

# The Blue Banner



SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE SINCE 1982

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## NEWS BRIEFS

by Sarah Schmidt  
Staff Reporter

### CAMPUS CRIME

Campus police reported that a male student committed simple physical assault on a female student Oct. 16, after she refused to allow the male onto a shuttle bus for Gamma Phi Beta because he was reportedly intoxicated and not on the invite list. The freshman female received minor injuries after a senior male struck her on the head with a fist. The female is not pressing charges and requested that the incident be handled through student conduct.

Campus police arrested two students for resisting an officer and for underage alcohol possession after the students reportedly tossed liquor bottles off the bank of W.T. Weaver Boulevard and fled the scene on foot Oct. 23. Police arrested the two sophomores at their residence in the University Place dorms and charged them with two misdemeanor counts each. A third sophomore was issued a student conduct citation for underage possession of alcohol.

### UNCA

The UNCA Political Union will host a screening of George Butler's new documentary, *Going Upriver: The Long War of John Kerry*, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Humanities Lecture Hall. Trevor Carr of the student organization called the film, *Flaming for Kerry*, although he maintains that it is not a pro-Kerry documentary. Following the screening, a panel including conservative Robert Fellman, College Republican Chad Mohn and others will discuss the film and field audience questions about the documentary.

### ASHEVILLE

Voters in North Carolina can cast their ballots at their convenience until Saturday, making use of the "no excuse" voting option. Over 25,000 early votes are expected to be cast in Buncombe County this year, according to the *Asheville Citizen-Times*. Buncombe County has eight polling sites for voters to choose from. The Buncombe County Training Room will be open for voting from Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 30. All seven branches of the Asheville-Buncombe Library System are also polling sites, open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 30, according to the *Citizen-Times*.

### INTERNATIONAL

Israel's Parliament ratified a plan to withdraw Israeli citizens from all 21 settlements on the Gaza Strip and from four in the West Bank, in a four-step plan for next year, according to Reuters. The plan to uproot all Israeli settlements from these areas and allow Palestinians to settle the land will be completed in 2005 if the motion passes a cabinet vote set for March. Prime Minister

## Student group sparks abortion debate

by Sean Robinson  
Staff Reporter

Students for Bioethical Reform hosted a demonstration Oct. 26 and 27 that used large-scale photographic comparisons of aborted fetuses to acts of genocide in order to increase awareness in the debate over abortion.

"Unfortunately, abortion has become a settled issue on college campuses and universities all over the country," said Paul Troiani, member of the non-profit group Center for Bioethical Reform, which provided the demonstration on the quad. "We're trying to encourage students to look at it analytically, and we're using pictures of abortions, mainly first trimester abortions, to communicate how evil abortion is."

All students received e-mails the same day from Associate Vice Chancellor for Student and Academic Services Patricia McClellan, who wrote the memo to inform students that the student group, Students for Bioethical Reform, was recognized by the university, and had complied with all school regulations necessary to host the two-day event.

President of Students for Bioethical Reform Viktorija Krulikas called the group "pro-life and anti-abortion" and described their mission as one of attempting to prove to students on college campuses nation-wide that abortion is evil and should be illegal.

"We're hoping that by seeing the pictures, people will really realize that it's a baby and not just a blob of tissue and, by actually showing a picture of a baby with fingers and toes, that people will realize that it is a human life," said Krulikas, undeclared sophomore.

A small group of student and non-student protesters attended the event, calling themselves the "walking opposition," using a triangular billboard with 40-foot sides and pictures large enough to discern from across the quad. Nable Wallin, a non-student protester and leader of the "walking opposition," called the display propaganda.

"I'm trying to show that there's a contingency of people here that disagree with this demonstration, and I'm trying to get people to walk around to show that opposition," said Wallin. "Largely, it's because of the propagand-



Michael Dosier/guest photographer  
New student organization Students for Bioethical Reform addressed the controversial issue of abortion on UNCA's Quad Oct. 26 and 27.

dist methods they're using and the disinformation and sensationalism to try to distort people's perceptions."

The opposition group expressed dissatisfaction with the anti-abortion groups methods, citing that the situation put students who walk by on the defensive, rather than encouraging intelligent discourse.

"I think it's divisive, and it goes against the grain of an actual discussion," said Wallin. "It's just people with statistics that are going to throw them at you, and you have to defend yourself."

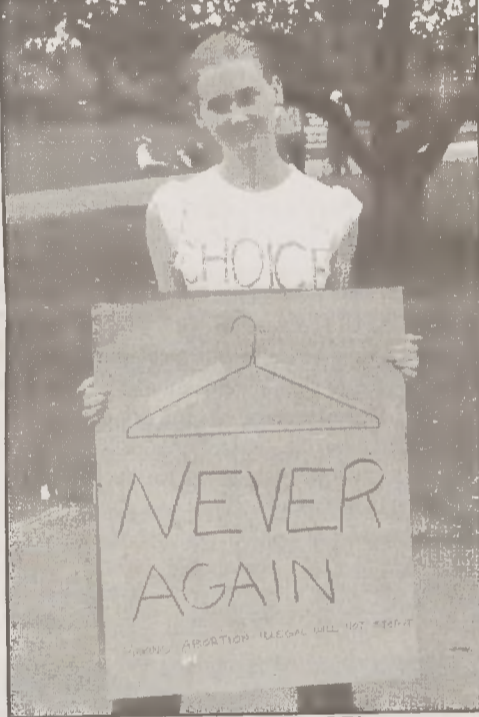
During the event, Student Body President Porscha Yount commented on the First-Amendment right to free speech for every student organization, no matter what their political, religious, or moral leanings.

"I think they definitely have a right to be there and express their opinion," said Yount. "They went through all the steps to become a recognized student organization. They went through all the steps to procure space for this rally of sorts. They did everything by the book, and there's no way to tell them they can't express their opinion when no other opinions are squelched."

Several students passing the display stopped to chat with members of Center for Bioethical Reform across the metal barricades separating

**"I feel like it's a bold exercise of First Amendment rights, but I think that it's a really tactless and tasteless way of going about it, and I think it's effectively a method of harassment."**

James Anderson  
undeclared freshman



Lauren Abe/campus editor  
Bethany Niebauer, junior French major, and other voiced the opinions of pro-choice students of UNCA.

the public from the pictures of Holocaust victims and Cambodian killing fields juxtaposed with pictures of aborted fetuses. Students like

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## Voter turnout rises for this year's election

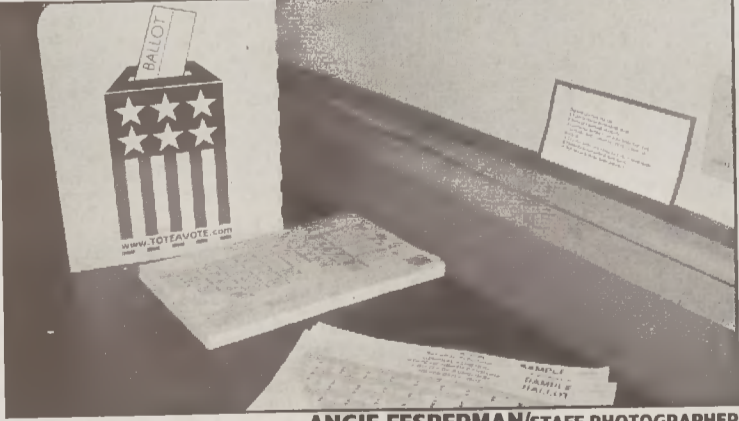
by Angele Mainhart  
Staff Reporter

The number of voters increased this year, but the elections continue to cause division among students at UNCA, along with the rest of the United States.

"I have been very surprised by the College Republicans this year," said Brandon White, senior political science major at UNCA. "I used to think that UNCA didn't have a College republicans group, but they were out in full force at the Rock the Vote event on Oct. 2."

White said he welcomes the division among college students. He feels that this allows for a broader exchange and scope of ideas and beliefs.

"There does seem to be a growing Republican coalition on campus that has done a great job at recruiting members and finding a voice for conservatives on a predominantly liberal campus," said



Angie Fesperman/staff photographer  
Voters gathered at local polls to vote before the official voting date of Nov. 2.

White. "They may be a minority, but they have done well at making themselves heard and seen. It still remains to be seen if they will remain active when the election year is over. For the sake of good debate and competing ideas, I really hope they do."

The number of registered voters increased, according to *The Washington Post*.

Some claim that the campaigns from the political parties caused this increase.

"The amount of activist groups from both sides of the aisles, be it Democrats or Republicans, have mounted enormous 'Get Out The Vote' campaigns, making sure that each side's base goes to the polls," said White. "On the first day of early voting in Asheville, 2,000

people voted. It's such a volatile era, and the issues being discussed are so divisive that the American electorate has become increasingly divided. Today, it's so much more partisan than it used to be. I mean, I know of friendships that have ended over politics this year."

The anti-Kerry documentary, *Stolen Honor: Wounds that Never Heal*, caused a controversy.

While some claim that the documentary is newsworthy, others feel it went beyond fairness rules.

"The controversy in my view lies with the unbalanced reporting taken by the media outlet," said Dolly Mullen, professor of political science. "While we all acknowledge the biases which exist in our information sources, we like to see its expression kept to a minimum. Every indicator in this instance suggests that this is not the case."

Mark Gibney compared the U.S. political system to wrestling.

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## UNCA presents Greenfest 2004

by Rheannon Yokeley  
Staff Reporter

UNCA hosted the semi-annual GreenFest Oct. 17-22.

"GreenFest is a festival where we (students) get to celebrate green values at UNCA," said Timothy Putnam, senior environmental studies major. "Everybody, for a week, gets to be green and help out on campus. It is a celebration of our environmental ethics."

The fall 2004 GreenFest event involved the Student Government Association, Underdog Productions, campus environmental groups, UNCA Outdoor Education, service organizations and numerous volunteers from around campus, according to Putnam.

"GreenFest is a way for students to work with Facilities Management and get to know the people who work there," said Porscha Yount, student body president and senior environmental science major.

A GreenFest Committee formed this year, making the planning of GreenFest easier than it has been in years past, according to Putnam.

"GreenFest is two things. One, it's a celebration for those for are already environmentally-minded to come together and have a good time," said Putnam. "For the people who are not really aware of the environmental issues, this is an opportunity for them to become involved, and it's a fun thing to do."

Organizers of GreenFest hope the people who participated in this event will become more involved and conscious about the situation, according to Putnam.

"While many people benefited from the great films, lectures and demonstrations..., my favorite activity was actually the performance of the physical labor involved in the week's campus beautification component," said Will Farley, sophomore music major. "I personally, along with other members of the student body, was responsible for planting the trees and grasses behind Founders and Highsmith, and the mulching alongside University Heights—all contributing to a healthy environment, as well as the aesthetic of the UNCA campus. By involving myself in these activities, I know that I will be much inclined to appreciate the landscaping that already exists on campus, feeling a close personal connection to the beautiful campus that I, as a student, helped create."

As of fall 2002, participants in GreenFest workdays added over 500 trees, 15 trails and numerous plants to the UNCA campus and Asheville Botanical Gardens since the festival began in 1991, according to a UNCA press release.

There were about 70 or 80 people who signed up in advance

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