

The Blue Banner

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NEWS BRIEFS

BY AMANDA EDWARDS
Staff Reporter

CAMPUS CRIME

No crimes were reported on campus this week.

You can access the Annual Security Statistics for UNCA as well as campus crime statistics at: www.unca.edu/publicsafety.

ASHEVILLE

The Asheville Independent Restaurant Association (AIRA), a non-profit organization for local restaurant owners, considers banning the use of cell phones in its participating member facilities. From constant ringing to loud talking, the group claims that cell phones disturb the dining experience.

The AIRA, formed in 2002, is dedicated to fostering a stronger business environment for Asheville's locally owned and operated restaurants," according to the AIRA Web page.

AIRA member restaurants include Tupelo Honey Cafe, The New French Bar, Cafe on the Square and many other popular establishments. A vote among the members may take place next month.

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.

A teenager convinced Cumberland County Jail officials that he was his brother. Officials mistakenly released him Feb. 1. This is the fifth such incident to occur at the Cumberland County Jail, which must implement new identification procedures to avoid such blunders.

Police arrested the escapee a week before and charged him with robbery. The same day, police arrested his brother for simple assault. The inmate returned to custody early Feb. 2 and charged with misdemeanor escape, forgery and obstructing justice.

AUSTRALIA

Private investigators working for the Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) raided the Cremorne, Australia headquarters of Sharman Networks, the makers of the infamous file swapping software Kazaa Feb. 6.

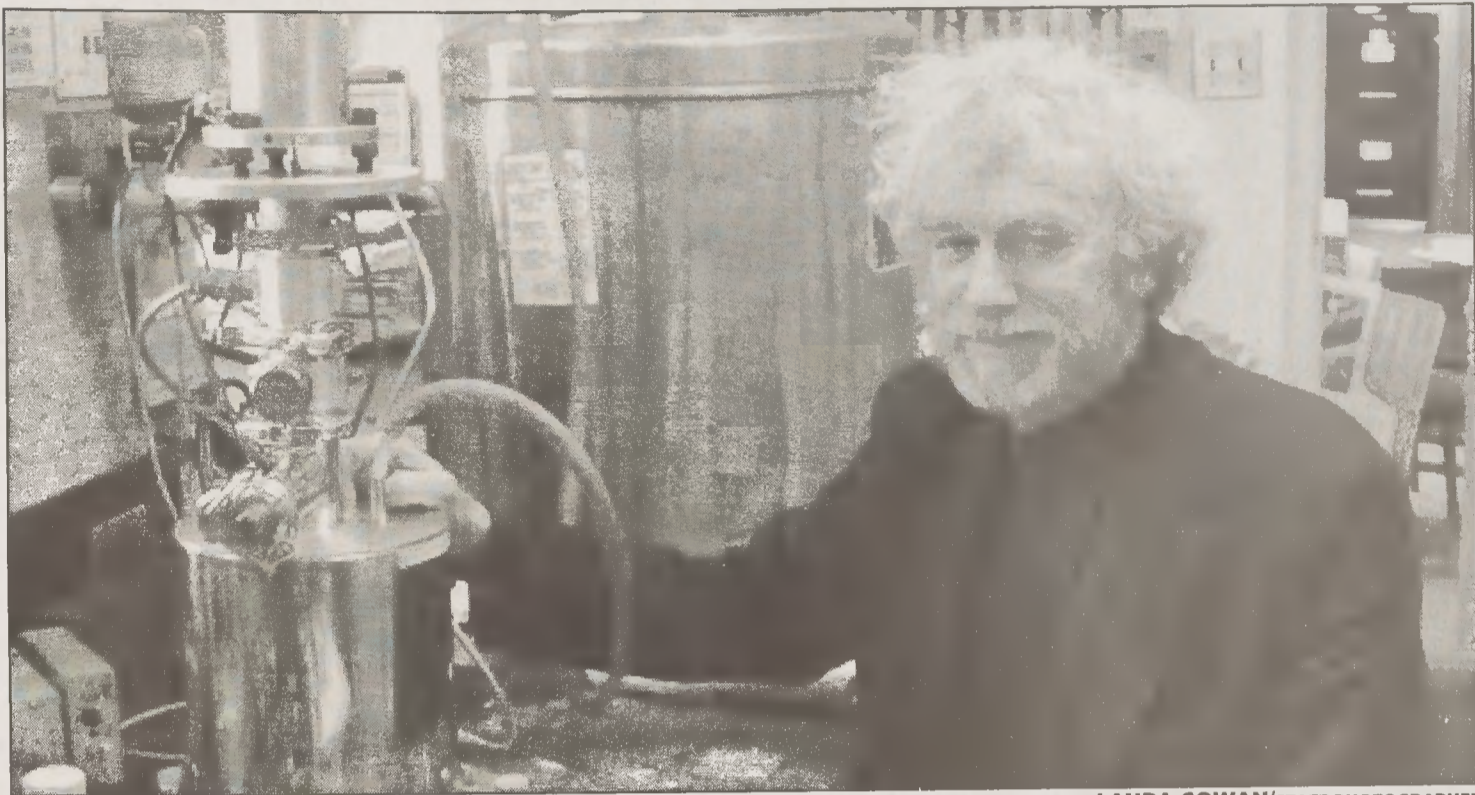
The raid was only one of many that occurred across the country including the homes of Sharman executives, universities and other software companies associated with Kazaa.

Kazaa Media Desktop software is one of many file sharing programs, and consistently has 3-4 million users connected at any given time.

A statement issued by Sharman Networks said "this action appears to be an extraordinary waste of time, money and resources going over legal ground that has been well and truly covered in the U.S. and Dutch courts over the past 18 months."

INDONESIA

Earthquakes, with magnitudes as high as 6.9 on the Richter scale, hit the Indonesian province of Papua on the morning of Feb. 6. The earthquake killed at least 23 people, injured 600 and destroyed hundreds of houses, according to Indonesian officials. Residents of the province resorted to camping out on the streets because they are afraid to return to their homes.



LAURA COWAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

John Stevens, a UNCA chemistry professor, shows off a Mössbauer instrument in Rhodes Robinson Hall.

UNCA conducts own Mars research

BY CHRIS CANTOS
Staff Reporter

UNCA's Mössbauer Effect Data Center (MEDC) is an internationally operated center where researchers conduct new studies and gather all data and information published in the field of Mössbauer spectroscopy, according to John Stevens, chemistry professor and director of the Mössbauer center.

"We are the ones that collect information from all over the world in terms of the Mössbauer data," said Stevens. "We have done data on over 100,000 different substances and over

50,000 research papers done in the field of Mössbauer spectroscopy."

The research center allows students and professors to perform laboratory research in a unique field with instruments related to the Mars exploration mission, according to Stevens.

"The center is really great for UNCA because it gives everyone an opportunity to be exposed to this unique field of research," said Sara Boshamer, undeclared sophomore.

The MEDC primarily studies the resonant and recoil-free emission and absorption of gamma rays by atoms bound in a solid, known as the "Mössbauer Effect," according to the Wikipedia Web site.

"It is a nuclear technique that the scientist uses to study the structure of materials at the atomic, nuclear, and molecular level," said Stevens. "You can use Mössbauer spectroscopy to study anything from Egyptian pottery to soil samples on Mars, or even a very complex molecule to try and understand what it looks like and how it behaves."

"You can also synthesize simple molecules to see what they look like on the molecular level using this technique," said Stevens.

MEDC utilizes data gathered by Mössbauer spectrometers as the basis for their research and information collection.

"We are doing a lot of impor-

tant processes with iron oxides, which cover things like rusting to basic biological processes that take place in your body," said Stevens. "We are also doing a lot of investigations on nano-sized particles, which are hot in the scientific community right now."

Boshamer explains how the Mössbauer spectrometer impacts her current undergraduate research project.

"My individual project this semester is exploring the effect of tin on iron oxides at the nanoparticle level," said Boshamer. "I'm trying to see any changes to the iron oxide properties that I can

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Proposed tuition hike in the works

BY JAMES RICHARDS
Staff Reporter

Students face a proposed tuition increase that will include funding for improved faculty and staff salaries. The increase would raise the cost of attending by \$300 for in state students and \$600 for out of state students for the next three years.

The North Carolina board of governors will vote on the proposal this week, according to Mark Padilla, vice chancellor of aca-

demical affairs.

"This would be the only tuition increase we would seek for next year. If the board of governors asked us to reconsider, we will go through the process again," said Padilla.

This is the second time in three years UNCA proposed raising tuition, according to UNCA's office of institutional research.

The proposed tuition increase follows similar recommended increases for most other schools in the UNC system.

A chancellor-appointed Campus Based Tuition Increase (CBTI) taskforce met in 2002

to work out the details.

The taskforce, comprised of faculty, administration, staff and student government representatives, accepted the idea of a tuition increase as a last resort to offset three years of state education budget cuts, according to Padilla.

The taskforce proposed this increase to help boost faculty and staff salaries not included in a similar increase two years ago.

"The previous increase only went to stu-

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Blue Echo sets sights on streaming lectures

BY LAUREN ABE
Staff Reporter

The Blue Echo, UNCA's online radio station, hopes to meet with the associate vice chancellor for university programs in upcoming weeks to discuss the broadcast of humanities lectures.

"The idea behind broadcasting the humanities lectures is to supplement people's notes and their lecture experience," said Raymond Harmon, senior music technology major. "We emphasize the fact that it's not a replacement, by having it only on the days the lecture occurs, just later on in the day."

The radio station and Edward Katz, the associate vice chancellor

for university programs will meet to discuss the logistical and legal issues dealing with the humanities lectures, according to Harmon.

"The idea to broadcast the lectures came to us in a meeting in December," said Harmon. "We started ironing out how we could present it to the public and to the humanities department, so that they would understand that we want to help, not bring more listeners to us. That is not the purpose."

The radio station needs to get permission from the department and the individual lecturers before they can begin broadcasting. Pre-recorded music or materials pose a problem. The radio station will need to permission or have a hard copy in the studio, according to Harmon.

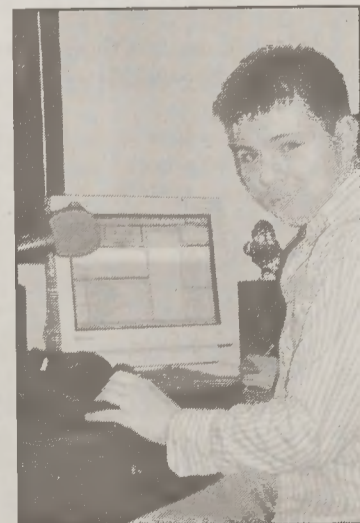
"We would like to tie ourselves

to the academic faculty on campus a little better," said Harmon. "We are definitely involved with the student life and things like that, but as far as learning and education goes, we've had very little interaction with those departments."

According to Harmon, the airing of the humanities lectures can serve as a means to bridge the academic departments and the radio station and prove to be a great source for communication.

"We want to emphasize that it's a supplement, not a replacement," said Harmon. "I think if we went with that, it would just be so unethical and so wrong for us to go in and say that our resource is better than the original source. I think it's

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LAURA COWAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ramon Harmon, Blue Echo station manager, hopes to broadcast humanities lectures online. Check in with www.theblueecho.com for more information.

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Placing the dollar value of a human being

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Saddam: back in proverbial spider hole

BY TERRI FISHER
Staff Reporter

Weeks after Pentagon officials declared Saddam Hussein a prisoner of war (POW), the lack of coverage on him is not surprising to some.

"I'm not surprised that we haven't heard about Saddam Hussein since he's been captured," said Kevin Skolnik, a senior ethics and social institutions major. "Mainly because it's often very true, especially in our media system, that something gets press as long as it's hot and then as soon as information is not directly available or intended for public consumption it drops from the front page of the newspaper."

Under the Geneva Convention of 1949, the United States accepted a set of specific guidelines, following the declaration of Hussein as a POW.

According to Article 17, prisoners of war are not required to divulge anything except their names, rank, date of birth and serial number. Under the convention, they may not be threatened, insulted or exposed to unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment in order to gain information.

"If he's a POW, they're not allowed to interrogate him, which they're doing," said Mark Gibney, professor of political science at UNCA. "My sense is they're doing much more and their trying to obtain information from him and in ways that are violate to the Geneva Convention."

The International Committee of the Red Cross negotiated with U.S. Central Command and the Coalition Provisional Authority to visit the high-profile prisoners. The committee is expected to evaluate the prisoner's conditions and report his status independently.

Red Cross U.S. Chief Girod Christophe told CNN in December they visited all other high-profile prisoners and expect to see Hussein after the military has given them the OK.

"We have seen the deck of cards," said Christophe, according to CNN. "We have seen the big fish and the little fish."

The delay in Saddam Hussein's classification is most likely due to the legal stipulations that are accepted when a prisoner is classified. The U.S. accepts that, as a POW, Hussein can only be tried under the authority of occupying forces, which may require a U.S. military trial.

Both the Pentagon and Shiite Muslims of Iraq would like to see Saddam Hussein prosecuted in Iraq by an assembly of his own people. The POW status may be challenged, therefore allowing for a transfer in obligation.

If evidence proves that Hussein was involved in postwar insurgency against the U.S.-led coalition, there are provisions to change an individual's status under the Geneva Convention.

The U.S. is currently involved in a transfer of power between Iraq and the U.S. military. The plan is

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