The Blue Banner

Features

Spalding Gray performs "Morning, Noon and Night."

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Basketball finishes third in Big South

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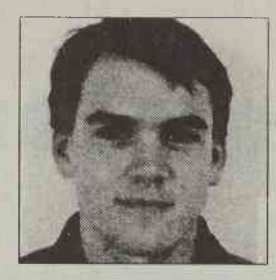

"It Feels Good to be the King," a column by Josh Day

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UNCA Ranks low in Campus Crime

Keith Cromwell
Investigative Reporter

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY WALTER FYLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Vicki Harris, UNCA police officer and victim advocate, demonstrates police procedures used to arrest a suspect.

UNCA has one of the lowest average crime rates in the nation, ranking 66 among 383 universities nationwide, according to *Dangerous Colleges*' survey. The campus also has the lowest average crime rate of any of 21 North Carolina universities, according to the survey.

The result of the survey "makes me feel good knowing that it is safe here," said Asako Tetsubayashi, a sophomore computer science major. "I don't need to worry about walking around on campus at night and something happening to me."

The report, published by Healey Roman Associates, uses data from the U.S. Department of Justice.

"Colleges are less dangerous than most of our communities, but some are a lot safer then others," according to the report.

In NC, Appalachian State University ranked 149, Western Carolina University 185, UNC-Chapel Hill 192, Mars Hill College 277, and Wake Forest University ranked 357.

Elizabeth City State University had the highest crime rate in the state, ranked at 380 out of 383 universities nationwide, according to the report.

In the United States, Loyola University of Chicago, IL had the lowest crime rate. Bates University in Maine had the highest crime rate in the nation, followed by Trinity University in Texas, and Stanford University in California, according to the report.

Crime rates for those schools include less than one crime per 1,000 students at Loyola University to 32 crimes per 1,000 students at Stanford. Bates College had a crime rate of 35.4 crimes per 1,000 students.

"A problem with a lot of crimes is that they happen at random," stated the report. "An active criminal within a student population can devastate the school's crime rating."

UNCA reported an average of 1.3 crimes per 1,000 students, according to the report. In comparison, Elizabeth City State University had a crime rate of 25.4 crimes per 1,000 students.

At UNCA in 1999, there was one forcible sex offense, one burglary, and one motor-vehicle theft.

In 1998, there were 56 burglaries, two aggravated assaults, 28 liquor-law violations and 11 drug-abuse violations, according to UNCA's annual security report.

The 2000 reports have not yet been released, according to Jerry Adams, public safety investigator.

"The reason for the large jump in burglaries is because the university was installing fiber optic cable" for computers, said Adams. "A lot of buildings were left open by the contractors and things were taken."

UNCA saw a large increase of drug and alcohol offenses because the university implemented a zero-tolerance program for drugs and alcohol, according to Adams.

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Robots Race to the Finish Line

Thad Eckard
News Reporter

Robots raced across the Owen Conference Center, while students hurled marshmallows, built and broke bridges at the UNCA robotics competition Feb. 20.

"It was stressful," said Brent Little, a junior engineering major. "We worked some last semester, and then worked a few more weeks before the competition. We still had to make some final changes a few hours before the event."

The robots had to stop at different points in a neighborhood-like maze with houses and roads. Engineering students from UNCA built and then programmed the wheeled gadgets.

Little and his partner Drew Perkins, a senior engineering senior, placed first as Team Alpha.

The robot, Louie, came in last. Louie suffered from either "a hardware or software problem. We were really frustrated that it didn't work," said Paul Trinks, a senior engineering major and one of Louie's engineers.

Little said he and Perkins chose a simple programming language, but they wrote advanced program script with it.

"It was programming one might actually see in the real world using infrared transmitters and receivers," said Little. Competitors programmed their robots' chips through computer ports.

The robots tested both hardware and software expertise, according to Little.

"Sometimes you have the program written right, but you may not have a connector in the right pin," said Little.

Coordinators hoped to recruit aspiring engineers, said Cheryl Alderman, associate director of the North Carolina State University Engineering Program at UNCA.

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Studies Reveal Smoking Effects

WALTER FYLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mike Sears, a senior economics major, takes a moment to smoke a cigarette.

Claire O'Brien
News Reporter

There is a higher rate of smoking among college students than among the American population, said Dr. Rick Pyeritz, director of student health services.

According to an on-campus survey from 1999, 68 percent of UNCA students choose not to smoke cigarettes.

"It would not be uncommon for a college student to want to try smoking for the simple act of rebellion," said Mike Sears, a senior economics major. "They're away from home, they have money, and they know people who can get them what they want."

Over 84 percent of UNCA students have never tried smokeless tobacco, another 11.8 percent have used it in the past, and less than 1 percent report using it on a daily basis, according to Winter.

The 30 percent of students who do smoke daily is an increase from the national average of 12th graders surveyed by the American Lung Association. About 22.4 percent of those students smoked cigarettes daily. This indicated that a least a few smokers begin the habit during their college years.

However, 26.96 percent,

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Unified Solar Proposes Technologies

Passive Solar Design	Building orientation will utilize direct gain on winter solar rays to heat the buildings.
Selective-Use Photovolatic Power	Photovoltaic, or active solar power, will convert solar energy into electrical energy to supplement the buildings' grid-tied system.
Solar Hot Water System	Solar radiation will directly heat water.
Fuel Cell Power Generation	Electrical system will be compatible with fuel cell technology to integrate the educational technology.
Gray Water Recycling System	This system will direct used water from selected drains to be used in toilets.
Phytoremediation System	Gray and black water produced by the buildings will be cleansed by a phytoremediation program, which is water treatment using plants.
Composting Toilet Pilot Project	For Physical Plant design: education experiment to test the technologies' future applicability.

ANGELA BROCK /GRAPHICS DESIGNER

Unified Solar proposed enviornmentally-conscious plans for the new science building and Physical Plant.

Angela Brock
News Reporter

A new campus group, Unified Solar, met to discuss proposed environmental technologies for the new science and physical plant buildings, according to Art vonLehe, a senior environmental studies major and member of Unified Solar.

"We would like to see the new science building, as well as the new physical plant, be the most environmentally sustainable buildings possible," said vonLehe.

The new buildings will be constructed from some money from the bond referendum that UNCA will receive, according to vonLehe.

However, the technologies will initially cost more than buildings without the technology, according to Zev Friedman, a freshman environmental science major and member of Unified Solar.

"The school has not provided money for the initial costs of the technology, so we are going to have to get the money from grants," said Friedman.

Environmental technologies utilized in the new buildings will fulfill their practical applications, and be used as educational exhibits for the university and community, according to Unified Solar.

"Unified Solar started out with the idea of trying to get a sustainability initiative incorporated into the guiding concepts of the school, thinking that would be the most effective way to have the school build all of its buildings with sustainable ideas in mind from now on," said Friedman. "If we are able to get sustainable building initiatives shown by students, it is going to be very influential."

"We realize that there are already people who are concerned with sustainable building techniques, but that student opinion carries a great deal of weight with it," said Friedman.

"Our main focus right now is writing grants and helping to facilitate the project," said vonLehe.