

The Banner

Volume 26 Issue 8

October 23, 1997

Citizens protest KKK march



PHOTO BY ANDREW HART

Protesters destroy a Confederate flag during the downtown march of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan on Saturday. Klan members at the rally numbered 29, while protesters and spectators tallied nearly 1,000 persons.

By Catharine Sutherland
News Editor

Nearly 1,000 spectators lined the streets of downtown Asheville Saturday to witness, protest against, or sympathize with 29 members of the American Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) who turned out to march in support of the organization. The event began around 11 a.m. at the intersection of Col-

lege Street and Patton Avenue. Klan marchers, escorted by Asheville police officers, proceeded up College Street to Haywood Street, then returned to their starting point via Patton Avenue. The rally ended around 2 p.m.

While many UNCA students stayed away or attended alternate, peace-promoting rallies, some were present at the march.

Freshman Mary Foust was working in a coffee shop on Patton Avenue when the procession passed by the window. She and co-work-

ers stepped outside to observe the marchers.

"I started crying, and I'm not even the kind of girl who cries at movies," Foust said. "It was like looking at the devil. It was a shocking reminder that these people exist, and that this kind of ignorance exists."

Foust acknowledged the First Amendment right of the Klan to assemble, but said the right offered somewhat of a mixed blessing for society.

"In a lot of ways it's good that (the

KKK can march) in America, and in a lot of ways it's not because it will just spread the ignorance to other people, and (Klan members will) pass on the ignorance to their children," Foust said.

Senior mass communication major Jack Walsh also attended the march to assist a friend who was filming the event for a humanities documentary project.

"They wanted a lot of atten-

See MARCH on page 8

Athletic budget nears \$2 million for Division I

By Nancy Hayes
Staff Writer

UNCA students pay the highest student fees in the University of North Carolina System, with the largest percentage of those fees allocated to support a \$2 million National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) Division I athletics budget, according to university sources. Some question the school's commitment to athletics at the expense of academic and other student programs.

The proposed 1997-98 athletic budget will approach \$2 million this year, according to Thomas Cochran, assistant vice chancellor of student affairs.

The bulk of the athletic expense comes from meeting the NCAA requirements to compete in the Division I category, according to Cochran. Fifty full scholarships in nine sports must be awarded, plus 13 each in men's and women's basketball, costing UNCA about \$700,000.

Approximately \$1 million in revenue comes from student fees. UNCA student fees, at \$1,082 per student for this school year, are the highest of the 16 schools in the UNC system. Student fees at UNCA have risen 53 percent since spring 1993.

"The Board of Trustees has designated student fees as a particular item of concern. They will be closely monitored by the board," said Jesse

Ray, chairman of the UNCA Board of Trustees.

Another approximately \$100,000 comes from NCAA grants, and \$500,000 from game guarantees and other athletic revenues such as season tickets, gate receipts, and concession sales.

The remaining \$300,000 to \$400,000 needed to cover athletic expenses comes from the "overall institutional" budget, according to Cochran.

Tuition monies go into the state's general fund, while student fees stay at UNCA.

UNCA's student fees are \$300 more than fees paid by students at UNC-Chapel Hill, and \$330 more than those paid by students at Winston-Salem State University, a system school with a similar student population of 2,900.

Student fees cover the costs of athletics, health services, student activities, educational and technology services, and equipment. The fees also cover debt service costs on construction bonds.

Some faculty at UNCA feel the distribution of student fees does not represent the true goals of a liberal arts university.

"Unfortunately, the size of the athletic budget reflects the priorities of our society. It's not really what we (UNCA) are supposed to be about. Athletics is a part of a liberal arts education, but it should not receive the lion's share of re-

See BUDGET on page 10

Agreement lets transfers off humanities hook

By Veronika Gunter
Staff Writer

A recent agreement intended to make transferring from a North Carolina community college to UNCA simpler has merit, but goes against the spirit of UNCA's educational ideals, according to some faculty members and students. In the past, UNC system schools

provided transfer credit agreements with state community colleges, articulating acceptable transfer guidelines in an effort to reduce hassle and assist timely graduation for students.

The new articulation agreement between the 16 UNC schools and the state's 58 community colleges, in effect as of this semester, also offers simplified guidelines for transfers. As it pertains to UNCA, the

agreement permits limiting the humanities course load of transfers to UNCA's liberal arts capstone courses, Humanities 414 and Arts 310.

Some students feel that by allowing transfers to take only the final humanities course, the new agreement could actually disadvantage students.

"All students should have to take the humanities courses," transfer

student David Wilson said. Though he has suggestions for improving the curriculum, "it's certainly important to have a humanities perspective, and the courses we have now are really the only ones in which it is presented" at UNCA, Wilson said.

A junior who attended a private four-year college the past three years, will complete all four of the humanities requirements, as well as

meeting other graduation requirements. "It is somewhat awkward," Humanities Director Peg Downes said.

"They are taking a very nice octagonal peg and placing it in a very nice hexagonal hole," Downes said, making an analogy for thrusting otherwise-educated students into UNCA's liberal arts curriculum.

Downes was among professors from around the state who took

part in a series of extensive meetings to determine how to simplify the transfer process, as mandated by a 1995 state senate bill.

Following the new agreement, students receiving their associates degree from an accredited N.C. community college will be eligible for admission to UNCA as juniors, with up to 60 hours of transfer

See HOOK on page 10

Israel becomes latest option for summers abroad

New program brings Eastern variety to study abroad opportunities

By Amanda Thorn
Staff Writer

A new, first-of-its-kind study abroad program in Israel is set to begin next summer, adding Eastern variety to the exchange possibilities currently available through UNCA. Rick Chess, associate professor of literature and director of the Center for Jewish Studies, spearheaded the program during a trip to Israel last semester. "I went to Israel last spring, and part of my mission was to explore the possibility of relations between UNCA and another academic institution in Israel," Chess said. "I was interested in seeing if we could set up a study abroad program that is locally housed at UNCA, and if we could cultivate the possibility for faculty and student exchanges for the semester or academic year." The six-week study abroad program will be headquartered on the campus of Ben

Gurion University in Beer Sheva, a major city in Israel, Chess said.

"Recently, UNCA faculty has been taking tremendous initiative in developing study abroad programs in the summer," Director of International Programs Heidi Kelley said. Exchange programs currently available at UNCA include opportunities in England, Spain, and Germany.

The Israel summer exchange program will take place from June 16 to July 28, and is currently estimated to cost around \$3,200.

"That doesn't include airfare. It is expensive, but it is a long trip," Chess said. Students from the entire state of North Carolina will be recruited for the trip.

"We may recruit nationally, but we are primarily focusing on North Carolina," Chess said. The program needs 20 students, but will accept no more than 30, Chess said.

The Israel summer program will be structured around three major compo-

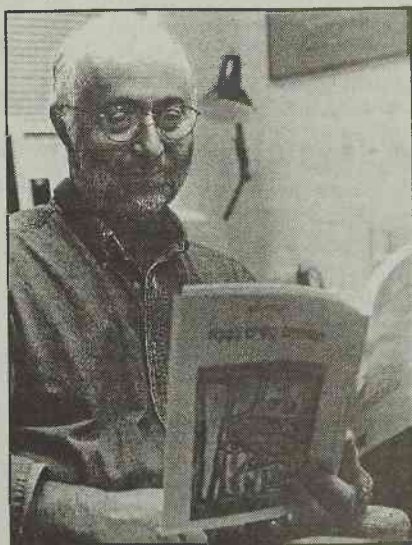


PHOTO BY TRISH JOHNSON

Rick Chess, director of the Center for Jewish Studies, spearheaded the Israel study abroad program.

nents: the Israel experience, the writing track, and the art track.

"The first component (of the program) will be the Israel experience component. Students will learn about the ancient and modern history of Israel. They will learn about the cultures of the people living in the past and present," Chess said.

Students will visit ruins and sites of historical significance, and will learn about the politics and religion of Israel. In addition, students will tour Israel, visit Jerusalem, and spend time studying the desert, Chess said.

"All students who participate in the program will take this portion of the Israel experience. Students will receive several credit hours for this part of the trip," Chess said.

Students enrolled in the Israel program can choose to follow a writing or an arts track. In the writing track, students will

See ISRAEL on page 10

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS CURRENTLY AT UNCA

Semester in Chester, England

Semester in Spain

Exchange between Germany and North Carolina

Teaching Fellows summers in Cambridge and Oxford

Other opportunities through the North Carolina Consortium for Study Abroad (NCCSA)

Source: Heidi Kelley, director of international programs

GRAPHIC BY JEANETTE WEBB