

# THE BLUE BANNER

Volume 34 Issue 12

The University Of North Carolina At Asheville

November 29, 2001



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## Closing the computer literacy gap

■ UNCA helps older residents join 'technological revolution'

Ed Fickle  
Staff Reporter

UNCA is closing the generation gap of computer use by having students teach older Asheville residents computer literacy through a new program offered by the North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement.

"I really like the idea of working with older people from outside UNCA. It seemed like a really good thing to do to gain experience and help others in the process," said Jessica Buhl, an undeclared sophomore at UNCA who volunteered to teach some classes.

**"What we find easy to use is completely foreign to people who grew up without advanced computer technology."**

-Daniel Mischt, technology education consultant

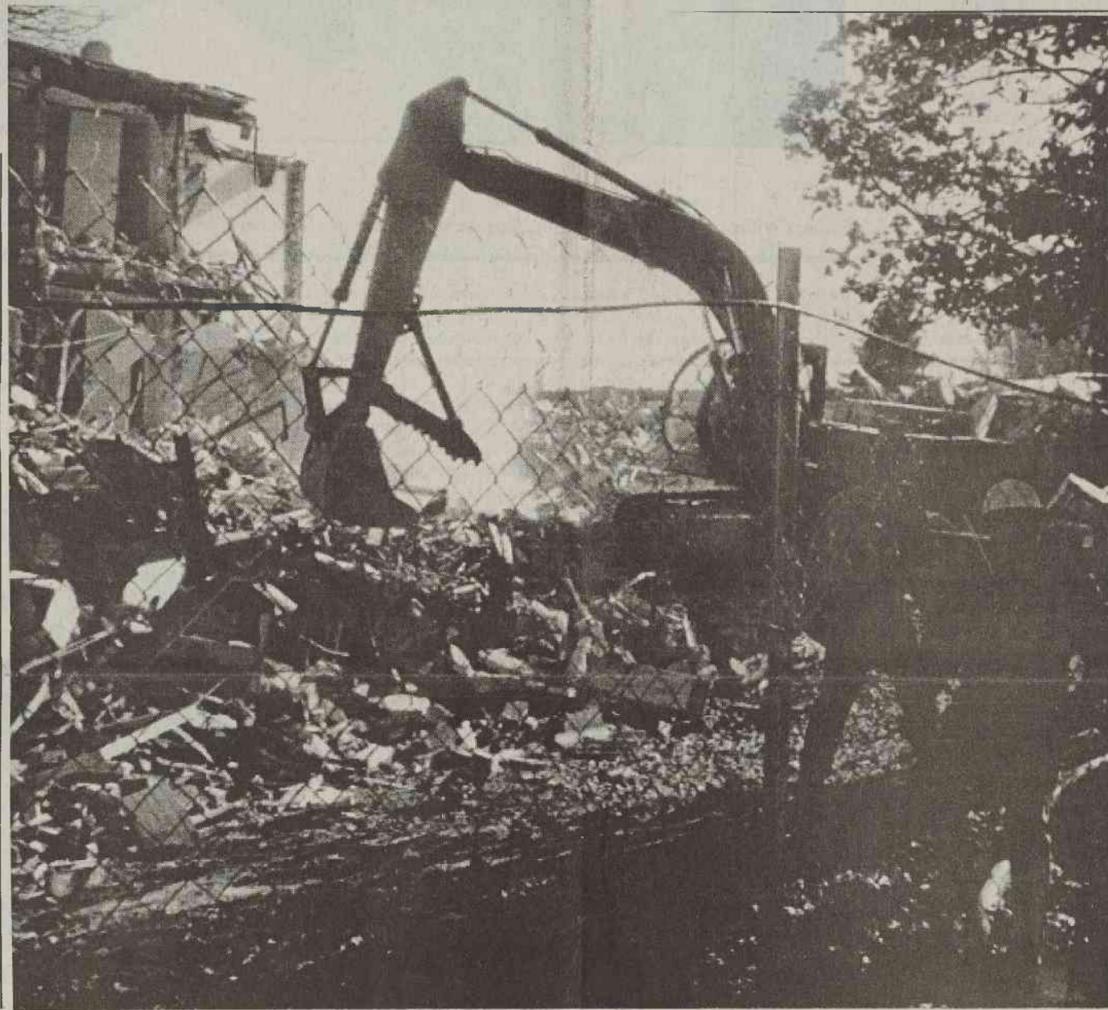
Citigroup Foundation provided the funds for the class.

"Young people around my age usually forget that even though advanced technology was a part of their lives from a very early age, their grandparents, and often their parents, were not part of this technological revolution," said Daniel Mischt, a technology education consultant who works with schools in the Raleigh area. "What we find intuitive and easy to use is completely foreign to people who grew up without advanced computer technology."

The classes began this fall, in an effort to provide free computer learning courses to mid and low-income older Asheville area residents. The UNCA students who taught the classes were freshman Ashley Lusk, sophomore Jessica Buhl, and seniors Becky Guy,

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## UNCA salvages Village



WALTER FYLER/PHOTO EDITOR

Three residence halls in Governor's Village have been demolished to make room for new buildings. UNCA will recycle any usable items from the three buildings. Summer Starling, a junior at Guilford College, suggested the idea.

## School plans to recycle thousands of tons of usable items from demolished dorms

Stuart Gaines  
Staff Reporter

UNCA has recently undertaken its largest and most comprehensive recycling project to date. Three former residence halls being almost completely recycled in conjunction with their demolition and replacement that originally began as a student research project.

"I am very pleased with the administration and planners of UNCA for listening to the research I put together," said Summer Starling, a junior at Guilford College and former UNCA student. "It is to the university's credit that the students actually have a voice on issues besides homecoming."

The idea originally began as a UNCA summer research project for Starling with the help

of Unified Solar, a UNCA environmental organization, and Paul Braese, mechanical engineer at UNCA.

Prior to the demolition of Swain, Aycock and Craig residence halls in the Governor's Village, the buildings were stripped of all usable parts, including light fixtures, windows, smoke alarms and concrete blocks, according to Steve Baxley, director of Facilities, management and planning.

After the demolition, over 2,000 tons of debris, or aggregate, was transported to an on-campus location to be used for campus building projects, including the new residence halls built in the Village.

The estimated cost of the new residence halls, which are scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2003, is \$11.5 million, and will be paid for through housing fees, according to the news release about the project.

"We are very pleased with this approach," said Baxley. "Recycling the buildings is an environmentally positive action, and it will save us the cost of taking the buildings to the Buncombe County landfill."

The aggregate will be crushed, and can be used for the construction of both new buildings and roads on campus, according to the news release.

"The hard work of so many different people has made this whole thing possible," said Braese. "Lynne Patzig worked in the buildings almost every weekend this fall to coordinate the stripping of the usable parts."

Patzig, recycling coordinator at UNCA, helped bring a variety of people to the project including computer-gamers, who salvaged

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## Equipment stolen from Owen Hall

Lana Coffey  
Staff Reporter

Public safety officers are investigating a lapse in security that resulted in an individual(s) stealing a television and central processing unit from Owen Hall Nov. 26.

"I never really felt like my stuff would be safe in Owen," said Ben Blitch, a junior art major. When he leaves Owen, he said he usually takes his art and supplies with him.

The cost of the equipment stolen totals \$1,500, according to Adams.

"We're taking steps right now just to make sure that it doesn't happen again, basic steps like keeping those rooms locked at night," said Adams.

Blitch said he thought the equipment was stolen because it had a lot of monetary value.

"They probably wouldn't steal a kid's art stuff," said Blitch.

The equipment was taken from room 229 of Owen Hall and was part of the accounting and management departments, said Adams.

Public safety received the call informing them that the equipment had been stolen at around 3:30 a.m.

A housekeeper noticed the equipment had been in the room before Thanksgiving break, but when she returned, she realized it was gone, said Adams.

The CPU had been taken, but the monitor and keyboard was still there, said Adams.

"The CPU was secured to a cable. The cable was cut, and the CPU was gone," said Adams. "Also, there was an audio-visual cart that had a TV and a VCR underneath it. The TV was taken from the cart."

While Owen does not stay open 24 hours a day, many art students stay in the building at all times, said Adams.

"It's open until late at night, but the art department has a lot of students that work in there" at all hours, said Adams.

"Up until this theft occurred, those particular rooms were not locked," said Adams. "Now we're working with the accounting department, who uses those rooms, to take steps to make sure it doesn't happen again. We're going to start securing those rooms at night."

Public safety is currently trying to work out other steps to prevent theft from occurring, said Adams.

Public safety has beefed up foot patrol in almost every building on campus, according to Adams.

"We have a lot of academic buildings at night, and we also have a lot of residence halls that we have to

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## Smoke covers Asheville area after local fires

Alison McKone  
Staff Reporter

Western North Carolina has experienced many large wild fires over the last couple of weeks. This shrouded much of the area, includ-

ing the UNCA campus, in smoke for several days.

"The smoke caused my allergies to worsen," said Amber Adams, an undeclared sophomore. "I had cold-like symptoms even after the smoked cleared away."

According to the Asheville Citi-

zen-Times, there have been 10 forest fires in WNC this fall that were intentionally set. The largest of these was in Swain County inside the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It burned 7,380 acres before it was put out.

These fires have been exceptionally hazardous because WNC had

not received rain since late October. Because of this, there has been a burning ban statewide since Oct. 29.

Firefighters were called in from around the country to come and help contain the blaze of the many fires in the region. In fact, many spent their Thanksgiving in the

parking lot of the WNC Agricultural Center, which has transformed into a staging area for firefighters over the past couple of months, according to the

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