



The Blue Banner

"Where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier." — Kettering

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Group protests dissection

Danny Holcomb
Staff Writer

An area animal rights group is pushing to end the use of animal dissection in UNCA's biology classes, but according to Alan Comer, chairman of the department, animal dissection will continue to be a part of the curriculum.

The Asheville chapter of the North Carolina Network for Animals will have an information booth in the Highsmith Center on Mar. 1 stressing alternatives that can be used in the place of animals, according to Kayla Rosko, Asheville Chapter Coordinator of the statewide network.

Rosko claimed that changes in the department are already being talked about among the UNCA biology/zoology professors.

"Dr. Alan Comer, associate professor and chairman of UNCA's biology department said that the dissection lab was not effectively educating the students

in Biology 105, and it is being considered to be changed over to non-animal alternatives," Rosko said.

However, Comer claimed that animals are a very important part of the biology material.

"The use of real animals for dissection is essential for learning. The information a student absorbs from using animals is superior to artificial substitutes," explained Comer.

Comer also stated that the use of animals would continue to be a part of UNCA's biology curriculum. However, he did say that UNCA is "pursuing an alternative" for real animals.

"The process is called Plastination," explained Comer. "We (members of the biology/zoology department) went to a conference at the University of Tennessee, in Knoxville, concerning this new method."

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Faces in time of war

This paint and paper collage represents one art student's feelings about the many faces of war.

Photo by LeeAnn Donnelly

Mullen speaks on policies of South Africa

Stacy Libby
Staff Writer

Dwight B. Mullen, associate professor of political science, spoke Feb. 18 concerning "Apartheid in South Africa: An Update" at the Highsmith Private Dining Room.

Concerned with the recent changes within South Africa, the lecture strove to answer questions and discuss the effects of such changes.

Despite the lifting of some segregation laws and the freeing of Nelson Mandela, political freedom has not been restored to South African blacks, said Mullen.

"This is why the sanctions imposed by the United States and other nations have not been lifted."

"Black South Africans can be arrested and jailed for infinite amounts of time. There is no due process of law for them," he said.

The government of South Africa has made movements toward the drawing of a new constitution with various talks involving many different factions. "Not only the African National Congress, who has received the most press, is involved in the talks, there are many others," said Mullen.

"These groups range from liberal to tribal interest factions. Basically, the agreement is that the minority government must go," he said.

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I need a job, bad

Student Ken Gray (r) interviews with a representative from Sherwin-Williams. Gray was one of several students to participate in UNCA's Placement Day on Friday.

Photo by LeeAnn Donnelly

UNCA participates in acid rain study

Davey Ramsey
Staff Writer

UNCA's Environmental Science Department, along with collection sites around the country, is helping scientists gain a better understanding of acid rain in the nation.

The study is part of a federal project under the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) and the National Trends Network (NTN).

This program is trying to find trends in atmospheric deposition, which means all the rain, particle matter and everything in the upper atmosphere that hits the ground, and in what proportion, said Charles Wilson, junior environmental science major and

site operator and observer at UNCA.

"It is good for our Environmental Studies Department to be involved in this nation-wide program," said Wilson. "The research that UNCA is doing here is interconnected with the data that helps to make legislative decisions in the United States and that is used by scientists all over the world."

UNCA's collection facility is on Mt. Mitchell, which makes gathering samples difficult.

"We do our collecting every Tuesday morning at nine o'clock," said Wilson. "It is so humid up there and the weather is so bad that it creates extreme stresses on the equipment and makes it hard to reach in the winter."

Currently there are two tests made at the Mt. Mitchell site.

"We do a PH analysis and a conductivity analysis," said Wilson.

PH analysis helps scientists determine how much acid is in the precipitation while conductivity is basically a test to check the purity of the precipitation.

The samples collected at UNCA and all over the U.S. are sent to Illinois State University where the Central Analytical Laboratory does the chemical analysis.

To qualify as a collection site UNCA must meet strict regulations of the NADP.

"For the past three years we have met all the protocol requirements of the NADP," said

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Vigilante justice topic of Last Lecture Series

Susanne Roper
Staff Writer

The social phenomena of lynching in America, both past and present, was the topic of Dwight Mullen's lecture at the second Faculty Last Lecture on Feb. 25 in the New Classroom Building.

Mullen, who is UNCA's assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs and an assistant professor of political science, spoke about the peculiarly American behavior of vigilante lynchings at the turn of the century and today in the 1990s.

During Black History Month, Mullen said, people tend to talk about the stars, the personalities, to say that, "we are a people," and that "as a people, there are things

in which we have a great deal of pride."

But, Mullen explained, that is not the sum total of anybody's history. No one's history is completely comprised of happiness. "Probably the majority of the African-American existence in this country has not been happy," he said.

Mullen read newspaper accounts of lynchings that occurred in 19th century America and asked, "Why is lynching a particularly significant American phenomena?"

"No place in the history of the world could you find accounts of lynching as they took place during nearly a 100-year span of this country's history," he said.

Mullen read a list of the names of four men who were lynched in

Asheville at the turn of the century to point out that these lynchings were not so long ago or far away.

He also emphasized that "lynching is not just hanging by the neck until dead. It includes shootings, beatings, burning at the stake. It includes a variety of means by which a mob enacts its own justice upon an individual."

He went on to define lynching as "the killing of individuals by informally sanctioned actions that result in benefits to the dominant or killing group."

Mullen explained that there is no legal justification for lynching because Americans hold the three main values of the Constitution:

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Let's go Greek

Don Dougherty and Kelly O'Grady go shopping for Greek fashions in preparation for Rush week.

Photo by Miranda Wyatt

UNCA hosts Scholars Awards

Susan Woody
Staff Writer

UNCA will host up to 70 semi-finalists for Undergraduate Fellows and Scholars Awards on March 2. The students will attend a series of interviews with faculty members.

"It's an exhausting series of interviews," said Phyllis Lang, director of the Honors Program, "at most we'll be picking 17 people."

Open only to high school seniors, Undergraduate Scholars and Fellows Awards offer students

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