

The Blue Banner

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NEWS BRIEFS

BY AMANDA EDWARDS
Staff Reporter

CAMPUS CRIME

■ Campus Police received a report of breaking and entering and damage to property in Governors Hall, March 20.
■ On March 23, Campus Police received a report of vandalism to a vehicle.

UNCA

Jim Jarrett brings his production of "Vincent," a one-man theater piece on the life of Vincent Van Gogh, to UNCA Tuesday, April 13 at 8 p.m. in the Lipinsky Auditorium. Jarrett started to produce and perform "Vincent" around the world in 1994 and had previously appeared in several independent films. He will also be delivering an Arts 310 lecture the same day. "Vincent," written by Leonard Nimoy of "Star Trek" and told through letters Van Gogh wrote to his brother Theo, includes a multimedia presentation of Van Gogh's work. Tickets are \$6 for students, \$12 for faculty, \$18 general admission and can be purchased on campus or by calling 232-5000.

ASHEVILLE

Dennis Kucinich will speak 10 a.m. April 3 at City Council Plaza in Asheville. He will address topics such as liberty, peace, health care, employment, education and the environment.
Various activities will follow Kucinich's speech including speeches by inspirational speakers, spoken word performances, music and food.

TRYON, N.C.

The Polk County Sheriff's Department shut down a methamphetamine lab March 21, the fourth found within the county in the past two years. Joseph Burnett and David Cole, charged with possessing immediate precursor chemicals, manufacturing methamphetamine and other simple drug charges, are being held at the Polk County Jail under bonds. Rick Hetzel, N.C. SBI Clandestine Laboratory Coordinator for Western North Carolina, told the Tryon Daily Bulletin that the numbers of methamphetamine labs in North Carolina are rising. In 2001, 38 labs were found in North Carolina. The number grew to 98 in 2002 and to 200 in 2003. So far this year, the number of labs found in North Carolina is 70, according to Hetzel.

UNITED STATES

The death rate by poisoning in the United States increased 56 percent in the past ten years, according to a new report by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Last year, more than two million reports of poisoning were reported to the National Poison Control Center. The majority of deaths were unintentional with most caused by painkiller overdoses, the CDC study shows. More than one half of deaths involved OxyContin and other prescription painkillers as well as other illicit drugs. Fifteen percent involved cocaine, 8 percent alcohol, 7 percent heroin, 5 percent antidepressants and 5 percent methadone.

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Nader visits UNCA

BY ADAM McMULLIN
Staff Reporter

Presidential candidate Ralph Nader spoke at UNCA March 26. Nader visited Asheville to round up support so his name can appear on the North Carolina ballot in November.

"The legislature in North Carolina has got to stop colluding between the Democrats and Republicans to get rid of competition and to turn this state increasingly into a one party district state," said Nader.

Nader said he would form a new party, called the Populist Party, which he says will help him get on the ballot in North Carolina.

"We'd like to see it (the Populist Party) go long term, but you have to have a legitimate party in North Carolina. Otherwise, you've got to get twice the number of signatures in 60 days," said Nader.

The strategy would cut the number of signatures his campaign must gather in the state by 40,000, according to the *Raleigh News and Observer*. It is designed to get around North Carolina's election law, which makes it difficult for anyone but a Democrat or a Republican to get on the ballot.

There should be a category on every ballot that says "none of the above," said Nader.

Nader said his grass roots campaign in the state is working feverishly to get his name on the ballot.

"We've got volunteers coming from all over the state," said Nader. "People are logging into our Web site to get signature forms. We've got to get 59,000 verified signatures by the middle of May."

Nader spoke to a full house at the UNCA's Justice Center.

The 70-year-old consumer advocate blasted big corporations and advocated for the legalization of industrial hemp.

"Overall, I thought he had some good ideas, but I don't think he had really any good solutions," said Liz Laxague, a junior French major and Democrat. "He tended to go on and on about the corporations and how evil they were, but if he wants to be elected president, what's he going to do about them? He can't just get rid of them all."

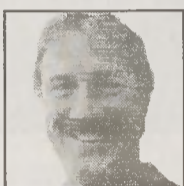
"He has to have a solution to it if it is a problem, and if you're running for president, you need to list your solutions, or at least come up with a few. The only solution I heard him give was to grow industrial hemp, and I don't think that will solve all our problems."

Some Democrats have criticized Nader for entering the race, saying he took votes away from them in 2000, which helped President Bush win the election.

"I think a lot of people realized what he did last time and, if he does take away votes, I don't think it will be nearly as many,"

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Students comment on Nader visit



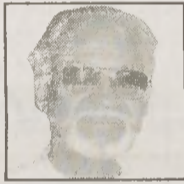
Clyde Michael Morgan
UNCA
alumnus and
candidate for
U.S. Congress

"I approve 100 percent of almost everything he said. I hate the big corporations as much as he does."

Wendy Segars
undeclared
sophomore



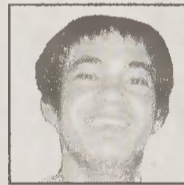
"He brought up some good issues, but I'd like to know more about what he actually plans to do about it."



Jorge Munoz
Weaver
resident

"This is an extraordinary man, an honest man who speaks the truth. He's one voice in the desert. All he says is true."

Tim Love
senior
political
science major



"I feel like he's definitely appealing to what people want to hear without offering something of substance to back it up."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAURA COWAN



MAX TAINTOR/PHOTO EDITOR

Presidential candidate, Ralph Nader, speaks at UNCA March 26 (above). Students gathered in Justice Gym to attend the political visit (below). Nader said the point of his campaign is to give voters an alternative choice on the ballots. Many voters dislike Bush and Kerry, according to Nader, and he hopes to give them a third choice.



KATE GUNTORPE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Academic Affairs merges with Student Life

BY TERRI FISHER
Staff Reporter

UNCA's administration launched an 18 month pilot program to join Student Life with Academic Affairs March 15.

"One of the things that (the administration) is really trying to do is to integrate more academic affairs and what happens outside of the classroom," said Chad Morgan, assistant director of recreation-outdoors.

The physical difference with this new unification includes an administrative change in hierarchy. The position of associate vice chancellor of academic affairs and student life will now be shared by two individuals assigned a variety of responsibilities.

The interim associate vice chancellor of academic and student affairs is Keith Ray, formerly the chair and associate professor of the Health and Fitness Department. His specific responsibilities include health and fitness, residential life and dining, Health Services, Recreation and Counseling.

Patricia McClellan, previously Associate Vice Chancellor, now shares the title of associate vice chancellor of academic and student affairs, in charge of advising, registrar, Study Abroad, the Writing Center, Student Activities, Career Center, and summer school.

The program will benefit students in their educational experience, according to Kevin Skolnik, senior ethics and social institutions major. Skolnik said he found the process to get credit for a study abroad program complicated because there were too many people involved.

"Coming back from study abroad, working with the registrar and my advisor, trying to get credit for classes was complicated and I felt often times that there was no one person who knew the answers to all of my questions," said Skolnik. "I like the idea of a unification of offices, because if study abroad is incorporated into the other offices' jurisdiction, then decisions about credit for classes will be able to be handled in one location, at the very least, this unification has the potential to make the transition from studying abroad to getting credit to moving on with ones education a lot simpler."

The new structure may further the liberal arts education at UNCA, according to Timothy Putnam, a junior environmental science major.

Putnam said he is trying to incorporate a new environmental resident program on campus. The program would

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Health care prices leave many uninsured

BY LAUREN ABE
Staff Reporter

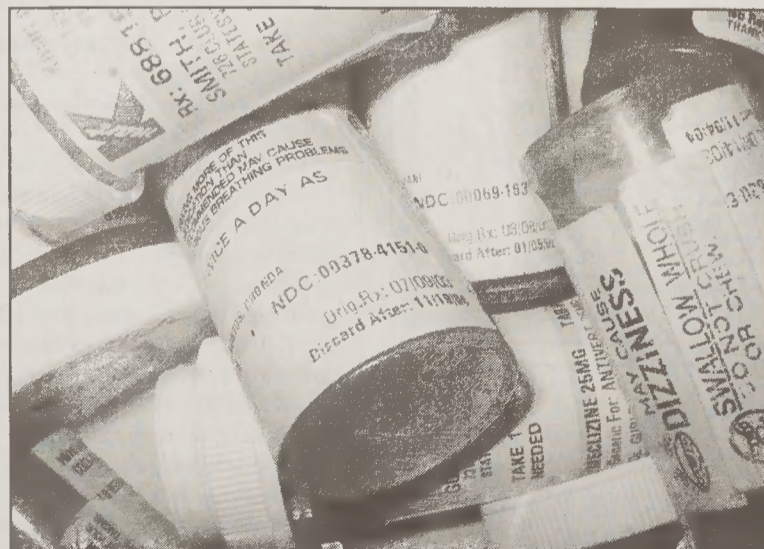
The price of health care continues to rise in Buncombe County, leaving more people uninsured or underinsured, according to a local doctor.

"I will be a full time student until the age of 24 to stay on my parent's insurance," said Nancy Glenn, a junior sociology major. "I am considered a high-risk patient since I've been to the emergency room ten to twelve times and hospitalized three or four times in the past year for kidney stones."

While at UNCA, students receive free medical examinations and receive laboratory services, medications and surgical procedures at a small fee, according to Susan Wilson, a physician assistant. However, as students graduate and are no longer covered by the school or their parent's insurance, students face the challenge of finding their own insurance.

"Because of the cost, I don't have health insurance," said Scott Jacyszyn, a junior management major. "I hope I don't get sick."

There are many factors which



KATE GUNTORPE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A hot topic: The rise of prescription medication prices.

contribute to the rise of health care including technology, pharmaceuticals, utilization, malpractice insurance, obesity and the health status of the aging population, according to Patti Moore, manager of compensation and benefits at Mission Hospital.

This rise affects the individual's ability to afford health care. Furthermore, it hinders the employer's ability to provide adequate plans at a rea-

sonable price, according to Moore. "The price of health care has been going up for the past twenty years. The fastest rising part is the pharmacy," said Dale E. Fell, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon. "Drugs in America cost more than anywhere else in the world. Our manufacturers have on average the highest profit margin of any industry in the United States."

The pharmaceutical industry is

the fastest growing component in the rising cost of health care. The number of prescriptions each patient takes has also increased. Health insurance is the second fastest growing component. According to Fell, Blue Cross Blue Shield made an 18 percent profit last year while physician incomes and physician reimbursement went down.

"Immigration is causing the population in the United States to go up," said Fell. "More people cost more money. The population is increasing by 1.2 percent every year. That means that in 60 years our population will double. In sixty years our health care will double."

Who pays the bills of uninsured or underinsured patients? According to Fell, hospitals and doctors absorb the costs. Immigration, which constitutes 60 percent growth of the U.S. population, increases the number of uninsured and underinsured patients.

"Immigration is certainly increasing our population. Therefore, I do think that it affects utilization which contributes to the rising cost of health care," said Moore. "Minorities also suffer from more health

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