

The Blue Banner



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NEWS BRIEFS

BY TERRI FISHER
Staff Reporter

CAMPUS CRIME

■ Campus Police received a report of vandalism to a UNCA vehicle in lot 1 behind Founders Hall April 2.
■ Campus Police arrested a non student in lot 4 March 29 for possession of a concealed weapon. Police later found many more weapons in the individual's car.
■ Police received two larceny reports March 29 and March 30. One report involved a stolen camera from the Karpen Hall computer lab. The other report regarded stolen cash from an unattended purse outside of Ramsey Library.

HENDERSONVILLE

The remains of a man, later identified as Fire Chief Donald Larry Gash, were found along the Blue Ridge Parkway in a plastic container March 28. Gash's wife avoided questioning and was found hiding under a neighbor's shed April 1. Police charged her with the murder after she received treatment for exposure. The victim's son was served with a no-testimonial order for fingerprints and photographs, over the weekend.

ASHEVILLE

Vandals broke four store windows of the new Starbucks on Charlotte Street April 1, just five days after its grand opening. Many protestors feel the chain poses as a threat to locally owned and operated coffee shops.

CHARLOTTE

President Bush visited Charlotte's Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) April 5. He spoke on the economy and the jobs that will drive the future. CPCC is the largest community college in N.C. The *Charlotte Observer* reported that by the time Bush leaves Charlotte today, N.C. will have donated more than \$3 million to his re-election campaign.

MADRID, SPAIN

Five men, thought to be involved in the March 11 attacks on a Madrid subway that left hundreds of commuters dead, blew themselves up in a police raid of an apartment April 3.

Sharhane Ben Abdelmajid Bakhet was identified in the remains and is believed to be the ring leader of the March 11 attacks. Among the evidence in the crime scene were 200 detonators and 22 pounds of explosives.

IRAQ

Shiite Muslims in Iraq occupied police stations, propelled grenades and overran government security in Kutia April 4, one day after Shiite militia women marched in the neighborhoods of Baghdad in protest of the U.S. occupation. Shiite cleric Moktada Al-Sadr is suspected as the young leader who has gathered together followers who feel Americans are their enemy.

Four American civilians working for a securities company were killed and their bodies dragged April 1. Only 15 miles away, a roadside bomb left five American soldiers dead.

Kucinich speaks at Asheville voter rally

BY JAMES RICHARDS
Staff Reporter

Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich visited Asheville as the keynote speaker at a voter registration rally April 3. More than 400 people attended.

"Dennis Kucinich is there to be the thorn in the ass of the Democratic Party, and I think his purpose is to remind us what democracy is all about," said Molly Craven, a junior environmental studies major, who also spoke at the rally. "He's a visionary leader and even in a city like Asheville we need visionary leaders to come and recharge us."

Disregarding a makeshift stage, Kucinich took his microphone and walked into the audience, speaking without notes for over an hour. The crowd greeted the congressman with questions and applause.

"The direction of the Democratic nomination has been settled, but the direction of the Democratic Party is still to be decided," said Kucinich.

The rally served as an attempt to gather Kucinich voters for the April 17 Democratic caucuses in North Carolina, according to Gayatri Lee, a Kucinich campaign organizer.

"We're trying to make sure Dennis has the power to speak up

for progressives at the Democratic Convention in July," said Lee. "The more votes Dennis receives in these remaining primaries and caucuses, the more delegates he will bring to the convention, resulting in a chance to influence the Democratic platform."

The rally also served to unify different progressive groups through Kucinich's ideals, according to Lee.

"(Kucinich's) vision has brought together people who want to reclaim democracy from corporate control, a vision for peace, a better economy without the unfair trading practices of the WTO and NAFTA, and universal health care."

Jana Maxcy
event coordinator and Kucinich campaign organizer

"Unlike Bush, who has divided the country, Dennis is the real uniter," said Jana Maxcy, event coordinator and Kucinich campaign organizer. "His vision has brought together people who want to reclaim democracy from corporate control, a vision for peace, a better economy without the unfair trading practices of the WTO (World Trade Organization) and NAFTA, and universal health care."

Attendees dotted City-County Plaza with handmade signs reading "Fear Ends, Hope Begins" and "We are the Ones We've Been Waiting for." Festival organizers led the crowd in serenading Kucinich before his speech with "America the Beautiful," substituting the word "familyhood" for "brotherhood."

Kucinich praised Ashevilleans for their environmental awareness.

"You recognize that our survival as a people and as a planet depends upon our respect for the



TOMMY GREENWOOD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dennis Kucinich delivered a keynote address to a crowd of Asheville residents April 3 in City-County Plaza.



TOMMY GREENWOOD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kucinich fans displayed banners to show their support.

air, the water and the land," said Kucinich. "This area knows better than most places in the United States about the implications of this disconnection from the natural world because you're surrounded by such natural beauty. At the same time you've seen the failure of our country to develop a sustainable energy policy, resulting in acid rain coming over here that's ruining so many of the beautiful forests and streams."

Although principally focusing his remarks on the environment,

Iraq and the Patriot Act, Kucinich encompassed these issues within ideals of non-violence, conflict resolution and sustainability. Kucinich proposed creating a cabinet level Department of Peace and challenged the crowd to work towards "making war archaic." He described the economic and environmental benefits of a sustainable, fair trade economy.

"I liked his strategy a lot more than Ralph Nader's because he's

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Community forum questions Constitution

BY AMANDA EDWARDS
Staff Reporter

UNCA hosted a tri-partisan public discussion about the relevance of the Constitution in today's society at the Owen Conference Center March 30.

"The Constitution is relevant today as it pertains to the origin and preservation of our rights," said Trevor Carr, a junior philosophy and history major and member of Students for Democracy and Peace.

Buncombe County Libertarians cosponsored the forum with Students for Democracy and Peace, a new student organization.

"In general, the separation of church and state and the preservation of privacy rights are at stake," said Carr.

Moderated by Nelda Holder, president of the Asheville-Buncombe County League of Women Voters, the forum included commentary from panelists who were representatives for the Democratic, Republican and Libertarian Parties.

The discussions began with a short biography about each party representative, then the panelists considered ideas in which adherence to the Constitution could re-



TYLER BREAUX/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

From left to right: Fern Shubert, Bruce Elmore, Nelda Holder and Michael Badnarik participated in the forum at UNCA.

solve current social issues.

The majority of Americans don't understand the purpose of the government as defined by the Constitution, according to Michael Badnarik, a Libertarian representative, and candidate for the Libertarian Party presidential nomination.

"Before we can answer the question if the Constitution is relevant or not, we have to ask ourselves what purpose the government serves," said Badnarik. "According to the Constitution, the only valid purpose of government is to protect your rights, and in order to understand what that really means, Americans really need to under-

stand the difference between rights and privileges. The important concept here is that a privilege is something that's granted to you, and it can be taken away at any time by whoever gave you that privilege.

"It's important for you to understand that rights and privileges are opposite, the same as true and false." Badnarik, a computer consultant, grew up in Indiana and moved from California to Texas for political reasons concerning gun control issues.

In his presidential platform, the number one priority in relation to gun issues will be to oppose the government's requirement to fill out paperwork and supply photos and

fingerprints in order to exercise the right to bear arms.

"I have a right to keep and bear arms," said Badnarik. "Why would I be required to get permission to exercise a right? How many people have filled out a government form that allows you to go to church on Sunday? You would consider it absolutely ludicrous to ask the government for permission to exercise your religion, and I feel that it is equally ludicrous for the government to expect me to carry a permit."

Carr said he agrees that certain rights are in danger of violation, but said he disagrees with Badnarik's statements against gun control.

"Mr. Badnarik made an insane argument for carrying concealed handguns without a permit using a strict constructionist interpretation of the Second Amendment, the right to keep and bear arms," said Carr. "He argued for the absolute rights of the individual even at the expense of the community. Extreme strict constructionist interpretations of the Constitution can be hurtful."

The only types of rights that

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Murder blamed on post-war trauma

BY CHRIS CANTOS
Staff Reporter

After murdering a fellow infantry member in Columbus, Georgia last July, a U.S. Army soldier blamed the incident on post-traumatic stress related to serving in combat missions in Iraq.

Military personnel and psychologists question the stress related disorder, wondering how the effects of war could possibly lead a person to harm another individual in the future, and if the disorder could be used as a legal defense.

"The average person with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) does not commit crimes like (murder)," said Pam Laughon, psychology professor. "Many people walk around with PTSD and don't do anything. But violence was a part of the soldier's particular experience, so that might have the tendency to translate over into their world."

Post-traumatic stress disorder involves experiencing a traumatic situation combined with intense fear or threatened death, which produces symptoms of irritability, outbursts of anger, difficulty concentrating, and/or exaggerated startle response, according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fourth edition.

"PTSD usually arises after a really stressful event," said Jennifer Meadows, junior psychology major. "Its symptoms can be anything from hallucinations or flashbacks, to physical anxiety or arousal with reminders of the event."

Although events such as natural disasters, terrorism, and rape could cause PTSD to develop in an individual, people who experienced war and combat situations develop the disorder more often than with the other traumatic situations, according to Laughon.

"Military combat is definitely a stressor that could lead to PTSD," said Meadows. "In that sense, (soldiers) are more prone to (PTSD)."

Despite the conditions of war that could lead to the development of PTSD, Army officials claim the disorder does not occur in soldiers as much as people believe. The Army attempts to prevent such disorders through psychological screenings upon the return of soldiers from combat, according to a *USA Today* article.

"The military gives you all kinds of counseling before you leave and when you get back," said specialist Kenneth Curtis, an Army National Guard light wheel vehicle mechanic. "They give you debriefings that help, and there are plenty of people you can talk to about the stress."

Army officials claimed that incidents similar to the murder of the infantry soldier do not occur often. Similar situations among soldiers who fought in Iraq are rare, accord-

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