

# The Blue Banner

The University of North Carolina at Asheville

Features



Robert Pinsky, current Poet Laureate, speaks at the chancellor's installation

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Cross country places third in Citadel Invitational Oct. 7

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Opinions



Considerations when deciding to vote, by Kevin Rollins

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## Leaders discuss community ties

Kay Alton  
Staff Writer

UNCA Chancellor Jim Mullen's former Trinity College colleague related the importance of community partnerships to UNCA during the installation celebration Oct. 5.

person can achieve and what one community can build when we work together," said Dobelle. "Our mandates are to inspire young men and women to embrace both the challenges of scholarship as well as the values of citizenship."

Civic leaders from the Young Women's Christian Association, the Asheville Art Museum, Housing Authority and others, including



Chancellor Jim Mullen gives a speech at his official installation on the steps of Ramsey Library Oct. 6.

PICTURE BY ANTHONY GRECO

"I think that leadership and community service is a really important aspect of UNCA, because it brings everybody together as a community," said Adam Walters, an undeclared freshman. "I do not have all of the time in the world, but I think it is an important thing to focus on."

David Hurnand of WCQS public radio station, questioned Dobelle and Mullen about community concerns like jobs, housing and campus growth.

"Universities need to be a lot more active, involved and caring about our public institutions and the leadership," said Dobelle. "Universities need to find some non-traditional people for leadership in all areas of politics and institutions."

Mullen is an example of a non-traditional leader who understands the

"Colleges remind us of what one

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## Attempted suicide leads to questions

Sanna Raza  
Staff Writer

A former freshman student's attempted suicide raised questions about depression on campus and how students deal with those feelings, according to some UNCA students.

given point in time." The transition from high school to university is not the cause for depression, but it is a time when depression can occur because the person is exposed to a variety of stress factors at once, according to Foister.

"It means leaving behind family, close friends and meaningful long-term relationships," said Foister. "While the student will certainly keep contact with those important persons, there is a grief associated with this loss."

Dealing with the stress of academia can lead to depression, as well as solving problems at home when students are at college, according to Foister.

"There is stress involved with moving to a new environment and taking on the academic challenges of the university," said Foister. "If there is some difficulty in their home environment, it is often difficult to be here and not there. Any combination of these factors can lead to a depression."

Around nine percent of the college student body nationwide uses university counseling centers, according to Cathy Foister, assistant director of the counseling center.

"Depression is the most common of mental conditions," said Foister. "One out of 10 people suffers from depression at some point in their lives. Eight percent of the population suffers from depression at any

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## Founders vandalized with hate speech

Graffiti a reaction to Diversity Forum held Sept. 25, students say

Keith Cromwell  
Staff Writer

Incidents of anti-homosexual defacement were found written on the walls in Founders Hall Sept. 27. Some students said they believe this was a result of the Diversity Forum held Sept. 25.

"I saw the phrase 'F--- faggots' written on several places around Founders Hall," said Danny Proctor, a sophomore atmospheric science major and resident of Founders Hall. "Underneath that, in the third floor stairwell, was written 'This is UNCA, not Chapel Hill, get your athletic scholarship ass out of here if you can not accept them.'"

The words 'F--- faggots' had been written in both elevators, in the third floor stairwell and over the mailboxes. The vandalism occurred Sept. 27, and the vandals have not been identified, according to the housing office.

"It was standard graffiti, seemingly directed at homosexuals," said Nancy Williams, associate director of housing.

According to a Founders Hall resident assistant, Somanna Muthanna, he observed the hate speech in the stairwell, and immediately reported the incident to housing. Other resident assistants also reported the vandalism.

"I saw the vandalism at around 9 p.m., and I did not see anyone around," said Muthanna. "After reporting the vandalism, I immediately covered it up with blank sheets of paper."

According to UNCA students, the Diversity Forum, which was held in response to nine reported incidents of harassment, played a major role in the vandalism in Founders Hall.

"The Forum just brought atten-

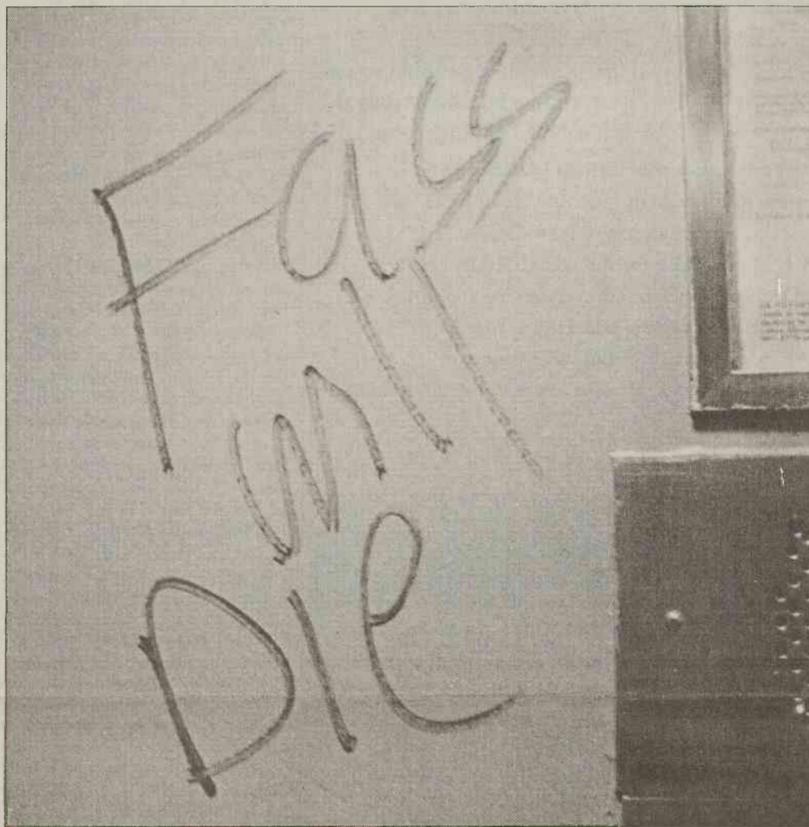


PHOTO BY WALTER FYLER

The phrase "fags will die" was written on the wall next to the elevators in Founders Hall on Sept. 27. The vandals remain unidentified, according to the housing office.

tion to the issue, and gave the vandals something to attack," said Justin Lawlor, a sophomore computer science major.

"I would not be surprised if it was a direct response to the Forum," said Derek Coulson, an undeclared freshman. "It only reiterates the fact the forums like the one held are needed, and perhaps UNCA is not as diverse as we would hope."

According to Williams, such acts

of vandalism occur every year, and cannot necessarily be linked to anything.

"It is hard for me to say that it is a result of anything, because we do not know who did it," said Williams. "Every year we have a couple incidents like this, but our incidents are way fewer than other campuses because our students are generally extremely tolerant of everything and everybody."

As a direct result of this incident,

Chancellor Jim Mullen called a mandatory meeting for all residents of Founders Hall Oct. 2.

"The incidence was in Founders Hall, so that's who the chancellor wanted to talk to," said Williams. "But his message already has been (directed to) all students."

"I wanted to talk to [the stu-

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## Death penalty controversial

Lauren Owens  
Staff Writer

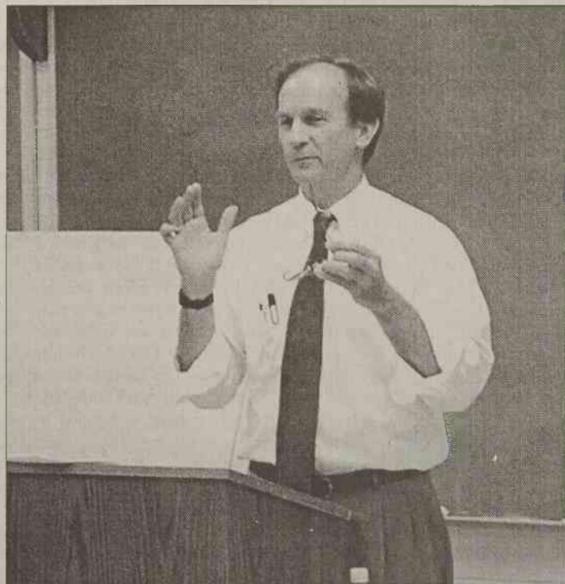


PHOTO BY PATRICK BRASWELL

Frank Goldsmith, an Asheville attorney, speaks to a College for Seniors class about the consequences of the death penalty.

A College for Seniors class discussed the need for a moratorium, a temporary ban or suspension of the death penalty, as well as mitigating factors in capital cases Oct. 4 as part of a discussion series on capital punishment.

"The only time I would be in favor of the death penalty is if the crime is so horrific that one could say 'yes, you forfeit the right to live,'" said Douglas Davidson, a sophomore education and literature major. "Killing does not make up for a crime, but it can bring it one step closer."

There is no law in N.C. that requires a mitigator be appointed in capital cases. For the last four years in Buncombe County, there has not been a mitigator appointed in any capital cases, according to Frank Goldsmith, an Asheville attorney. "One in every five people on trial

for a capital case is put to death in Buncombe County," said Goldsmith. "One in every 50 people is put to death in Mecklenburg County, where mitigators are usually appointed."

The death penalty is a tricky and contentious issue, since it is not easy to discuss or understand, according to Pam Laughon, psychology professor and mitigator for capital cases in N.C. She is involved in finding mitigating circumstances, or any documentation, personal information or evidence that might convince a jury that life imprisonment is a better choice than the death penalty.

Laughon said she objects to the death penalty because families and friends have no say in decisions regarding the case. Laughon said people should think very carefully about the death penalty.

"The one group of people who never have a voice are those who

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