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The University of North Carolina Asheville

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# NCSL approves resolution on weather policy at weekend session

### Kevin Elllis Staff Writer

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The North Carolina Student Legislature (NCSL) approved a resolution the Charnley said universities in the state need to be more willing to call off classes. eekend of Jan. 28-30, asking for an inclement weather policy for all universities the state system.

The resolution will go to the N.C. General Assembly, the Council of State and the University of North Carolina board of governors, the policy-making arm of he state's university system.

"We want to see guidelines set across the state that they (local chancellors) would have to follow," said Eric Goltry, a UNCA senator who also serves as ttorney general of the NCSL.

The requested action leaves some leverage for local decision makers, Goltry aid, but it will add some responsibility such as checking with state Department f Transportation officials to ensure roads are passable

Chamley, a sophomore at Appalachian State University.

This year's harsh winter bolsters the legislature's concern over sending university students to class when the temperature drops dangerously low, Charnley said.

While not wanting a leave policy as liberal as the public school systems, "We had classes (in Boone) in weather where the ground was just covered with ice," Chamley said. "Students were required to go to classes, and there know that we are at least supporting welfare reform of some sort." were a lot of injuries, and it was unsafe."

UNCA from Friday through Sunday.

About 90 students representing 11 colleges and universities in the state attended the interim council meeting.

In other action, the NCSL also passed resolutions in support of welfare reform and toughening the crime of sexual assault against the mentally or physically disabled

The NCSL's resolution calls for welfare recipients to receive benefits for a We decided that student safety was the primary goal," said NCSL Gov. Amy maximum of two years, something that President Clinton is asking for in his yet Highsmith Center.

unreleased welfare reform package.

The students' resolution also limits families to benefits for two children. UNCA Sen. Karen Brinson said she doesn't support all of the details in the resolution, but voted for it because she believes the N.C. General Assembly needs to pass welfare reforms.

"At least a voice would go from this body to the General Assembly, and maybe they will take some action." Brinson said. "I want the General Assembly to

The NCSL resolution on the sexual assault of the mentally or physically The legislature took its action at its monthly interim council meeting held at disabled requests a change in state law raising the crime from a Class D to a Class B felony, Brinson said.

The NCSL defeated a resolution calling for a repeal of the state's fornication laws, Brinson said.

During the interim council, UNCA student Charity Evans announced her intentions of running for governor of the NCSL at its 57th annual session held in Raleigh in March.

UNCA's NCSL group meets each Wednesday at 6 p.m. in Room 37 of



**Center for Jewish Studies begins seminar** Lectures focus on relations between African-Americans and Jews

### Brenda Edgerton-Webster Staff Writer

"Crossing Bridges: Linking Africanat the Owen Conference Center.

"The program was not conceived to address problems on the UNCA campus," said Edward Katz, assistant African-American communities, rather their children. than wait for a critical situation to happen."

activist and Jewish scholar, Julius Lester, gave the keynote speech entitled, "Blacks and Jews: A Reassessment."

"The political challenge is to create a broad-based coalition that would go Becoming a Jew," he recounts his past across the ethnic spectrum," said Lester. as a civil rights worker and how community level, rather than on an "I'm talking about whites, Hispanics, Asians, Jews, what have you."

Lester explained that often Jews view African-Americans as having shared offensive. Although the Jewish-Jewish-American experience vastly differs, he said.

bridge the two communities, especially on university campuses.

help at a homeless shelter," said Lester. projects that would be a contribution community leaders, area high school

communities work together on local understanding between the Jewish and synagogue, and take responsibility for

and Near Eastern studies department amazing." An African-American civil rights at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Lester worked as a civil rights person who has done a lot of deep activist in the 1960s, according to a UNCA news release.

In his book entitled, "Lovesong: becoming a Jew was more of a birthright than a conversion of religious faith

"My great-grandfather was a Jew, I anation, rather than individual-culture experiences in history, but many say to myself," said Lester in his book. African-Americans find this view "I don't know what that means, not if meaning is confined to words and ability to present issues in an European experience is similar to the concepts. But meaning is also feeling understandable way," said interim African-American experience, the and sensation and wonder and questions."

Lester gave several suggestions to has received several literary awards including the Newberry Honor Medal, the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award, and "An example might be to come the New York Times Outstanding

> Over one hundred people attended students, and UNCA faculty and

"I felt as though I was meeting an icon from the past," said Dwight Mullen, associate professor of political science. "I remember when he was a Black Nationalist, and to see him now Currently a professor in the Judaic and how he survived the sixties is

> "I think that he is a really practical thinking about what goes on in the world," said Janie Wilson, adjunct associate professor of environmental studies. "He sees a lot of changes on a island-institutional level."

The overriding theme centers around attaining self identity through unity as identity, said Katz.

"I thought Dr. Lester had an unusual chancellor Larry Wilson. "I thought this was a wonderful start for

Lester, a publisher of at least 19 books, the series."

**Amnesty International chapter to** hold conference on human rights and Us," and what we propose to do Teri Smith

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A diversity educators workshop was held on Jan. 29.

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Inside

"The Other and Us: A Human Rights The conference will open with two Conference," sponsored by the UNCA hours of interdisciplinary workshops chapter of Amnesty International, will which will be facilitated by faculty be held at the Owen Conference Center members from a number of different on Feb. 19, beginning at 10 a.m. The conference will be funded by the UNCA Cultural and Special Events be really learning how to ask questions committee and the UNCAStudent Life about human rights, and we'll be Task Force. The Alliance for Global Education also is sponsoring the event. fact be paradoxes within the human "I think the goal of this conference is rights movement and in dealing with to create a learning environment in human rights issues," said Betsalel. which students, faculty, staff and the public can learn about issues of human The theme really is how to raise rights and how issues of human rights questions and how to see others as occur in other societies around the ourselves," said Betsalel. world, as well as at home in the United States," said Kenneth Betsalel, assistant professor of political science and the faculty advisor for the UNCA chapter of Amnesty International. 'This isn't a conference of dogooders, nor is it a conference of political activists," said Betsalel. "It is conference intended for learners, include things like the United Nations and our belief is with learning we can Declaration on Human Rights and make informed choices about what we recent newspaper articles on human want to do as citizens." rights. "We realize that it is difficult to draw a crowd to these events," said Betsalel. springboard to discuss these issues in "But, our view is that if only five individual groups and then come people came, but they learned together as a larger group to see what something, we would consider this a success.' "The conference is not about who's right or wrong, but about raising issues concerned with human dignity. The theme of the conference is "The Other

is to learn how human rights issues in far away lands are happening to people who are just like us," said Betsalel.



The UNCA Center for Jewish Studies together to set up a once-a-week soup Book Award, according to a UNCA opened a four-part seminar entitled, kitchen, go work at a soup kitchen, or news release. American and Jewish Lives," on Feb. 2 "They could come together and try the session last night, including

to the community." Lester also recommended students. professor of literature. "It was designed issues of interest, encourage social to build common interests and activities between churches and

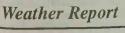
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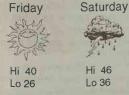
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departments, according to Betsalel. "In this first session, we're going to learning together how there may in "We're not answering anything here.

"People who, in some sense, may be separated from us by their religion, language, gender still are like us in that they are human beings in that they should be accorded respect and treated with dignity," said Betsalel. During the morning session, there will be a selection of readings which

"We will use these selections as a we have learned," said Betsalel. "I want to emphasize that throughout

See "Conference," on page 8

#### Staff Photo By Lat Ray

**Technological advancement** 

A fiber optics system is planned to be installed at UNCA's Steelcase Teleconference Center in 1995 or early 1996

# NOTICE

The Blue Banner has been running On Jan. 31, The Blue Banner received got to Alaska, and found that there an advertisement on the an anonymous letter, along with an were no jobs. Currently, they are still announcements page entitled "Alaska article from a recent issue of the Seattle in Alaska trying to raise enough Summer Employment." The ad was Times. The article claimed that seven money to return home. sent to The Banner by a company young Puerto Rican men called the called Progressive Media and offers number on the ad and were told to buy inconveniences in running this ad. students \$2,000-\$6,000 per month to a plane ticket to Alaska to begin their We have discontinued the ad, and work in canneries and on fishing work. vessels.

The Blue Banner regrets any will no longer accept anything from

They raised enough money to do so, Progressive Media.