

The Banner

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Contract up for Marriott University to take food service bids

By Mandisa Templeton
Staff Writer

The current food service contract with Marriott Dining Services is about to end, and a special selection committee, a part of the food service committee, is deciding whether or not the school will change dining services.

"It's really just time we go out and see if other people want to give us opportunities that we don't have here now," said Melanie Rhodarmer, the selection committee chairperson and a resident director of housing.

Every five years, the food service contract is reviewed. The selection committee decides what specifications the school's dining service must have within a certain budget, and sends those specifications to prospective companies.

Then, those companies tell the university what they can offer for that particular amount of money. Finally, the committee decides which food service can best meet the needs of its students.

The selection committee is looking for options students do not currently have, but want.

"One of the things we have been talking about in the committee is access to the cafeteria for students, for athletes, for people that have night classes—a better way to access the cafeteria," said sophomore Shanta Robinson, a member of the selection committee, which is made up of three students and several faculty and administration representatives.

"If more people can get to the cafeteria within the hours it is open,

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PHOTO BY ROB HAMMONDS

'Goat boys' Tommy Calloway, left, and Tracy Hackney, right, revel in their servitude to Satan's mistress, Ariel Ashe, in the Haunted House co-sponsored by the student chapter of the United States Institute of Theater Technology and Pi Lambda Phi.

Ghouls raise hairs, funds

By Catharine Sutherland
News Editor

UNCA's student chapter of the United States Institute of Theater Technology (USITT) has made a name for itself at the organization's annual national conventions in the past, winning first place in 1996 and second (as well as Techie of the Year) in 1997, and plans to do so again this year. First, however, they have to get there.

This year's national convention will be held in Long Beach,

Calif., meaning students who want to go must buy plane tickets to attend.

Students traveled by car to Houston, Texas, in 1996, and to Pittsburgh, Penn., in 1997.

The group came up with the idea of a haunted house as a means of raising the needed funds, estimated at around \$6,000, or \$600 per student for around 10 students who plan to attend the convention.

"It was a group idea that had been kicked around for a couple of years, and we decided to do it this year because of the cost involved," said junior drama major Del DeLorm,

who serves as a ghoulish guide in

the haunted house. "It has worked really well so far."

The haunted house show, known as "Stage Fright," opened in the Carol Belk Theater on Monday, and will continue until Halloween night. Hours are 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

At \$3 per person, the campus haunted house is a good deal, according to DeLorm.

Other local haunts cost at least twice that much, he said, and the theater's version offers a much more impressive night of terror.

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Registration by computer coming in '98

By Amanda Thorn
Staff Writer

After years of standing in long lines to get the classes they want, UNCA students will soon be able to register sitting down, by computer.

"I think most of the students and most of the administration would probably agree that the way we do registration now, with the lines, is a little tedious. It has been a very good system and has served us very well for the time that we have used it. Now, it is time to move on," said Rebecca Sensabaugh, registrar.

Last spring, the university pur-

chased the Web for Student package, an on-line program that will allow students to register for classes via computer, as well as access information about financial aid, admissions, class scheduling, and the course catalogue.

"This is a program that will allow a student, through a personal access number, to go into their account and register themselves on the Web," Sensabaugh said.

Students will also be able to drop and add classes, view their transcripts, bills, and financial aid records. Eventually, students will be able to apply for financial aid over the web.

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Faculty, staff send mixed messages about voice mail

By Veronika Gunter
Staff Writer

UNCA staff and faculty reported mixed feedback on the new \$94,000 voice mail system installed earlier this month. While many appreciate the new system for retaining messages in their original form and enabling them to receive important calls, two things often missing before voice mail, others cited problems and anxieties about the transition.

The new system, which began operating in all campus offices on Oct. 15, includes 3,000 voice mailboxes, 600 of which are currently in use by the university's faculty and staff. All faculty and staff were scheduled to attend 90-minute

training sessions to learn how to use the new system.

According to Sophie Mills of the classics department, the new system is easy to set up and very user-friendly.

"An hour and-a-half training session was too long. It could have been half that," she said, due to the simplicity of the system.

Mills said the colleagues she's spoken to like it, and the ones having problems often missed the training sessions.

French professor Cathy Pons may disagree. She has a problem with her voice mail, but said she attended the training sessions. Though she can hear herself saying her name on the playback, incoming calls don't hear it.

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UNCA student attends Million Woman March



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRY WHITMIRE

Between 300,000 and 1 million women from around the country attended the Million Woman March in Philadelphia on Saturday. Despite blustery weather, the event was inspiring, one UNCA student said.

By Catharine Sutherland
News Editor

Hundreds of thousands of women took to the streets in downtown Philadelphia on Saturday to participate in the Million Woman March. Among the throngs of predominantly African-American women of all ages, plus a few dozen men, stood UNCA student Terry Whitmire.

"Through the rain and the wind, we were there," said Whitmire, who attended the march with two friends from her earlier college career at UNC-Charlotte.

Whitmire first heard about the event last August at the Black Arts Festival in Winston-Salem, and immediately decided to attend.

"My girlfriends and I said we just wanted to be a part of it," she said.

The blustery day began early for Whitmire, who began assembling with others for the march around 4:30 a.m. Crowds started to proceed through the city about 6:30 a.m., following a route that ended at the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Benjamin Franklin Parkway, where most of the day's events and activities took place.

The early day also proved to be a long one. Speakers and activities began around 9:30 a.m. and lasted until 7 p.m.

The main emphasis of the march, which attracted between 300,000 and 1 million women, according to police estimates, focused on the family unit, Whitmire said.

"The focus was on things that are happening within our control and in our own households," Whitmire said.

Speakers focused on the wife and single-parent households, urging the mother of the household to pull the family together, she said. Many speakers offered concrete advice to mothers, such as getting drugs out of the house, without relying on police interference; taking the family to church with her; and acting as the primary educator of her family.

"The general consensus was, 'It has to start with my house first,'" Whitmire said.



Terry Whitmire

March organizers also stressed self-education and entrepreneurship, two things Whitmire aims to pursue since she is not married and has no children.

"My thrust will be the education part and the economics part," Whitmire said. She already holds a degree in English from UNCC, and is currently working toward her master's degree through Western Carolina University.

Whitmire, a native of Asheville, is enrolled in a copy editing class at UNCA, a course she hopes will aid her in her job with Mountain Housing Opportunities, an organization that provides affordable homes for low-income, elderly, and disabled people in Buncombe County. She said she plans to look into starting her own business.

The most fulfilling part of the march for Whitmire was the opportunity to interact with so many people of diverse backgrounds. During the march, she stood in front of a group from St. Croix, in the Virgin Islands, and also met marchers from Connecticut, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Ga., Chicago, Ill., and Charlotte.

All 50 states were represented in the national roll call, Whitmire said.

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