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Sinas to head drive

By Scott Luckadoo

UNCA's Student Government Association will launch a three point campaign next week to prevent the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) from locating a nuclear repository in Western North Carolina, said President Neal Rhoades.

The DOE chose a site containing portions of Buncombe, Haywood, and Madison Counties as one of twelve finalists for a nuclear waste dump last year.

"SGA will implement a three point plan to be done through Congressman Bill Hendon's office," Rhoades said.

He said he planned to first appoint Dave Sinas, a freshman from Rhode Island, as campus coordinator against a nuclear waste repository in WNC.

The student senate must approve the appointment next Tuesday.

"The student senate must also vote on the three point plan next Tuesday," Rhoades said.

He listed the components of the plan:

- a petition drive on campus to acquire 1,000 signatures against the repository;

- information centers distributing literature on the issue in the Carmichael Building and the Highsmith Center;



(Photo by Casey Baluss)
ART MAJOR DAVID REED shapes the clay in the ceramic shop.

• a drive to enlist volunteers to help Sinas with the plan.

Rhoades said petition booths would be set up at various locations on campus.

"They will probably be open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays from Wednesday the 12th to the 28th of February," Rhoades said.

Sinas said he needs as many volunteers as possible. He said volunteers should come by the SGA office.

Johnston cites job slowdown

By Paul Brock

Despite conflicting reports, college graduates should not expect a boom in the job market in the next few years, according to David Johnston, career planning and placement counselor at UNCA.

And while some of those market studies report that many employers are looking at liberal arts majors more favorably, many companies still tend to prefer graduates with technical and business degrees, said the employee relations manager of a local company.

Johnston, who said that the most reasonable outlook for today's job market is slow growth in most areas, predicts an increase of only 1.5 percent to 3 percent in the number of jobs offered to college graduates this spring.

This increase will occur mostly in fields such as engineering, finance and health care, said Johnston. The areas of business, management and sales will remain level in the number of jobs offered or perhaps experience only a slight increase.

One of the reasons that Johnston cited for this slow growth in the job market is that the baby boom generation is already employed in many management positions.

Dr. J.B. Simmons, owner and manager of Snelling and Snelling, an Asheville employment agency, agreed with Johnston. Simmons also sees the job market as only moderate right now.

He said that the Asheville area job market in particular may be difficult for college graduates to enter. Because of the population of this area and the structure of its

job market, there is little chance of a hot field developing in Asheville.

Another drawback to the local scene is the salary offered for entry level positions. Simmons said that salaries are better in larger cities such as Atlanta, Charlotte and Greenville.

Larry Peters, employee relations manager for the Fletcher division of Rockwell International noted that technical degrees are seen as more desirable than non-technical degrees by most employers. Peters said that his company would hire a graduate with some sort of technical degree before hiring someone with a non-technical degree.

He added that if an applicant has prior experience with another company, the type of degree would not be as important to Rockwell, but they would still prefer a technical or business degree.

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(Photo by Casey Baluss)
SPRING IN FEBRUARY? Freshman Jackie Delk took advantage of the warm weather to do some studying outdoors near the Carmichael Building.

WEEKEND WEATHER: The UNCA Atmospheric Science department provides this information to the campus community each week in the Blue Banner.

Friday: Partly cloudy with scattered showers. High in the mid-50s and low in the low-40s.

Saturday: Partly cloudy with a high near 50 and a low in the low 30s.

Sunday: Increasing clouds with a high in the low 50s and a low in the mid 30s.