

# News

## NEWS from the OUTSIDE WORLD

### Child killed in elementary school shooting

A 6-year-old girl was shot to death by a 7-year-old classmate at a Michigan elementary school on Feb. 29 in Mount Morris Township, Michigan, authorities said. A single shot was fired during a first-grade class at Buell Elementary School with a teacher and about 22 students present, said Mount Morris Township Police Chief Eric King. It was not immediately clear if the shooting was accidental or intentional, he said.

### Study could change Medicare

President Clinton released a new state-by-state study on Feb. 28 that he hopes will convince congressional Republicans to back away from a large tax cut and adopt his plan to overhaul Medicare and add a prescription drug benefit. The study, largely an attempt to pull together existing health, financing and demographic data about Medicare, was released to coincide with Senate Finance Committee hearings on the program.

### Federal agency denies illegal activities

Faced with a barrage of criticism from European government officials and some United States privacy advocates, the National Security Agency (NSA) has assured Congress it is not breaking any laws. "We want to assure you that NSA's activities are conducted in accordance with the highest constitutional, legal and ethical standards and in compliance with statutes and regulations designed to protect the privacy rights of United States persons," said Kenneth Heath, of the NSA Legislative Affairs Office in a letter to members of Congress.

## Fellow

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY BETHANY JEWELL

Jewell performs while doing research for her Humanities Junior Fellow project.

a travel opportunity in mind, and they would like to use it (within the Fellows Program)."

Some of the current student projects include learning about the Cuban Revolution, civil rights in Birmingham and Atlanta, the history of coal mining in England, the Dead Sea Scroll caves, bi-lingualism in Quebec, globalism in the ancient Near East, archeology as a tool to learn history and the Muslim feminist movement, according to Downes.

"The humanities program is the centerpiece of the university," said Konz.

"This is an opportunity for students to think about things they would like to see in the program, and to help the faculty do their jobs better," said Konz.

"None of (the faculty) are experts in humanities," said Konz.

Bethany Jewell, a senior political science major, traveled to Senegal to study women and sustainable development through drawing, writing and photography.

"Traveling there has changed my life," said Jewell. "Anyone can read about a subject, but it is often dry. Traveling to Senegal gave me a reality I never knew (before)."

The objectives of the program are to enable students to develop research, writing, and presentation skills, according to the Web page.

"Let us have the students teach the faculty about something they have researched; it is a whole different dynamic," said Downes.

The research done by the students would add to the knowledge base of the humanities faculty, thus providing the faculty with an opportunity to improve their teaching in humanities courses, according to the Web page.

"After everything I saw and was a part of this summer, nothing intimidates me," said Jewell. "The faculty were all very supportive and wanted to learn."

The program also creates a learning community between the Humanities Junior Fellows and the humanities faculty, and continues to strengthen the campus conversations of diversity and non-traditional materials and topics, according to the Web page.

"Presenting to the faculty gives you a taste of what life truly is. There are no roles you have to assume," said Jewell. "You quickly realize that life is communicating with other people."

## Trip

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Aged Rasheed, an undeclared sophomore, gave a presentation on the bus about the Birmingham demonstrations.

His presentation was part of his humanities student fellowship, a special program which grants funds to students to do research on subjects in the humanities not taught at UNCA, according to Spellman.

"That program was started in response to some criticisms last year that the humanities program was not doing enough nonwestern history and minority issues," said Spellman.

Organizers envisioned the civil rights expedition as a capstone event to African-American History Month, and a way for UNCA to reach out to the Asheville community, according to Spellman.

"We wanted our students to be able to interact with high school students on a civil rights trip, and the goal was to relieve some of those events," Spellman said.

The trip organizers wanted students to participate who represented varied academic backgrounds and minority groups. The college students came from sev-

eral different majors and served as ambassadors for UNCA, according to Spellman.

Asheville High School teachers helped to identify high school students who would profit most from the trip, according to Spellman.

"The majority of the 15 students who came from the high school were African-American," said Spellman.

The UNCA chancellor's office underwrote much of the trip, making costs minimal for the students who participated. A fee of \$60 covered two nights in hotels, transportation, tours and admission to sites.

The students completed an anonymous survey on the way back to N.C.

The only complaint was "that we did not do enough to get the two groups (of students) talking to one another," said Spellman.

"What maybe we should do in the future is have more on-campus interaction before we go on the trip," he said.

Spellman said, "I'd like to bring the students back onto campus for a follow-up discussion of how they felt about the experience."

The American Red Cross is offering free blood pressure screenings at Asheville fire stations until March 31. There will also be CPR, first aid and babysitting health and safety courses. The costs range from \$25 to \$45. For more information call (828) 258-3888, extension 230.

## Ruiz

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prompted the National Undergraduate Research Conference with the help of Merritt Moseley, professor of literature.

Ruiz received the Distinguished Teacher Award in 1995 from UNCA. He also received the Divisional Teacher Award in the

natural sciences in 1997.

Ruiz has been a professor at UNCA for 22 years and has been the SPS advisor for 20 years. Ruiz teaches modern physics and general education courses in physics, astronomy and humanities at UNCA.

## If You Consider Yourself a "Social Smoker"

### Here are a Few Things the People You are "Social" With Want You to Know



### At UNCA

76% of students don't consider "because I was drinking" a reason to smoke

74% of students prefer to socialize in a smoke-free environment

83% of students said all things being equal, they would rather date a non-smoker

Most UNCA students don't smoke, even socially. If you want to be social, join most of us who choose to be smoke free. There's always room for a few more.

If You Choose Not to Smoke

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Survey conducted with UNCA students in the Spring of 1999.

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