

THE BLUE BANNER



Features

Southern craft fair highlights local talent

■ see page 4

Sports

'Dogs place at Gardner-Webb

■ see page 6

Campus

Kickback and relax, it's Miller time with Chancellor Mullen

■ see page 7

Lifestyle

Sex and the Campus

■ see page 9

Volume 38 Issue 6

The University of North Carolina at Asheville

October 23, 2003

NEWS BRIEFS

Jason McGill
News Editor

UNCA
UNCA and the Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute (PARI) joined efforts to create the University of North Carolina Pisgah Astronomical Research, Science and Education Center (PARSEC). PARSEC facilities are located north of Waynesville, N.C. and include two 85-foot radio telescopes, several smaller optical and radio telescopes and 31 buildings.
UNCA will offer the program "Grim Reaper and Golf Cart with Beer Goggles" as part of National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week. The event hopes to educate people on alcohol statistics. The event will take place Thursday, Oct. 23 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the campus quadrangle.

ASHEVILLE
The Asheville Urban Trail Art Festival will take place Oct. 25 and 26. Over 200 artisans from around the nation will exhibit their artwork for this weekend only. The area surrounding Pack Square will be closed during this weekend for music and events.

NORTH CAROLINA
The state Department of Transportation will seek federal permission to charge tolls on Interstate 95 to pay for a planned \$3 billion reconstruction effort. Officials propose placing six tollbooths 30 miles apart and collecting \$3 at each. It would take an estimated 30 years to recover expenses for expanding Interstate 95 to eight lanes.

UNITED STATES
The FBI and postal authorities are investigating traces of the toxin ricin found last week in a sealed envelope at an airport postal handling facility in Greenville, S.C. The deadly toxin occurs naturally in castor beans. Less than a drop of it can prove deadly if inhaled, ingested or injected. There is no antidote.

WORLD
Letters printed in *London's Daily Mirror* newspaper suggest a conspiracy in the death of Princess Diana. Six years following her death, Diana's newly discovered writing notes that someone was planning an accident in my car, brake failure and serious head injury in order to make the path clear for Charles to marry." Princess Diana's brother dismisses any conspiracy.
Pakistan showed mixed reactions to India's offer of restored air links and sporting ties as part of a new peace initiative.

Correction

A caption for the Oct. 16, 2003 article "Freshman writers compete in Gudger contest," incorrectly listed Caitlin Shanley as the 4th place finisher in the LANG 101 writing competition. In fact, Shanley won 2nd place in the LANG 101 competition. We apologize for the error.

Schwarzenegger wins California recall

Kristen Ruggeri
News Reporter

Arnold Schwarzenegger, who saved mankind from mass destruction in "Terminator 2," now takes on a mission to govern California, saving it from financial disaster and illegal immigration.
"Whether Schwarzenegger succeeds or fails, and whether he has a political future or not, is going to depend on what he does as governor of California," said Bill Sabo, political science professor.
California is the nation's most populated state to reach the brink of financial disaster. The state's deficit is likely to exceed \$12 billion by the time Schwarzenegger actually gets into office, according to the *Washington Post* Web site.

So far, Schwarzenegger has written a five-

point plan to restore California's economy. The plan includes ideas to resolve the state's energy crisis, fix the current worker's compensation system and develop a clear tax structure that will encourage economic growth and competitiveness, according to Schwarzenegger's official Web site, JoinArnold.com

One of his main economic strategies is to reduce Medicare and welfare payments made to alleged illegal immigrants, which were allowed under democratic legislation, according to Sabo. There are currently eight million illegal immigrants in the United States and 2.5 million of them live in California, according to JoinArnold.com.

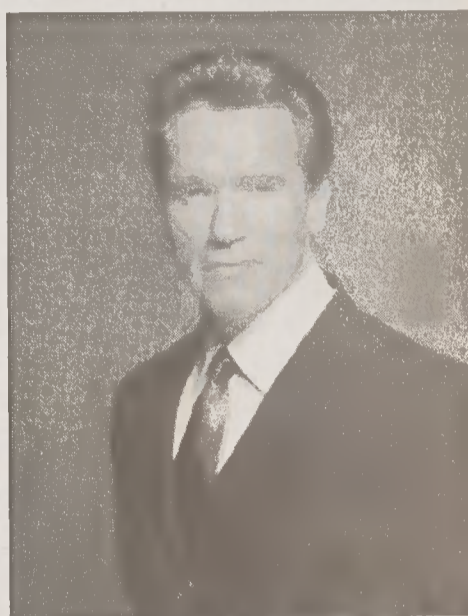
Schwarzenegger plans to seek reimbursement from the federal government for health care and education costs related to illegal immigration and also to organize a coalition to lobby Washington to set a more respon-

sible policy for dealing with immigrants, according to JoinArnold.com.

"The issue really affected lots of Californians," said Sabo. "Schwarzenegger capitalized on that issue immensely, and there will be a lot of things to say when he cuts back on it."

Since illegal immigration is currently such a big issue in California, Schwarzenegger probably used his conservative views on this subject to win a lot of Californian votes, according to Sabo.

Whatever Schwarzenegger used to win votes, it worked. He won 48 percent of the votes, despite accusations of sexual harassment and his statement about admiring Hitler's qualities, according to *USA Today* Web site. Although Schwarzenegger won the majority of



COURTESY OF GOOGLE.COM

Republican Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger takes the reins of a shaky economy amidst many questions.

See ARNOLD Page 2

Supreme Court ruling greenlights Sodexho lawsuit

Erin Bereit
News Reporter

The U.S. Supreme Court recently refused to block a class-action lawsuit alleging racial discrimination against Sodexho, UNCA's food service provider. Nearly \$1 billion could be at stake for the company.
"No company the size of Sodexho is going to be absolutely perfect," said Leslie Aun, Sodexho spokeswoman. "We feel strongly that it is not the type of company we are. Issues of diversity and inclusion are among our top priorities."

Sodexho asked the court to remove the class-action status of the case. The Supreme Court's refusal to block this status was not a decision based on any evidence of the case and Sodexho has yet to go to trial. The court receives thousands of appeals and they based their decision to grant class-action status primarily on procedural matters, according to Aun.
"It's important to remember that this is not a suit about the merits of the case," said Aun. "We believe that once the court and the jury have an opportunity to review the facts of the case it will become clear that Sodexho does not take part in systematic discrimination and they will see that is not the type of company we are."

The case began in 2001 when a group of 10 managers filed a racial



discrimination lawsuit against the company for failing to promote African American managers in the Washington D.C. area. In 2002, the U.S. district court for the District of Columbia granted that the lawsuit be given class-action status. This means that the 10 employees who originally filed suit now represent about 2,600 current and former African Americans employed by Sodexho.
Sodexho denies the allegations and emphasizes that the company strives to provide a good environment for

their employees and that it is nationally known for its emphasis on diversity.

"We have a strong record of promoting and hiring people of all backgrounds without any discrimination," said Aun. "We very much value all of our employees, and we have programs and policies in place to ensure that every employee has an equal opportunity to be successful within our company."

Employees at UNCA are surprised at the discriminatory allegations and also disappointed about the class-



PHOTOS BY JASON MCGILL/NEWS EDITOR

It remains unclear how the Supreme Court ruling will affect workers like line server Jamil Pitts (left) or students like Kevin Skolnick (above) since Sodexho Campus Services supply the UNCA cafeteria.

action status of the case. They feel that Sodexho is a good company to work for.

At UNCA, Sodexho has wide diversity at all levels of employment, according to Dorsey. Local employees and managers are also mandated to go to classes to discuss hiring and promotional procedures to assure that they are in compliance with regulations.

"I feel very good about the company," said Mike Nagorka, manager of Sodexho food services at UNCA. "But they are only as good

as their local management is. From what I have seen in this area, and from what I have worked with, I am very comfortable with what we are as a company."

Sodexho employs over 110,000 people throughout the country at over 10,000 locations and claims that they have African Americans at very high levels of employment, according to Aun.

Sodexho does not feel that the

See SODEXHO Page 2

Unified Solar conference highlights environmental efforts

Adam Pollock
News Reporter

More than 50 students, along with several student and faculty speakers from across the state, gathered in UNCA's Owen Conference Center for the second annual North Carolina College Conservation Network Conference Sept. 27.

"It's always really inspiring to me to have people with a common vision coming together and sharing ideas and talking about what's possible," said Molly Craven, sophomore environmental science major and speaker at the conference.

The conference, hosted by Unified Solar, a UNCA student organi-

zation dedicated to the pursuit of environmental issues, lasted from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. as students participated in workshops, panel discussions and other activities. The conference's participants discussed issues related to campus and community environmentalism and sustainability.

"We've come together today to do a bunch of workshops on activist training, race class and environmentalism," said Craven. "It's gone in many directions."
Matt Raker, a UNCA graduate

and a speaker at the event, said he saw the conference as a success. Raker thinks events like this will lay the groundwork for future individual environmental movements and the environmental movement as a whole.

"Most people here are going into some sort of environmental career, whether it's Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council or doing environmental education in schools," said Raker. "There's still a whole lot to be done. That's what this conference is about,

"We as liberal arts institution need to lead the way and continue to lead the way in sustainability."

Molly Craven
sophomore environmental science major

student groups working with lots of issues, networking and lessons learned."

Rachel Grant, freshman biology student at UNC Greensboro, said she found the conference's activities extremely helpful. Grant plans to use what she learned at the conference to spread environmental awareness in her community.

"I'm totally excited, pumped up and ready to go back to school and put all these ideas into practice," said Grant.

Kim Yarbray, a junior biology and environmental studies student from Guilford College in Greensboro, also found the conference helpful.

"Hearing what other people are doing and knowing that people have some very big projects going suc-

cessfully, is very, very inspiring," said Yarbray. "I think a lot of ideas are being generated and a lot of sharing is going on. It's been a good day."

Craven, who led a discussion on "race, class and environmentalism," said that other important conference objectives included campaign planning issues and how to effectively work with campus administrations on environmental issues. Craven said that by "listening and asking questions rather than just coming out with lots of information," she believes groups like Unified Solar will find their audiences more receptive and cooperative.

"Working with your campus ad-

See CONFERENCE Page 2