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NEWS BRIEFS

by Jamie Ellingsen
Staff Reporter

Campus
 Campus Police stopped a vehicle after noticing a South Carolina license plate with a North Carolina inspection sticker Feb. 18 and ran a check through the DMV database. The officer found the license plate to be fictitious and the driver to be without a valid U.S. driver's license. The officer took the driver to the Buncombe County Detention Center for an interpreter and impounded the vehicle, according to Campus Police record.

Campus Police stopped a swerving vehicle observed on Broadway Street on Feb. 20. Police detected a strong odor of alcohol from the stopped vehicle, according to the report. The officers asked the driver to step out of the vehicle and administered two field sobriety tests to him, both of which he failed. The passenger of the vehicle admitted he was underage and under the influence of alcohol. The passenger refused an alcohol-sensor test, according to the report.

State
 The North Carolina Democratic Party announced Jerry Meek as its pick for chairman over Governor Mike Easley on Feb. 19. This selection reflects the discontentment with the party values. The vote totaled 271-242 in favor of Meek. Meek, a lawyer from Fayetteville, represents the future for the state's Democratic Party, according to Larry Jones, the party chairman in Wayne County. Easley, among other members of the committee, did not attend the Saturday meeting, according to the Associated Press.

UNC-Charlotte announced plans to build an on-campus chancellor's home. The 7,500-square-foot house is part of a \$300 million construction project which includes plans for more classrooms, laboratories, a new alumni center and new fraternity and sorority rows. The school hopes this project will help boost students living on campus, which is currently about 20 percent of the student population, according to the AP.

Nation
 A Utah man dug himself out of an avalanche after he fell 1,000 feet down the side of the mountain, while hiking up Mount Nebo. Mark Thomas reportedly slid down the mountain while riding the avalanche feet-first. His two fellow hikers went for help while Thomas dug himself out of the snow after his fall. He met rescuers as they came to retrieve him. Thomas suffered only minor injuries, according to the AP.

Both Democratic and Republican governors have voiced opposition to the planned Medicaid cuts by President Bush. Bush proposed reducing federal funding to the states on Medicaid by about 40

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Homecoming exceeds tradition

by Leah Shellberg
Staff Reporter

UNCA held its annual homecoming celebration this year with a larger attendance than ever before. Most popular of the events included a homecoming parade around University Heights and dance at a new venue.
 Campus Life hosted the homecoming dance at the Crest Mountain Center. May Wahdan, program assistant for Campus Life, took part in organizing the homecoming events.
 "It really wasn't just one or two people," said Wahdan. "It was Campus Life altogether."
 The homecoming parade took place Feb. 18 around University Heights at 3 p.m.
 Campus Life awarded ribbons to the UNCA Alumni float for "Most School Spirit," with the dance team and cheerleaders winning second place. ISA won the "Most Original" award, with UNCA Outdoor Education as the runner-up.



International Student Association celebrate the homecoming parade in "Jungle Book" theme float. The parade circled University Heights on Feb. 18.

Students found the parade a success and equally enjoyable.
 "I thought the parade was awesome," said Porscha Yount, senior environmental science student and SGA President. "It reminds me of our redneck traditions back home. There's this place called Cat Square, where this guy has a Bug covered with corncobs and it's hilarious to watch him drive it down the street. Our homecoming parade is 20 steps above that, and I loved it."
 In past years, UNCA held the homecoming dance at the S&W Building. The Crest Mountain Center provided a new venue for UNCA to involve in the annual homecoming events.
 The attendance for the dance totaled between 400 and 450 people, according to Wahdan. The dance included food, drinks, and a Disc Jockey.
 "It was interesting because it was a new venue, and we didn't really know what to expect, but the turn out was really good," said Wahdan.
 "Everything went really smoothly, we didn't have a lot of problems, and I think people were happy for the most part."
 Michael King, a senior mass communication student and the student assistant manager for the women's basketball team said he enjoyed the new location.
 "I thought the dance this year was great," said King. "There was a really good attendance, a lot more people than I've seen in the past, and most definitely it was in a very nice location."

more upscale."
 King also said he believes he found this year's homecoming events more successful than the events in years past.
 "In the past years, we've had a fairly low turnout for the homecoming dance," said King.
 "This year, I think the new freshman and sophomore classes have provided a different group of people and a lot of them were there at the dance."
 King said he feels the school is beginning to come together in terms of school spirit, from what he gathered at the homecoming dance.
 Many of the students' concerns centered on the transportation, to and from the dance, according to

"Homecoming was a lot of fun, but it was really difficult getting there and getting back because of the shuttles"

Benjamin Boyles
undeclared freshman

"The dances in the past have taken place at S&W. The place this year was very nice, it was a lot

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Vice Chancellor McDevitt leaves UNCA

by Sarah Schmidt
Staff Reporter

UNCA's vice chancellor of administration, financial and external affairs plans to leave his job March 1 to take a new position as senior vice president of the UNC university system.
 Wayne McDevitt will take on the responsibilities of senior vice president of the UNC system.
 Part of his responsibilities will include working on communication between the UNC system and the public, and within the institutions of the system. This communication could create new cross-institutional programs and degrees for students.
 "One of the challenges we will face will be to find a way to develop the emerging capabilities in science, in technology, and in the broad array of disciplines we have on all the campuses, including liberal arts," said McDevitt.
 "They (the UNC system) will also be in capitalizing on those capabilities in a way that has impact on people's lives, and then finally in fostering a collective collaboration of all the 16 campuses in ways that perhaps even give incentives for the campuses to collaborate on programs or even on degrees."
 UNCA currently offers three cross-institutional programs with North Carolina State University, all in the engineering department. Students in these programs can

either transfer to N.C. State after their sophomore year at UNCA or graduating from UNCA by taking distance-education courses from N.C. State.

"We now have a joint degree with N.C. State and UNCA, and perhaps there are other programs and other kinds of things that we ought to be providing incentives for," said McDevitt.

One of the reasons to be looking into greater cross-institutional cooperation results from a lack of revenue in the N.C. budget, according to McDevitt.

Historically, the state always funded the universities. As far as economic recovery, North Carolina is in a moderate state of recovery, and the next few years possess a challenge, according to McDevitt.

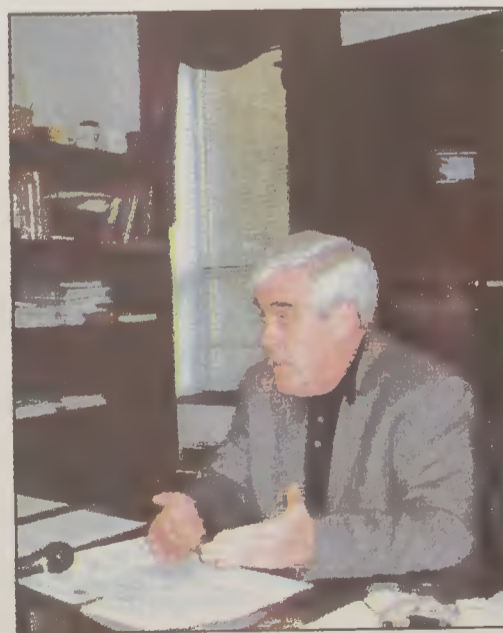
"There are more needs than get funded, and if we're not looking at a large enough picture, then we're not being visionary enough," said McDevitt.

"With that said, I don't see any retreat at all in the focus on education, and the university's being a part of that discussion."

McDevitt's other responsibilities include working on strategic development and planning for the system and working with federal and state government on legislative and budgetary issues that affect the UNC system.
 "We have presence in Washington, D.C. with an office there, so I'll be working with our own congressional delegation with the administration and others in Washington, D.C. about a

"It is not possible to 'replace' him or the extraordinary array of abilities he brought to us."

Jim Mullen
 UNCA Chancellor



Vice Chancellor Wayne McDevitt plans to achieve many goals as senior Vice President of the UNC system.

number of federal issues that impact the university system, tracking those, and making sure that we're taking a position that matters," said McDevitt.
 McDevitt also expressed his opinion on the current state and future standing of UNCA.
 "This is a great institution. This is a great university, and I'm not talking just about the

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UNCA continues chancellor search

by Justin Wagner
Staff Reporter

Officials hired a private company called A.T. Kearney Education Practice to assist efforts in locating and hiring a new chancellor, according to McClinton.

Shelly WeissStorbeck, a member of the company, assists the search committee and the UNCA community with efforts in advertising and hiring.

"She knows what the constituencies would like to see in our next chancellor," said Sue H. McClinton, chancellor search committee chair and UNCA Board of Trustees member. "The search firm is very much aware of people out there looking for a change."

The company will place advertisements in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and magazines like *Black Issues*, *Women in Higher Education* and *Hispanic Outlook*, according to McClinton. They will assist in locating a prospective chancellor from a diverse range of backgrounds.

The president of the UNC school system instituted a Chancellor Search Committee to oversee the process of hiring a new chancellor at UNCA for fall 2005.

The committee takes suggestions from faculty, staff and students regarding what qualities a new chancellor should possess.

"We're looking for a person who really wants to continue to build academic excellence and national visibility," said McClinton.

"It would be nice if they had liberal arts experience, but what's more important is an appreciation of it."

Current UNCA Chancellor James H. Mullen plans to leave this May in order to become president of The College of Our Lady of the Elms in Chicopee, Mass. UNC President Molly Corbett Broad advised the committee to find a new chancellor by the summer.

"I'm hopeful we can meet that schedule, but it's not mandatory," said McClinton.

Forums sponsored by the search committee in January indicated that students primarily wanted a new chancellor who will maintain an "environmentally progressive" stance and "understands the uniqueness of UNCA."

Students also want a chancellor with the political ability to work with diverse constituencies on and off campus, according to the chancellor search Web site.

Separate search committee forums for faculty indicated that they would prefer someone with prior experience in the liberal arts and university fundraising. Staff members would like to see a chancellor who could adequately represent the university on the state level, according to the chancellor search Web site.

"We'll find a dynamic per-

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