

# The Blue Banner



SERVING THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE SINCE 1982

Volume 41 Issue 1

www.unca.edu/banner

February 3, 2005

## NEWS BRIEFS

by Angele Mainhart  
Staff Reporter

**Campus Crime**  
Campus Police issued conduct citations to two freshmen students for possessing drugs and explosives in Founders Hall Jan. 26, according to the report. Housing staff called Campus Police to report the smell of marijuana coming from one of the rooms in the building. Officer Johnny Littrell searched the room and found a bag of marijuana, a pipe, rolling paper, crack pipes and M-2000 explosives, according to police.

Campus Police received a call about a male hiding in a stall of the women's restroom in the Smith Union. The male was found by the time police arrived, according to police. Police continue to investigate the case.

A UNCA senior left for Sri Lanka with a Presbyterian organization in order to help victims of the tsunami.

Matt Beardsley, mass communication major, joined the organization to the World. The organization provides medical assistance and other help. Beardsley is currently in the middle of the semester may cause Beardsley to graduate late. Beardsley gained experience from other missions when he spent time in Chile, and other countries, according to the Associated Press.

Local agencies received over \$1 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in order to help end homelessness in Asheville over the next 10 years, according to the AP.

Rep. Charles Taylor demanded that federal officials explain why they did not distribute the \$20 million hurricane relief fund equally across the state. The fund relieved more Eastern counties, yet Western counties suffered more damage, last September. An official investigation will follow if Taylor is not satisfied with the response, according to USA Today.

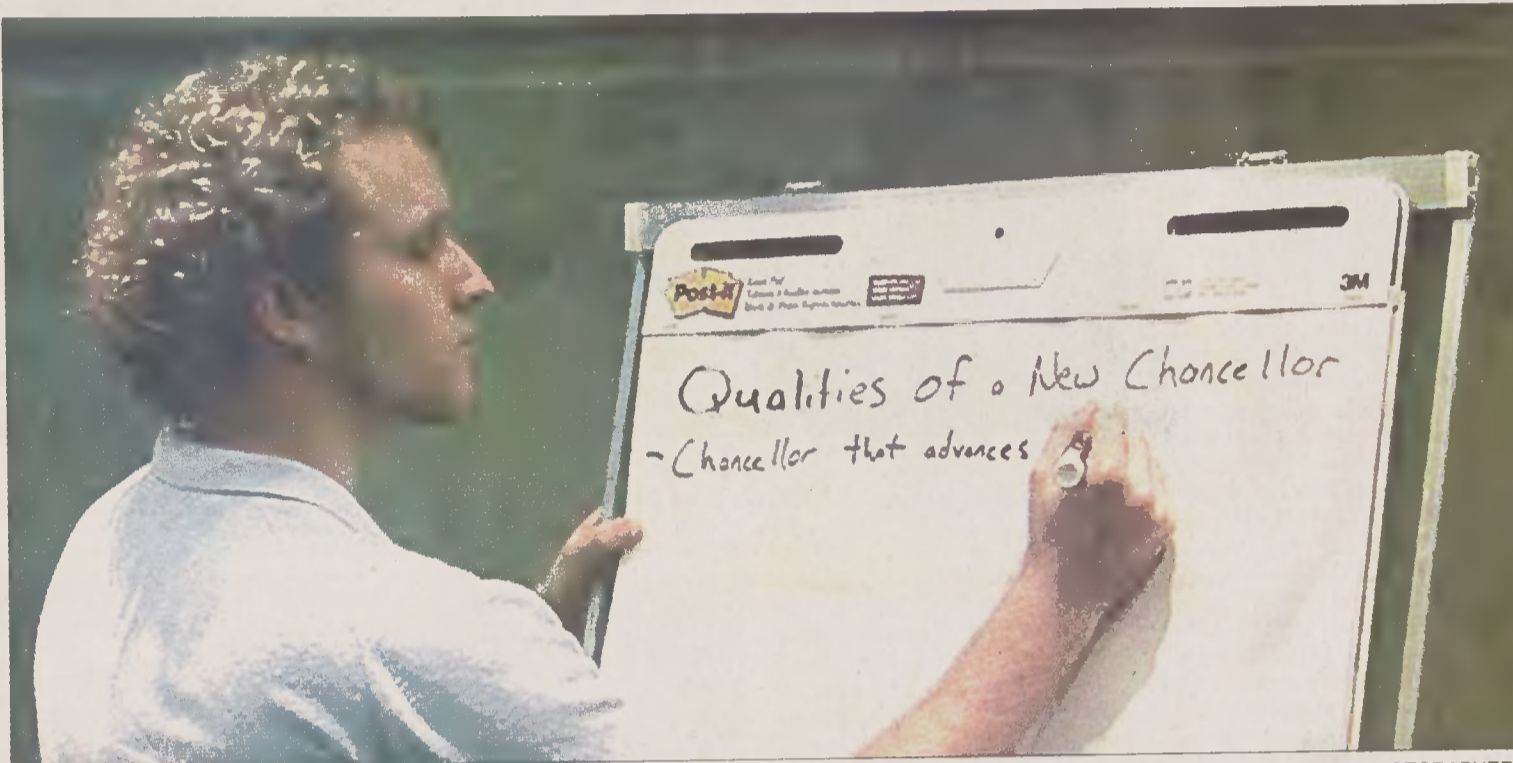
Officials charged a school board with a statutory sexual offense for having sex with a 17-year-old in Raleigh. Brandon Roberts, formally a security guard at Leesville Road High School, used to patrol the area outside of the school on a bicycle, according to the AP.

A man caused a train derailment that killed 11 and injured about 200 Jan. 26, in California, according to the AP.

Juan Alvarez drove his Jeep Cherokee onto the railroad tracks with the intent to commit suicide, but then changed his mind, according to the AP.

The JEEP became stuck on the tracks, and authorities charged Alvarez with multiple counts of murder, which leads to possible death penalty.

Police have in custody a man they suspect killed eight women in Illinois. After receiving tips, police searched the home and excavated the yard of Larry Wright, a former construction worker. They discovered the charred remains of a body and a device used to incinerate bodies.



ELIZABETH RYAN/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Student Government Vice President, Brandon White writes the qualities UNCA seeks in a new chancellor, chancellor Jim Mullen announced his decision to leave UNCA last December.

## UNCA seeks new Chancellor

by Sarah Schmidt  
Staff Reporter

Students contemplated the future of UNCA as they made suggestions on the qualities they wanted to see in UNCA's next chancellor Jan. 25.

Chancellor James Mullen announced his decision to step down from office last December.

"We need a chancellor who recognizes the virtues of a small liberal arts and science university, in light of expansion issues," said Brandon Alspaugh, senior computer science major. "The value here already exists."

In a series of four public meetings, the UNCA Chancellor Search Committee asked students, staff, faculty, alumni and the Asheville community for opinions on what qualities the next chancellor should possess.

In the student-focused meeting Jan. 25, Scott Schaeffer, director of admissions, and Porsche Yount, president of the Student Government Association, moderated a discussion on what students wanted in a new chancellor and in UNCA.

"If we think about UNCA five or 10 years from now, what quali-

ties would our chancellor need?" asked Yount. "What would be important?"

Answers to Yount's question varied as students debated educational approaches, diversity, environmental issues and how much they valued each characteristic.

"We have amazing undergraduate research, and I want someone who values that, as well as a holistic approach to education," said Maggie Ullman, junior environmental science major. "That's something that UNCA really does well in having rigorous expecta-

Students and staff expressed their desire for an outgoing and approachable chancellor, often referring back to Mullen as an example.

"When Jim came here, he became part of the community, not just at UNCA, but in the Asheville community," said Schaeffer. "Before him, the two



ELIZABETH RYAN/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students and Scott Schaeffer, director of admissions, collaborate during the student held forum by the Chancellor Search Committee

communities were separate."

Students also raised the question of how far UNCA will expand in coming years, in terms of population and space. Students debated whether the chancellor should maintain UNCA's size or advance its national reputation.

"We need a chancellor who val-

ues a small liberal arts college," said Erin McDonald, sophomore environmental science major. "What we have here is great. Don't screw a good thing up."

Since the chancellor's duties include making recommendations

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## More students buy textbooks online

by Justin Wagner  
Staff Reporter

Among the increasing numbers of college students buying text-

books online, UNCA students take advantage of Internet bookstores as a new market for cheaper books.

"It's only going to get bigger as students want to save money, and I can certainly understand that," said Mike Small, director of the UNCA Bookstore. "I mean, you should probably use us as a last resort. If you can get it cheaper out there, go ahead."

A typical college student will

"They like the convenience of the returns policy, and the fact that our profits go to scholarships"

Mike Small  
Director of UNCA Bookstore

purchase over \$900 worth of textbooks during an average academic year, according to an article on the BooksonCampus.com Web site.

The UNCA bookstore buy-back conducted at the end of each semester purchases books from students at half of the original price.

Bargain Web sites continue to grow in popularity among college

students seeking lower textbook prices.

The Web site coordinates on-campus transactions among stu-



SHERRY DALE/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tabitha Baily opens a box of textbooks she ordered online.

dents at a particular college, or facilitates online sales for students conducting a transaction through the mail.

The Website currently serves over 600 campuses around the world, according to an article on the BooksonCampus.com Web site. One of the bargain site's claims that the Web sites goal is to save college students at least \$1 million.

Web sites like Amazon.com also work in conjunction with individual retailers and bookstores around the country to promote new and used book sales.

These can result in the buyer purchasing a textbook at a small fraction of the price found at a college bookstore.

"The Poisonwood Bible," for example, required reading for certain Humanities 414 classes, costs \$15 at the UNCA Bookstore. The same edition of the book on Amazon.com costs \$7.19 in new condition, and as low as \$1.79 when sold used.

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## Students support tsunami victims

by Leah Shellberg  
Staff Reporter

UNCA's response to the Asian tsunami disaster took shape as students realized the magnitude of the Dec. 26 event, while the surrounding Asheville community continues to take action.

Porsche Yount, Student Government Association president, expressed an interest towards the tsunami relief effort but apprehension about the credibility of certain charitable organizations.

"I would like to see some kind of connection with a national organization's work towards getting things to Asia to help people out," said Yount.

"But, I would also like to see Student Government pro-actively doing this."

"There's a lot of research that has to be done about how much of the stuff actually gets to where it's going with each organization, so I want to make sure that we choose one [where] what we do will be felt."

Yount said she worries that SGA's effort to help the tsunami victims may be lost in the overwhelming amount of organizations that keep large percentages of donations for their own purposes.

"The credibility issue, for me, is more about making sure that not 100 percent gets there but that what's taken out along the way is justifiable in terms of the costs it takes to get the things there," said Yount.

Junior physics and chemistry major Matthew Brown, while uncertain over how to help with the disaster, expressed concern for the situation.

"I don't know how much we can do as students, except for maybe provide relief packages," said Brown.

"If such an event has happened in the past, it could happen again in the future."

Chris Day, senior psychology major and Sigma Nu philanthropy chairman, spoke of tentative planning to involve students in a relief effort across campus.

"Multiple Greek organizations are looking forward to offering as much relief as possible, as well as involving as much of the campus [as possible]," said Day.

Theta Chi began an effort to collect donations of clothing and canned goods by placing boxes in various locations across campus, especially in the dormitories.

Outside of UNCA, the Asheville community jumped into the relief efforts in several different ways.

The Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief organization based in Boone with over 500 employees worldwide, contributed \$13 million to the relief effort and focused on providing clean water and permanent housing to the tsunami victims, according to the Asheville Citizen-Times.

The Orange Peel, a local music club, will sponsor "Help! An All-Ages Tsunami Relief Benefit," featuring the band Yesterday's Tomorrow and will donate 100 percent of the proceeds, including tips, to the U.N. Children's Fund tsunami relief program, Feb. 4.

Fairground Avenue, another local band, also plans to contribute to the tsunami effort through their music.

Playing a show at the Hendersonville Library Feb. 10

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