



## NEWS BRIEFS

by Leah Shellberg  
Staff Reporter

**Campus Crime**  
Campus Police issued a citation for larceny and possession of drugs to two Founders Hall residents March 16.

The housing staff found a large plant, which was stolen from the Highsmith Student Union during the fall 2004 semester, while conducting safety checks for spring break. They also found a water bong next to the plant. They took pictures of the plant and the paraphernalia.

Housing requested the assistance of Campus Police in recovering the plant. When Campus Police interviewed the students, one allegedly admitted to taking the plant. The other allegedly admitted ownership of the paraphernalia. Officials charged both students with conduct citations.

Campus Police arrested a 19-year-old male, who does not attend UNCA, for possession of marijuana, possessing and concealing paraphernalia, trespassing and underage possession of alcohol March 15.

Campus Police received a complaint of a suspicious vehicle with two occupants that are possibly intoxicated.

One of them was on the banned visitors list, and Campus Police arrested him in the past for drug violations. He allegedly admitted to underage consumption of alcohol and claimed ownership of the beer in the car.

The occupant also allegedly gave the officer 0.2 ounces of marijuana and a small box containing drug paraphernalia. The officer arrested him without incident and sent him to the Buncombe County Detention Center, where officials charged him with the violations.

**State**  
A Concord, N.C. teenager allegedly shot her mother to death when an attempted robbery failed.

Officials charged Ashley Kathleen Boyd, 17, with first-degree murder, assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, attempted armed robbery and conspiracy to commit armed robbery.

Boyd allegedly shot her mother Paula Fay Brooks, 50, in the early morning March 20 in her front yard.

Officials also charged Wayne Anthony Williams, 18, with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit armed robbery. Police said he drove the getaway vehicle.

Boyd and Williams are being held without bond pending a hearing.

**Nation**  
An analysis of government claims by the Pew Hispanic Center shows approximately 10.3 million undocumented immigrants resided in the United States in March 2004.

California holds 24 percent of the immigrant population, followed by Texas at 14 percent. North Carolina ranks number

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## Students attend global conference in Dubai

by Angele Mainhart  
Staff Reporter

Eight female students at UNCA attended the Women as Global Leaders Conference at Zayed University in Dubai, where they discussed the importance of female leadership with other participants from around the world.

"The man who ran it, the provost of Zayed University, Thomas Cochran, used to be at UNCA as an administrator," said Peg Downes, professor literature and language. "He had a vision of creating opportunities like this for college students who have a lot of leadership potential."

Those who attend can talk to each other globally, so, when they become world leaders, they will already be talking to each other, things like this can change the world, according to Downes.

During the conference, several different speakers, such as Tipper Gore and Kim Campbell, the former prime minister of Canada, spoke about what it means to be a female leader. They spoke from their own experiences and encouraged the students to work together despite any differences.

"My favorite part of the trip was

"It gives us a chance to see the world from a very different perspective."

Vanessa Manzi  
senior political science student



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLEY BOWMAN

Faculty selected UNCA students to attend a global leadership conference for women at Zayed University in Dubai. Students learned skills to help them in the future.

when the former prime minister of Scotland spoke," said Rhiannon O'Conner, senior political science student.

"She was just amazing, and she really summed up the conference better than anybody else. Just her speech showed how important it was to try to be leaders."

The prime minister said women need to stop trying to imitate men, because they do bad impersonations, according to O'Conner.

"We're better at being women than we are at being men," said O'Conner, quoting the prime minister.

Aside from actual leaders, students also presented papers during the conference on various topics.

The event gave students a hands-on experience in another culture in order to learn how to talk globally with people from

around the world.

"Some individuals gave presentations on leadership, women, gender studies and the culture and women," said Meghan Deutsch, senior international political economy student.

"I study international studies, and I think it's very important to see, first hand, how a culture works and meet actual people. It makes you use your own critical thinking and analysis skills to come up with conclusions about a part of the world that is so different."

Another student said the women's perspective enabled her

"It makes you use your own critical thinking and analysis skills"

MEGHAN DEUTSCH  
senior international political economy student

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## Asheville recognizes war anniversary

by Sarah Schmidt  
Staff Reporter

With poetry, speeches and protest signs, some Asheville citizens marked the two-year anniversary of the Iraq War on March 20 at a peace rally at the City-County Plaza in Asheville.

The peace rally, sponsored by 11 local organizations, including the Progressive Democrats of Buncombe County and Veterans for Peace, drew about 300 people, according to an estimate from police. The Asheville peace rally became one of hundreds of anti-war rallies scheduled for the anniversary weekend.

"I think that in time more people will see the positive aspects of the war in Iraq," said Jeremy Abee, senior music student and chair of the College Republicans.

Kam Parker, master of ceremony, said to begin a peace rally you start with a shout-out of Iraq. Parker, a member of Veterans for Peace and a UNCA creative writing student, joined the peace movement after 11 years of service in the Coast Guard and the Marine Corps.

Every soldier has to swear to defend the U.S. Constitution from enemies both foreign and domestic," said Parker. "After September 11th, I considered enlisting to be able to serve and protect my country, and I was asked by my loved ones to make sure I thought it through. So I did

some personal research, and very quickly found a connection between the CIA and Osama bin Laden, as well as a financial connection between the Bush family and the bin Laden family.

"To me, that presented a great conflict of interest and created a conflict of conscience in myself. So, the solution I found for myself, to keep my promise and defend my constitution, was to enter the peace movement."

The organizations, supporting the rally hosted booths for their individual causes and collected donations from the crowd. Fools of Conscience, a group affiliated with the WNC Peace Coalition, listed the ways in which protestors demonstrated against wars by refusing to pay taxes.

"A war resister is someone who is a conscientious objector to war, and most people are aware of people refusing to fight who are conscientious objectors," said Cicado Brokaw, Fools of Conscience member. "But there are those of us who would also not want to have any of our money used to buy guns or bullets or missiles, or to pay for that person with a gun out there shooting people, so we won't pay for war, and that is our stand as conscientious objectors."

Rally attendants listened to musicians, poets and speakers who commemorated the second anniversary of the Iraq War in individual ways. Social artist and poet DeWayne Barton brought one of his pieces of art entitled



SHERRY DALE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Asheville residents attended a peace rally March 20 in protest of the war in Iraq.

"Red Planet" - a wooden boat with plastic figurines of soldiers fighting one another and falling into the red-painted bottom of a toilet.

"It's really an anti-war piece, but it may or may not seem that way," said Barton. "I am a local

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## Student speaks of Lebanon turmoil

by Justin Wagner  
Staff Reporter

Syrian troops continue to withdraw from Lebanon after the assassination of an anti-Syrian prime minister. Syrian occupation affected many aspects of life in the country.

"It's out in the open because of recent events," said Rabih Dahdouh, undeclared sophomore with family in Lebanon.

"It's exacerbated the situation, and there is pressure now on Syria from the United States and United Nations.

Dahdouh also said the scrutiny from the U.S. intensifies matters.

"The last thing they want is to be sanctioned more," said Dahdouh. "Syria is already being scrutinized by the U.S., and this just makes it much worse."

The assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri on Feb. 14 precipitated national and international condemnation and brought into question Syria's role of military occupation in Lebanon. Syrian involvement in the country, however, contains deeper historical ties, according to Dahdouh.

"Basically, their aspiration is to make Lebanon part of Greater Syria," said Dahdouh. "They think of Lebanon as their homeland as well. They still feel like they should have the right to control us and be under their kind of government."

Syrian troops in Lebanon prior to the Hariri assassination numbered 14,000. They have since either left the country or redeployed to the Bekaa Valley region near the border of Syria and Lebanon. Critics of the occupation also called for the removal of Syrian intelligence agents inside Lebanon.

"Here's something that all Lebanese know, which they (the media) don't get," said Dahdouh. "The Syrians are using Lebanon as a puppet government. They have a secret service, and they've always had that."

Protests in Lebanon erupted after Hariri's assassination, including a rally March 14 in which an estimated one million demonstrators participated, the largest in Lebanon's history.

The demonstration managed to cross traditional sectarian lines that ignited conflict in the past, according to Dahdouh.

"There's always been problems with the Christians and the Muslims," said Dahdouh. "We came together that day, and we all protested against the Syrians."

"Basically, we just want to be left alone and to have our own independence."

Syria announced it would remove troops and intelligence agents from Lebanon before scheduled elections in May. U.S. officials and Lebanese opposition members concerned with a lingering Syrian political influence in the country demanded Syrian withdrawal before this date.

The Lebanese Parliament voted pro-Syrian Prime Minister Omar Karami, who resigned after

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