

The Banner

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NEWS BRIEFS

Jewish carnival to be held

The Annual JCC Spring Children's Carnival, celebrating the Jewish holiday "Purim," will be held at the Asheville Jewish Community Center, 236 Charlotte Street, on Sunday, March 23 at 12:15 p.m. Admission is free, game tickets will be on sale at the door. For more information, call 253-0701.

Popular books

According to the latest survey of college bookstores in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, "The English Patient" by Michael Ondaatje is the best-selling book among college students. "The Book of Ruth" by Jane Hamilton took second, followed by "Snow Falling on Cedars" by David Guterson, "It's a Magical World" by Bill Watterson, and "Fugitive from the Cubicle Police" by Scott Adams.

"One Hundred Secret Senses" by Amy Tan is in sixth place, followed by "Dogbert's Top Secret Management Handbook" by Scott Adams, "A Reporter's Life" by Walter Cronkite, "The Horse Whisperer" by Nicholas Evans, and "The Rules" by Ellen Fein and Sherrie Schneider.

Not so at UNCA. General trade books generally don't sell well here, said Mike Small, UNCA bookstore manager. For the most part, UNCA's non-text best-sellers are nature or hiking guides or books that have regional appeals or themes. Faculty books often sell well when they are first published, especially books that have a general audience appeal. Other books that generate interest at UNCA coincide with campus events, such as African American Heritage Month or Women's History Month, Small said.

Science and spirituality

Jewish spirituality expert Daniel C. Matt will give a lecture entitled "God and the Big Bang: Discovering Harmony between Science and Spirituality" at 7:30 p.m. on March 17 in Carmichael Hall's Humanities Lecture Hall.

Matt, a professor at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Ca., is UNCA's Center for Jewish Studies 1997 Phyllis Sollod Memorial Lecturer. His new book explores the connections between ancient Jewish mysticism and modern theories of cosmology. His lecture will offer a bridge between ancient religious traditions and contemporary science. For information, call 251-6669.

League of Women Voters

The public is invited to a "power breakfast" hosted by the League of Women Voters at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday March 20 at the Fine Friends Restaurant. Breakfast will be available from the restaurant for \$5.20, and campaign reform will be the topic of discussion. Jane Bingham from Common Cause and Ken Schapira from the Coalition for Campaign Finance Reform will lead a discussion.

The League of Women Voters has also begun a campaign to repeal the North Carolina sales tax on food. The League urges everyone to save their grocery receipts, circle the sales tax, write "NO" on them, and mail them to state legislators. The N.C. General Assembly lowered the food tax by one percent last year in response to public pressure. For information about these events, call 258-8223.

He's back!

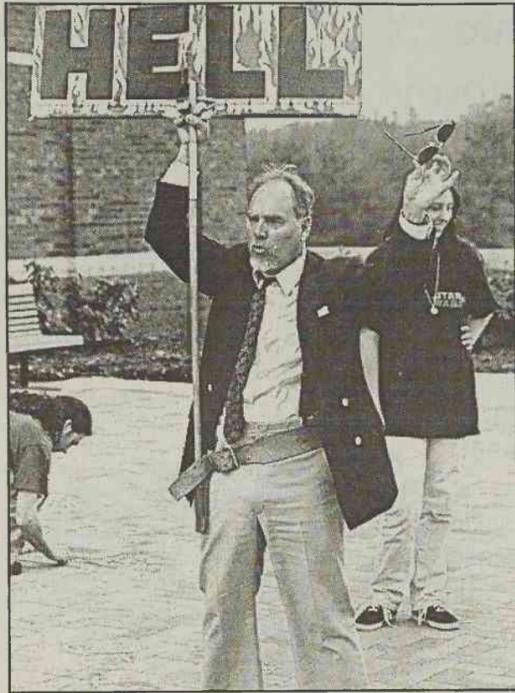


PHOTO BY DEL DeLORM

The Reverend Gary Birdsong once again returned to campus on Wednesday.

Student Health Care

57 students enrolled in university plan

By Chane Simpson
Staff Writer

For students without health insurance, the medical bills following a trip to the hospital or a health specialist's office can be as unsettling as the injury or illness itself.

It's generally not long after the stitches heal and the prescriptions run out that medical bills bring home a harsh reality of health care in America.

For someone who is uninsured or underinsured, and most college students find themselves in one of these two categories, it can be an overwhelming experience. "The American College Health Association estimates that between 50 and 60 percent of all college students across the country have no health insurance, and that an additional 25 percent are underinsured," said UNCA's Director of Health Services Dr. Eric Peyeritz.

Currently on campus, Peyeritz said, there are 57 students enrolled in a university insurance plan underwritten by MEGA Life and Health Insur-

ance Company in Dallas, Texas. The university keeps no records regarding the number of students who have off-campus insurance, so it is virtually impossible to get an accurate assessment of uninsured students at UNCA.

The present single-year policy offered through the university ranges in price from \$435 for the basic major medical plan to \$689 for optional catastrophic coverage. The policy can be expanded to include dependents.

Although the policy is designed for an entire 12-month period, students taking at least six credit hours can purchase a pro-rated policy at any time of the year.

The main reason that most students do not have health insurance is a matter of finances, said Peyeritz.

"We have a lot of older students on campus who don't have insurance and are just sort of scraping by," said Peyeritz, adding that many UNCA students work part-time jobs that offer no insurance benefits to employees.

Although the university does not require students to have insurance while they are enrolled, Peyeritz said, many other schools, such as the North Carolina School for the Performing Arts in Winston-Salem, have a hard waiver policy that demands all students to carry some type of insurance.

Many other schools maintain a soft waiver policy in which they encourage students to purchase insurance, but do not mandate it, he said. "UNCA has neither," Peyeritz said. "We put the brochures around campus and offer information on the policy, but that's about all we can do."

"What happens under our system here at UNCA, because there is no requirement to get insurance, our numbers are going to stay low. Now that's fine for the student who doesn't want insurance, but the (university) community is running a risk because someday our rates might be \$1000 a year," said Peyeritz.

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Visiting filmmaker holds workshop

By Shelley Eller
Staff Writer

Documentary filmmaker Chris Larson, who has worked as a producer for NBC's "Date-line," recently came to UNCA to hold a screening of his work and host a day-long workshop on filmmaking methods.

The UNCA Cultural and Special Events Committee and the department of mass communication sponsored his visit.

On March 1, Larson screened "Whose Death is it Anyway?," a documentary segment that explored end-of-life decisions faced by terminally ill people and their families. The segment has aired on public television previously.

"I was directly responsible for finding the families in the documentary," said Larson. "People

in the documentary wanted to help other people by sharing their experiences."

A discussion of the film immediately followed the screening. "The documentary shows the tough decisions people are forced to make for the end of life," said Larson during the discussion. "Death is a very difficult thing for people to think about."

On March 3, he conducted a day-long workshop entitled "Creating Nonfiction: Telling the Story and Telling the Truth." Larson gave participants an overview on the process and production of nonfiction storytelling.

"The workshop was fantastic," said Don Diefenbach, assistant professor of mass communication. "Chris took us through the entire process of producing network news and nonfiction pieces."

Larson began the workshop by discussing methods of nonfiction

work and the challenges of its production.

The workshop showed participants how to conduct good interviews. With production equipment, an interview was set up and techniques in lighting and composition showed how the interviewee was visually accentuated. Good interviewing methods were also addressed.

"We went over the elements of a good nonfiction story," said Larson. "Students got hands-on experience through role-playing interviewers and documentary subjects."

Students were given an assignment during lunch time in which he or she had to use interviewing techniques to find a story to present at the afternoon session.

"There was a nice mixture of students who participated in the workshop," said Diefenbach. "There wasn't just mass communications students, but students from the political science and social science departments."

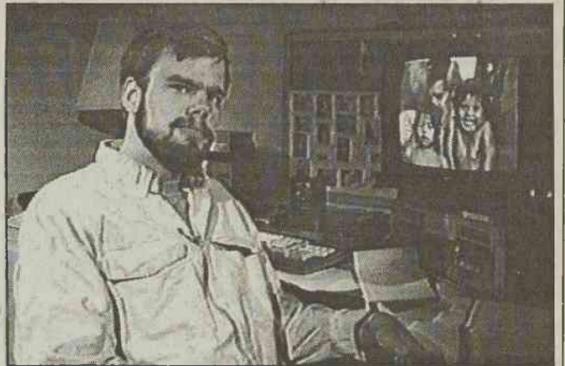


PHOTO COURTESY OF DON DIEFENBACH

Filmmaker Chris Larson recently visited the campus to screen his documentary work and host a day-long workshop.

The workshop also had methods of story pitch ideas. A story pitch meeting was held where participants had to select a story idea

to produce. The process of preproduction, production and

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Public safety officers find gun at nearby campsite

By Jennifer Thurston
Managing Editor



PHOTO BY JENNIFER THURSTON

Public safety officer Bruce Martin cautiously investigates one of two tents found on property behind W.T. Weaver Boulevard.

When UNCA public safety officers found a campsite on UNCA property behind W.T. Weaver Boulevard several weeks ago, they felt the need to warn students of the potential dangers of hiking or biking through the area.

The campsite was probably occupied by at least one vagrant, public safety officer Bruce Martin said, and a 12-gauge shotgun, a box of .22 magnum handgun shells, hypodermic syringes, and other drug paraphernalia were confiscated from the site. It is illegal for anyone to have a gun on state property.

"We're not advocating that students don't use the area," Martin said. "Just to be aware of the area and to pay attention to their surroundings." Martin advised students to hike with friends and to use caution in the woods, as they would in any area.

Additionally, "hard-core pornographic" magazines and skinned ani-

mal hides were seen at the site, but were later removed by the unknown occupant, said Martin.

On March 4, physical plant employees tore the site down and removed two tents, two sleeping bags, a pillow, clothing, some personal items, a shovel, and a Bible.

A list was left for the person to claim the items if he or she returns, but if claimed, an arrest is possible on charges of possessing a weapon and drug paraphernalia and trespassing on state property. "Safety is a factor in our day and age," Martin said. "He's still coming and going. All of this combined makes for a possibly dangerous individual."

The campsite was located about 20 yards off the area's hiking paths. "While we were inspecting the site," Martin said, "we saw a number of students go by. They didn't even see us."

Warm weather has brought increased use of the wooded area by students and residents of the

neighborhood, Martin said, but it also means an increase in use by homeless people.

"This has been an ongoing problem, but we've never had as many people at once. The difference now is the shotgun and drugs."

"Everybody's worried that it's a well-used path and we don't want a dangerous situation," said Melissa Acker, physical plant grounds superintendent.

"We hate to see people suffer, but safety is our main concern. We do things for the students as a priority."

UNCA owns the property behind Weaver Boulevard, bordered by Broadway on the west and North Street and Vivien Street to the south.

Remains of older campsites still exist in the woods as well as "spider holes," or dug-out areas resembling graves that people have camped out in.

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