

The Blue



Banner

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NEWS BRIEFS

by Sarah Schmidt
Staff Reporter

Campus Crime

Campus Police issued a citation for underage alcohol possession to the passenger of a vehicle after observing the vehicle swerving back and forth on Broadway Avenue. The male driver took an alcohol test, blowing .08. The female passenger admitted to drinking underage, and police cited her for underage alcohol possession. The report did not state whether the police charged the driver with a DUI. Neither the passenger nor the driver currently attend UNCA.

State

Officials in North Carolina Higher Education said they felt satisfaction with the budget put forth by Gov. Mike Easley. In particular, UNC System President Molly Broad and community college President Martin Lancaster praised Easley's two percent raise for state workers (including instructors) and the compensation of funds for Pell Grants cut by the federal government.

Nation

A nine-year-old girl from Florida remains missing as her father made an appeal for his daughter's safe return. Jessica Marie Lunsford disappeared from her bed Feb. 23. Florida police said that they found no evidence to suspect an abduction. Police reported an unlocked door, and one of Jessica Lunsford's dolls was also missing.

The parents of a brain-damaged woman in Florida asked a judge on Monday to divorce their daughter from her husband.

Terri Schiavo, whose doctors say became brain-damaged after her heart stopped beating briefly in 1990, became the center of a seven-year court battle after her husband, Michael Schiavo, petitioned for the removal of her feeding tube.

Terri Schiavo's parents, who have fought Michael Schiavo in court for the right to keep feeding Terri, said that Michael has not acted in his wife's best interest and currently commits adultery with a woman that he has two children by.

Since a judge ruled in favor of Michael Schiavo, Terri's parents have three weeks to try and reverse the ruling. Terri Schiavo's parents have also petitioned for other actions pertaining to their daughter, such as the right to keep the photographs they take of her and that a reporter might record their interactions with their daughter.

World

A suicide bomber in Baghdad killed at least 115 people and wounded 132 Feb. 28, the deadliest single strike since the fall of Hussein. The car exploded near a group of people lined up for physical exams, most of them Shiite police and National Guard recruits. Friends and family members gathered at the blast site reportedly chanted slo-

bell hooks speaks to UNCA community

by Angele Mainhart
Staff Reporter

Author bell hooks spoke to an audience at UNCA about her views on community and racism Feb. 25.

"I really get a kick out of women who write about, not just women and women's issues, but also community and more cultural types of stuff," said Melanie Griffin, undeclared sophomore at Asheville-Buncombe Technical College.

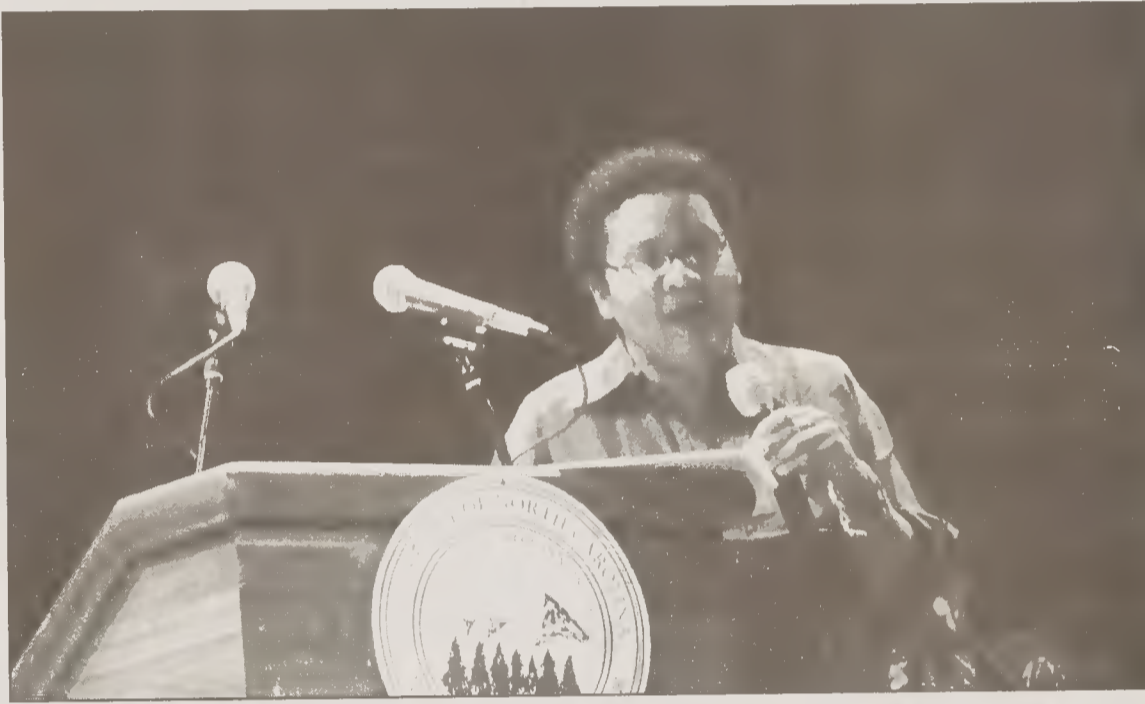
"I really appreciate the last question that was asked. The way she answered was, 'any question you have, the answer is love.' I think that's a really nice affirmation to have posted somewhere in your house where you see it all the time."

UNCA hosted hooks as part of the celebration of Black History Month. During her speech, hooks noted the lack of diversity at UNCA but said what the whites do hold more importance than the fact that they are all white.

A student who attended the lecture commented that UNCA attempts to correct this problem and hosting hooks helps in part to fix it.

"Dr. Dwight Mullen talks about issues of diversity," said Amanda Gammon, senior women's studies student at Warren Wilson. "One of the ways to really tell what an institution is doing is where they are putting their money. I think it really shows that this institution knows it's a primarily white institution. It has struggled with issues of diversity and knows that this issue is important. They're willing to really spend the money to attract people to fix this issue."

"As Chancellor James Mullen introduced hooks, he reminded everyone of the power that she possesses to motivate people to



CHARLOTTE CLAYPOOLE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In association with Black History Month, bell hooks, who prefers her name spelled in lowercase, expressed her views of racism in her lecture on "Return to Migration" on Feb. 25.

"UNCA has struggled with issues of diversity, and knows that this issue is important."

Amanda Gammon
senior women's studies student
at Warren Wilson

want to fight for justice.

"It has been about five years since her last visit, but the power of her conviction, the strength of her message, the unrelenting sense

of hope that she brought during her residency here still resonates, still challenges us and must still empower us in our fight for justice here and beyond," said Mullen.

"bell hooks is nothing less than a force of social justice. But, most important, she is a voice of hope and a voice that gives faith that justice can prevail and right can claim the day."

hooks spoke about how the close community of UNCA enables students to become friends with teachers and other people that they learn from. She still talks with a student that she met five years ago.

"I think it speaks so highly of the students here that, when I came to Asheville five years ago, I met one of your African-American students, Julia," said hooks. "Julia still calls me to this day to talk

"bell hooks is nothing less than a force of social justice."

James Mullen
chancellor

about books and ideas, and it just shows you how having face-to-face contact between students and people they read about and study can form meaningful relationships."

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UNCA gives education program a boost

by Jamie Ellingsen
Staff Reporter

This fall, UNCA added a birth through kindergarten (B-K) licensure component to the education program. The new component will allow students to focus on this particular field, according to Carole Becker, coordinator of the program and early childhood education professor.

"It's very worthwhile because, when you finish, you have the expertise of a child developmentalist, a psychology background and then you have the education specialist," said Becker. "It's kind of opening the door for whatever field you choose to go into [in education]."

The UNCA education department started the B-K licensure program for two main reasons: To comply with orders from the governor, to meet the More at Four standards and to continue in its commitment to provide practical training for students to earn a North Carolina Class A teaching license, according to Becker.

The governor launched the More at Four program in an attempt to bridge the education gap for pre-kindergarten students in North Carolina, according to the governor's Web site.

Developers at UNCA's education department claim the B-K licensure program would assist in educating the future child-care professionals to become resourceful and to better understand and teach all types of children, according to the licensure program's mission statement.

Obtaining this license allows teachers to take a holistic, yet academically and psychologically-based approach to educating children, according to Lauren Elgin, junior psychology student.

Having teachers trained with this licensure program changes the perspectives on pre-school. It isn't viewed as just a preschool, but more, according to Elgin.



CHARLOTTE CLAYPOOLE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sarah Rhodes and Sarah Heaton play at Jones Elementary Park. UNCA's new Birth through Kindergarten program will allow students to work in a variety of programs.

The More at Four program requires childcare professionals at a child care center or a public education setting to have this license in order to continue working in the field.

Due to this, a variety of students from a different backgrounds attend this semester's B-K early childhood education course, led by Becker. One student works as a nanny, while another works a director at a childcare center.

No matter the background of the student, Becker pointed out the necessity of the program.

"Being trained as an elementary school teacher, the emphasis is not the same as working with young children," said Becker. "It's a different ball game. They learn differently. You

really need that psychological background."

The psychological background Becker referred to comes from the requirements of eligibility for the licensure program.

In order to participate in the program, a student must major in psychology, complete 33 hours of required education courses and 34 hours of required course work in psychology, according to Becker.

The training and preparation will offer students the availability of many different jobs.

Miranda Stokes, undeclared freshman, hopes to work in an urban child care program.

Others in the class are there to meet requirements in their current field of teaching or working at a child care facility.

Bush to privatize Social Security

by Leah Shellberg
Staff Reporter

President Bush proposed a plan for the privatization of Social Security, which many find controversial.

"If you're a young person, and this is a bit of a simplification, they will take six percent of your wages and the employer will kick in another six percent," said Joseph Sulock, professor of economics.

"That's 12 percent, and those taxes are used to fund the benefits of current retirees. The promise is that when you get old they will tax your grandchildren to pay for your retirement."

Bush is proposing to do something similar with that 12 percent. Four percent will be invested in an account for stocks and bonds. Another four percent will be invested for retirement, which will count towards your retirement, according to Sulock.

The other eight percent will go to pay current retiree benefits, leaving four percent as an investment for qualifiers to finance their retirement. Yet, the benefits will be cut, because the full 12 percent is not being put in, according to Sulock.

Sulock said that he thinks Bush wants to privatize Social Security funds because it will provide a proportional response in terms of how much money is put in versus the benefits received.

"Right now, Social Security benefits are not really proportional to social security taxes," said Sulock.

"So basically, if I put in twice the tax that you put in, I don't get twice the benefits. If I put in twice the taxes, I'll get less than twice the benefits."

Privatization is more likely to make that proportional, in other words, how much you get out is proportional to how much you put in, according to Sulock.

"I suspect, that somewhere in the men's room, somebody pointed out that if your Social Security taxes double, your benefits aren't going to double, and he just found that shocking."

Sulock also said that he believes any ensuing damage under the new plan will affect the lower classes and that investors will reap the benefits.

"You would expect people who are above average incomers and shrewd investors to do better than they would under the current system," said Sulock. "Probably lower income people are going to take the hit."

James Robertson, senior interdisciplinary student, said he opposes the change, but does not find it restricted to the Republican Party.

"Like any form of privatization, this is about taking money out of public funds for public welfare and putting it in private hands, and I'm opposed to it," said Robertson.

"I think this is another example of 'Market-Orthodoxy' that

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