

# The BLUE BANNER

compiled by Sandy LaCorte and Gina Douhat

## Lifestyles

Pumpkin patch proceeds go to a worthy cause, see page 6.



## Travelogue

Student travels to Hong Kong, see page 11.



THUR. 60 57 FRI. 63 52 SAT. 67 47 SUN. 68 45

Thursday, October 25, 2007

www.unca.edu/banner

Vol. 47, Issue 8

## THE NEWS IN BRIEF

### California fires continue to blaze, authorities evacuate citizens

Authorities evacuated at least 346,000 homes in San Diego County Tuesday as they battled wildfires in Southern California. Rising temperatures and windy conditions caused more than a dozen fires in the region, burning 400 square miles in three days.

Weather forecasters call for conditions to worsen in the coming days. With hotter temperatures looming and no rain in sight, President Bush declared seven counties in the region in a state of emergency, speeding up disaster-relief efforts.

### Astronauts take Skywalker's lightsaber back into outer space

Discovery space shuttle pilots blasted off Tuesday with a piece of cinematic history — the lightsaber Luke Skywalker used in "Return of the Jedi." "Star Wars" creator George Lucas presented the Discovery crew with the prop to mark the 30th anniversary of the first "Star Wars" film.

The shuttle's mission takes it the international space station, where it delivers supplies necessary for further construction.

### Haunted house on campus provides scares for students

Students looking for a scare this Halloween can visit Carol Belk Theatre as the Drama Department hosts Haunted Theater. The event costs \$3 for students, \$5 for the public and runs from Wednesday through Tuesday, 7-10:45 p.m.

compiled by Aaron Dahlstrom

## Alcohol awareness hits campus

*A week of events teach students the ropes on alcohol safety*

By Courtney Metz  
STAFF WRITER

UNC Asheville students spent the week of Oct. 15-19 learning about alcohol awareness from Peers Advocating Wellness Strategies and other on-campus organizations.

"The point isn't that alcohol is bad," said PAWS member Jennie Burrows. "The point is that if you are going to drink, you should do it responsibly. And it's informing students about how to make responsible, safe choices for their own health and for the health and well-being of others around them."

PAWS is an organization on campus made up of students who wish to become health educators. Although the organization is less than a year old, they are already learning many valuable skills, according to Faculty Advisor Linda Pyeritz.

"They learn skills such as conflict resolution, communication skills, how to present programs and put programs together, how to evaluate programs and they become well versed in all sorts of health topics," Pyeritz said. "Somebody may want to focus on sexuality issues, some may want to focus on drug issues, some may want to focus on exercise or stress management, healthy eating, or relationship issues."

Eventually, PAWS members will become certified peer educators so that they can teach classes on health topics, according to Pyeritz.

"It's a fun group," Pyeritz said. "You learn a lot, and it's absolutely proven that students learn better from other students."

PAWS chose to organize Alcohol Awareness Week because it involves the exact topics they are trying to teach the student body.

"It falls right into what peer educators do," Pyeritz said. "It falls right into that realm of educating students about healthy choices."

PAWS cooperated with several student groups to organize the Alcohol Awareness Week events.

"In Highsmith, there's the 'Just Another Brick' display, and it has these red bricks of alcohol confessions that are anonymous, but they are confessions about alcohol-related



CLINT LATHINGHOUSE - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore student and PAWS member Lara Martini rides in a golf cart last Tuesday with junior student Sherman Colvard, who is wearing a pair of "beer goggles," which simulate a drunkenness, impairing vision, depth perception and orientation. PAWS members also gave mock field sobriety tests.

experiences," Burrows said. "We have the drunk goggles on the quad, which is fun. We have a couple different speakers speaking about sex and alcohol."

Events such as these are important, especially in a college setting, according to Assistant Chief of Campus Police Jerry Adams.

"It's something that needs to be done," Adams said. "I'm glad that it happens every year. We have quite a bit of alcohol violations on campus, especially underage violations, so the more

*If you are going to drink, you should do it responsibly.*

LINDA PYERITZ  
PAWS Faculty Advisor

attention that you can draw to that subject and the consequences alcohol does to people, the better."

There have been seven reported underage drinking violations since August, according to campus police. Therefore, the possibility of programs like

Alcohol Awareness Week deterring students is important, according to Adams.

"One program I think would be most effective would be the driving the golf cart with the simulator beer goggles and stuff like that," Adams said.

"That's something that they do quite a bit every year and, to me, that's been very effective."

Students said they agreed the beer goggle simulator is quite effective.

"It was really cool," said

SEE ALCOHOL PAGE 2

## Civil union discussion turns into debate

By Caroline Fry  
STAFF WRITER

A recent forum, which combined open gay and lesbian panelists with religious leaders, raised pertinent issues about gay rights on campus.

"UNC Asheville should be involved in an active community discussion of (gay rights) issues," said Maloree Byrd, senior history student. "This is a very important topic for Asheville, and we should encourage open discussion."

The forum "Civil Unions, Gay Marriage and Homophobia: A Problem of Moral and Spiritual Development?" was held Oct. 16 in the Laurel Forum. The Center for Diversity Education Alliance sponsored the forum, along with the People of Faith for Just Relationships.

Panelists included John H. Grant, pastor of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church; Alphonso McGlen, pastor of St. James AME Church; Lorena Russell, literature and language professor at UNC Asheville; and Jim Driggers, literature professor at UNC Asheville. Deirdre Wiggins, assistant director of the Office of Multicultural Organizations and Events moderated the discussion.

The panelists were highly divided concerning their opinions of gay rights and civil unions. Grant and McGlen both said the question of civil unions and gay rights is not an equal rights issue, but a moral issue. Grant said hate crime legislation is a bad way for the government to get involved with this issue.

"There are serious problems with civil unions socially, spiritually, morally and physically," Grant said. "When government steps into this issue, it feels like they are legislating immorality."

Grant went on to say it is a catastrophe for an American family to not have both a mother and father, and homosexual relationships perpetuate this. Both pastors agreed they believe sexual preference is a choice each individual makes, rather than a trait a person is born with.

"We don't choose the color of our skin or our gender," McGlen said. "But after reading studies about the topic, I have come away with the conclusion sexual preference is a choice."

Both Russell and Driggers said gay and lesbian couples should have all the rights heterosexual married couples enjoy, including partner benefit rights such as filing joint tax returns.

"I am a citizen with full rights, and my relationship is deserving of rights," Russell said. "We should have access to equal rights, such as health insurance through our spouse. Families and children need support from the government that they are not getting."

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community has a history of being discriminated against due to their sexual orientation, according to Driggers and Russell.

"We need to understand we are all on the same human level," Driggers said. "Either we all have the same rights or we all don't."

Some of the audience members attending the forum were confused about the organization of the event, as it was set up to be a discussion and not a debate.

"I am completely clueless as to what the goal was for this event and why it was organized as it was," said Alice Weldon, Spanish professor who attended half of the forum. "From what I saw and

SEE UNIONS PAGE 2

## Copyright laws threaten college students the most

By Aaron Dahlstrom  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As legal battles over who owns the rights to music continue, students increasingly find themselves the targets of lawsuits ranging from \$750 to \$35,000 per infringement.

"Up until now, most of the people they have served have been students," said Jim Kuhlman, university librarian and chief information officer. "And infringement isn't 100 songs. It is how many times somebody copies it. So it can add up in a heartbeat."

Kuhlman oversees the school's computer systems including ResNet, the computer network for providing Internet access to the dorms. In compliance with copyright laws, the school must limit Internet access to anyone accused of illegally downloading copyrighted material.

"The law specifies if they have reason to think copyrighted material they own can be found on somebody's computer and it is an infringement of copyright, they send an e-mail to me," Kuhlman said. "This can be either the copyright owner or their representative. Typically if it is music, it is Recording Industry Association of America. If it is a movie,

it is Motion Picture Association of America."

In 1998, Congress passed the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, which provides protection to online service providers when their networks carry copyright-infringing material. As an online service provider, UNC Asheville adheres to the policies and procedures outlined in the DMCA, receiving legal protection under the law.

While the school takes the law very seriously, they do not actively monitor student's computers, according to Kuhlman.

"Those guidelines actually include the

fact that we don't police it," Kuhlman said. "We can't just pick you and police you today. We are going to have to police everybody all the time. The alternative is we don't police anybody."

The copyright owners contact Kuhlman when they discover a possible infringement. The school then disconnects the alleged user and notifies them as quickly as possible. Then the student may admit to the violation or say it is a mistake, Kuhlman said.

"The first choice is to say, 'Yep. I have this song on my computer. I have deleted that song,' and that is the end of it," Kuhlman said. "They sign a form that I

SEE DOWNLOADING PAGE 2