

Briefly...**Blood Drive today**

The UNCW Volunteers are sponsoring a blood drive today in the Warwick Center Ballroom, until 2 p.m.

Conference on marine mammal conservation this Friday

The eighth annual Atlantic Coastal Dolphin Conference will be held on Friday, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 134 of Dobo Hall. The conference will feature a keynote address by Dr. Steven Katona, president of the College of the Atlantic Car Harbor in Maine. Katona is a world-renowned marine mammal biologist who has served as president of the American Cetacean Society. He will speak on issues concerning marine mammal conservation. Free admission tickets are available between 2 and 5 p.m. in the lobby of Dobo Hall, on the day of the conference.

For more information, contact Ann Pabst at 962-7266.

Lecture to be held on "Witch Doctors in Biotechnology"

Dr. Mark Plotkin, research associate at the Department of Botany at the Smithsonian Institution, will present a lecture on "Witch Doctors in Biotechnology" at 7:30 on Thursday in the Warwick Center Ballroom. During his presentation, Plotkin will discuss his work with tribal leaders in Central and South America. Plotkin said these men hold the key to demonstrating the value of the Amazon rainforest in concrete economic terms, thus providing the rationale for preserving this ecosystem.

An expert in tropical rainforest ethnobotany, Plotkin has worked with shamans to learn about healing plants for the last 15 years. He is the author of "Tales of the Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for new Medicine in the Amazon Rain Forest."

For more information, contact the UNCW Honors Scholars Program at 962-4181.

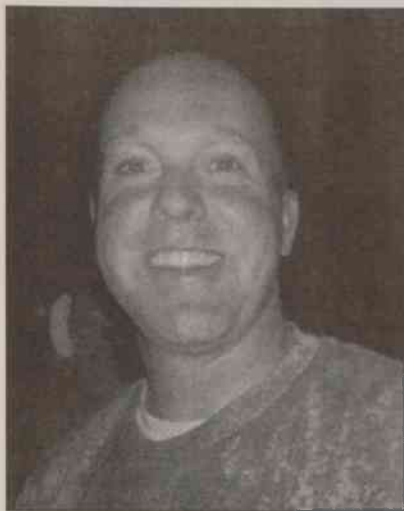
Census questionnaire assistance available

The department of foreign languages and literatures is a Census 2000 Questionnaire assistance center. On Wednesdays, from 5-7 on March 22 and 29 and April 5 and 12, volunteers will be available in Room 262 of Morton hall to assist people in filling out their questionnaires and to answer general questions about the census.

For more information, contact Denise DiPuccia at 962-7933

Community aids motorcycle accident victim**Former UNCW ultimate frisbee player injured**

Anna C. Broome
Staff Writer



Ray Worrell, a UNCW graduate and ultimate frisbee player who was seriously injured on a motorcycle.

Sunday, April 2, local restaurants and businesses will host a benefit at the Coastline Convention Center for a UNCW graduate in order to help him pay his medical bills that stemmed from his recent motorcycle accident. Ray Worrell, a former ultimate frisbee player for the Seahawks, survived a near fatal collision with a Suburban while riding his motorcycle on Monday, Dec 6, 1999.

"I arrived at the hospital and the emergency room physician told me my leg was severely broken. I didn't think it was serious until I saw the orthopedic surgeon's face. He told me if he didn't operate right away I would lose my leg," Worrell said. "My medical bills now exceed \$100,000, and I

still have at least three to four months of physical therapy."

Worrell moved to Wilmington in 1989 from New Jersey to attend UNCW. Until 1998, he worked at Elijah's, a downtown restaurant that offers health insurance to its management staff; he was the

bar supervisor the last two years of his employment there.

"When I left River Enterprises, the company that owns Elijah's and The Pilot House, I lost the benefits that went along with my position. Most restaurants do not have insurance plans available to their staff, so I was out of luck after my accident," Worrell said.

After graduation, students are no longer covered by their parents' insurance. Likewise, insurance bought through UNCW is terminated.

"I know I am lucky to be alive. The next step is to get through the therapy and pay these bills," Worrell said.

Among the restaurants donating food, gift certificates, and prizes for the benefit are Elijah's, Pilot House, The Reel Café, Charlie Brownz, K-38, Carolina Cantina, Dock Street Oyster Bar, Café Phoenix, Firebelly Lounge, Kiva, Slice of Life, and Roy's Riverboat Landing.

"Ray has been a staple of downtown for almost ten years now. He has been a good friend to all of us, and now he needs our help. We are going to make sure he gets it," said Michael Maller, the manager of Roy's Riverboat Landing.

Changing Channels, a local comedy troupe, will perform at the benefit, along with Mosquito Mite, a band out of Louisiana that opened for Blues Traveler. Royal Fingerbowl will also be performing. Tickets are \$10 in advance and may be purchased from most of the downtown restaurants and bars.

"Everyone has been very generous. The entertainment, bartenders and security guards are all donating their time," said Worrell.

Worrell said he is grateful to all of the people who have helped him since the accident and feels he has much to be thankful for.

"I was on the ultimate team for UNCW the only year we went to Nationals, and we won. I will not be able to play again, but I am still counting my blessings," he said.

For more information on tickets and events call 392-7735.

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