

The Blue Banner

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Striving for Excellence

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Row, row, row, your boat

Photo by Sandra Sigmon

Jennifer Watson and Alessa Edwards enjoy a canoe ride at Rockmont XVII.

Freshman SAT scores increase

By Jackie Gasperson
Staff Writer

Once again, the UNCA administrative council expects next year's entering freshman to break the school's average SAT scores record.

Enrollment Director Caroline Miller said the projected SAT average of UNCA's 1990-91 freshman class is 1003, up 12 points over last year's record average of 991.

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UNC-Chapel Hill currently leads the 16-campus system with a freshman SAT average of 1111, while N.C. State's average is 1055. UNC has logged the fastest growth in SAT scores in the UNC system over the past three years. In 1987, the average SAT score for entering freshman at UNCA was 928.

However, according to Miller, SAT scores are just one of the many variables in the admission process.

"We look at the curriculum the students have taken in high school and make sure that they meet the minimum admission requirements," said Miller.

"We can not make an admission decision unless the student has met those basic requirements,

regardless of how good his GPA (grade point average) or SAT is. However, SAT scores and class rank are convenient statistical measures, that's why they get cited so much," said Miller.

Miller also said she thinks the added attention to SAT scores is in response to a drop in SAT scores three years ago.

"Three years ago we had a five point drop which is basically insignificant, but none-the-less we had a drop, and the faculty and the University Planning Council got real concerned that we, as an institution, were not paying enough attention to quality measures," said Miller.

As a result of this added pressure, admissions started looking at SAT scores more carefully. "We did purposely set goals, and we became more aggressive in terms of marketing the institution," said Miller.

Also, Miller said she feels that UNCA is getting more "quality" students due to the national attention that the university has received.

North Carolina has had a ten percent decrease in high school graduates, Miller said.

"We're able to live with this decrease of high school graduates, by virtue of an increase in out-of-

state students," said Miller. Out of state applicants are up by eleven percent, Miller said.

Current projections also show that approximately 62 percent of UNCA's 1990-91 freshman class will finish in the top fifth of their high school class, a 10 percent increase in freshman class rank, said Miller.

The reasons why more quality students are choosing UNCA over larger universities can also be attributed to the personal attention that students will receive and the fact that UNCA, as a liberal arts college, is less expensive, she said.

"We certainly have an advantage over most liberal arts colleges, given that most liberal arts colleges are private in the area of costs," said Miller.

"Our size is also a benefit for those students who are wanting the added attention," said Miller.

One entering freshman "had his road completely paved to UNC-Chapel Hill," but when he went down there and saw that he would be in a class of 200 to 300 students, he decided on UNCA, added Miller.

Meanwhile, applications for fall admission are holding at 1989's record pace. "We are dead even with last years applicants," said Miller.

Arboretum attracts

By Linda Greene
Staff Writer

More than 1,000 people attended the dedication ceremony Monday afternoon for The North Carolina Arboretum in the Bent Creek section of the Pisgah National Forest.

The dedication of the 25,500 square foot Visitor Education Center, the first building completed, marks the cornerstone for the development of the 424 acre site.

Though no gardens are complete at this time, Monday's ceremony included the ground-breaking of the first garden area. U. S. Congressman Jamie Clarke remarked, "The arboretum will

provide many opportunities for our community ranging from the study of plants and trees to a showcase for these in the future."

As an inter-institutional facility of the University of North Carolina, the mission of the Arboretum encompasses education, research, display, landscape architecture, conservation and economic development.

Speakers at the dedication ceremony reflected the diversity of the Arboretum's missions as well as its projected plant life.

Rev. Robert Bushyhead of Cherokee delivered the closing prayer in English and Cherokee, and the Lady Anne Palmer from England represented the International Dendrology Society.

Other dignitaries at the ceremony included mayors, county commissioners, representatives from the UNC system, legislators and senators, but the crowd included school children, members of garden clubs, horticulturists, nurserymen and scientists.

Director George Briggs described the future of the Arboretum.

"First of all, the arboretum was designed for plant life, but will be a people place, providing present and future generations with the opportunity for learning, scientific inquiry, service and enjoyment," he said.

General Manager Wayne McDevitt said, "Yes, I see ten

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The new Arboretum will provide many learning experiences for Asheville area residences to enjoy.

Food fight breaks out

By Kim Cooley
Asst. News Editor

Students engaged in many activities this past Rockmont weekend, especially the students dining in the cafeteria in the Highsmith Center Saturday night. A food fight which started with rolls and spaghetti turned into a throwing match of food as well as plates and glasses, according to Aubrey Wooten, dining services manager.

Wooten said it started when students who had been drinking came into the cafeteria for dinner. "It was more group against group than students against students." He said he thought it was premeditated.

The food fight required the assistance of the Asheville Police Department. Two UNCA students were arrested by the APD and two

were cut by the broken glass, yet, there were many other students involved in the actual fight, according to Wooten.

"About 150 students were in the cafeteria at the time," Wooten said. Wooten has put together a list of names of people who he saw were actively involved in the fight and turned them over to UNCA Security.

Wooten said they are taking measures to make sure nothing like this will happen again. He has turned it over to Security and student court, he said.

UNCA security would not release the names of the people involved or the ones arrested since the investigation of the incident is still being continued.

"About three-fourths of the students in the cafeteria were involved in the incident," said Wooten.

Cissy Petty, Director of Student

Development said she will "talk to people involved individually. They will have to make a formal apology, verbal or written, to Aubrey and do community service before the end of the year."

The students will not be going through student court to receive their punishment. Petty said there just isn't enough time left in the school year to give each student the necessary time to prepare their case.

"People who admit their guilt that they participated can answer to an administrative person. They will work in the cafeteria or at graduation or in a shelter downtown. They will work significant hours," Petty said.

Petty said she didn't want this to keep dragging on into next year, yet she wants to send the message out that this was not acceptable behavior.

Civic leader receives Chancellor's Medallion

By Vicki McCoy
News Editor

An Asheville business man and former member of the board of trustees received UNCA's highest service award, the Chancellor's Medallion, during a dinner ceremony last Wednesday.

J. Alfred Miller, the founder of Miller Printing Co., served on the board of trustees of Asheville-Biltmore College from 1958 to 1963. He was also chairman of the Asheville Redevelopment Commission from 1961 to 1970.

"UNCA has been a dream come true," Miller said. "It now surpasses anything that we could have hoped for then."

Miller is only the sixth person to receive the Chancellor's Medallion.

The Chancellor's Medallion is given to individuals who have made important contributions to UNCA of work, wisdom and

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Photo by Miranda Wyatt

Moving on up

Construction work continues on Ramsey Library.

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