

The Blue Banner



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NEWS BRIEFS

by Sarah Schmidt
Staff Reporter

Campus Crime

Campus Police issued a littering citation to a UNCA freshman after the student threw her parking tickets on the ground. Police removed the boot from her Jeep on March 4, according to police. Police said that the student threw the tickets to the ground and attempted to drive off despite their warnings they would charge her with littering. She caught up with her near Johnson Hall, police issued the littering citation. Police placed the boot on the student's Jeep for several outstanding parking tickets. The Jeep was parked in a handicapped parking spot.

Vandals targeted three cars on campus during spring break all on March 10. Police are still investigating the vandalism, all of which occurred on lots one and four of the UNCA campus.

San Bush, blues guitarist Susan Tedeschi, the Derek Trucks Band and the Dirty Dozen Brass Band headline the announced acts for the Bele Chere festival of 2005. Performers will play at the downtown Asheville music festival July 29-31 of 2005. Other acts slated to perform include Travis Rudd, the Drive-By Truckers and Blueground.

Governor Mike Easley has proposed a \$4 million fund to aid movie makers, TV shows and commercials who spend money in N.C.

Under the fund, producers could apply for grants equaling up to 10 percent of their production costs in N.C.

Expressing concern that the fund's size would not sufficiently attract filmmakers, State Senator Julia Boseman asked specialists to research a more generous fund. If the research proves that the state would support a more generous fund, Boseman said that a bill would be written up later this month.

Nation

A judge in California ruled the state ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional March 14, saying that the definition of marriage could no longer be limited to opposite-sex couples.

San Francisco County Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer ruled on lawsuits brought by San Francisco and 12 same-sex couples who obtained marriage certificates in February 2004, later ruled invalid by the California Supreme Court.

Legal groups representing religious conservatives said that they would appeal Kramer's decision to the California Supreme Court.

California voters might decide the issue for themselves if the California legislature puts two pending bills banning same-sex marriage on the November ballot.

UNCA strives for energy efficient buildings

by Justin Wagner
Staff Reporter

Campus buildings present a variety of obstacles in achieving energy efficiency, according to environmental studies professors.

"When we're talking about energy efficiency, we're talking about getting the maximum amount of energy service out of the least amount of energy input," said Richard Maas, environmental studies professor. "Some of our classrooms have been retrofitted to be more energy efficient than others."

Recent construction behind Karpen Hall is due to the need for a new air conditioning system, according to a UNCA staff member who heads the project. The new system will integrate air conditioning systems in Lipinsky and Karpen Hall in order to increase efficiency.

"The Karpen Hall air conditioner is much more efficient than the chilling equipment in Lipinsky, so we're going to utilize that equipment to send the cooling over to Lipinsky and look at reducing our operating costs," said Alan King, facilities mechanical engineer.

"It helps out with maintenance as well, because now you only have one piece of equipment you have to maintain instead of two separate pieces."

King, however, said he does not equate increased efficiency with the maximum level of energy conservation.

"The tower itself is not energy efficient per se," said King. "It's probably 20-30 percent more efficient to have the one chiller running than what was over at Lipinsky."

Even some of the more recently constructed buildings on-campus do not maintain high levels of energy efficiency, although current construction will attempt to change this in certain areas, according to Dee Eggers, environmental studies professor.

"Highsmith wasn't designed to be a high-efficiency building," said Eggers. "But other buildings- the new science building, Carmichael, Facilities Management- these buildings will be leadership buildings in terms of environmental design and energy efficiency."

The new air conditioner will cost approximately \$200,000, according to Stephen Baxley, associate vice chancellor for campus operations, who heads campus construction.

Although campus officials assert that the cost of the new system is low when compared to expenses for the overall campus construction budget, Maas said students, faculty and staff can save more money on energy expenses through their own actions.

If members of the campus community would make sure they turned off lights and closed windows the school would



KIMBERLY BARTO / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Construction behind Karpen Hall will establish a new air-conditioning unit. Other buildings increase power costs due to lack of energy efficient construction.

probably save about \$150,000 in utility bills, according to Maas.

Maas also coordinated efforts to promote on-campus energy efficiency through one of his classes and claimed this helped decrease costs.

"One year, my energy students worked with the Physical Plant, and they went over there every couple of weeks and cleaned those air filters," said Maas.

"We were able to bring the heating bill for Zageir down by \$15,000 just by having someone spend (one) hour every two weeks (working on it)."

Despite this discovery, the Physical Plant is not able to allow staff members to clean air filters due to understaffing problems, according to Maas.

Rising energy costs and expanded construction sometimes overshadow efforts to institute more cost-cutting, energy efficient practices, according to Maas.

"We were able to bring the heating bill for Zageir down \$15,000."

Richard Maas
environmental studies professor

These can cost over \$1 million annually.

"With new buildings and the cost of power going up. It's crept back up to that \$1 million again," said Maas. "Ultimately, the tax payer loses because you're spending 20, 30, or 40 percent more on utility bills."

One of the major obstacles in achieving on-campus energy efficiency involves campus member's disregard for conserving energy, according to Maas.

Windows left open during the day in classrooms can also increase utility costs, according to Maas.

"Even just a couple of windows left open can cost hundreds of dollars a day in these buildings," said Maas.

Poor energy efficiency can also contribute to broader environmental problems, which eventually affects individuals, according to Maas.

"It all comes back in the bigger picture of our health," said Maas.

"If you're doing that and you're creating more air pollu-

SEE ENERGY, PAGE 2

Studies show date rape still prevalent on college campuses

by Jamie Ellingsen
Staff Reporter

Some students and faculty said they have not recently heard about date rape at UNCA, yet statistics prove it remains prevalent on college campuses, according to the National Institute of Justice.

"I have not heard of reports on campus since I started in Feb. 2004," said Darcie Sootin, UNCA interim substance abuse counselor. "That doesn't mean it hasn't happened, just that I haven't been informed of any."

In fact, Campus Police report no incidences of forced sex offenses of any kind in 2003.

Students on campus voice opinions on the statistics.

"I've never heard of anything," said Lauren Pleasants, junior biology and environmental science student.

When the NIJ conducted its study in 1996, it defined rape as forced sexual intercourse via psychological or physical coercion. Attempted rape includes verbal threats of force.

In nine out of 10 cases of studied victims, the victims know the perpetrator of the assault, according to the NIJ.

In some cases, perpetrators use drugs to assist in the crime. These drugs include Gamma hydroxybutyrate, or GHB,

Rohypnol and alcohol. The most frequently used is alcohol, according to the Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention.

Over 70,000 college students experience sexual assault or date rape involving alcohol each year, according to the Higher Education Center in 2002.

Perpetrators typically attempt to cause their targeted victims to drink in excess. While under the influence of alcohol, a person's ability to resist assault greatly diminishes, according to the Higher Education Center.

The National Women's Health Information Center highlights that even if a victim became intoxicated due to overindulgence of alcohol, the victim is innocent.

"Being drugged or under the influence of alcohol effects whether someone is willing to come forward," said Sootin. "Unfortunately, many

cases of rape are not reported."

GHB, unlike alcohol, gets ingested by the victim unknowingly. It comes in three forms. The liquid form has no odor or color and could be slipped into a drink. It also comes in white powder and pill forms. Some effects of the drug include: dizziness, drowsiness, problems seeing and black outs, according to NWHIC.

Recently, GHB became legal in the United States as a treatment for problems with narcolepsy, a sleeping disorder.

"Unfortunately many cases of rape are not reported."

Darci Sootin
substance abuse counselor



CHRIS BUBENIK / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Many drug-related rapes are caused from pills or "roofies" being slipped into unsuspecting victim's drinks.

Rohypnol, commonly referred to as "roofies," dissolves in liquid. In the past it left no color, taste or odor, while new pills turn blue when put in liquid. However, the older pills are still accessible, according to NWHIC.

Some effects of the drug include sleepiness, muscle relaxation, confusion, and inhibits victims from speaking and seeing. In the United States, this drug is illegal. However, doctors in Europe and Mexico prescribe the drug for sleep problems and for anesthetic purposes, according to NWHIC.

The victim experiences effects from GHB and Rohypnol shortly after ingestion, about 30 minutes. Unfortunately, they also leave the body quickly, making them difficult to detect. GHB cannot be found in urine after 12 hours. Rohypnol goes undetected after 72 hours, according to the University of Texas.

There are signs for victims to notice, which could indicate ingestion of a date rape drug. According to the rape treatment center at UCLA Medical Center. These include:

*Experiencing an over sensitivity to alco-

SEE DRUGS, PAGE 2