

The Blue Banner



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NEWS BRIEFS

BY Angele Mainhart
Staff Reporter

CAMPUS CRIME

UNCA police charged Garrett Kilgore, undeclared sophomore, with a state citation for possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia and a student citation for underage possession of alcohol, according to Campus Police. Campus Police questioned Kilgore after they received a call from housing staff complaining of a strong odor of marijuana in Founders Hall. Kilgore admitted to smoking marijuana and handed over the remainder, according to the report. Police searched his room and confiscated a portable scale used to measure the marijuana and several sales of alcohol, which they disposed of by pouring down the sink, according to the report. Campus Police examined the serialism of a car in parking lot C, but the investigation is not closed, according to police.

ASHEVILLE

Over 200,000 residents lost power in western North Carolina by Tropical Storm Ivan, and several people died, according to the Asheville Citizen-Times. The Sheriff's Department arrested a fugitive from Florida on Monday in Ridgecrest, according to the Citizen-Times. Thomas Jones, accompanied by Thompson, shot two men during an armed robbery in Florida, led officers on a manhunt beginning in Old Fort that lasted over 48 hours, according to the Citizen-Times.

NATIONAL

Voters in Louisiana approved a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages and civil unions on Saturday, according to the Associated Press. The amendment does more than stop gay marriage, and it could affect private contracts between married couples, gay or straight, according to John Rawls, a lawyer at the Forum for Equality. Rawls says there may be possible grounds for challenging the results of some precincts receiving voting machines late, according to the Associated Press.

INTERNATIONAL

After Iraq's prime minister asserted that elections would be held on time, a videotape surfaced revealing the beheading of three hostages believed to be Iraqi Kurds, according to the Associated Press. About 300 people have been killed in bombings, street fights and U.S. air strikes in the past week, according to the Associated Press. Ten employees of a U.S.-Turkish company were kidnapped, and the kidnappers threatened to kill the hostages if the company does not withdraw from Iraq, according to CNN. Mudslides and rain killed 14 people and damaged the homes of about 10,000 people in Panama, which declared a state of emergency Saturday, according to CNN.

Ivan leaves mark on UNCA campus

BY Sarah Schmidt
Staff Reporter

Students returned to a battered UNCA Monday after the threat of flooding and high winds from Tropical Storm Ivan caused the administration to cancel classes and evacuate students from residence halls. Deadlier than its predecessor, Tropical Depression Frances, Ivan is blamed for 11 deaths in western North Carolina. Asheville residents braced themselves for another round of destruction last Friday after enduring the flooding and watermain breaks caused by

Tropical Depression Frances the previous week.

Some students chose to ride out the storm in Asheville if distance from home or prior commitment kept them on campus. The cast and crew of "Go Dog Go!" chose to stay in Asheville to work on set and rehearse the administration to cancel classes and evacuate students from residence halls. "Go Dog Go!" will run Sept. 22 through Oct. 3.

"I have an apartment in Woodfin, and I housed about five of the people who were evacuated from the dorms," said Lachlan Smith, senior drama major, who stayed in Asheville to work on the play. "We had a fun time playing

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BRIAN DAVIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A fallen tree straddles a road in the Asheville community. Hurricane Ivan caused scenes such as this in many parts of the city, including UNCA's campus, where some trees fell on power lines.

Congressman rallies for science building

BY Rheannon Yokeley
Staff Reporter

Congressman Charles Taylor requested \$6 million in funds for UNCA. The congressman spoke at a recent press conference at UNCA, where he announced plans to help the campus in its upcoming construction, according to the UNCA Public Information Office.

In November of 2000, a voter-approved Higher Education Bond Referendum gave UNCA \$49.9 million to use toward up-

grading the campus, according to the UNCA Web site. One of the projects scheduled for construction is a new science and multimedia building. Other projects tied to the bond program include the recently completed Highsmith University Union, Reuter Center and Governors Hall dormitory.

Taylor proposed funds that would go to equip the new science and multimedia building. This is an extension of the Education and Research Consortium, which will enhance the information network between several universities in the area. Fi-

ber optic cables are currently in place between UNCA and the federal building in downtown Asheville as a start to this project.

A new science and multimedia building would equip the campus with a new home for the biology, chemistry, and multimedia departments, according to Kathy Whatley, associate vice chancellor for natural sciences.

"There will be modernized and updated laboratories for the introductory classes

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Speakers debate Israel and Palestine violence issues

BY Michael Davis
Staff Reporter

A Jewish scholar and Palestinian born Muslim contrasted their views of the current violence in Palestine in front of approximately 200 people in the Chestnut room at the Reuter Center Sept. 13.

Jewish-American, Walter Ziffer, and Muslim-American, Ahmad Amara, responded to questions and delivered statements as the Western North Carolina World Affairs Council (WAC) launched its 2004-05 lecture series with a debate about the recent developments in the Israeli/Palestinian crisis.

"I think that the resolution to create the state of Israel in 1947 by the United Nations was possibly somewhat influenced by sympathy for the Jews because of the treatment they had received at the hands of Hitler during World War II," said audience member Albert Kriek. "Now the trouble is that the only way that the Palestinians have reacted to this is by fighting, and most of that fighting is by terrorism."

"Not only is it horrible for the victims, it is counterproductive. It doesn't work. It doesn't create sympathy for the Arabs, it creates hatred. If they had employed the methods of Mahatma Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr., I think they would long since have achieved at least some retribution. I think they would have had a homeland, had a Palestinian state by now."

In their opening statements, the speakers, who both taught abroad and in the U.S., expressed concerns for the people of the region and their thoughts on the current conditions.

As a Jew born in Czechoslovakia, Ziffer survived the Holocaust by escaping to America in 1948.

"I am deeply concerned not only for my Jewish friends in Israel, the Israelis, but I am deeply concerned for Palestinians as well, for Muslims and Christians," said Ziffer. "In what is commonly called the holy land, I think very unholy things are taking place these days."

In order to overcome the conflict of the Palestinians and Israelis, much open discussion and understanding is required.

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Students speak up about election

BY Sean Robinson
Staff Reporter

UNCA students expressed diverse opinions on the 2004 election Tuesday, as both President Bush and John Kerry adopted bolder language and stronger stances for the final six weeks of campaigning.

In a speech delivered to the United Nations General Assembly Tuesday, President Bush defended his position to invade Iraq, uncompromisingly stating that the war "helped to deliver the Iraqi people from an outlaw dictator."

Six weeks prior to the Nov. 2 presidential election, Bush's comments targeted the domestic audience as much as they did the U.N., as a tougher John Kerry ad campaign aimed at pressuring the president on his stance in Iraq aired in 13 key battleground states.

"Two hundred billion dollars. That is what we are spending in Iraq because George Bush chose to go it alone," said Kerry in the new TV ad. "Now the president tells us we don't have the resources to take care of health care and education here at home. That's wrong."

Kerry's new campaign ad also seeks to reassure the American people that, if elected president, he will persist in defending America against terrorism, but emphasizes that this fight



BRIAN DAVIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Soccer coach Meghann Burke and freshman Kristen Crews motivate UNCA students to register.

will not be at the cost of the American way of life.

"As president, I'll stop at nothing to get the terrorists before they get us. But I'll also fight to build a stronger middle class. That's the difference in this election. I believe the next president must do both, defend America and fight for the middle class," said Kerry.

The new television ad corresponds with Kerry's tougher campaign speeches, as demonstrated Monday at New York University, where Kerry said he would not have invaded Iraq had he been the commander-in-chief and known that Iraq possessed no weapons of mass destruction.

"We have traded a dictator for a chaos that has left America

less secure," said Kerry.

Alongside Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, President Bush used this statement by Kerry to criticize his opponent.

"He said that the world was better off with Saddam in power," said Bush. "I strongly disagree."

With Bush pulling ahead in the polls, edging nearer to election day, speculation abounded as to whether this last-minute, tough-talk approach to the campaign would be enough to help Kerry win.

"I think it's going to be pretty close," said Lauren Ball, senior history major. "I hope Bush wins. I think he's the best man for the job."

Despite recent Kerry campaign attacks on Bush's military

leadership, Ball maintains her support of the incumbent.

"I'm a military brat, so that's one of my big concerns, and I trust Bush more leading this country with the military than I do Kerry," said Ball. "I believe there were weapons of mass destruction, and knowing what I know now, I still support the war on Iraq."

Kerry supporters were plentiful on campus Tuesday, but none were very optimistic about the campaign up until now, even while staunchly opposing the Bush administration.

"I'm very anti-Bush right now," said Brenna McColl, undeclared freshman. "Right now, Kerry's losing and he has a really weak campaign."

McColl expressed disdain for the Bush administration and its tactics and motives, arguing that there was more to U.S. military presence in Iraq than the White House will admit.

"I think it was more than weapons of mass destruction," said McColl. "I'm sure it had something to do with oil."

Other students on campus Tuesday had criticism for both sides of the race for the presidency, expressing feelings of alienation due to the candidates' avoidance of key topics.

"There's a lot of mudsling-

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