

## Everybody Can-Can



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# The Blue Banner

## Best of the West



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## CORRECTION

The Blue Banner editors and staff apologize for wrongly attributing quotes in the Nov. 10 issue of The Blue Banner. General Council Tom Lawton was wrongly attributed and identified for statements made by attorney P.J. Roth during the American Civil Liberties Union Forum.

## Students, locals protest SOA

By Anna Lee  
STAFF WRITER

The United States trains Latin American dictators and leaders of paramilitary "death squads," according to speakers at the School of the Americas (SOA) forum last Thursday in the Laurel Forum.

"Many of the dictators of Central and Latin America were trained SOA graduates," said Brevard resident Linda Mashburn, who plans to get arrested a fourth time at the annual nonviolent protest next weekend against the SOA, now known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation.

"For example, in Guatemala during the '80s, there were three generals who comprised the very top leadership of the military, and they were the architects of the 'Scorched Earth' policy, which then led the Guatemalan military to destroy over 440 villages and to massacre 200,000 Mayan Indians."

The former SOA in Fort Benning, Georgia, now WHINSEC, was instituted in July 1963 during the Cold War.

"We've been operating our own school of terrorism that has trained more terrorists than any other place in the world for the last fifty years. So how can we as a nation say we're waging a war on terrorism until we shut down this training facility in our own country?" Mashburn said.

About 20 UNCA students will take the six-hour trip to Fort Benning, Georgia on Nov. 18-20 to participate in the protest, according to sophomore Kati Ketz.

Last year, 16,000 people attended the protest, and there is the potential for 20,000 this year, according to Mashburn. Nonviolent training in the style of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. is strongly encouraged.

Those protestors who enter the School of the Americas through the fence this year are guaranteed arrest and jail time. Before the SOA built the fence a few years ago, thousands crossed "the line."

"My husband will have a hard time explaining where I am for three to six months, but frankly, it's a way of making my friends take the issue seriously," Mashburn said.

SOA graduates did not only act violently in the 1980s, according to Mashburn.

In Guatemala this past year, police arrested and killed demonstrators after the government refused to hold a popular referendum on the ratification of the Central American Free Trade Agreement, according to Mashburn.

In Colombia, where the United States is conducting its "War on Drugs," efforts began to unionize the Coca-Cola plant, according to Mashburn.

Coca-Cola hired their own little security police, their own little private army including SOA graduates, and at least six or eight union organizers out of that effort have specifically been killed in the last several

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## UNCA receives \$2 million pledge



LAUREN ABE — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Joe Kimmel donated \$2 million to the new North Carolina Center of Health and Wellness. Kimmel, local business owner, and Chancellor Anne Ponder discuss the new facility. The complex, which is still in its beginning stages, will include state-of-the-art biometrics labs, fitness training facilities, areas for teaching and research, and space for competition, commencement and certain athletic events.

## Local businessman donates to new health facility

By Allie Haake  
STAFF WRITER

Joe Kimmel, local businessman, announced his donation of \$2 million Wednesday toward the North Carolina Center of Health and Wellness, a complex now in its preliminary stages which will include a multi-purpose convocation center and classrooms for a relatively new health degree.

"To have the opportunity for UNCA to do something this splendid rests with this initial gift," Chancellor Anne Ponder said at the gathering.

Kimmel, founder of executive search firm Kimmel & Associates, presented one of the largest private donations in the university's history, according to Ponder.

"UNCA is not used to receiving gifts of this magnitude," Ponder said. "We are delighted to receive it, not only for what the gift will do, but for the example it will set for other benefactors of the university going forward."

Ponder said she considers Kimmel part of the family and plans to name the multipurpose

area Kimmel Arena.

"Joe Kimmel is the father of six UNCA graduates," Ponder said. "I will be thinking of him as a premier father not only of distinguished alumni, but as the father of the project we will be unfolding in the weeks, months and years ahead."

Kimmel said he owes something to the area that helped raise his children.

"I moved here in the early '80s to raise my seven children, and what a community it is," Kimmel said. "What I owe them that raised my children. All are turning out, by grace of God, alright."

He said that he could not make the donation without the support of his employees and company.

"This is really about the 100 wonderful men and women who work at Kimmel & Associates and their families, who understand giving and serving in a way that has been the greatest blessing a man could ever have," Kimmel said. "It is my great honor to give this gift."

Ponder said she is very thankful for Kimmel's contribution, as

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ANNE PONDER  
UNCA chancellor

well as his generosity in the past, which includes a scholarship provision and an addition to Ramsey Library.

"This \$2 million pledge is the initial gift for a particular project, and allows us to honor not only this gift, but the philanthropy of this previously very modest and private person in the good that he and his company have already done," Ponder said.

The complex, funded mostly by the N.C. General Assembly's appropriation of \$35 million, will serve as a venue for basketball and volleyball games, as well as a center for the Health and Wellness Promotion course of study.

"We are in desperate need of

facilities that include space for our new academic degree program which started this past fall," said Keith Ray chair and associate professor of the department of health and wellness. "In the first 10 weeks of this semester, we already have at least 23 officially declared majors."

The entire new department will move to the center upon its completion. The building will include state-of-the-art biometrics labs, new fitness training facilities for students, faculty and staff, areas for teaching and research, and space for competition, commencement and certain athletic events.

Although officials did not give an exact size and completion date, Ray said the Health and Wellness Center will be large and will affect the community at large.

"It is going to be a significant and complex structure on campus," Ray said. "We are thrilled with this and intend to play a significant role in the health and well-being of the citizenry of Western North Carolina."

## Students concerned about lack of diversity

By Melissa Dean  
STAFF WRITER

The lack of diversity on the UNCA campus causes many students and faculty to question what can be done about this growing problem.

"Excellence without diversity is not excellence, but is a vice for inadequacy," said Liam Luttrell, member of The New Diversity Task Force. "We need to graduate with a well-rounded, cohesive understanding of the world and a campus without racial diversity will never produce such a distinction."

Many people say the excuse used most often in dealing with the lack of diversity here at UNCA is our student body is very diverse in other ways, but this is not enough, according to Eric Gardner, senior philosophy student.

"There are students here that identify themselves as queer and we also have many different religious groups, but the most important part of diversity here isn't in terms of these lifestyle choices made by subsections of the upper middle-class white part of the population," Gardner said.

The overall black population in North Carolina is 22 percent and most of the other universities in the UNC system reflect that number in their enrollment, according to Gardner.

"Asheville is 18 percent black and we are very far behind at 2.2 percent in enrollment," Gardner said. "At one point in UNCA's history, we had enrollment at almost eight percent, but since then that has gone down and it is continuing to dwindle."

In 2000, a campus-wide task force addressed the growing problem and set out to develop ways of fixing the lack of diversity on campus.

They compiled a report for the administration that is now referred to as "The Blue Book."

"It was essentially this road map of the problems we have and the means of trying to eradicate them," said Mark Gibney, political science professor. "It was amazing to me that, given the amount of hearings, the number of meetings and testimonials given, that when the thing came out, it wasn't held up across the quad like Moses coming down from the mountain. But it wasn't."

Following the completion of "The Blue Book," it was set aside and the previous administration did not implement any of the policies.

"The Blue Book," for some reason or another, has sat gathering dust ever since and some of the faculty is very bitter about that. They see it as a slap in the face because they worked so hard and since then it has been abandoned," Garner said. "It was basically found in a cleaning closet and a lot of people had never even heard about this."

Some feel that the new administration has the opportunity to change this problem before it gets worse.

"We need strategic, well-supported and comprehensive plans that address this issue," Luttrell said. "This new administration does not need to take full responsibility for past failures, but they do need to publicly discuss ways that these failures will be avoided in the future."

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## Child's Play sets goal of \$350,000 for donations this year

By Shannon Roberts  
STAFF WRITER

The ease of giving to charity online is a principle on which the annual grassroots toy drive Child's Play operates.

"What the Internet has done is remove barriers to impulsive acts of generosity," said Jerry Holkins, co-founder of Child's Play. "When clicking a few times amounts to an act of genuine compassion, you can find Good Samaritans everywhere."

Child's Play founders Mike Krahulik and Jerry Holkins currently mastermind the Web comic Penny Arcade, a comic strip devoted to video games and gamer culture.

Child's Play primarily donates videogames and gaming systems, but also distributes movies, art supplies and other toys.

In 2003, Child's Play raised more than \$250,000 in toys and cash for the Seattle Children's Hospital.

Their goal for this year is \$350,000, and as of Friday, after only a week of fundraising, Child's Play hit \$67,000 worth of donations.

"Hospitals can be scary for kids," said Rob Waskom, undeclared sophomore student. "What they're doing reminds me of Make a Wish, without being as creepy."

According to numerous statements released by Holkins and Krahulik, Child's Play is not only a way to brighten the Christmas season of sick children, but is also an opportunity to brighten the image of gamers and the gaming community.

"I know for a fact that gamers are good people," Krahulik said. "We are just regular people who happen to love video games."

Some feel that Krahulik and Holkins efforts to change the face of the gaming community is admirable, but feel those efforts are less important than the actual fundraising.

"I think it's good when people use what they're good at to help others," Waskom said. "I'm not too worried about the gaming community image, though; I think the position it holds in society is part of the attraction."

Despite the fund-raising flyers that often paper campus bulletin

boards, online charity may not find much support at UNCA.

"I think students are much more likely to offer their time and energy than money," said Andrew Lydick, sophomore psychology student. "I would personally be more likely to volunteer my time for something that concerns me than I would to simply donate money to a cause."

While some students do support the idea of a charity like Child's Play, many simply cannot afford to contribute.

"I think it's ultimately an issue regarding lack of 'extra' money," Lydick said.

Some feel that online charities may actually encourage giving to needy causes.

"The Internet gives us the chance to make charity a part of our routine," Waskom said. "If people could regularly contribute small amounts online, I think they'd be more willing to help when something hands-on came up."

Some students dislike the uncertainty of donating money online.

"Money transfer is generally

faceless," Lydick said. "That is, you're not ever sure what's happening with the money."

Many people, however, enjoy the hands-off aspect of online donation.

"There's a lot to be said for anonymous charity," Waskom said. "Some people are more comfortable giving in a non-personal setting."

Some may feel that donating online cheapens the act of charity, but others see the ease of online charity as a bonus.

"I think that giving should be easy," Waskom said. "I don't think we should make things difficult for people who are actually trying to do good."

Child's Play takes advantage of Amazon's 'wish-list' system to order toys. Contributors merely select a hospital to view its wish-list, select a game or toy from the list, and purchase it. Amazon delivers the items directly to the hospital.

This year's sponsors for Child's Play include Rad Game Tools, Blizzard Entertainment, HardOCP, Cerulean Studios, and Lasermax.

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