

# News

## Access

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ber. "The Sock Hop dance (was held) in a place that is completely not mobile," said the member. "I know a couple of students who wanted to go, but could not because it was completely inaccessible."  
 Ron Reagan, university architect, said UNCA meets all handicap requirements with only a few exceptions. "You have to provide handicap access within 200 feet of a building, and we have provided that," said Reagan. "There is a requirement that the (ramp) grade cannot exceed a certain percentage. We met that. As far as handicap access from a parking space into a building, we have met that every place on campus, except Governor's Village."  
 Amelia Nutter, an undeclared sophomore and youngest member of Equal Access, said she does not believe officials ignore accessibility issues out of spite. Instead, she

thinks they are unconscious of the problem altogether. "It is not that administration is rude, or that they are trying to do this," said Nutter. "It is just thoughtlessness."  
 Student services may send letters out to instructors explaining that one of their students has a learning disability. According to Whitlock, the letters usually include recommendations on what the student needs help with. "I have received letters from student services saying that certain students have a disability of some kind," said Whitlock. "I usually follow the recommendations on the letter. So, if a student is supposed to get extra time on a test, I give them extra time."  
 Nutter said she disliked the letter system. She felt the letter only brought the teacher's pity. "I did not (have any letters sent) after my first semester because I did

not like the idea that I could be seen as a lesser than," said Nutter. "I did not want the fact that I might need more help to mean that I could not compete with the other students. People sort of pity you, and I do not want anyone's pity."  
 Teachers should learn more about disabilities, according to Nutter. "I wish everybody was more educated about disabilities, especially professors," said Nutter. "You should send the letter saying you have a disability and not have the professor be flabbergasted. (They should) have an inkling of an idea what that disability is."  
 John Taylor, an undeclared freshman, said private schools often work

harder at educating faculty about learning disabilities. "I think you see a lot more consideration in private schools for equal opportunity," said Taylor. "They teach the teachers how to handle special education students."  
 Private schools usually offer a full-time disability coordinator. "I want a full-time disabilities coordinator, so students can have someone to go to who can offer advice if they are having problems in a class," said Nutter.  
 Some members of Equal Access view their disability optimistically. Nutter said she is not ashamed of her disability.

"I am really glad I have a disability," said Nutter. "I would not want to not have it. It makes me who I am."  
 Students with learning disabilities must struggle with tasks that seem easy to most students, according to Dave Spicer, who attends the culture and politics of disabilities class on campus this semester. "People appreciate more what they have to work for," said Spicer. "If there are things that come more easily to most people that come harder to some of us, then we have the chance to experience the struggle."  
 Students with disabilities take pride in the small things, according to Spicer. "Sometimes things that most people take for granted, we can find success and something to feel good about," said Spicer. "So we can feel good about ourselves many times a day."

**"I wish everybody was more educated about disabilities, especially professors."**

-Amelia Nutter, an undeclared sophomore and the youngest member of Equal Access.

## NEWS from the OUTSIDE WORLD

### England bans T-bone steaks

France is banning T-bone steaks in the latest of a series of measures aimed at relieving fears over mad cow disease. The French government is also suspending the use of all livestock feed containing meat, in a move that is expected to cost several billion francs.  
 The measures were announced because Italy threatened to halt most beef imports from France as panic about mad cow disease from French cattle spreads across borders.

### Summit held in Brunei, Borneo

President Bill Clinton arrived Nov. 14 in Brunei, Borneo hosting this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. The two-day conference of more than 20 Pacific Rim economies began Nov. 15.  
 In addition to his summit participation, Clinton, who plans to leave office in just over two months, also plans individual meetings with several world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

### African workers' protest leads to response from police

Riot police shooting tear gas and rubber bullets on Nov. 14 dispersed crowds of protesting civil servants demanding 30 months of unpaid salary.  
 About 3,000 workers gathered early in the morning in Bangui, Africa before beginning their march along a major avenue. They shouted anti-government slogans, calling for President Ange-Felix Patasse to step down.

### China enacts safety rules after multiple deaths

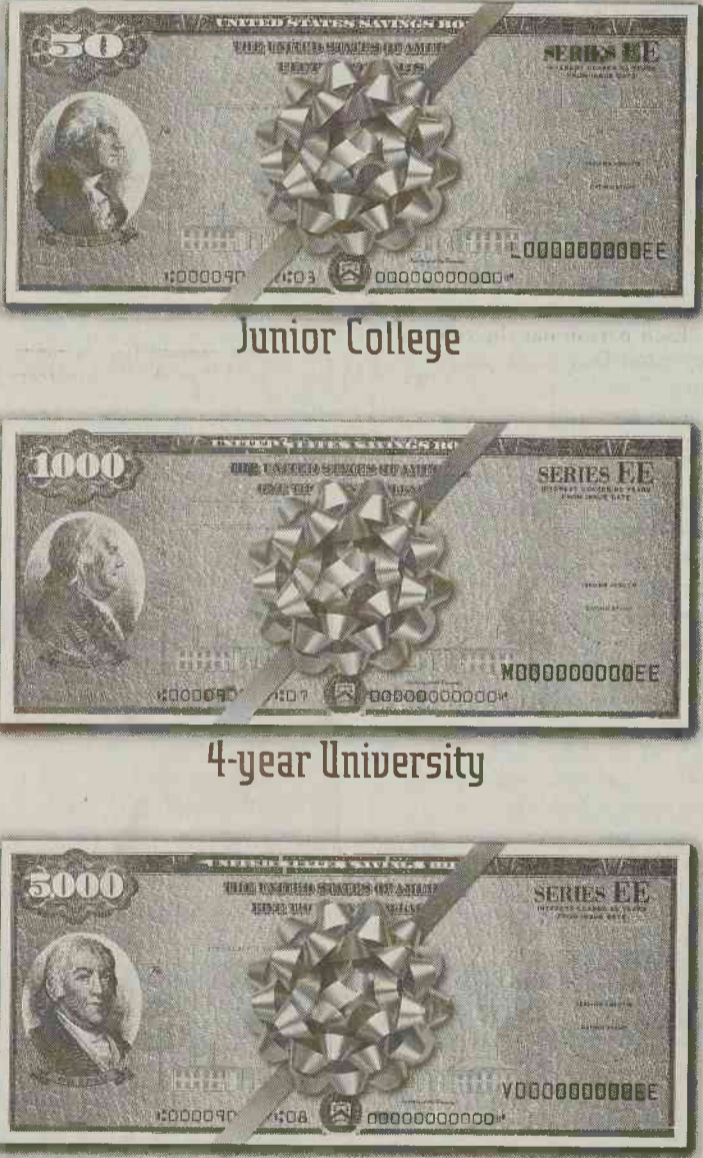
China released new rules Nov. 14 to tighten safety in its deadly coal mines, even as state media reported another accident, this one killing at least 14 miners.  
 Two explosions Nov. 12 at the mine in the mountainous southern province of Guangxi left another miner missing, and two others seriously injured, state media and a local official said. Police detained the owner of the privately run mine on suspicion that he ignored safety regulations.

### Contemporary works of art sell for \$10.63 million

Works by contemporary artists ranging from Andy Warhol to Damien Hirst fetched \$10.63 million at Phillips Nov. 13, eclipsing the New York auction house's high pre-sale estimate. It set records for several artists, including Hirst. The strong sale at Phillips was a sharp contrast to its Impressionist and modern art auction a week ago, which was an expensive failure when nearly half of the lots failed to find buyers.

### American Red Cross needs "Quality of Life" items

The American Red Cross is asking for "Quality of Life" items during the holidays for Red Cross staff serving with U.S. service members at various operations and exercises around the world. Staff assigned in Kosovo, Bosnia, Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia and Camp Doha, Kuwait have requested decorations and blank greeting cards, stockings and stocking stuffers, individually wrapped hard candy, coffee, microwave popcorn, toiletry items, videos, compact discs, small board games, paperback books, chapstick and holiday catalogs. Items are being collected at the Asheville-Mountain Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, located at 100 Edgewood Road, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call (828) 258-3888.



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