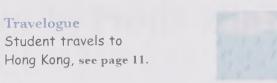
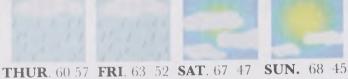


The BLUE BANNER

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











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 disasterrelief 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

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 said PAWS member Jennie Burrowes. "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 wellbeing 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

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 stu-

PAWS chose to organize Alcohol Awareness Week because it involves the exact gles on the quad, topics they are trying to teach the student body

"It falls right into what peer ent speakers speakeducators do," Pyeritz said. "It ing about sex and falls right into that realm of educating students about healthy choices.'

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

"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 underage violations, so the more sibility of programs like



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, Burrowes said. "We 6 ** have the drunk gogwhich is fun. We have a couple differ-

alcohol. Events such as these are important, especially in a col-

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

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

> LINDA PYERITZ PAWS Faculty Advisor

Assistant Chief of Campus that subject and the consequences alcohol does to people, the better."

ed underage drinking violations effective. since August, according to camviolations on campus, especially pus police. Therefore, the pos-

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

lege setting, according to attention that you can draw to "That's something that they do quite a bit every year and, to

me, that's been very effective." Students said they agreed the There have been seven report- beer goggle simulator is quite

"It was really cool," said

SEE ALCOHOL PAGE 2

Copyright laws threaten college students the most

By Aaron Dahlstrom

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.

puter 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 ille-

gally 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,

Infringement isn't 100 songs. It is how many times somebody copies it. So it can add up in a heartbeat.

JIM KUHLMAN University Librarian & Chief Information Officer

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 Kuhlman said. "They sign a form that I

Kuhlman oversees the school's comit is Motion Picture Association of fact that we don't police it," Kuhlman 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,'

keep, I notify the computer center, and we reconnect them as soon as we can.'

If a user claims to not possess the infringing material, they must remain disconnected from the network for two weeks while the copyright holder decides if they will pursue legal action, according to Kuhlman.

"On the handful of cases we have had where people have said that, I have never had them come back and say, 'We are going to take this to court.' Usually you never hear from them," Kuhlman said.

Unless subpoenaed, Kuhlman said he never reveals the name of the user. While record labels fight to end illegal

you today. We are going to have to police downloading, some smaller bands actueverybody all the time. The alternative is ally embrace the idea of fans downloading their music from the Internet.

"I am for it, both as a performer and as a fan," said Chris Dedousis of the Hickory, N.C.-based band Sever the Tie. "If it helps get music out there, it's fine

Dedousis said he believes true fans will continue financially supporting the music they enjoy.

"If your music is something that really

SEE DOWNLOADING PAGE 2

Civil union discussion turns into debate

By Caroline Fry

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

"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 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

"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

"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