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The Blue Banner

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Serving the students and faculty of UNCA

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Campus News

Charges dropped

Former UNCA professor Marketta Laurila has dropped her sex-discrimination suit against Henry Stern, chairman of the foreign language department, according to a memorandum from Stern.

Similar charges against Marcel Andrade were dropped several months ago, Stern said.

None of the allegations in the civil suit filed in April 1988 were substantiated in court, he said.

Stern and Andrade have "emphatically denied all charges then and now."

In response to the allegations, Stern said the foreign language department has hired seven full-time faculty members with on-going contracts.

Of these seven, five are women and two are men. Also in the past 10 years, he said, tenure has been awarded to three faculty members, two of which are women.

Raising activism

Students from more than 250 campuses -- almost 10 percent of the country's major 2-year and 4-year colleges -- are expected to descend on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this week to try and start a political movement.

"We're hoping to unify and get a stronger movement to raise environmental activism on campus," declared Jimmy Langman, chairman of the Student Environmental Action Committee and UNC.

Langman and fellow students are aiming to jump start the long-flagging college environmental movement, and energize it with the kind of political urgency that characterized student anti-apartheid, campus security and arms control efforts earlier in the decade.

Sex 'researchers'

A couple's sex tour of West Coast college campuses has ended with a doctor and his wife facing prostitution charges.

Police charge that Rodney Thorp Wood and his wife Nancy Steffen Wood lured male students at the University of Oregon into sex by telling them it was part of an Oxford University project "evaluating the sexual potential of the mature female."

The couple offered to pay the students \$10 for each orgasm either partner had.

However, the couple was conducting the "research" for themselves, not for Oxford as they claimed, police said.

"Because there was money exchanged for a sexual act, it was prostitution," said Sgt. Rick Gilliam of the Eugene, Ore. Police Department.

Police were tipped by two students and a police officer posing as a student, who contacted the couple in their hotel.

Officers found a list of schools, including Oregon State, the universities of Washington, California at Berkeley, Victoria and British Columbia, in their room.

From CPS, press releases and staff reports

Weekend Weather

The extended forecast for Friday through Sunday calls for mostly sunny skies Friday, becoming partly cloudy Saturday and Sunday.

There will be a slight chance of rain Sunday with temperatures remaining quite warm through the entire weekend.

Highs will be in the 70s and lows will fall into the upper 40s to around 50.

Jim Owen
Atmospheric Sciences



Surveying the damage

Dr. Gary Miller, head of the environmental science department, talks with a South Carolina National Guardsman in Garden City, S.C. Miller and a group of UNCA students traveled to the coast to survey the damage caused by Hurricane Hugo.

Photo by Diane Maney

U.S. prosecutor speaks on campus about alcohol use

by Scarlet Bell

Editor

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jerry Miller, who recently prosecuted PTL founder Jim Bakker, spoke to UNCA athletes about alcohol use and addiction on Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. in Robinson Hall auditorium.

A former defensive end for the N.C. State University football team, Miller said it is easy for athletes to believe they are "special," and expect special treatment from friends and colleagues because of their athletic ability.

However, he said law enforcement officers will not give athletes special

treatment if they are stopped for driving under the influence.

"Don't be looking for a break in the courtroom," Miller said. "Prosecutors won't back down on you if you're stopped for drunk driving."

Miller said athletes can ruin their careers if they abuse any kinds of drugs and cited N.C. State basketball player David Thompson as an example. Thompson played on the team that won the 1974 NCAA national basketball championship.

"David Thompson was looked at as Superman, but drugs ruined his life."

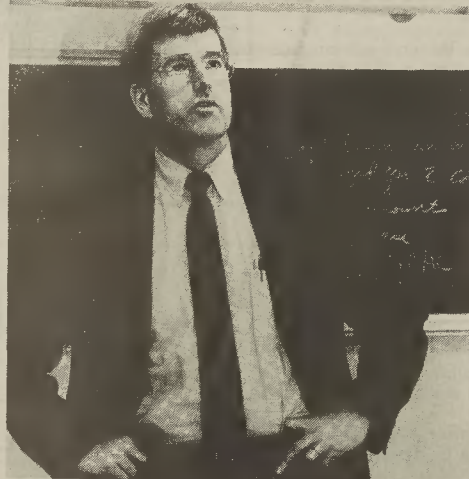


Photo by Miranda Wyatt

Federal prosecutor Jerry Miller, who prosecuted Jim Bakker, spoke on campus as part of Alcohol Awareness Week. Miller spoke on the repercussions of alcohol use as a former athlete and as a legal expert.

Drug program receives grant

by Pam Guthrie

Staff Writer

UNCA has recently been awarded a \$112,000, two-year grant from the Fund for Improvement of Post-Secondary Education, or FIPSE, according to Maggie Weshner, the director of the counseling center.

The purpose of the grant is to coordinate UNCA Partners, a campus/community program for drug and alcohol awareness, she said.

Weshner and Cheryl McClary, the chair of the department of health and fitness, are co-directors of the grant. Keith Bramlett, professor of sociology, and Ann Weber, professor of psychology, contributed to the work on the grant and will serve as research consultants.

"I initiated this program because I saw the need on campus for positive information on drug and alcohol abuse. The program is unique in that it is a joint effort from the academic side of the campus and the student affairs side of the campus," Weshner said.

They are in the final stages of the hiring process

for a trained specialist to coordinate the campus drug and alcohol program, Weshner said. This specialist will work with faculty and staff as well as students with drug or alcohol problems.

UNCA will also work with the Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) and the public school system in an attempt to take a leadership role in the larger community concerning drug and alcohol prevention and intervention, Weshner said.

"If we can influence our students, we will also influence the community at large. We have a lot of commuters and married students with children, and a lot of students involved with community life, so if we are able to educate and prevent drug and alcohol abuse on our campus, the effects will be more far-reaching than at a larger university," Bramlett said.

The program consists of three phases, Bramlett said. The first phase is strategy expansion, in which existing programs at UNCA related to drug and alcohol

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Stressing moderate drinking

From Staff Reports

Alcohol Awareness Week, Oct. 23-27, is promoting responsible drinking and alcohol education, said Milena Vari, UNCA student coordinator for alcohol and drug education.

"UNCA students think before they drink" is the theme of this year's Alcohol Awareness Week, she said.

The purpose of this event is to make it clear to students that it is OK not to drink, but if you do drink, drink responsibly, Vari said.

The week featured a variety of activities aimed at

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Maas endures San Francisco earthquake

by Lee Ann Donnelly

Staff Writer

For Richard Maas, assistant professor of environmental studies, a trip to San Francisco for a water pollution control conference turned out to be an earth-shattering experience.

Maas was in San Francisco for the conference last week as a representative of the Buncombe County Metropolitan Sewerage District board when one of this century's most violent earthquakes shook the city.

Maas and a friend were walking through the entrance gates at Candlestick Park to see the third game of the World Series when the rumbling started. "The ground was moving. Cars were shaking like people were conducting a shock absorber test. It was terrifying. I've never been so frightened," he said.

Maas said the quake felt like it lasted about ten seconds.

About fifteen minutes after getting to his seat on the second deck, Maas felt an

aftershock. "The stadium rumbled and the electricity went off," he said. He sat there not really thinking anything was unusual. "We sat with hope that the electricity would go on and the game would go on. People were saying 'let's play ball.'"

Maas said it was a major adventure getting back to his hotel. They crowded onto a bus and rode in heavy traffic for what seemed like hours. "At every block, the street lights weren't working," he said.

Within three miles of the hotel, Maas decided to get off and walk. He said people were out milling around in the dark streets. "We'd pass a bar lit with candles," he said.

Maas said there was no damage to his hotel, but he had to make his way up the stairs to his third-floor room by candlelight. "I was thankful to be back at the hotel," he said.

The following day, Maas said he wanted to get out of the city. He went by the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system to nearby

San Ramone. There he spent the day hiking along the faults. "I felt safer out there if an aftershock would've occurred," he said.

Maas feels the experience will be useful in an oceanography class he teaches. The class covers topics concerning geologic forces of the earth and global plate tectonics which, according to Maas, is the movement of large sections of the earth's crust over its molten core. "I have first-hand experience, and I'm a first-hand authority," he said.