

The Blue Banner



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NEWS BRIEFS

by Justin Wagner
Staff Reporter

Campus Crime

Campus Police continues to investigate two incidents of vandalism that occurred last weekend. Police found a vandalized vehicle on campus April 2 and received a report of vandalism at Phillips Hall on April 3.

Local

A federal court found an Asheville resident guilty and a man from Tucson, Ariz. for participating in a drug ring that brought at least 440 pounds of cocaine from Tucson into North Carolina. Both men pleaded guilty to a drug-conspiracy charge, and 12 other people associated with the drug ring also pleaded guilty to similar charges, which involved the smuggling of around \$4.5 million worth of cocaine into the area.

State

House Speaker Jim Black, currently involved in North Carolina State Government debates over a proposed state lottery bill said he would support the bill, only if legislators impose limits on advertising associated with the proposed lottery. Black cited poor people who cannot afford to spend money on improbable dreams of winning the lottery. Politicians associated with the bill said any state lottery in North Carolina will involve financing state educational institutions. A third of the revenue generated by the lottery will finance education in the state. The vote on the lottery bill may come as soon as this week.

Nation

Police arrested the 16-year-old son of a Chippewa Indian tribal leader March 28 in connection with a March 21 school shooting that killed 10 people on an Indian reservation in Red Lake, Minn. Officials said Louise Jourdain helped determine targets inside Red Lake High School with gunman Jeff Weise, coordinating the nation's most deadly school shooting since the 1999 attacks at Columbine High School. Weise murdered his grandfather, a reservation police officer, along with his grandfather's girlfriend before taking his grandfather's police-issue .22-caliber gun, a bulletproof vest and squad car to Red Lake High School. Weise murdered an unarmed security guard, a teacher and five students before committing suicide. Online postings made by Weise indicated that the 16-year-old Chippewa youth admired Adolf Hitler and considered himself a Nazi.

World

Pope John Paul II, 84, died April 2 in his Vatican City apartment amid street-side vigils attended by tens of thousands of people. The Vatican announced the long-ailing pope's cause of death as a collapse of blood pressure.

The World Bank executive board unanimously confirmed

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Keynote speaker offers new definitions of "queer"

by Leah Shellberg
Staff Reporter

UNCA's sixth Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer studies conference began March 31 with conferences and a banquet and ended April 2 with the Progressive Prom.

"The conference has been absolutely brilliant," said Judith Halberstam, keynote speaker.

The conference featured various seminars addressing queer studies themes.

Halberstam kicked off the event with an unorthodox comparison of the Disney movie "Finding Nemo," and the idea of "queer forgetting."

"The conference has been absolutely brilliant," said Halberstam.

Halberstam said her point was for the queer community to recognize new ideas of what "queer" embodies without completely discarding the old, hence the term "queer forgetting."

She used the example of Ellen DeGeneres' character Dory in "Finding Nemo" as an example of how goals can change and shift as someone re-establishes themselves, and how it is impossible to be confined to heteronormativity when one consistently forgets from where they came.

Halberstam's dissertation centered on the idea of heteronormativity, and urged the queer community to create its own ideas of what is orderly and functional.

"Heteronormativity is the system within which it seems obvious that heterosexuality is normal and homosexuality is deviant," said Halberstam.

Lorena Russell, associate professor of literature and language, who planned the conference with the help of Helen Snyder and Melissa Burchard, said Halberstam's speech impressed her.

"I suppose the keynote address was a highlight for me. She accomplished what I was hoping she could do," said Russell. "It's not an easy thing to do, to present that kind of complex theoretical information in a form that outsiders to the field could understand."

"It was interesting, I think, for those of us who have theoretical academic backgrounds



KIM BARTO/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Laura Friederich, senior chemistry and environmental science student, and Amy Degiralamo, senior drama student, celebrate the sixth GLBTQ studies conference at the Progressive Prom.

in queer studies. In other words, I've studied this stuff for years and years and years, and I found myself challenged as a thinker."

Many people outside the field, academics or even working at an undergraduate level found her talk understandable, according to

Russell.

Jared McGee, sophomore music student, attended the keynote address and said he was concerned with the humor surrounding forgetfulness.

"All of the movies today make fun of how

"People inherit these passive roles just because they think they're a part of that gender, or because of who they are."

Stephanie Jones
junior psychology student

we're so forgetful," said McGee. "It's really not something that should be taken humorously, that people can forget and not even know why."

Halberstam also commented on the conference itself and how she felt about UNCA. "This campus just seems really queer—friendly to me," said Halberstam.

Stephanie Jones, junior psychology student, attended the classic sex seminar and discussed things she said she found as points of interest.

"The Greeks actually practiced pedophilia," said Jones. "It was considered a norm for boys to engage in sexual acts with older men."

The Greeks considered homosexuality a normal way of living. Younger men were considered apprentices to older men, and they were supposed to develop a friendship and have sex. They saw this social norm as a positive. Young children, mostly male, didn't feel any type of stigma, according to Jones.

Jones expressed concern about the American view of love and sexuality.

"It's opposites attract," said Jones. "Where there's a light, there's a dark. Where there's a woman, there's a man."

"We're too focused in on how that expression of one and then another, it's a part of what we think will make us happy."

People inherit these passive roles just because they think they're a part of that gender, or they inherit certain qualities and they can't fall in love with who they want to, according to Jones.

Annual 5K Human Race raises money for nonprofits

by Angele Mainhart
Staff Reporter

United Way hosts the 5K Human Race at UNCA on April 16 to raise money for non-profit organizations.

"United Way raises money for the whole community and distributes it out to a broad range of organizations to try to meet community needs," said Robin Grubb, community services director for United Way.

"There is not enough money to go around, period," said Grubb.

So, anytime we can make something fun and raise money for a broad range of organizations, it's important for us to do that. There are so many needs in the community, and they're getting greater."

This fundraiser will allow the organizations to use the money raised however they like for their company. The organizations will receive 100 percent of the money, according to Grubb.

"As we all know, the government funding to all types of programs is getting harder and harder to get access to," said Grubb.

There is a lot of competition for funds. This type of money is discretionary. There are no strings attached, giving organizations the ability to do things that often times they can't with grants. Grants are specifically committed to a certain thing, according to Grubb.

More than 40 non-profit organizations will participate in the Human Race event, including the Lewis Rathbun Center. It provides free lodging and services for patients coming to Asheville for medical treatment.

"The Rathbun Center participated last year for the first time because it was our 10th anniversary, and we thought it was a great way to celebrate, as well as get our volunteers and staff involved in a different kind of helping," said Ann Whisenhunt, house director

"As we all know, the government funding to all types of programs is getting harder and harder to get access to."

Robin Grubb
United Way community services director

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Students voice opinions over transportation

by Sarah Schmidt
Staff Reporter

Due to a parking cost increase and plans for no freshmen parking next semester the UNCA Campus Operations hosted a public forum April 1, encouraging students to voice their opinions on improving transportation.

"The purpose of today's forum is to give the campus community a chance to see what ideas we're coming up with," said Yuri Kolsen, UNCA transportation planner.

Through these forums, campus operations wants to give students a chance to voice their opinions about improving transportation of UNCA, according to Kolsen.

"We're looking to both inform and seek participation," said Kolsen.

Most of the issues raised at the public forum centered on the availability of different transportation options and on how to increase parking space through various financial incentives.

"Right now, the parking system on campus encourages people to drive," said Kolsen. "If you buy a parking pass for a year, you might as well drive every day. I'm sure there will be some students that are not excited about the plan of separating parking fees from student fees, but we need to look at what's best for everyone."

Parking fees will rise in order to help pay for the maintenance of the parking spaces, according to Kolsen.

"The cost of parking is really expensive," said Kolsen. "Basically, the fees pay for the cost of main-

taining the parking lots."

"If all we're doing is planning for parking, then we need to build more parking spaces, and that's very expensive."

For example, Asheville is building a \$20,000-per-space parking deck. Parking fees can be kept down if extra parking is avoided, according to Kolsen.

"The price of parking will go up, but we're trying to make it so that it's not so drastic," said Kolsen.

During the forum, Kolsen asked for suggestions from students on what UNCA could do to improve other forms of transportation.

Suggestions from students included extended hours for the transit system, the installation of covered bicycle racks and increased carpooling options.

"I don't have a car, so, if I have to go somewhere, I pretty much have to take the bus," said undeclared sophomore Lisa Berg. "Later hours for transportation would be good."

For students without cars and for incoming freshmen who will not be permitted to bring cars, Kolsen suggested carpooling as one method that students could use to get around.

A program for freshmen to use for going home will be available in fall 2005.

"If you're really interested in carpooling, you can go online right now and enter in Share the Ride N.C.," Kolsen said.

"It's a UNCA site, started by a state institu-

"The price of parking will go up, but we're trying to make it so that it's not so drastic."

Yuri Kolsen
UNCA transportation planner

"I think we need to have covered bicycle racks."

Alison Reeves
undeclared sophomore

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