

# The Blue



# Banner

SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE SINCE 1982

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## NEWS BRIEFS

BY SEAN ROBINSON  
Staff Reporter

### CAMPUS CRIME

UNCA police charged 19-year-old sophomore Russell Johnson with a state citation for underage possession of a malt beverage on August 25, according to police.

Johnson, along with three other students, was questioned after a police dispatch call about a party in Mills Hall, loud television sounds and people talking inside a dorm room. When Johnson came to the door, his breath smelled of alcohol, said police.

All four subjects admitted drinking, according to police record.

Johnson, however, was the only student charged with a state citation, and was not administered an "alco-sensor" test, according to the report.

UNCA Campus Police, in conjunction with the Woodfin Police Department, arrested 36-year-old Thomas Carpenter for felony possession of 0.2 grams of crack cocaine on July 7 on the UNCA campus, said officer Shannon Green.

Police also charged a woman identified as Crystal Lynn Tweed with prostitution and possession of paraphernalia at the same crime scene, said Green.

When police on patrol questioned the two, Tweed admitted to being a prostitute, produced a pipe for smoking controlled substances, and told police that Carpenter would not pay her for services rendered earlier, and that Carpenter had crack cocaine in his vehicle, said Green.

Carpenter then allowed police to search the vehicle, upon which time police discovered the crack cocaine, and arrested both individuals, said Green.

### ASHEVILLE

The Buncombe County Board of Elections office is registering or updating the records of around 1,000 voters per week, according to the Asheville Citizen-Times.

Some 142,985 Buncombe County residents are registered to vote, and a high turnout is expected due to the presidential election this year, according to the Citizen-Times.

### NATIONAL

President Bush told veterans at an American Legion convention that the United States will win the war on terror, according to the Associated Press.

"We may never sit down at a peace table, but make no mistake about it, we are winning and we will win," said Bush.

The President's contradictory statement on NBC, "I don't think you can win it," in reference to the war on terror, was the catalyst for his remarks at the convention, according to the AP.

### INTERNATIONAL

A video posted online, allegedly showing the beheading of a Nepalese worker and the shooting to death of his 11 co-workers, led interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi to pledge revenge, according to the AP.

## Freshman class largest in UNCA history

BY SARAH SCHMIDT  
Staff Reporter

Move on over. UNCA makes room for incoming freshman class

School officials in all departments worked since May of this year to accommodate the largest freshman class ever to enroll at UNCA.

"It was a real challenge, but the whole time we were telling ourselves this is good news," said Nancy Williams, director of housing and residence life. "It was a very difficult summer because of our commitment to offer quality spaces to students, but was also good news."

The number of enrolled freshmen in the 2003-2004 school year totaled 599 in comparison to this year's total of 733 enrolled freshmen, according to statistics from the UNCA Fact Book.

The admissions office made changes to the manner in which it admits freshmen for the 2005-2006 school year, replacing the rolling admissions system with two yearly deadlines for applications.

"All year our applications were running ahead, and along with that our acceptance rate was still the same," said Scott Schaeffer, director of admissions. "Throughout the year, Archer Graveley does a projection, and the number of freshmen we were going to end up with was in that projection, but at the high end of that projection."

"I believe the institution is prepared to keep the class sizes as we have, which is one of the reasons why there is discussion of 'How big do we want to get?' I think with us doing with the adjuncts that we hire and the way we handle it, we're keeping the size of classes as best we can. We try to keep our average class size as we have in the past so



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN MILLSPAUGH

Chancellor Mullen offered some words of encouragement to the new freshman class during its community service on UNCA's annual Bulldog Day. The class of 2008 is the largest in UNCA history.

we don't change who we are," said Schaeffer.

Housing and Residence Life has made some of the more visible changes on campus as a result of the large freshman class. The housing office notified returning students in June of the size of the incoming freshman class and of the problem of housing them all. Some upperclassmen moved to the Woodland Hills apartments leased by the housing office. The housing office also converted several public spaces within Founders and Mills Halls into dorm rooms and allowed students to live in the guest apartments.

"Our commitment was to put every student in a quality place," said Williams. "We know that students need a place to be comfortable, that it contributes to their academic success here. When you have three or four people living in a single dorm room, that doesn't happen."

Opinions varied from student to student on these new housing options after they moved in.

"At the end of July, the school contacted all the upperclassmen with the Woodland Hills apartment opportunity as an alternative to living on campus," said

Caryn Gibson, a senior creative writing major. "They told us that there was this massive influx of freshmen this year and it sounded like a good idea. So we went ahead and decided to move there."

"When we got to the apartments, the phone wasn't working yet, which they have since remedied. There are only two rickety desks for four students, and as of a week into classes, we only have on Internet connection for four computers. They were considering

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SEE FRESHMEN ON PAGE 10



BRIAN DAVIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

College students are recognizing the importance of the youth vote this fall. Jennifer Watson, a senior psychology major registers to vote.

## Students determined to make their votes count

BY RHEANNON YOKEY  
Staff Reporter

This November millions of people have the opportunity to go to the polls and decide the next president of the United States. President Bush and Senator Kerry both have their eyes on the youth vote and the weight that it carries

in a major election like this one. As the nation saw in November 2000, every vote counts. Voter turnout in 2000 proved disappointing with only 17.2 percent of registered voters ages 18-24 years old showing up at the polls, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Young people made up

SEE VOTING ON PAGE 10

## Salary boost from tuition increase proves disappointing

BY SEAN ROBINSON  
Staff Reporter

Despite Chancellor Mullen's recommendations to the UNC Board of Governors, UNCA professors will not likely receive the salary increase deemed justified by students and administrators, said Bill Spellman.

Spellman, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and chair of the 2003 UNCA task force on tuition increases, said the recommendations approved by student and faculty members on the task force were approved by the Chancellor, but were undermined by the Board of Governors' final ruling.

"The funding formula for state employees and faculty in terms of salary increases comes from the legislature," said Spellman.

As conciliation for the reduction, the Board of Governors approved a 2.5 percent increase in state employee salaries, including professors at UNC campuses, said Spellman. This comes to \$1000 for professors making \$40,000 a

year, approximately base range for new faculty with "newly-minted PhDs," said Spellman.

Such an increase is equal to \$83.33 per month, which equals \$0.52 per hour assuming a 40 hour work week.

While UNCA ranks third in the UNC system in average SAT score for incoming freshmen, behind UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State University, it also ranked second from the bottom in average teacher salary last year, said Spellman.

Students on the task force, while understandably not wanting to see the cost of tuition rise, were receptive to the idea of sacrificing savings for the increase in salary, according to Spellman.

"No one likes to see their tuition increase," said Spellman. "I was really surprised at how posi-

tively they responded in that they felt the quality of what they were receiving was higher than second in the system."

Last year, state employees, a group that includes UNC system professors, received a \$500 bonus, according to Spellman.

"But the bonus wasn't added to their base salary," said Spellman. "It was just a one-time thing, and after taxes it doesn't take you very far."

The ability to provide competitive salaries to incoming professors is drastically important to the school's ability to recruit the nation's best educators, said Spellman. When visiting professorial candidates have visited UNCA, they enjoy the area, the students, and the facilities, but

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Bill Spellman  
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SEE TUITION ON PAGE 10