

# The Blue Banner



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## NEWS BRIEFS

by Angele Mainhart  
Staff Reporter

### CAMPUS CRIMES

There are no campus crimes to report this week.

### LOCAL

The outbreak of E. coli infections in North Carolina grew to 31 confirmed infections with, 103 more under investigation, according to the Associated Press.

The E. coli is linked to state fair in October where people visited a petting zoo, according to the AP. Three children developed a serious complication from the infection, which can cause kidney failure, according to the AP.

### NATIONAL

A man from Georgia drove to New York and killed himself at ground zero Nov. 7, according to the AP. His mother believes he shot himself because of President Bush's reelection, and he chose ground zero as a symbol, according to the *New York Times*. The investigation as to how he managed to enter the protected area still continues, according to the AP.

A man who confessed two decades ago to the murder of 13 women stands trial on Monday for the murder of a 14th woman, according to the AP.

Authorities never charged Coral Eugene Watts with murder because of a lack of evidence and a deal where he helped prosecutors solve several murders, according to the AP. He currently serves time in Texas for burglary with intent to murder, according to the AP.

The past charges allow Watts to be released in 2006, but, if convicted of murder, he may face a life sentence without parole, according to the AP.

### INTERNATIONAL

Supporters of Ukrainian presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko protested nationwide against alleged election fraud Nov. 7, according to the AP.

Neither Yushchenko nor his opponent, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, running against 22 other candidates, received more than 50 percent of the votes, which caused people to point to media bias in favor of Yanukovich and state interference, according to the AP.

Part of Yushchenko's plan calls for eventual withdrawal of 1,600 Ukrainian troops from the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq, according to the AP.

Iraq's Prime Minister Ayad Allawi asked European nations to unite in order to help stabilize his country, according to the AP.

"Iraq is your best ally in the Middle East," Allawi said to the European Union leaders. "We need your help to succeed in building the freedom and democracy for which we are fighting."

All of the EU leaders pledged their support and offered \$38.6 million to fund elections, according to the AP. Allawi also asked that European countries keep their troops in Iraq in hopes to deter more terrorism, according to the AP.



BRIAN DAVIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Spectators gather at a home soccer game to support the Bulldogs. The Bulldog Fever organization promotes more supporters of Bulldog events with prizes and games.

## Campus organization supports athletics

by Rheannon Yokeley  
Staff Reporter

The UNCA athletic department and Bulldog Fever, a new campus organization, work together to raise student interest in athletics around the UNCA campus, according to Kasey McDevitt, senior management major and president of Bulldog Fever.

"Bulldog Fever is a new organization on campus," said Erin Curtis, junior mass communication major and vice president of Bulldog Fever. "The purpose is to get students who wouldn't normally come to sporting events involved with UNCA athletics."

Bulldog Fever is only about a month old and received great response from students during their prize giveaways at UNCA athletic events, according to McDevitt.

"Our three main goals are to promote school pride, encourage participation at games and events, and to support Bulldog athletics," said McDevitt.

The Justice Center is a small arena and hav-

ing a student section would add to the atmosphere at sporting events, according to Erin Punter, athletics marketing coordinator.

This type of interest from students could help the Bulldog home court advantage, because the fans sit closer to the floor, according to Punter.

"At schools like Western Carolina and Appalachian State, the school colors are all over the campus, and students wear shirts with their school's name," said McDevitt. "We don't really do that much here. We (Bulldog Fever) decided this was a problem and we wanted to fix it."

So far this year, the athletics department and Bulldog Fever gave away a bookstore gift certificate for \$250, a DVD/VCR combo player, T-shirts, sweatshirts, free food, \$100 cash and an MP3 player, according to Punter.

"A lot of the prizes have come from our sponsors and from the athletic department going out and acquiring them," said Punter. "Not all of the prizes are donations. The sponsors are really excited about getting involved

and about the student body at UNCA. They have been really helpful. It's definitely something we plan to continue.

"We won't always give away a big prize because of the budget, but we will continue giveaways at sporting events."

The Bulldog Fever organization just completed a series of sports giveaways by issuing a Bulldog Fever Card.

There were seven home games between the different sports teams on campus. For each game attended, the students receive a punch on their card.

If a student attended at least four of the six games, they were eligible for a final prize of \$100 cash, according to McDevitt.

"The athletic department has helped us a great deal," said Sarah Davis, undeclared sophomore and creative director for Bulldog Fever.

"They are giving us the prizes to give away at games and helping us to get Bulldog Fever T-shirts."

By bringing the students out to athletic events on campus, the hope is that they will have a great time and want to come back, according to Punter.

"We think athletics are a very important

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## Students react to Taylor's win

by Sarah Schmidt  
Staff Reporter

Voters from UNCA and from North Carolina's 11th Congressional District re-elected incumbent U.S. Rep. Charles Taylor over Buncombe County commissioner Patsy Keever Nov. 2. Winning 55 percent of the vote to Keever's 45 percent, both candidates fought a close race.

"Taylor won the election because he demonstrated greater public support, greater vote-getting ability than did his oppo-

nent," said William Sabo, political science professor. "It's extraordinarily difficult to defeat incumbents, unless certain very specific conditions exist."

UNCA students and faculty reacted to the results of the election, depending on which candidate they voted for. Students that voted for Taylor expressed confidence in his experience and intentions for the 11th Congressional District.

"I love the man," Brandon Searcy, undeclared sophomore. "I think he's so sincere, and he's looking out for the best interests of

North Carolina. I think he's got a lot of experience, a lot of morality, and is the best man for the job."

Other students who voted for Keever pointed to the TV and radio ads produced by the Taylor campaign as "unjust" in the close election, according to Brenna McCall, undeclared freshman.

"I thought that it was really close and that it was kind of unjust, because hearing the radio commercials against Keever were pretty bad," said McCall.

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## Professor discusses religious studies

by Sean Robinson  
Staff Reporter

Trig Johnson, UNCA adjunct professor of humanities who is currently pursuing his Ph.D. from Oxford University, gave a lecture Nov. 2 on religious study in the university system and the myths that surround it.

In the lecture, Johnson proposed a theory that students who fear or avoid courses on religion at the university level subscribe to one or more of a variety of myths about what an academic study of religion truly means.

"In short, they haven't been exposed to the academic side of religion," said Johnson.

Undeclared sophomore Benjamin Cox, a student that Johnson teaches in Humanities 214, says Johnson's teaching and lecturing methods are effective because of their fair and intellectual nature.

"I think that he's one of the best professors I've ever had, because of the way he lectures, the way he teaches and how he involves the students," said Cox. "I like that he doesn't agree with everything the humanities lectures put out. He judges based on his own knowledge and what he discovers for himself."

In accord with his lecturing habits, Johnson urges his student to engage themselves in the same thought-based, objective research, according to Cox.

"He encourages us to go out and look stuff up on our own, so that we actually grasp the subject matter," said Cox. "He's a really encouraging teacher, definitely."

The lecture Johnson delivered described three categories of myths regarding the study of religion. Johnson called the first myth "the myth of who," referring to the belief that religious study should only be attempted as an affirmation of faith by the faithful.

"I would argue that religious persons being in the classroom is not necessarily a bad thing," said Johnson. "If someone is familiar with religion, they would be an asset. There's a knowledge base there."

A gross misconception of religious studies is manifest in the belief that an atheist has no place in a scholastic discussion of religion, according to Johnson.

"Atheists have contributed to our understanding of religion," said Johnson. "The absence of atheists and agnostics from the classroom would be a tremendous loss."

Those who abstain from religious practices are not, by default, without value in the academic study of religion. They can provide an important contrast to students who practice a particular faith in opinions and ideas about religion as a whole, according to Johnson.

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BRIAN DAVIS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris Asbill, junior literature major ponders student reactions to the election.