

Briefly...**Black History Month events announced**

During the month of February, the university will be hosting the following events in honor of Black History Month.

On Tuesday, Feb. 1, Warith Deen Mohammed will present a lecture in Kenan Auditorium at 7 p.m. Mohammed is the son of the late Elijah Mohammed and religious leader of the Muslim American Society and traditional Islamic followers. The lecture is free and sponsored by the department of philosophy and religion and the Tauheed Islamic Center.

Throughout the month, the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity will be sponsoring "A Tribute to An Alpha: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Display" in the Upper African American Cultural Center.

On Tuesday, Feb. 15 the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) will sponsor "Greek Life: Fact or Fiction" at 7 p.m. in the Upperman African American Cultural Center. The program will be a discussion of Greek life on campus followed by a question and answer period.

On Wednesday, Feb. 16 at noon a discussion on "Affirmative Action: Friend or Foe" will be held in the Upperman African American Cultural Center. The discussion will be facilitated by Joy Williams, a junior majoring in computer science.

On Tuesday, Feb. 22 the Delta Sigma Theta sorority will sponsor a discussion titled "Look Where He Brought Me From: The African American Woman from Past to Present" in the Upper American Cultural Center from 7 - 9 p.m. The discussion will cover six major time periods: slavery, emancipation, wartime, civil rights, present and future.

Blood donations needed

The Carolinas Region of the American Red Cross has issued an emergency appeal for blood donors. The combination of traditionally low blood supply following the holidays and a major outbreak of the flu has caused the Red Cross to declare a national appeal for donors. Nationally, 27 of the 37 Red Cross blood service regions are at less than one day's supply of type "O", the universal blood type, and all blood types are needed.

Eligible donors are urged to visit the blood center at 1102 South 16th Street on Mondays and Wednesdays between noon and 6 p.m. or on Fridays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 100 pounds and be in good health. Call 762-5540 or 762-2683 for an appointment.

A-Team speaks at local high schools

by ALLISON BIGGAR

Staff Writer

The A-Team, UNCW's sexual assault awareness team, is currently hosting an informative campaign in an attempt to make the Wilmington community aware of the dangers of sexual assault. During the coming week, the A-Team will be giving presentations at local high schools.

"Basically they will be representing an interactive program...to promote sexual assault awareness and [present] a lot of preventative measures in terms of safety awareness," said Senior Allison Ragon, A-Team student coordinator.

Ragon said the A-Team hopes to open the eyes of students who aren't aware of the potential dangers around them. The lectures will not only present statistics, but the A-Team will attempt to confront students with potentially dangerous situations and ask them to come up with safety strategies.

"We are trying to hit the seniors because they will probably be going to college and living in a new environment where they're going to trust everyone because they are used to doing that,"



A-Team members Erica Pittelkow and Allison Ragon, along with other members, are speaking at area high schools as part of their sexual assault awareness campaign.

Ragon said. "What we're trying to do is say you can't trust everyone and you need to be more aware so you don't one day wake up a victim."

The A-Team has supported and participated in many events concerning rape and safety awareness. Among these

events is the annual Take Back the Night March and The White Ribbon Campaign which is an effort to get men involved with the struggle to end violence against women.

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Textbook Wars: online versus on-campus

by BECKY LEWIS

Correspondent

Going online to buy textbooks is the latest trend for university students. The idea of saving money appeals to most college students, but without extensive research, students could lose hard earned cash.

The big E-businesses such as bigwords.com, varsitybooks.com and efollet.com all advertise discounted textbooks delivered directly to the customer's door, eliminating the hassle of wading through long bookstore lines. However, without knowing the exact textbooks one needs or the price offered at the campus bookstore, students can get frustrated and buy the wrong textbooks at a higher price.

UNCW senior Kim Hill, recently bought her textbooks from bigwords.com. She placed an order for 25 textbooks on December 21 to receive a special sale price of 15% off the entire order. Due to a web site update four days before the sale ended she was unable to place her order.

"I've had nothing but trouble from them," said Hill.

In addition to the fact that Hill did not receive sale price, the business cancelled two books she ordered without her notification and she is still waiting for one book to be delivered.

"I'm not trying to give them [bigwords] a bad wrap because they do have the same or lower price than the campus store. Still, it saved me a lot of money even though it was a pain..." Hill said. "My advice is to order way early and do lots of shopping around for the best price."

Shopping around for textbooks may include a visit to vivasmart.com, a free

Internet site that compares prices, shipping and availability of texts for each university. UNCW textbooks are included at this site.

Another option is to check out collegebooksnetwork.com, a free online classifieds page for college textbooks where students can sell old textbooks to other students. This site claims a win/win situation for the buyer and seller.

The hunt for cheap text books is often made easier when campus bookstores place course textbooks online, listing new and used prices as well as a full description of the text.

The UNCW campus store manager, Teri Schuttle-Beck, was unavailable for comment on the development of this type of site, but David Dyer manager of the Seahawk Book and Supply said one should be available to UNCW students soon.

"We're developing that for our site (www.seahawkbooks.com)," Dyer said. "It should be available next semester."

On their new site students will be able to pay online and have their order shipped or they can pick it up. They will still offer the option of reserving textbooks on the current web site.

Some students have raised concerns about security of online buying procedures.

"I thought about it [buying textbooks online]," said Meredith Ledwell, a junior at UNCW, "but I'm a little hesitant about putting my information online."

The websites bigwords.com, varsitybooks.com and efollet.com each insure security in that no one can retrieve personal information or credit card numbers from an order placed online. Along-

side a promise of security, all three major sites promise low prices, no waiting in line and a guaranteed buy back at the end of the semester.

Seahawk Book and Supply feels it has not lost much business to online book stores.

"I looked into it a bit," Dyer said. "I asked our UPS delivery guy and he said he'd seen some packages from various Internet textbook sites, about five to 10 a day. That constitutes about 50 students. That's not that much of a loss but buying books online will pick up in the next few semesters."

The National Association of Campus Stores (NACS), which serves as a watchdog for college stores and student consumers, recently conducted research about where to get the best book deals. The association selected 50 textbooks used for introductory courses in various disciplines. Of the 50 selected titles, 44 were available from all sources online. The college store price was the lowest for 17 books or 38.6%. 16 books or 36.4% fell in the middle with the college store price and nine books place the highest price at 20.5%. Only two books had the same price.

On their web site the NACS claims that, "College students very often can buy their textbooks from college bookstores at prices just as low as the online book-sellers."

The NACS represents 3,000 higher education retailers worldwide and campaigns to warn students of buying online. In October 1999, the NACS sued varsitybooks.com over false advertising regarding discounts.