

Aerial Art



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# The Blue Banner

## Office Max gets heat from environmentalists

By Allie Haake  
STAFF WRITER

Local citizens and activists protested in front of Office Max on Nov. 10 to demand that the national office-supplier commit to a more environmental-friendly policy.

Dogwood Alliance, a regional environmental organization based in Asheville, leads the push for Office Max to increase recycled content of the paper they sell and discontinue paper purchases from endangered forests.

"There are some places that are left that you can't find anywhere else in the world," said Dogwood Alliance Communication Director Scot Quaranda. "We want to make sure those places get special protection."

Dogwood Alliance, which works with a network of over 70 grass roots organizations, convinced Staples and Office Depot to publicly commit to a new policy and hopes Office Max will quickly follow suit, according to Quaranda.

"Everyday, I open up a new report that says our world will end in 50 years because of global warming or this catastrophe or that," Quaranda said. "We have time to do something about it, but we need to start taking action now."

Alex Bumgardner, junior student, participated in the Office Max protest and said protecting the old-growth forests of the Southeast area is more important than most people realize.

"Southern Appalachia is home to one of the most ecologically diverse areas in the world," Bumgardner said. "If we destroy all these trees and forests, then we destroy all the species that create our food chain."

A disrupted food chain affects to many problems that affect the lives of humans on a day-to-day basis, according to Bumgardner.

"We start to see more things like animals that don't have predators and who begin to come into our lives," Bumgardner said. "Forests are also counterweights to carbon dioxide build-up in the atmosphere and prevent soil erosion."



PHOTOGRAPH CONTRIBUTED BY THE DOGWOOD ALLIANCE WEB PAGE

Environmental activists from Dogwood Alliance and other organizations gathered outside Office Max in Asheville to inform shoppers and by-passers about their push for Office Max to increase recycled content of the paper they sell.

Dogwood Alliance recently went to the source of the problem and convinced Bowater, Inc., the fifth largest paper producer in the South, to stop converting natural forests into pine plantations.

"You don't see their name anywhere. But if you pick up a newspaper, it's usually printed on Bowater paper," Quaranda said. "That was a big commitment for them to make, and something we're really proud of."

Dogwood Alliance is a positive influence to people everywhere, according to Bumgardner.

"They have some really great, passionate people involved with it," Bumgardner said. "I'm happy they're out there doing something, and hope they can teach people

they can empower themselves and make a difference. All it takes is a little organizing, solidarity and a strong will to make a change."

Dogwood Alliance Campaign Organizer Eva Hernandez said students and consumers play a very important role in convincing major corporations, such as Office Max, to make a commitment.

"The reason we've been so successful with our market-based campaigns is because we get people involved at the grass roots level," Hernandez said. "When the companies we work with stall in negotiations, we're able to bring them back to the table because they're getting negative publicity, and that's the last thing they want."

Although joining a club like the Active Students for a Healthy Environment is one of the best ways to get involved, there are several less time-consuming ways to help, according to Bumgardner. "Sign a petition, quit buying those products and tell your friends," Bumgardner said. "That's it. If you've done that, you've contributed a whole lot."

Doing things like recycling, driving an energy-efficient car, turning down the heat or inflating the pressure on your tires are little ways that make a big difference, according to Quaranda.

The fastest way to let major corporations know you want to see a change is how you spend your money, according to

Quaranda.

"We're voting with every dollar we spend," Quaranda said. "If you spend your dollars on good products that are recycled, made locally and organic, then you're voting for the marketplace to be filled with those types of products."

"We can send a message to corporations that it's going to be good for (the company's) bottom-line to do things the right way."

While Dogwood Alliance is focusing on Office Max at the moment, there are more campaigns to come, according to Hernandez.

"We're always looking for the next company that is causing the most damage in this region," Hernandez said.

## UNCA mourns student death

By Melissa Dean  
STAFF WRITER

Students and faculty voice their sadness after the unexpected death of Shelton Elizabeth Sanders, a friend and fellow student.

"Our hearts and thoughts continue to go out to the family," said Keith Ray, chair and associate professor in the health and wellness department. "This has been a very difficult time for the campus community and we will miss her."

Sanders' boyfriend found her body in her dorm room on the morning of Nov. 18, according to Detective Ernie Welborn, Criminal Investigations Division of the Asheville Police Department.

"We do not expect foul play," Welborn said. "However, the ongoing investigation is confidential. It may be several months before the release of a cause of death."

The university is cooperating in whatever way is needed by the Asheville Police Department, according to Ray.

A memorial service was held in memory of Sanders last Saturday in Lumberton.

"It was at one of the biggest churches in Lumberton and it was packed wall to wall," said Cole Sigmon, of Lumberton and environmental science student. "You could just see how much people loved her and miss her. They showed a slide show of her and everyone talked about positive memories."

Sanders was a sophomore studying cellular molecular biology, but had not decided what she wanted to do following college, according to Sigmon.

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## UNCA reduces food waste

By Lisa Gillespie  
STAFF WRITER

Table tents with the slogan, "Project Clean Plate," sit on every table in the dining hall, yet students have little knowledge of this program implemented by Chartwells to reduce food waste and benefit the community.

"It sounds like a good program, it will give students an incentive to cut down on food waste and others will benefit," said Lily Avery, sophomore student. "I am impressed that Chartwells is doing that, however, it would be helpful if Chartwells would explain the program to us more than just the tabletops."

In the University Dining Hall, 300 pounds of waste a day is created. That means 2,100 pounds of food is wasted each week, according to Danny Dawkins, senior director of Dining Services.

"Our base line began last week to make awareness, we take the weights of what we have and keep a record," Dawkins said. "If we reduce down 20 percent, we will donate 100 pounds of flour to the local food bank."

Project Clean Plate helps students reduce food waste and actively contribute to local food banks and hunger charities, according to Chartwells.

"It's a really good idea, but sometimes I get crappy food that

"I feel like they are bribing us to eat our food, like we are in kindergarten again."

ANDREA ROBINSON  
freshman student

tastes bad, so I have to get more," said Greg Thuotte, sophomore management student.

"If they enhanced the quality of the food, they would probably save more. The reward system sounds good in theory, but some people might just go to get one piece of fruit, a candy bar or bottle of water. They will probably lose money that way," according to Thuotte.

Chartwells is looking for a student group to organize the project further, according to Dawkins.

"It is one thing for me to tell students to cut down on waste, but for other students to tell their peers to cut down, it gets everyone involved," said Dawkins.

"It drives the message home. We will be doing a catered event for the student group when the program gets put together and is successful. We will stand by the exit with a bottle of water or candy bars for clean plates."

Project Clean Plate was successful at UNC-Charlotte, University of Miami, Louisiana State

University, Northeastern University and Ohio Wesleyan University.

"The savings that we have will go to the local food banks," said Dawkins. "At lunch one day, there were 82 pounds of waste for 1,000 students. Our goal is to make a week by week comparison. It gives students awareness for how much waste we have. We did it at UNC-C and, we saw a decrease by 26 percent."

Students sometimes believe they can eat as much food as they want, according to Dawkins.

"I feel like they are bribing us to eat our food, like we are in kindergarten again," said Andrea Robinson, freshman student. "If the food was good, we would finish it. I get a plate of food, but I know that two-thirds is going to suck. The part that is disgusting gets thrown away and I eat the good parts. Perhaps it would be better just to make the food more appetizing."

Project Clean Plate is a nationwide program created by Chartwells to make recycling and environmental concerns initiatives.

"We don't want to take the cost savings, it will go to a food bank," Dawkins said. "This is the right thing to do, if you are not doing it to make an impact on the environment, do it for the candy bar."

## Students travel to Columbus, Ga. to attend annual protest against SOA

By Anna Lee  
STAFF WRITER

Torture survivors and a rock musician took turns reading aloud the names of civilians who had allegedly been killed by graduates of the School of the Americas, where the U.S. military trains Latin American soldiers in counter-insurgency tactics.

UNCA students, including sophomore Katie Blanchard-Reid, attended the annual protest against the SOA just outside the gates of Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga., on Nov. 18 and 19.

"People are just blindly supporting the U.S. military, and they don't realize that the people who graduate from the School of the Americas are going back to their own countries and using these brutality tactics against civilians," Blanchard-Reid said.

It took two hours and fifteen minutes for all the names to be read to the audience of 20,000, including seven UNCA students.

"On February 21 of this year, members of our community were massacred, including a one-month-old child," said Maria Brigida Gonzalez de Cartagena, of the San Jose Peace Community in Colombia. "All were cut up into pieces."

This massacre was allegedly carried out by members of the



PHOTOGRAPH CONTRIBUTED BY ANNA LEE

Protesters demonstrate the brutality committed by graduates of the School of Americas at a recent protest.

Colombian military under the command of SOA graduate Héctor Jaime Fandino Rincón.

Carlos Mauricio, a torture survivor from El Salvador, was kidnapped from his position at the University of El Salvador in June 1983, allegedly by members of El Salvador's military.

"I was tortured, I was brutally beaten and I was given no water and no food for three days," Mauricio said.

Mauricio later sued El Salvador's 1983 minister of defense and the director general of the Salvadoran National Guard for what happened to him and others. Both men were connected with the SOA.

Demonstrators attended the SOA protest from all over the country.

"We think it (SOA) needs to be closed," said Bill Ryerson of

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