

# The Blue



# Banner

SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE SINCE 1982

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## NEWS BRIEFS

by Sean Robinson  
Staff Reporter

### NATIONAL

Tom Ridge, the United States' first homeland security advisor, left President Bush's cabinet after only three years of attempting to reorganize American security Nov. 30. The seventh Bush cabinet member to decide not to continue on into a second term, Ridge cited a desire to move family and personal matters to a higher priority as a reason for his departure.

### INTERNATIONAL

While promising Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin to work toward easing a U.S. ban on Canadian beef, President Bush stood by and defended decisions on trade and Iraq that have strained the U.S.-Canadian relationship over the last four years Nov. 30.

Even while thousands of anti-Bush protesters lined the streets to protest his visit, President Bush denied that his decisions damaged U.S.-Canadian ties.

In the wake of elections some are calling fraudulent, the Ukrainian opposition party pulled out of negotiations Nov. 30 that some hoped might lead Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma to back a re-run of the election. The opposition said the election for the position of president had been tampered with, and Colin Powell recently affirmed a U.S. position in support of a re-run of the election.

### ENTERTAINMENT

The longest winning streak in television game show history ended Nov. 30 when Ken Jennings lost on an episode of "Jeopardy!" after having earned more than \$2.5 million in 74 wins. The record string of victories began in June for the 30-year-old software engineer from Salt Lake City and earned him \$2,520,700 in cash while boosting ratings for the show by 22 percent over the same period.

### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Patients treated with radioactive material are more likely to set off security alarms because more of them are being equipped with sensitive radiation detectors, according to a Nov. 30 report. Radioactive medications can last in the body for up to three months, according to the report. It urged patients to inform security guards of their treatment before trying to go through the detectors.

### SPORTS

The University of Notre Dame fired head football coach Tyrone Willingham Nov. 30 after a 21-15 record over three seasons. The school athletic director Kevin White said that the school has made the progress of the field necessary to reestablish Notre Dame as part of the college football elite under Willingham's leadership.

### HEALTH

U.S. researchers reported Nov. 30 that germs found in dental plaque can make their way into the lungs and cause fatal pneumonia in elderly nursing home patients.

## Student dies in kayaking accident

by Kristen Ruggeri  
Staff Reporter

Brian Rueff, sophomore multimedia major, died in a kayaking accident over Thanksgiving break. His body was found Nov. 25.

"He was a really generous guy," said Andy Burke, Rueff's friend and roommate at University Place apartments. "His passion was kayaking. He was on the river about four or five times a week."

Kayaking was Rueff's main reason for coming to UNCA, according to Burke, junior psychology major.

"He finished his first semester at (Appalachian State University), and I think he wanted to come to Asheville because there's a tighter boating community here," said Burke. "That was his number one reason for coming here."

Rueff, 20, was originally from Milford, Mich.

"(Rueff) was a very experienced paddler," said undeclared sophomore Chris Schell who was kayaking with Rueff at Green River. "What happened was a freak accident. It could have happened to anyone."

**"(Rueff) was a very experienced paddler. What happened was a freak accident. It could have happened to anyone."**

Chris Schell  
undeclared sophomore

proached a section of the river known as the Narrows, Rueff



Brian Rueff (center) and friends (from left to right) Andy Burke, Liz Laxague and Shelley Baker hang out at a friends apartment in University Place several months ago.

Rueff was boating in the Green River with three friends Nov. 23. Green River is known as a Class 5 and can be very dangerous, according to Carl Swain, assistant chief of the Blue Ridge Fire and Rescue.

As the group of boaters approached a section of the river known as the Narrows, Rueff

paddled ahead and was soon out of sight, according to Hendersonville County Sheriff's Lt. Walt Harper. Authorities said Rueff's kayak apparently overturned.

The group, which had kayaked in Green River numerous times before, usually got out of their kayaks and walked along a trail in order to bypass this section, according to Harper. Rueff's friends assumed he had done so, but then found his overturned kayak below the rapids.

The group searched for Rueff until dark and then went for help.

A search party looked for Rueff until midnight, but the high waters, due to recent rain, delayed the search until the next morning. Duke Power, which controls the water level in the Green River, lowered it so the search could continue Thursday morning. Thursday's search was more successful. The crews found his body about 100 yards downriver from where his kayak had beached, according to the Associated Press.

Many of Rueff's friends who were away visiting their families

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## UNCA salaries lowest in UNC system

by Sarah Schmidt  
Staff Reporter

The UNCA administration recently worked to raise salaries to a more competitive level through campus-based tuition increases after finding that faculty and staff salaries trail behind other UNC baccalaureate universities.

Students rate UNCA highly in teaching effectiveness and quality of instruction, according to the Spring 2004 UNCA Faculty Salaries Report. Students also considered that in the intellectual environment on campus UNCA beat out other UNC baccalaureate institutions in all but one of 11 surveys of sophomores, seniors and alumni in 2002.

UNCA students also outstrip the other baccalaureate institutions in SAT scores, with the average UNCA freshman from 2003 scoring 1166 and other universities scoring an average of 858, according to the report. Despite these points in UNCA's favor, the staff and faculty are paid less on average than other peer institutions.

"UNCA has always lagged in terms of salary," said Chancellor James Mullen. "I think what has happened historically is a number of years ago, during the 1980s and '70s, UNCA began to trail in terms of its salaries. The Board of Governors votes for the budget. That budget is then taken to the General Assembly. It then becomes part of the state's budget, a part of the university system budget."

Without a competitive salary to offer and with one of the higher cost-of-living areas in the UNC system, UNCA could face future problems in terms of hiring and employing faculty and staff.

"Acknowledging the fact that we are low, and acknowledging the fact that it becomes a competitive issue when it comes to recruiting faculty, we need to take steps to address the is-

sue," said Mullen. "We've got certain advantages. This is a great place to live. It's a wonderful academic community and a great interdisciplinary collaboration and spirit. But, at the end of the day, the salary is a factor. We've been fortunate that people have come here and stayed here, but we have to watch to make certain that's the case."

**"In 2000, our campus-based tuition was allocated towards student services and equipment needs rather than faculty salaries. It turns out most other campuses used theirs towards salaries."**

Mark Padilla  
vice chancellor of academic affairs

Some factors that may have influenced the budget for UNCA, voted upon by Board of Governors, include UNCA's size and status as a baccalaureate institution. Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Mark Padilla noted other factors in UNCA's budget.

"In 2000, our campus-based tuition was allocated towards student services and equipment needs rather

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Erin McDonald, sophomore environmental studies, struggles to stay awake to finish her homework.

## Study links lack of sleep with obesity

by Sarah Schmidt  
Staff Reporter

Students at UNCA disagree with the findings of a recent study at Columbia University that indicates that sleep deprivation leads to an increase in appetite and obesity, saying instead that their appetites tend to go down as they get less sleep.

Researchers at Columbia University in New York compared sleep patterns and obesity rates from the 1980s to base their findings. The researchers made the association between sleep and weight from records from a sampling of 6,115 people between the ages of 32 and 59. People getting two to four hours of sleep a night

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## UNCA considers university growth

by Rheannon Yokeley  
Staff Reporter

The UNCA Task Force on Campus Size met on the third floor of the Owen Conference Center Nov. 18. The group met to discuss the possibility of increased enrollment at UNCA and to talk about whether UNCA should grow, according to Irene Rossell, associate professor of environmental studies and member of the task force.

"The charge of the task force is to make a recommendations to the UNCA Faculty Senate and to the chancellor about whether university enrollment should continue to rise," Rossell. "If further growth is recommended, we have to make additional recommendations about the nature of that growth."

Increased growth of high school graduates in North Carolina, especially the piedmont region, caused changes in the university system and in UNCA, according to Archer Gravely, director of the office for institutional research at UNCA. This growth was the reason behind the \$50 million UNCA received for construction projects on campus.

"Right now we (UNCA) enroll approximately 30 percent of all of the high school graduates who enroll in one of the 16 universities in the UNC system," said Gravely.

The headcount for the fall 2004 semester is at 3,485 right now, according to Rossell. In the past, the enrollment figures have been determined by fall headcount where everyone on campus in the fall was counted as a "student."

UNCA now looks at numbers by counting the number of people who represent a full-time student. This means that part-time students who used to be counted as individual students are now considered part of a full-time student, according to Rossell.

Increased enrollment at UNCA could call for increases in state funding, according to Gravely.

"We're not funded on the number of full-time equivalent students, but on student credit hours," Gravely. "Different programs are funded differently. It varies depending on where the students are taking those hours. If the size of the university was to grow we'd receive more funding, but if enrollment later dropped we could face having to give back part of that funding mid-way through the semester. Many institutions have dealt with that problem recently."

The face of UNCA is changing, according to Rossell. We have a younger student body and fewer part-time students, with an increase in full-time students.

In a 10-year profile of the student body at UNCA several changes are clear, according to Gravely. Full-time students were

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