

THE BLUE BANNER

Features



Activist Starhawk Visits UNCA
See Page 6

Sports



Soccer Team Looks to Improve
See Page 9

Opinions



"SGA Tackles Problems at UNCA," by Julie Shaddix
See Page 4

Volume 34 Issue 2

The University Of North Carolina At Asheville

September 6, 2001

McDevitt Appointed to State Board

Stuart Gaines
Staff Reporter

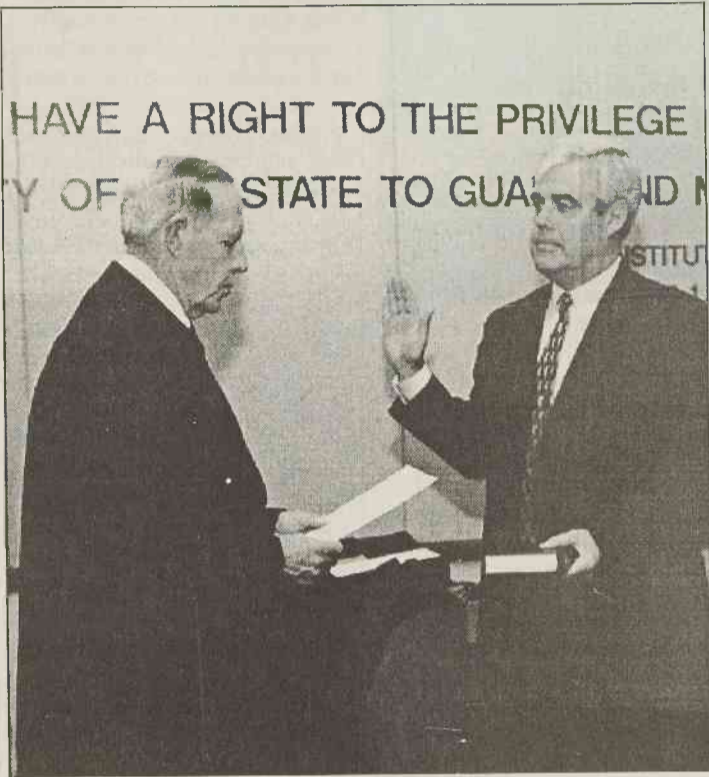
UNCA alumnus and acting Vice Chancellor for Administration and Financial Affairs for the University, Wayne McDevitt, was appointed to the North Carolina State Board of Education by Governor Mike Easley in May of this year.

Members of the 15-member board oversee the state public school system and the money given to support local education units.

"What a great opportunity to serve in public education, a place in which there is nothing more important right now," said McDevitt. "There will be kids in the second grade, when I go off of the board, that aren't even born yet. That's a lot to think about."

The Vice Chancellor's appointment to the board was approved by the North Carolina House of Representatives and Senate during a joint session of those groups in June, according to McDevitt. His eight-year term officially began after being sworn into office by Chief Justice I. Beverly Lake Jr., of the North Carolina Supreme Court.

"In North Carolina, I think that we are headed in the right direction in education, and are beginning to establish clear standards of measurement," said McDevitt. "We are



I. Beverly Lake Jr., Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court swears in Wayne McDevitt to the Board of Education.

beginning to equip our professionals, teachers and others to be successful. Then we are holding them accountable, and rewarding them for their success." McDevitt served in former Governor Jim Hunt's administration

as Chief of Staff and as Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources. A Madison county native, McDevitt's extensive public service record led the *Asheville Citizen-Times* to recognize him as one of Western North Carolina's 50 most influential

people of the 20th century.

McDevitt has long been an active participant in education at all levels, according to a press release from the State Board of Education. He has been recognized by UNCA with both the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1998, and the Chancellor's Medallion: the University's highest service award.

"One of our most stubborn challenges is to close the achievement gap by the year 2010," said McDevitt. "There is a significant gap between students who are doing well, and those who aren't. It is a nationwide problem that every state has."

The former Chief of Staff for Governor Hunt played an active role in creating the "First in America" initiative for North Carolina. The "First in America" plan, as outlined in Hunt's book by the same name, calls for North Carolina to achieve the nation's best public school system by the year 2010.

"We have the best university system in the country," said McDevitt. "We have the best community college system in the country. We are the envy of the nation in our pre-school system."

However, the newly appointed McDevitt recognized the need for progress in order to cope with the many complex issues facing the

public education system in North Carolina. Thousands of new teachers will be needed in the coming years in North Carolina and those jobs need to be filled with quality professionals.

"I believe that every kid deserves a quality teacher in his or her classroom," said McDevitt.

McDevitt's emphasis will be on Western North Carolina schools, as his position will take him to Raleigh two days out of each month for full meetings of the Board.

Locally, McDevitt meets with teacher-and-parent groups regularly, and serves on the boards of Western North Carolina Tomorrow, WNC Development Association and the Cherokee Preservation Foundation.

"I'd like to see more university involvement in the form of on-campus programs with local public school kids," said Lucious Wilson, a senior Political Science major.

"I know that I would like to be more directly involved with mentoring kids in the area, and ultimately helping to make a real difference in the community."

The "First in America" plan for North Carolina's public school system includes an emphasis on community involvement in the

See McDEVITT Page 12

Study: More Grads off to Law School

Jennifer Babulsky
University of Connecticut
University Wire Service

A recent study conducted by the test prep company Kaplan, Inc. said that there has been a noticeable change in the number of college graduates applying to different law schools across the country in recent months. The study also said that law school appears to be on the top of students' lists on what to do after college.

According to the Kaplan study, the economy has played a substantial part in why students are choosing to attend law school. Authors of the study claimed that when the economy is low, like it is presently, more students want to attend law school. The study said that the low economy gives students time to get a higher education without feeling like they are missing out on financial opportunities.

Conversely, when the economy has been high, business school was a better option for students because they had the opportunity to do better financially, the study added. With a higher economy, there is a higher call for entrepreneurs, with a lower economy, there is not a large demand for entrepreneurs; but rather there is a high demand for lawyers, authors of the study said.

The study also found that there was an increase by 19 percent of students taking the bar exam from last year.

Albert Chen, executive director of graduate programs for Kaplan, Inc., said that the increase in students taking the exam and applying to law school has to do with graduates noticing the change in the economy, and wanting to take the opportunity to get a higher education.

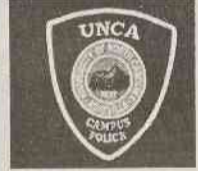
"Graduates wishing to go to law school largely depends on the economy," Chen said, "and also law schools are more stable than business schools right now."

Chen said that there have been no substantial changes in the bar exam that would make college graduates think that the tests were easier than in recent years. According to Kaplan records, the average

See LAW Page 12

Cart Stolen After Fraternity Party on Campus

Crime Watch



Lana Coffey
Staff Reporter

UNCA's department of public safety charged Buncombe County resident Ryan Ricky Houston with three misdemeanors after he allegedly stole a piece of equipment used by UNCA dining services then crashed it into the West Ridge parking deck.

"I hate they were stupid enough to do it and get in trouble. It was just stupidity," said Ken Barefoot, gen-

eral manager of UNCA dining services.

UNCA public safety received a phone call about people joyriding on the mule, which is what the caterers for the dining services use to transport their food and equipment on.

Someone "found the mule crashed into one of the brick column there on the upper level" of the parking deck, said Jerry Adams, public safety investigator.

Houston caused approximately \$500 worth of damage to the mule and about \$600 dollars worth of damage to the parking deck, according to the incident report.

Houston does not attend UNCA but he may have been attending a fraternity party held by a UNCA fraternity that night, according to Adams.

The student who called Public

Safety knew Houston and identified him for the officers, said Adams.

During the incident a crowd gathered, creating a commotion, according to Adams.

While all of this was going on Houston allegedly ran over a wall to the upper level of the parking deck then fell and landed on the concrete. When officers went to pick him up he was gone.

Police charged Houston with resisting arrest, damage to real property and injury to personal property. The damage to real property charge is a result of the damage done to the West Ridge parking deck and the injury to personal property is the damage done to the mule.

The arrest warrants have not been served yet, said Adams.

See CART Page 12



LOU HORTON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A damaged service vehicle stands, which was stolen earlier this week, stands outside the side door of The cafeteria.

State Faces Impending Lawsuit from USC Student

Emma Rich

University of South Carolina
University Wire Service

A University of South Carolina business student is suing the state of North Carolina for \$75 million over a speeding ticket he believes he shouldn't have to pay.

Mark Schnee, a fourth-year student from Dalton, Ga., was driving through Iredell County, N.C., on his way to Columbia, S.C., about 4 a.m. on Dec. 28, when Officer R.

Smith pulled him over for driving 84.1 miles per hour in a 65-mph zone.

"I know he's completely lying," said Schnee. "I have a radar detector in my vehicle."

Schnee said he planned to dispute the ticket, but he didn't attend his scheduled traffic-court hearing because he couldn't find the courthouse.

"I called the clerk of court, the district attorney, the police, the attorney general and the governor," Schnee said. "But no one could tell me the address of the

court." On Wednesday, an Iredell County deputy clerk was able to provide exact directions to the county's two courthouses.

The deputy clerk, who refused to give her name, said, "The address of the courthouse is located on the ticket that the officer writes."

"We have two courthouses in Iredell County, one in Statesville and one in Mooresville. Schnee failed to appear at his scheduled court date or hire an attorney to represent him, so on Feb. 23 [2001], we issued an order of arrest."

After Schnee missed his Feb. 7 court date, the fine increased to \$1,200, and the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicles has suspended his Georgia license until he pays the fine.

Schnee also stands to be arrested if he enters North Carolina.

"They violated my rights to due process by denying me a trial," he said.

Schnee filed suit July 19, 2001, in the Northern Atlanta District Court. The state of North Carolina was then served with the papers July 23.

"They had 60 days to respond, but I haven't heard anything yet," Schnee said.

Schnee says there was "no definite reason" for seeking the \$75 million figure in punitive damages, but he mainly wants the state of North Carolina "to reinstate my license, get rid of the warrant and fire the police officer."

Schnee added, "This is not some obscure thing that happens to one person. They're just doing this to get a lot of money. I don't want this to happen to other people."

USC law professor William

McAninch said most states have a provision in which a person can be tried in his or her absence.

If the offender has a significant reason for missing the scheduled trial date, it would be a violation of due process to not reschedule a meeting.

"These cases don't happen every day, but they're not unheard of," McAninch said.

Schnee said, "This may not go to court before I graduate, but I'm not paying the fine. And until then, I'm walking to the [business building]."