

# FEATURES

## Alumni hooking it up in Asheville

BY TABITHA BAILEY  
Staff Reporter

UNCA alumni Ryan Hodges and Brian Scheewe, class of 2003, started Advanced Data and Network Solutions over a year ago, and the business is still going strong.

Hodges and Scheewe also work with fellow alumni Chris Pittman, for programming, and Clay Catinella, for cellular sales and marketing. The fifth member of the staff is Jason Scheewe, an undeclared sophomore, who covers the position of computer technician and handles repairs. It's no surprise the company feels a strong connection with the university — they're all UNCA students.

"We're proud of that fact," said Hodges, company president. "We want to emphasize that."

Perhaps part of the bond Hodges and Scheewe feel for UNCA comes from the fact that they met in an introduction level multimedia class when they worked together on a Web site project.

"We just kind of clicked as far as approaching the project, and we each have our strong points and they really complement each other," said Hodges. "So it worked in the project and just kind of carried beyond that."

Advanced Data and Network Solutions is located on Merrimon Avenue. The office is also a retail store for computer systems and components, plus cell phones, accessories and U.S. Cellular plans.

"We've got a great location here," said Scheewe, vice president. "We're close to the campus, we're close to the city."

Plus the company offers a "fun" work environment.

"It's a good environment conducive to getting work done, even though it's not structured," said Catinella. "We have a good time."

Before setting up the business last March, Hodges and Scheewe



TOMMY GREENWOOD/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

UNCA alumni and students operate Advanced Data and Network Solutions and hope to offer internships and employment opportunities for other students.

did Web designing individually for four years each. With their own experience, plus the fact that both come from entrepreneurial families, the two started with some business experience.

### profile

"I guess the most beneficial part was the networking we learned at UNCA. You know, having contacts, knowing people, that sort of thing."

Ryam Hodges  
UNCA alumnus and company founder

The company offers a number of services that put the presidents' computer science degrees and Scheewe's second degree in multimedia arts and sciences to work.

Business for Advanced Data includes servers, networking, Web sites and databases. According to Scheewe, they also cover telephone systems for small offices.

The company is keeping the future in mind with constant training, like Cisco certification and ex-

perience with advanced technology, like networking with fiber optics.

"We have so many sides to our business. We really specialize in being the one place to go for a business, for any of their communication needs. We want to be that one phone call for them, instead of having four or five different providers," said Scheewe. "And we really love what we do."

Advanced Data does more than work with businesses. They also offer computer services for individuals, like repairs and upgrades.

"If students have computer problems, we're here to help," said Hodges.

"Even though our primary focus is business," said Scheewe. "Just for the campus community to know, they shouldn't be intimidated by that at all. Everyone here is from UNCA, alumnus or student, and we love it when UNCA people come in here."

Business aside, the alumni offered advice for students approaching business.

"A lot of people complain about (working in groups) as students, but it helps out more than you know," said Hodges. "There's always a group project to work on, whether you work for a company, whether you're doing it yourself or something."

And when looking for a job, resumes are important, but the interview is "where they really shine,"

## Broadway play dares to bare all

BY KERRIN SMITH  
Staff Reporter

The Broadway Musical production of "The Full Monty" had the audience laughing and cheering on the actors at Greenville's Peace Center March 27.

"I am really enjoying the play," said Earle Spenser, a Greenville resident. "The cast is very good at what they do."

### review

Based on the film, the play portrays a group of laid off steel mill workers living in Buffalo who are struggling with their own personal lives due to the loss of their jobs. The men, unemployed for about a year, lose their self-esteem and bank accounts.

After finding their wives and girlfriends spending money to see male strippers, the men get a wild idea that they, too, could become strippers to get some much needed income. There is one problem though.

The men are middle-aged, overweight, beer-drinking guys that can't dance to save their lives.

One of the main characters, Jerry (played by Jeremiah Zinger) needs to get money fast so his son, Nathan (played by Tyler Griffin), won't be taken away due to unpaid child support. Jerry comes up with the idea to become strippers for the needed money.

Dave, played by Joe Coots, fears of his unmanly position at home since he has been laid off. He is now the maid and cook of the house. Also, Dave steers away from sex with his wife because of a weight problem.

Jerry and Dave team up to start their stripping group, Hot Metal, by holding auditions. The two are looking to have a group of six dancers. They team up with Ethan, a well-endowed (where it counts) young man; Malcolm, a security

guard at their former mill; Harold, their old boss at the mill; and "Horse," an older black man, who is only one of the six that can dance.

"The story line is good. It is hilarious actually," said Bonnie Spenser, a Greenville resident. "Because of the subject matter, I was really surprised to see all of the older patrons. I thought these poor people were going to have heart attacks if they do not realize what the play is about."

The play does have the men stripping down to their shiny trunks, and they even go "full monty," but the back lighting of the stage blinds the audience to the point they cannot see the characters on stage.

"I loved the character of Nathan 'Horse' T. Simmons," said Robert Smith, an Asheville resident. "His song, 'Big Black Man,' if you know what I mean, was absolutely hilarious. He was the funniest character in the show."

"Horse" brought laughs, as well as the other characters through out the performance. Seeing "Horse" play by Scarborough dance around the stage with the energy of a twenty-one year old was hysterical considering his character was in his late fifties. His antics and energy stole any scene he was in.

**"The context of the play is a little risky for Greenville. We are in the Bible belt. But I came here to be entertained. The show is amusing."**

Earle Spenser  
Greenville resident

and energy stole any scene he was in.

"I am really enjoying the music," said Sizemore. "The lyrics are easy to understand. There are many plays that you can't hear the words to the songs. These actors are doing a good job of keeping that from happening."

The music and lyrics by Dave Yazbek have a catchy pop like feel but they are full of witty remarks and jokes. Yazbek did a great job on this work and earned a Drama Desk Award and Grammy nomination for his work.

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## WestSound jams at Tressa's

BY KELLI FOWLER  
Staff Reporter

Local band WestSound entertained an enthusiastic audience at Tressa's Downtown Jazz and Blues April 1.

"My brothers and I have been playing together about 25 years," said Randy Weston. "This particular band, WestSound, has been together for about four years. Before (we formed) this band, we were United Souls. We faded out with that and we kept with the family thing. WestSound is derived from our last name."

Randy Weston, keyboard player and band leader for WestSound, operates a recording studio, WestSound Productions, in downtown Asheville in the flat iron building.

The guitarist for the band, Randy's oldest brother Oscar, and the drummer, another Weston brother, Cecil, round out the family affair. At the Tressa's show, Raymond Kelly sat in on the drums. WestSound features Regina Duke as lead vocalist.

"We played for the first annual



KELLI FOWLER/STAFF REPORTER

Regina Duke, Raymond Kelly and the Weston brothers help spice things up at Tressa's Downtown Jazz and Blues.

Super Saturday (at UNCA)," said Randy Weston. "We had a wonderful time."

The talented group performs different types of music, ranging from Marvin Gaye to "I Like the Way You Move," by Outkast. The stage presence of WestSound offers the audience a lively performance. The band performed a rendition of "Happy Birthday" for an audience member who visited Tressa's to celebrate her birthday.

"Tressa's is great," said Lauren

### review

Bridges, a Shelby resident. "This is the first time I have been here. I am up here for my friend's birthday. We had a great time. I have never really been to a place like this. It was definitely a good time, good company, good everything."

Guitarist Oscar Weston steps off-stage and meanders around the room with his guitar and wireless microphone.

He appears to enjoy this thoroughly. Band members agree that they never know what to expect

SEE TRESSA'S ON PAGE 3

## LIFE IN HELL

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