

The Blue



Banner

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NEWS BRIEFS

by Matthew Beardsley Staff Reporter

CRIME

Campus Police reported no crimes this week.

LOCAL

North Carolina's gubernatorial race is a debate on the topic of education. Democratic incumbent Mike Easley and Republican challenger Patrick Ballantine both promote themselves as the answer to deficiencies in the public school system and promise new programs to assist elementary school students who are learning to read. Neither candidate supports a state lottery, though Easley used funds initially aside for mental health reform, road construction and state employee and teachers' retirement to ease a budget deficit, according to the Asheville Citizen-Times.

An outbreak of Legionnaires' disease killed two people in Cherokee County, according to the Asheville Citizen-Times. State and federal health officials are investigating conditions at Murphy Medical Center, where several more cases were reported.

NATIONAL

The FDA approved Oct. 13 the use of the VeriChip, a tiny microchip implant used to store patient-specific information under the skin. The procedure for implanting the chip takes 20 minutes, is done with a syringe and leaves no stitches. The VeriChip allows doctors to read a patient's medical history with the use of a scanner, the same way a UPC code is used to tell retail computers the price of its goods.

New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer announced Oct. 13 that Sept. 11 commemorative coins, purportedly pressed using silver recovered from Ground Zero, were fraudulent. The coins, which depict the proposed "Freedom Tower" on one side and the pre-Sept. 11 Manhattan skyline on the other, are only silver-plated, though advertisements claim the coins are made of solid .999 pure silver. National Collector's Mint of Port Jervis, New York, could face up to \$500 in civil penalties for each false advertisement.

Fox News personality Bill O'Reilly sued one of his associate producers and her lawyer Oct. 13, claiming that they threatened him with high profile sexual harassment suits, unless they received a \$60 million payment to ensure their silence.

INTERNATIONAL

U.N. inspectors, having waited out the war in Iraq, are finally ready to resume their search for clues to the disappearance of nuclear equipment from Saddam's old regime. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), responsible for monitoring Hussein's nuclear sites prior to the invasion, told the U.N. Security Council that materials and equipment that could be used to create nuclear weapons has been disappearing from Iraq, citing that the entire Iraq project has ended in tragedy and failure.



BRIAN DAVIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Richard Burr, a candidate for the senate, spoke to students about the importance of youth participation in politics. "Rock the Vote" entertained students on campus with live music and several speakers.

Rock the Vote mixes music with politics

by Sean Robinson Staff Reporter

The Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a day-long music and voter registration festival Rock the Vote, which saw a little rain and a lot of impressive names in politics Oct. 2, but not too many student faces.

Despite dual stages that featured senatorial candidate Richard Burr, popular local band Secret Lives, and a myriad of other performers and politicians brought free of charge to the quad, the event was sparsely attended by students.

Those who did attend had various explanations for the disappointing turnout.

"To put it candidly, I think that we're a bunch of shut-ins, and it's got to change," said Scott Sherman, junior psychology major. "It's a great student body. We just don't like to have fun, apparently."

Students who attended the so-

ire donned political buttons, stickers for various candidates, and a few wore American flag bandanas. One student wore a shirt that appropriately charged students to "Vote for Something."

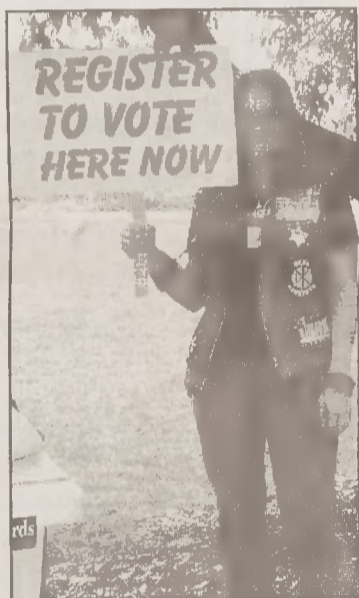
Sophomore SGA member and Rock the Vote planner Anna Lange said she felt that attendance was low because of a gap in student awareness regarding the event.

"I am with SGA, so this was like our baby," said Lange. "I am kind of disappointed. I wish there would have been people. I don't think its apathy. I just think it was miscommunication."

Local rock group Drug Money made light of the low attendance, claiming to have come to "coax the vote" instead of "rocking" it.

Phil Glazier, chair and coordinator of the event, remained positive about the event, citing that in spite of a brief, mid-after-

noon rain and poor attendance from students and the community, the mission of Rock the Vote, to



MAGGIE WEST/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

SGA and Sigma Nu continued to urge students to register to vote for the 2004 election on Nov. 2 during the "Rock the Vote" event.

entertain and inform the student body, was effectively accomplished.

"Everyone seems to be enjoying themselves," said Glazier. "There's no protesting, no injuries. People are having fun, and that's all we wanted."

Freshman Hannah Flomianyj saw the event in a different light,

questioning the intentions of students on campus that claim to be politically active, and yet fail to attend this magnitude of on-campus event.

"I was very surprised at the turnout. I think it's very low," said Flomianyj. "I thought that there were going to be a lot more people interested in what's going on. The vibe I've gotten on campus is that people are very interested in becoming politically active, and there weren't very many people that showed up."

While student volunteers from SGA, Sigma Nu, and other organizations were present to register students to vote, information packets about particular candidates and political issues were also readily available, something Flomianyj says is a good thing.

"I really enjoyed the fact that there were sheets of actual data available for people," said Flomianyj. "I feel that's more convincing than just listening to impassioned speakers."

Keynote speaker Richard Burr took the stage at 4:45 p.m., and spoke to a crowd of just under 90 students, conveying a message of political awareness, voter registration, and also of national solidar-

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Cooper Anderson speaks to students

by Sarah Schmidt Staff Reporter

Anderson Cooper, host of the CNN news show "Anderson Cooper 360," spoke to students, faculty and alumni of UNCA as part of the annual Founders Day program of UNCA Oct. 1.

"We live in deadly serious times, not just because we are a country at war, but because we are in an ideological struggle as long as we live," said Cooper. "How does that change you? I don't know, but it makes it more important to be engaged in what is happening in the world around you."

Cooper spoke of his ideas of how the American public views

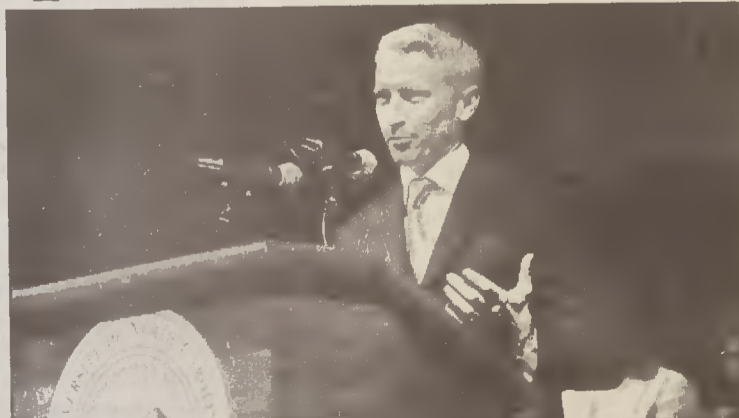
the mass media as a reason for students to be more engaged in world news.

"To actually be an engaged observer is my job, and my job is to see all sides," said Cooper. "It's very liberating."

"What concerns me as an American and as a reporter is how divided and polarized people are. It has made people view the world through a limited lens. People expect the media to have a slant, and I think it's something that no one should expect."

Cooper also spoke about his experience rising through the ranks of media, and of his travels through war zones as a freelance reporter.

"It boggles my mind that such things can happen in this day and



LAUREN ABE/CAMPUS EDITOR

Anderson Cooper spoke about his liberal arts experience.

age," said Cooper. "Being in war zones, you learn about yourself, and about the dark places in the human heart, that anyone is capable of anything. It is fascinating

to see a world where things are upside down."

Cooper went on to cite his own

SEE COOPER ON PAGE 12

Founders Day: an honorable tradition

by Angele Mainhart Staff Reporter

The chancellor and a guest from CNN spoke about civic engagement and presented awards to some of the distinguished members of the UNCA family during Founders Day Oct. 1.

"Founders Day honors the commitment to excellence in the liberal arts and to service of the community that are hallmarks of our university's history," said Chancellor James Mullen. "It ties together generations that have attended here and contributes to that history. Tradition matters at a college campus because it unites alumni, former faculty and staff with students, faculty and staff of today."

Founders Day celebrates the transition of UNCA from Buncombe County Junior College in 1927 to the public liberal arts college that it is today. The celebration intends to continue the idea of tradition, according to Mullen.

"I think Founders Day is actually pretty important because it manages to solidify UNCA's underlying guiding principles while, at the same time, introduces freshmen to these ideals that will tie them to UNCA even after they've graduated," said Grant Baker, junior jazz guitar major.

Anderson Cooper, host of the CNN news program "Anderson Cooper 360," and the Chancellor spoke about the importance of students being involved and informed citizens, according to the UNCA news release.

"I thought that the speeches were actually very poignant and relevant," said Baker. "It really illuminated UNCA's ability to remain dynamic in the face of changing academic pressures while holding true to consistent core principles, such as civic duty and outstanding academic achievement."

"Anderson Cooper's celebrity appearance rocked my socks. CNN is probably the only trustworthy news source in America today."

Cooper spoke about the upcoming elections and how it is important for students to be involved in the community and to know what's going on around them. Many students agreed with this idea, and feel that people should know who they are voting for.

"I thought they highlighted the importance of giving back to the community and just showing where our school came from," said Burke Foley, senior environmental studies major. "I think it's important to stay involved in the community and to know what's going on, especially in terms of the elections. You should know who your politicians are and who you're going to vote for."

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