

CAMPUS

Professor calls attention to genocide in Darfur

by Stephen McIntyre
Staff Reporter

A professor from Emory University spoke Nov. 3 on genocide in Darfur and the responsibility of the international community to take action.

"My generation in the post-independence period has failed to deliver on the promise of independence," said Abdullahi An-Na'im, professor of law at Emory University, in his speech "Genocide in Darfur: Challenge and Response." "Our generation has failed to bring a sense of unity."

A native of Sudan, An-Na'im spoke about mass murders in Darfur. Darfur, a region of Sudan, existed as an independent political entity for 400 years before being incorporated into Sudan in 1916, after World War I.

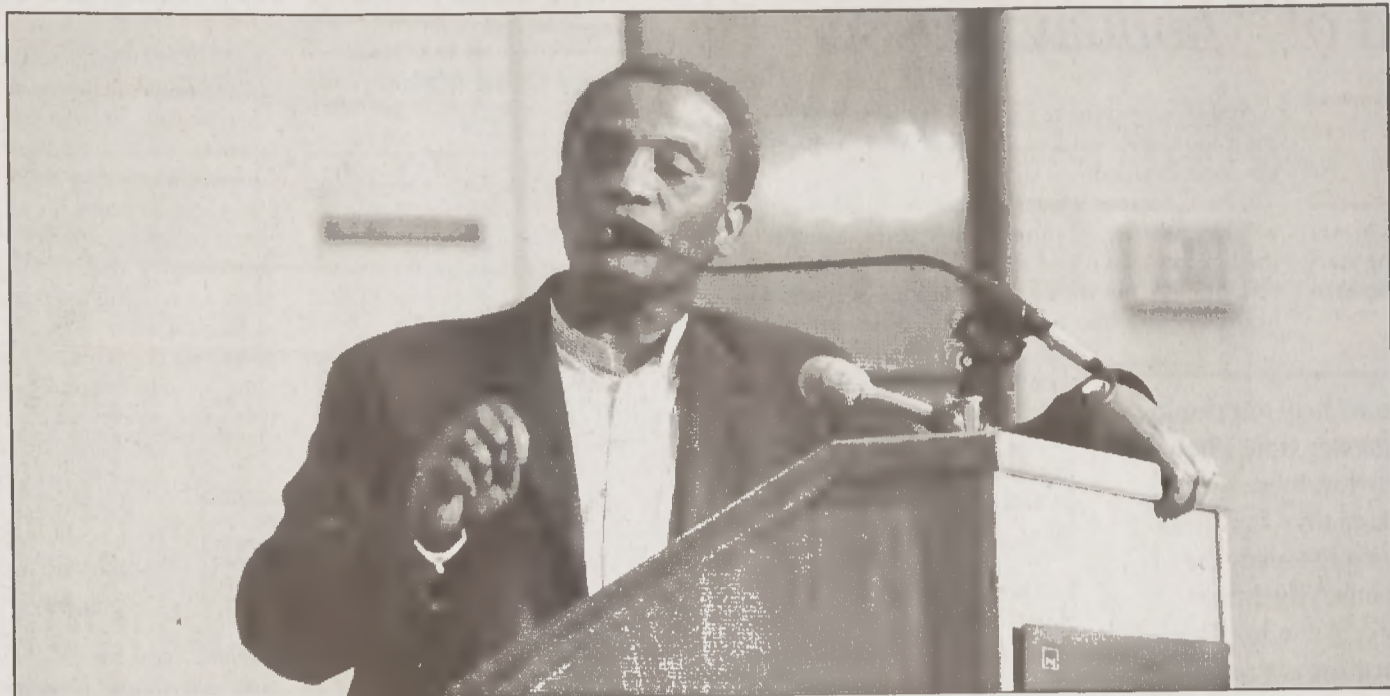
An-Na'im labeled the crisis in Darfur as genocide, as he called it "part of the agony of post-colonial Africa." An-Na'im defined genocide as the killing, destruction, maiming or a variety of acts with the intention of destroying people in whole or in part.

His main concern was the magnitude of the killing in Darfur. An-Na'im spoke of his concern for the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide by the international community.

While politicians label the problem in Darfur as genocide, they do little to eliminate or resolve the problem, according to An-Na'im.

There lies a pattern of non-response to genocide in Africa, according to Mark Gibney, political science professor.

"The reports are coming in constantly



LAUREN ABE/CAMPUS EDITOR

Abdullahi An-Na'im, professor of law at Emory University, discussed President Bush's lack of concern for humanity.

of pillaging of villages, rape of women, kidnapping of children and killing of men," said An-Na'im.

The Genocide Convention of 1948 binds contracting states to take up the matter with the Security Council and to seek prevention and punishment for those involved in carrying out the genocide. However, in the case of Darfur, this remains to be enacted.

An-Na'im demanded an immediate response from the international community, the United States in particular. Humanitarian and national law must be concerned

with this magnitude of violence, according to An-Na'im.

President Bush admitted the situation in Darfur is an act of genocide, according to An-Na'im. Thus, in reference to the Genocide Convention of 1948, President Bush should assume responsibility to intervene, according to the convention.

To call the situation genocide and not act upon it is as bad as not even noticing the problem, according to An-Na'im.

If the international community only addresses one aspect of the conflict and fails to address underlying causes, then the goal

for peace remains unfulfilled, according to An-Na'im.

In response to the sluggish response of humanitarian aid from the international community Gibney asserts "they see other people as less important and less human than they are."

He addressed other situations similar to the crisis in Darfur, which the American media and public neglect. The goal is to anticipate the crisis and preempt it.

"The invasion of Iraq has been the most destructive single act any administration could possibly take," said An-Na'im.

An-Na'im compared the U.S. invasion of Iraq to the colonial military conquest of countries like Britain, France and Portugal during the 19th century. What happened in Iraq in 2003 discredits the notion of humanitarian intervention, showing thinly veiled colonial intentions, according to An-Na'im.

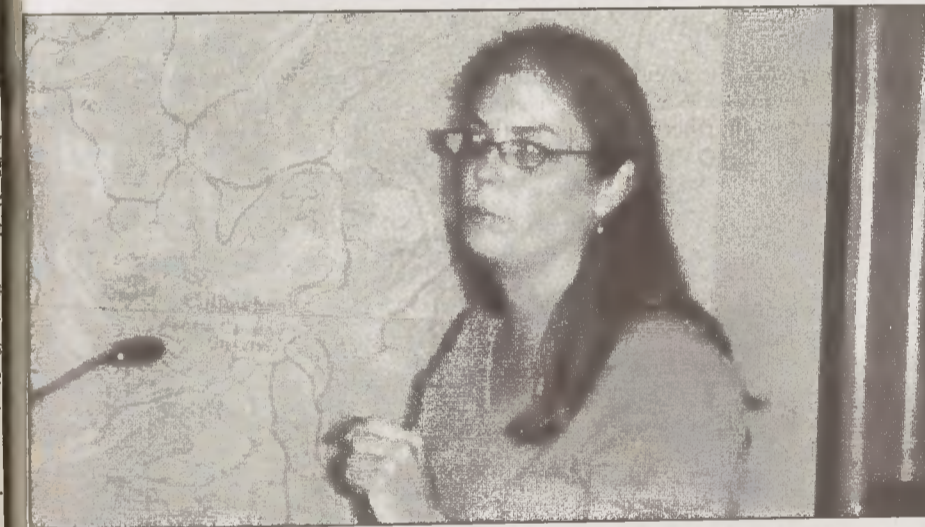
An-Na'im classified the problem in Darfur as "an exclusively interim Muslim conflict." Darfur converted to Islam before the rest of the country. Ethnicity, autonomy and elite politics play into the conflict, according to An-Na'im.

"How does Sudan come to terms with the post colonial?" said An-Na'im.

Colonial Africa was not prepared to deal with the country after the rule of the British Colonial Administration. The country currently finds itself divided into two types of tribes: the nomadic, who venture to seek water, and the farming communities. These farming communities tend to defend themselves against nomadic tribes encroaching on their territory, along with a militia.

In the past, tribal mediations solved conflicts in Darfur, as they were small in scale with limited death and destruction, according to An-Na'im. Today, trained segments of Islamic legion militia types incur long-term militarization of the region, the spread of arms and the manipulation of tribal militias. Military training has become an integral way of tribal life, allowing all tribal militias to guard the sovereignty of their country.

In closing An-Na'im focused on the prevention, punishment and intervention of crises like Darfur. He closed with the biblical passage, "If you want peace, do justice."



ANGIE FESPERMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jane Eastman directed the excavation of the Cullowhee Mound.

WNC excavates campus

by Kimberly Barto
Staff Reporter

UNCA hosted a talk on "Excavations at Cullowhee Mound" by the director of the excavation, Jane Eastman, at Ramsey Library's Whitman Room at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 11.

The excavation began last year as part of Western Carolina University's summer archaeology field school, and focuses on a Cherokee village and mound that once existed on the current site of the campus. Eastman, assistant professor of anthropology and director of Cherokee studies at WCU, described their findings in the talk.

"In one area of the site, we uncovered evidence of a more ancient land surface that was a campsite for hunters and gatherers 3,000-5,000 years ago," said Eastman in the talk. "In both areas I've tested, there are intact remains of houses, subterranean pits and, in one area, a trash deposit."

"There is tremendous potential to learn about the architectural plan of the Cherokee town which was probably occupied during the 1500s or 1600s and about the daily lives of the people that lived there."

The mound was constructed and used between 1450 and 1700, but came down in 1956 to make room for an academic building. The excavations center on the mound fill, which was re-deposited elsewhere on campus.

"I have always pulled for underdogs, and this site is a great example of an undervalued resource, that although it has been se-

verely affected by campus construction in the past, it still retains tremendous potential to teach us new things," said Eastman. "This site was written off in the 1970s as lacking any potential for further research because of campus construction."

Eastman showed slides of the artifacts discovered in the mound fill, including fragments of Qualla pottery, spearpoints, pieces of burned animal bones and small arrowheads. In deeper layers, the field school has uncovered intact post molds and other evidence of occupations on the site that date back to 3000 B.C.

"The most significant thing is the potential to have intact structural remains," said Eastman in a WCU press release. "We can learn a lot about what happened in the past from the structures."

Students dug through several layers of soil to reach the mound fill. Under this layer is plowed soil from a farm that existed on the spot in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Subsequent layers contain soil from centuries past, according to Eastman.

The current excavations are not the first to take place on campus. The intact mound was thought to have been examined by researchers in the 1880s. In 1972, the field school excavated a Cherokee structure in an area where the university's Ramsey Center is now located, according to Eastman.

Eastman also spoke of the difficulties involved in researching the original mound.

"I was surprised that I have been able to locate so little historical documentation about the mound," said Eastman.

Stress Strategies

A message from the UNCA
Counseling Center...

It's still "Relationship with Stress" month so how are you dealing with your life these days? As it gets closer to the end of the semester, I bet life is feeling harder and going by faster. Maybe some more tips will help.

- Take care of your body. You will have a higher tolerance for stress if you eat healthy food and get enough sleep (not always easy in a college environment). Avoid too much caffeine and sugar because the "highs" result in "lows" later. And breakfast is the most important meal of the day (bet you've never heard that, huh?).

- Laugh. Watch funny movies, hang out with funny friends, find cartoons or jokes online.

- Take a "minute" vacation. Create a quiet scene in your mind. When you're feeling stressed or anxious, imagine the details of that scene, from smells to temperature. You can also play peaceful music or read a good book for a few minutes to take your mind away.

- Know your limits. Watch what you're worrying about and decide if it's something you can control. If not, try to let it go. Don't try to control everything and think before you commit to activities/responsibilities.

- Must you always be right? Try to lighten up on some of your opinions or at least be aware of which buttons usually get pushed, and avoid situations that trigger those buttons. Try to be open to others' opinions. You might actually change your mind.

- Have a good cry. Big boys and girls do cry. Crying often relieves stress and lets those "bottled" up feelings out. Renting sad movies sometimes provides a safe way to express sadness.

- Look for the rainbow rather than the rain. It's the old "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade" adage, but still true. Your mind follows your attention so when you pay attention to positives in your environment, your mind becomes more positive. Some rainbows are: a friendly greeting from the bus driver...someone you met yesterday remembering your name...a car in a really cool color...children's laughter...a motorist who stops to let you through traffic...a sweet piece of fruit...a call from a friend...a cool evening breeze...a toasty fire. Can you think of others?

Upcoming Event: Dec. 1 "Lunch & Learn - The dark side of stress management."

If you need to talk to someone about your anxiety, please call the Counseling Center at 251-6517 for an appointment.

Student Government Update...

MEET THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT: CHRIS BUBENIK

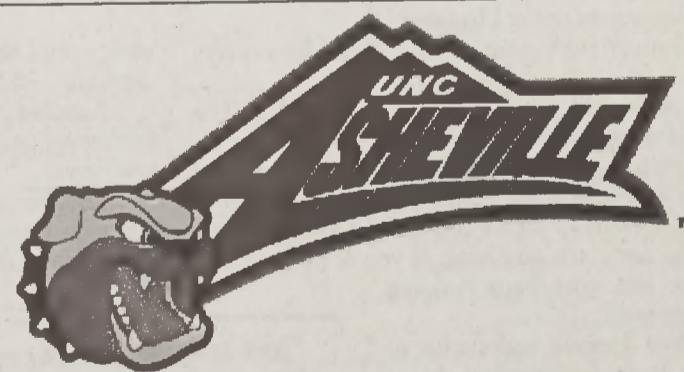
- What's your position in the Student Government? Commuter Senator
- What's your favorite movie? "Happy Campers" because it was filmed in the mountains of North Carolina, which I love, and it's the funny most irreverent movie I've ever seen.
- Who's your favorite professor? Dr. Mitchell, in the mass communication department, because she takes a genuine interest in her students.

INTERESTED IN THE ISSUES THAT ARE AFFECTING YOUR CAMPUS?

Go to the new student forum and voice your opinion on the issues that Student Government is looking into and the concerns that are important to you. Directions to get to the student forum:

- Log onto your pipeline account.
- Click on the "Groups" icon beside the "E-Mail" icon.
- When the new window loads, click the "Groups Index" tab.
- Click on the "Special Interest" link.
- Click on the "Student Forum" link.
- Click the "Join Group" button.
- Check the two boxes under "Required Information."
- In the explanation box type "UNCA Student."
- Click on the Join Button.

You will receive a conformation e-mail within 24 hours, after which you can check back and contribute your ideas to the Student Government and express your feelings on important campus issues.



Bookstore Holiday Party And Sale

20% Off Entire Store*

Refreshments, Door Prizes,
and Other Surprises

*Some exemptions apply, see store for details

Thursday, Dec. 2nd
9am to 5pm