "No Smoking" signs went up Nov. 2, but as Cooke said, "People are taking the signs down as quickly as we can get them

up." Robyn Grooms, the safety manager of the physical plant at UNCA, said that the state is not mandating any laws regarding smoking inside government buildings at this time. "Owen is a state building. There is no state-wide policy about smoking, but with the backing of the administration, it could be

possible to establish an organization-wide smoking policy as a government agency," Grooms said.

Cooke said the faculty was concerned with the property damage being caused by cigarettes. "People were putting their cigarettes out in the carpet. Also the gallery is a very confined area and the smell in there from cigarettes is awful,"

Cooke said. Cooke said possible damage to art work displayed in the two lobbies was also a concern.

The art faculty began discussing the ban about a year ago, Cooke said. They spoke with the vice-chancellor for academic affairs, Larry Wilson, who said he supported the ban.

"I support banning of smoking in all university

buildings. My greatest concern is for the health of the people in the buildings, and on those grounds I support the ban. The information on the negative health effects is irrefutable. Damage to property is a secondary concern to me," Wilson said.

Wilson also said that a university-wide policy may need to be established in

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