

The Banner

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NEWS BRIEFS

Ecology Club aids flood victims

The UNCA Ecology Club is sponsoring a flood relief package for the citizens of North Dakota displaced by the recent floods. The club will collect clothes, blankets, canned and non-perishable foods, and personal items until the end of April. Donated items can be taken to a collection box in Highsmith Center. Spare change containers will be placed around campus to aid North Dakota families in need.

Percussion ensemble to perform

The UNCA Percussion Ensemble will perform at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 24 in Lipinsky Hall, room 018. Byron Hedgepeth is directing the ensemble.

Concert highlights include "Three Brothers" by Michael Colgrass, "The Song of Quezacoatl" by Lou Harrison, and "Tocatta" by Carlos Chavez, as well as a piece written by Hedgepeth for the Frame Drum Ensemble.

Admission is free, but a \$4 donation is suggested. For information, call the music department at 251-6432.

Pitts appointed to task force

Dr. James P. Pitts, vice chancellor for academic affairs, has been named to Project Kaleidoscope's National Issues Task Force. Project Kaleidoscope, headquartered in Washington, D.C., is a national alliance committed to strengthening planning for undergraduate science, mathematics, engineering, and technology education. The task force has been established to help build a bridge between individual campus-based reform and larger national issues regarding science education.

Internet poetry contest

All poets are invited to submit their poems to the North American Open Amateur Poetry Contest, held online at www.poetry.com. More than \$48,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded and every entered poem has a chance to be published in an anthology.

Entries are free and the deadline is April 30. A new contest opens May 1.

Poets can enter their work online by visiting the website or mailing a poem, no more than 20 lines long, to The National Library of Poetry, 1 Poetry Plaza, Suite 19811, Owings Mills, Md., 21117-6282.

"Debtbusters 2002" program

The Concord Coalition, a grass roots, nonpartisan organization that educates the public about the national debt, is sponsoring an educational program at UNCA's Owen Conference Center from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30.

Participants in "Debtbusters 2002" will assume the roles of members of Congress and attempt to devise a five-year plan to eliminate the federal deficit and balance the federal budget. Congressional Budget Office figures will be used to calculate the budget and participants will receive copies of "A Primer on the Debt and the Deficit" and "Options Summary."

Registration is required before April 25. For information, call 253-9401.

Hangin' out at UNCAMANIA



PHOTO BY DEL LORM

Freshman Sharon Baggett takes a ride on the Cosmic Orbiter at UNCAMANIA, held on campus Saturday.

Renovations to begin

Highrise to get air conditioning by 1998

By Shelley Eller
Staff Writer

Plans are underway to install an air conditioning system for UNCA's 300-bed Highrise residence hall, according to the director of facilities planning and construction. However, construction for this project is not scheduled to be completed until at least the summer of 1998.

"In fall of 1996 the planning began for the air conditioning system," said Ron Reagan, director of facilities planning and construction at UNCA. "Construction will probably begin in spring of 1998 and will be completed by late summer or early fall of 1998."

According to Reagan, Sud Associates, an engineering company from Durham, has been hired to complete the project. The company also has a branch in Asheville which will be aiding in the project.

"Sud Associates has worked with us on other projects," said Reagan.

"After being selected for this project, they spent a lot of time looking at Highrise, doing a study of the building."

The company provided information about all the possible options available and the cost factors involved. The project will be funded through housing reserves, Reagan said.

"We picked what we thought was the best system we could get," said Reagan. "The system chosen has a price tag of 1.2 million."

Sud Associates is currently in the process of drawing up plans and specifications for the system. The branch in Asheville will be concentrating on the mechanical aspects while workers from Durham will be dealing with the electrical parts of the job, said Reagan.

The firm is also working with the architect doing the renovations for Highsmith Center, said Reagan.

According to Reagan, this is an important factor because the air conditioning system to be installed in Highrise will be joined with the

system in the renovated Highsmith Center.

"Doing this is more cost effective and provides a back-up for the entire system," said Reagan.

The air conditioning system to be installed in Highrise will be designed to stand alone if the renovations to the Highsmith Center are not completed, said Reagan.

According to Pete Williams, director of housing and residential life at UNCA, it hasn't been determined whether students will be able to live in Highrise in the summer of 1998.

"We're still finding out from the company how disruptive it would be for students to live in Highrise while the system is being installed," said Williams. "Last fall we had overhead lights installed in Highrise and this was only a slight inconvenience to the students."

According to residents of Highrise, the prospects of an air conditioning system is a welcome change to the heat.

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Ordinance may affect campus zoning

By Melinda Pierson
Staff Writer

UNCA may soon see more restrictive zoning for the land owned by or located near the university. Members of the campus community recently met with representatives of the Asheville Planning and Development Department to discuss how the Unified Development Ordinance, a city-wide rezoning plan, may affect UNCA.

"If the UDO is passed as it now reads, we will see one section that is more restrictive in its zoning," said Chancellor Patsy Reed.

The Unified Development Ordinance, or UDO, is a city-wide rezoning ordinance currently before the Asheville City Council.

The UDO, as it now reads, will

provide more restrictive zoning for two areas located at or near the university, which the university feels could effect its long range plans.

According to Adrian Tatum, president-elect of the student government association, the hands of the university will be tied if the UDO passes.

"It will be very hard for UNCA to do anything at all if this goes through," said Tatum.

The UDO may alter the current designation of an area that lies in the extreme southeastern portion of campus, along Vivian Street.

If passed, this portion of land, which currently houses a UNCA warehouse, will be turned into a single family neighborhood.

"It does not seem logical to alter this designation," said Reed in a letter to Planning and Develop-

ment Director Julia Cogburn.

Although Reed stated this designation will not alter the current use of the land, the university is interested in maintaining less restrictive zoning for any future use.

Furthermore, the U D O

would not allow for multi-family housing in the area between campus and Merrimon Avenue.

Although this area is privately owned, the university wants to ensure that it remain available for multi-family use.



Patsy Reed

"For the long-range vitality of Asheville's public university, it is essential to provide a diverse range of housing options easily accessible to the campus," said Reed.

Reed said the benefits of multi-family housing nearby campus are varied. They include financial benefits, economic benefits, environmental benefits, and quality of life benefits.

Furthermore, Reed said that multi-family housing is beneficial to both faculty and staff.

"For students of all ages, and for faculty and staff (in particular those in the early stages of their careers), it is important to be able to live nearby," said Reed.

Reed submitted these requests to Cogburn and members of city council, and is optimistic about them being taken seriously.

"I have to assume that they're as concerned with zoning as we are and that our comments are being taken seriously," said Reed.

The UDO has been in the works of Asheville's city council for over seven years and consolidates the city's current eight land use ordinances. The council has held a series of public hearings regarding the issue in which the public was invited to express their concerns directly to the council.

Reed said that Tom Byers, special assistant to the chancellor, will appear at the April 24 hearing to speak on behalf of UNCA.

The council is expected to pass the UDO on May 27.

UNCA representatives met with city council members last Thursday to discuss the university's 10-year plan.

Groundbreaking for greenway held

By Catharine Sutherland
Staff Writer

The university's links to the city multiplied last Tuesday as university administrators and city officials broke ground for Asheville's first greenway on university property. The greenway will provide easier access to downtown for students, and will mark a cooperative effort between the university and the city, according to the chancellor.

"We're really excited about this. This is a partnership with the city and it will give our students walking and biking access to Merrimon (Avenue)," said Chancellor Patsy Reed. "We're extremely pleased to be partners with the city and to work toward joining this campus with the community."

Reed joined with Mayor Russ Martin in scooping the first shovelfuls of dirt in the groundbreaking ceremony on the corner of W. T. Weaver Boulevard and Barnard Avenue. Student Government Association President Sergio Mariaca, UNCA Board of Trustees President Ann Turner, and several Asheville city council members followed.

The groundbreaking marks commencement on the "tail end" of

phase I of the greenway, which will run along W.T. Weaver Boulevard from Barnard Avenue to Merrimon Avenue. Construction will probably begin this week and will last anywhere from two to six months, said Erin McLoughlin, Asheville city planner.

McLoughlin said the closure of the fourth lane of traffic on W.T. Weaver Boulevard will occur within the next month in order to make room for the portion of the greenway closest to Merrimon Avenue.

"I don't think we'll find any traffic problems," said McLoughlin. "The city council's been very supportive."

The lane closure signifies a step in the right direction according to McLoughlin, who lived in Portland, Ore., and Boulder, Colo., two cities boasting extensive greenway systems, before coming to Asheville two years ago.

"We're behind in our greenway system, but we're trying to catch up," said McLoughlin. "Asheville has so many good things going for it—the natural environment, the historical environment. We just need to add amenities to that, and to make the city function for people, not just for cars."

The cost of making the city function for people will start with a \$110,000 price tag on the first

phase of the greenway. A large chunk of the money will come from an \$80,000 appropriation for sidewalks along W. T. Weaver Boulevard several years ago that went unused, while the remaining \$30,000 will come from the city's general fund, said McLoughlin.

McLoughlin estimated the price of the second phase of the project at around \$200,000, and said the city may not commence with the second leg of the greenway until next spring. Phase II will involve more complicated procedures due to two stream crossings and the stabilization of an eroding stream bank, McLoughlin said.

City officials hope to extend the greenway system throughout Asheville following completion of the W.T. Weaver Boulevard project.

"This is the very first urban greenway in our city," said Martin. "It's the first, but not the last. We hope to have many more."

Chancellor Reed expressed similar sentiments about greenways within the university campus. The university wants to expand the walkability of the campus, she said, noting that the current master plan includes a walking trail that envelops the campus.

"We see this as a part of maintaining our green spaces," said Reed of the greenway.



PHOTO BY DEL LORM

Chancellor Patsy Reed breaks ground for the city's first urban greenway in a ceremony on April 15.