

# The Banner

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## Renovation delayed



PHOTO BY WALTER FYLER

Dante's will be closing in May, and will re-open as Chick-Fil-A in August.

By Kathryn Krouse  
Staff Writer

Renovations to Dante's in the Highsmith Center have been postponed until May due to unexpected paperwork delays, according to the director of food services.

"The university is committed to getting it done. It's the state that has slowed us down," said Ken Barefoot, director of food services.

The renovations scheduled to occur over winter break were delayed because the architectural plans are still at the State Department of Insurance (SDI) in Raleigh. The SDI was eight weeks behind in their paperwork, according to Barefoot.

Proposals to start renovation over spring break were rejected. It seemed more appropriate to them in May so that Dante's could remain open for students after break until the end of the semester, according to Sharyn McDonald Groh,

director of student activities.

Structurally, Dante's will change. The plans need approval by the state before construction begins. Changes involve the floor plan, furnishings, wall decorations, counter arrangements and cooking spaces, according to Barefoot.

The spring renovation to Dante's will accompany other planned renovations in Highsmith. These include the old serving area that will become a coffeehouse, according to McDonald Groh.

Construction for the Chick-Fil-A will begin in May after classes and finished by August.

Expectations are that the Chick-Fil-A will generate more traffic in the Highsmith Center, according to Barefoot. He said he would like to see Highsmith return to a gathering place for students, a place where people can get a latte and a sandwich and watch television with their friends.

"In Buncombe County, there are three Chick-Fil-A

locations, and one of them will be on our campus," said Barefoot. "I think it will give Dante's more draw. Maybe it will even pull some community folks. It's a student center and I would like to see students come back."

"I think it's great that Chick-Fil-A is opening. I think it will be good for the school and hopefully it will be the beginning of new things to come UNCA," said Samia Fercha, a junior marketing major.

The renovations are the beginning of larger construction plans for Highsmith. Since the funding for Highsmith's complete renovation was delayed last year, these smaller renovations are being completed, according to Barefoot.

Chick-Fil-A will be financed by money that comes out of the food service budget. The money for the other renovations occurring this summer will come out of student fees, said McDonald Groh.

Although Chick-Fil-A has a policy not to operate on Sundays, negotiations are

underway to determine how Dante's can serve some food during those hours.

"It's going to be a challenge, but we'll work something out," said Barefoot.

"Marriott's contract with Chick-Fil-A is that (Dante's) will be open. We will not serve Chick-Fil-A products, but we will serve other products," said McDonald Groh. "We can't serve Chick-Fil-A, but we can (serve) our own (food)."

Some students disagree with the plan to replace Dante's with Chick-Fil-A. "I don't think it is a good idea. The menu does not give vegetarians an alternative to the cafeteria," said Jacques Gambel Primo, a sophomore recording arts major. "Potatoes and coleslaw can only go so far."

Many students on campus are vegetarian, according to Barefoot. Efforts to compensate for Chick-Fil-A's menu will involve dining services selling vegetarian specials alongside the Chick-Fil-A products. A garden burger will become a main staple of the Dante's menu.

One of the challenges of the Dante's staff will be creating sandwiches, particularly vegetarian ones. Students are encouraged to stop into Dante's and let the manager know if they have any recipes for vegetarian dishes that can be kept cold, said Barefoot.

Meal plan supplements, like Munch Money, should continue, according to Barefoot. Negotiations are in the works with Marriott Dining Services and Chick-Fil-A.

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## Gay and lesbian conference next week

By Davon Heath  
Staff Writer

The third annual Gay and Lesbian Studies Conference, being held next week, is an opportunity for students, faculty and community members to experience alternative groups in an academic setting, according to a representative of the conference.

"The conference is to provide for the exchange of ideas," said Michael Jones, assistant professor of classics and conference organizer. "It's a forum for students, faculty and community members who are interested in things that have to do with gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and queer identities."

The keynote speaker this year is Marjorie Garber, a professor from Harvard University. Garber will present "Sexing the Squash, or Visualizing Bisexuality."

"This year's conference theme is 'Performance and the Body,'" said Melissa Burchard, assistant professor of philosophy and conference organizer.

The conference is sponsored by several campus departments, including the office of academic affairs, the cultural special events committee, a grant from the Mills Fund and UNCA Out, according to Burchard.

UNCA Out is a campus organization for gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgendered students who want an opportunity to feel a sense of community, according to Julie Witt, a senior art major and

co-leader of UNCA Out.

The conference has the ability to accomplish many things on a lot of different levels and it is a good starting point for discussions to occur more frequently, according to Burchard.

"Creating a visibility forum for people of alternative or queer identities, makes it easier (for individuals) to understand themselves as real," said Burchard. "For us to be real, it makes it real for other people."

Students come away from the conference feeling a sense of empowerment. There are people who gain a stronger sense of self by getting involved and playing a more visible role in the conference, according to Jones.

"Issues are brought up to the forum where (they are) treated as education instead of subversive culture. To be able to come (to the conference), explore who you are and to be part of a community is really cool," said Joshua Kumm, a junior psychology major and UNCA Out co-leader.

"To enlighten, inform and support UNCA's gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgendered students and all members of the university community interested in providing a safe and affirming environment on campus," is Out's mission statement, according to Witt.

UNCA Out uses many tools in addition to the conference to educate people, according to Witt. Guest speakers, posters and safe zone signs are a way of getting their voices out there.

"Being involved in the planning stages of the conference and being involved in UNCA

Out is helping me feel more connected to people," said Witt. "This is a place where you can be yourself, a place where I can explore who I am and what that means to me as a person for my future."

"We try to get students involved in all stages of the conference," said Burchard. "We want them to feel that this event really belongs to them. (The conference) is enlightening," said Kumm. "I feel comfortable and it's an incredible way to talk with professors."

Laurian Richards, a senior political science major and co-leader of UNCA Out, said she made a conscious effort to be involved and be a focused member of Out, which has over 90 members.

"I feel as long as there are some of us who stay involved and keep people informed (then) we've made the campus a little bit safer for those of us who are not straight, and a little more diverse for those who are," said Richards. "We do a lot just by being here and staying active."

UNCA is on the right track since these types of events help to legitimize diverse groups and issues, according to Burchard.

"If we don't recognize that these issues are important, then we haven't really understood the world in some important ways," said Burchard.

"If UNCA is about anything, the liberal arts mission should be about understanding the world. Let's really learn what the differences mean and try

to understand it."

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## New program bonds UNCA with Asheville

By Susan McCord  
Staff Writer

The Great Smokies Writing Program will connect the regional writing community with UNCA through a monthly reading series and new extension courses, according to a literature professor.

The new series, called "Writers at Home," will feature monthly readings by local writers who "have been publishing, and who are worthy of our attention," said Rick Chess, director of the university's creative writing program.

The program, held in the Laurel Forum, will also hold workshops by local writers which will be taught by local writers.

Chess and Valerie Leff, a local writer, formulated the program of readings and workshops, when Leff expressed to Chess her wishes and those of her colleagues in the local writing community.

"We kept expressing the same wish: that there was a forum where we could get together, share our writing and see what other people were doing, and a place where we could study," said Leff.

Chess then drew on university

resources to put the program into place.

"There wasn't (a location) that was featuring people who were sort of in that in-between place of not being flown in from New York for a book signing, but who were ready to get up and read for 20 to 25 minutes, and who were publishing," said Leff.

The "Writers at Home" series is trying to fill that gap, according to Leff.

UNCA faculty wanted this collaboration between the university and regional community, the Great Smokies Writing Program, because the biggest focus of the program is that it's for the region, for the community, according to Leff.

Students who attend will be exchanging the work of these really fine writers. They will have an opportunity to learn from these writers," said Chess.

The workshops are as beneficial for community writers as they are for traditional UNCA undergraduates, according to Chess.

Developed with the office of special academic programs, the workshops were designed for individuals who are "looking at writing literary fiction or serious poetry," said Chess.

As extension courses, the work-

shops are open to non-degree seeking writers who miss out on regular creative writing classes at UNCA, because they register last, according to Chess.

The workshop will help a writer "take the plunge" and complete a first writing project, "even if it's a mess," according to the workshop flier.

"In general, the university is trying to offer programs for the community, like the College for Seniors, and the Super Saturday for kids," said Leff. "They want to become more of a community resource, not just for undergraduate education."

The writing community shows an encouraging response. "What's been wonderful is seeing how many eligible readers we have. We have enough people at this point to fill up two years of programming, doing 10 readings a year," said Leff.

Malaprop's, a local bookstore, helped by providing a mailing list of interested people, according to Leff.

In addition, the spring workshops have several interested participants, according to Chess.

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## Space issues more crucial than copyright crimes



PHOTO STAGED BY WALTER FYLER

Brian Smith, a freshman English major, downloads MP3 files. The advent of a new law prohibits downloading copyrighted material on the Internet.

By Sarah Wilkins  
News Editor

The Nov. 1999 Millennium Copyright Act has not affected the UNCA computer center policies on regulating copyright infringement, according to a representative of the computer center.

"Our real concern is not what the students are doing or not doing, because we don't actively police the network here," said Mark Fox, com-

puter consultant for the UNCA computer center. "We are concerned about our system resources."

The Millennium Copyright Act amended the current copyright laws to make computer stored information copyrighted, according to a computer center flier.

Everything from 1989 to the present is automatically copyrighted by sheer nature, except for a concept. A person or company no longer has to go to the copyright office and register their material, according to Fox.

"Therefore, nearly everything on the Internet is copyrighted and it is your responsibility to get permission before using someone else's work," according to the flier.

In the past year, there has been a significant increase of people copying mp3 files (MP3), or sound files, according to Fox.

Several UNCA students have been asked to remove their servers from the system because they had high volumes of MP3's. This was done because it was decreasing the bandwidth of the system, according to Fox.

"As long as you don't do it in the (computer) labs or in large amounts, there should not be a problem," said Derek Meeker, a sophomore computer science major.

Anytime files are uploaded or downloaded, the computer center network resources are being used, and it becomes a concern for the computer center, according to Fox.

The computer center is looking for excessive bandwidth, yet they have no interest in personal

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