

THE BLUE BANNER

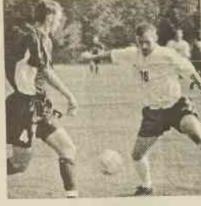
Features



Goombay Represents African Heritage

See Page 6

Sports



Soccer Team Looks to Improve

See Page 9

Opinions



"A Few Pointers for New-comers," by Liam Bryan

See Page 4

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UNCA Replacing Governors Village

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Ed Fickle
Staff Reporters

UNCA will spend two years and 11.5 million dollars to build new dormitories in the Governor's Village, according to school officials. Swain, Aycock and Craig, three buildings currently within the Governor's Village, will meet a wrecking ball as construction for new dormitories beginning soon.

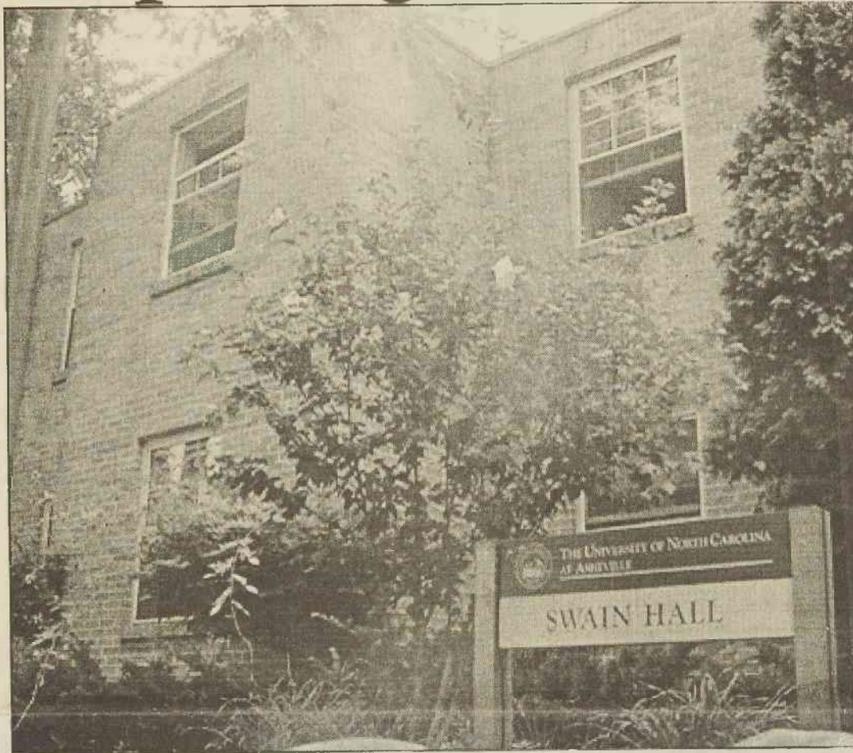
"It is cost prohibitive to renovate these buildings. The rooms are small, they lack air conditioning, and the solid masonry construction makes it very difficult to provide internet connections. The new buildings will meet our students' academic and social needs," said Randy Williams, UNCA Facilities Construction engineer.

The date for the actual demolition has not been set, according to Steve Baxley, Director of Facilities Management and Planning.

Before Swain, Aycock and Craig can be torn down, the main power supply for campus must be relocated over fall break, and the floor tiles must be removed from all three buildings.

The 11.5 million dollars estimated for this project will come from the fees of future residents that will pay to live in the Governor's Village.

Although UNCA received money from the Higher Education bill that passed last November, not a single penny of that money is going to-



WALTER FYLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Swain, Aycock and Graig Halls, part of the Governor's Village, are proposed to be torn down in October.

towards the construction of these dorms.

A small portion of the money is coming from the UNCA Alumni. When the Village buildings are

torn down in the near future, bricks will be sold to some UNCA Alumni. That money will be put into the Governor's Village fund to help with the coming construction.

Students are not going to have to wait very long to see the new buildings. The new dorms are slated to open August of 2003. Just as students can begin to move into the

new Village area, the remaining Village buildings will be torn down. "I'm curious to see the new buildings," said Anuj Moondra, a senior Management major. "It sounds like it really is going to be a great place on campus to live."

Despite the fact that demolition has yet to begin on the new dorms, much work has already been done behind the scenes, according to Baxley.

The State Construction Authority has approved the plans from Walter Robbs Callahan & Pierce Architects, PA, and UNCA has chosen American South as their general contractor, according to Williams.

American South is the company that built West Ridge Hall and the Health and Fitness Center, according to Baxley.

"The objective of the University Committee that worked with the designer on (the new buildings) was to retain, as best we could, a village atmosphere," said Baxley. "We, the University, did not really want to pursue putting one huge building to replace Governor's Village."

Initially, there was discussion around campus to renovate the Village, instead of the replacement of the individual buildings.

Baxley said to rebuild the structures was a better choice financially. With renovation, new telephone and electrical lines would have to

See VILLAGE Page 12

Government to Change Financial Aid Regulations

Jessica Frutchter
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University Wire Service

There may be a light at the end of the tunnel for those who have previously been denied financial aid due to drug convictions.

The U.S. Department of Education is considering steps to modify a three-year-old provision of the Higher Education Act stipulates that federally funded loans and grants may be denied to students convicted of felony or misdemeanor drug charges.

The change in policy would continue to ban financial assistance to those convicted of a drug charge while receiving aid, but would not punish those who were convicted prior to their receiving aid.

"This move has been widely supported by those in government and in education," said David Borden, executive director of the Drug Reform Coordination network in Washington, D.C. "While it's good news and a step in the right direction, it's not good enough. It makes a really bad law slightly less bad."

"There's a definite injustice involved," Borden added. "If you're wealthy and you commit a drug crime, you're only punished once. But if you're poor or middle-class, you're punished twice. Once by the criminal justice system and again when your financial aid is taken away. When people are trying to go to college, it's a good thing for everyone."

In response to the FEA drug conviction provisions, groups around the country have mobilized to support a total repeal.

"We want to overturn this law entirely," Borden said. "We're planning to mobilize over 150 campuses this year. Colorado University at Boulder is one of the campuses that has already gotten involved with the campaign."

While The Department of Education reports that more than 40,000 students are likely to be denied or lose their existing financial aid during the 2001-2002 ac-

See AID Page 12

Jesse Helms to Retire After Term Ends

Sarah Wilkins
Senior Reporter

The news of Jesse Helm's future retirement from the U.S. Senate has caused many UNCA students and faculty members to anticipate a more moderate representative of North Carolina.

"Some conservatives felt he was on their side, sticking up for things," said Stacey Hatcher, a junior Environmental Studies major. "I think it's time for change."

After almost three decades in the Senate, Helms announced Aug. 22, 2001 that he will not seek re-election for a sixth term next year.

Helms, 79, has long been an opponent of communism, abortion and the United Nations.

He also served as chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and in 1995, he became chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"He's had a lot of power," said Robert Andrews, professor of Philosophy. However, "many people thought that he was getting quite elderly, and it was time for him to retire."

Over the last several years, Helms has had a variety of health problems affecting his heart and legs. In 1998, he had both of his knees replaced, and now uses a motorized scooter to maneuver on Cap-

itol Hill.

Several students said it was time for a new senator with a fresh approach to state, national and international issues to represent N.C. citizens.

"I think he's run his course, and now it's time for him to go," said Hatcher.

Some faculty members said UNCA students probably have a hard time relating to Helms and his policies.

"Students think a little more liberally, and they know that we need some new blood" in the Senate, said Nancy Hoffman of UNCA's Financial Aid office.

Henry Sterns, professor of German, said about 80 percent of professors and 50 percent of students regard Helms as having a very negative in-

fluence in political matters.

"He was a bit extreme," said Hatcher. "He was so far to the right that he was battling too often, instead of actually getting things done."

"He was far too reactionary for my tastes," said Cissie Stevens, director of UNCA's College for Seniors.

Now, members of the UNCA community and other N.C. voters will have to decide who will be Helms' replacement. Some of the names being mentioned as potential successors to his seat in Congress are Elizabeth Dole, Harvey Gantt and former N.C. Gov. Jim

See HELMS Page 12



www.senate.gov/~helms

Senator Jesse Helms with Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Freshman Students Charged With Drug Possession

Stuart Gaines
Staff Reporter

UNCA's Department of Public Safety charged two freshmen students with drug possession on August 13, after the Public Safety responded to a trouble alarm coming from their dorm room, 113 Mills Hall.

Russell Kelly and Andrew Verga, of 113 Mills Hall, removed the cover from their fire alarm in hopes of avoiding detection of marijuana smoke emitting from their dorm room, according to Officer Vicki

Harris, Public Safety Officer.

The two were unaware that tampering with the device caused a trouble alarm to sound in the Public Safety office, according to Harris.

"After getting there, and walking down their hall, I could smell marijuana," said Harris. "I knocked on their door and asked them what was going on."

Harris, who is also a victim/witness advocate for UNCA students, gave misdemeanor citations for simple possession of less than one ounce of marijuana to Verga and Kelly.

"They were very cooperative, and I didn't have any problem with them. They understood what they did was wrong"

-Vicki Harris

UNCA Department of Public Safety

The two also handed over the remains of the drug paraphernalia, according to Harris.

Less than one-tenth of an ounce of marijuana was recovered from what remained of the drugs, according to

the police report.

"They were very cooperative, and I didn't have any problem with them whatsoever," said Harris. "They understood that what they had done was wrong."

The freshmen appeared before a Judge in Asheville City Court on August 26. They could each be facing up to \$85 in court costs, an additional fine, and between six months and two years probation, according to Harris.

The University's response to an incident of this nature is often different from the Department of Public Safety's, according to Nancy Williams, Director of Housing and Residence Life.

The sworn officers from Public Safety issue their own citations, while the University response depends on a number of variables,

according to Williams.

"It is helpful that the Public Safety folks understand students," said Williams. "They sometimes handle students a little differently. That doesn't necessarily mean to let them off. But, sometimes it is better to put things in a learning context rather than a punitive one."

Each case is examined individually by the University, according to Williams. What type of drug is involved, how much is found, and a person's prior history are all con-

See DRUGS Page 12