

Swinging Success



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The Blue Banner



PHOTOS TAKEN BY SHANNA ARNEY - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

UNCA served as a platform for students to express all differing opinions regarding the three year anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq. Students gathered on campus then marched downtown in the rain to express their feelings about the war. Downtown Asheville was receptive to the protest as shop owners along the street came to their doors and thanked the Protesters.



UNCA speaks out about Iraqi war

Protesters take both sides of the invasion of Iraq on its third anniversary

By Anna Lee
STAFF WRITER

Students and veterans marched downtown in cold rain to protest the Iraq war on Monday, the third anniversary of the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

"Our position is it's the Iraqi people's country, and they have a right to self-determination, they have a right to throw the occupier out and we're going to support them in doing that," said senior

philosophy student Kostas Harlan a member of the Socialist Unity League, the group which organized the event.

Veteran Andrew Cates, a 29-year-old senior classics student, organized a counterprotest on the other side of the quad.

"We wanted to be here to support our Iraqi allies and to say that we don't think that we need an immediate pull-out like the Socialist Unity League is calling for," Cates said. "Donald Rumsfeld said that an immediate pull-out would be like leaving post-war Germany in the hands of the Nazis."

Cates, stationed in Kuwait from 1998 to 2000, said he was not there for other hostilities.

Other veterans attended the anti-war demonstration and march downtown.

"We knew that there weren't

any ties to Al-Qaeda during the invasion," said Kenneth Ashe, Asheville Veterans for Peace member and Vietnam Veteran. "There was all this talk of nuclear weapons. It was all a bunch of lies, folks. We have a bunch of liars, thieves and crooks in Washington."

There remain ways to deter a civil war in Iraq, which would work better than the continued occupation of Iraq, according to Elliott Gillooly, senior political science student.

"I think that the presence of the U.S. military doesn't do anything to stave off civil war whatsoever. There can't be a settlement so long as they are an outside party with vested interests," Gillooly said.

"The United States doesn't have neutral intentions in Iraq, and that should be obvious to anyone.

"When we withdraw, we should

withdraw in an orderly manner, and there are international organizations better able to cope with the situation than the military."

The U.S. government wants Iraq to have a civil war, according to Harlan.

"The Coalition Provisional Authority under Paul Bremer, the United States government under George Bush and the United Kingdom government under Tony Blair have been pursuing a policy from the very beginning of splitting Iraqis, of divide and conquer," Harlan said. "Iraqis had a strong national identity for the past hundred years, and it's only very recently that we've started to see these sectarian attacks."

As students and veterans walked in the cold rain, vehicles driving down Merrimon Avenue honked and waved. Shop owners along the street came to their

doors to watch. Some even waved and thanked the Protesters.

Asheville resident Clare Hanrahan, who has been to Alderson Federal Women's Prison in West Virginia for protesting on the grounds of the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Ga, walked out of the College for Seniors and the Center for Creative Retirement.

"I represent that grey-haired contingent of UNCA's campus," Hanrahan said. "We have to continue generation after generation to vote with our feet on the street sometimes."

Hanrahan said the cold rain should not have been a barrier to participation in the walk-out.

"If we can't stand in the rain, walk in the cold rain, and make our dissent visible, how can we expect change to come?" Hanrahan said.

Wal-Mart now provides emergency contraception

By Paige Reinhard
STAFF WRITER

Wal-Mart lifted its ban and agreed to begin selling emergency contraception starting Monday, but health centers on college campuses have been selling the controversial prescription for years.

"I think it's important," said Caitlin Swick, a resident of Sarasota, Fla. "Especially in college, if you get pregnant, it can really ruin your life."

Emergency contraception, commonly known as the morning-after pill, is a high dose of hormones found in birth control. Emergency contraception is meant to be used up until 72 hours after unprotected sexual intercourse in order to prevent or end pregnancy.

According to the American Pharmacists Association, pharmacists have the right to refuse to fill prescriptions if they object on

moral grounds. If they choose to do this, then they must refer the patient to a pharmacy that will fill their prescription. However, some pharmacists refuse to give the prescription to another pharmacist to fill.

Susan Wilson, a physician's assistant in UNCA's health center, said this behavior is hypocritical and unfair to the patients.

"I feel that when you take the Hippocratic oath, when you go into any branch of medicine, you should be able to put your personal feelings aside and treat the patients and their needs," Wilson said.

University of Florida sophomore Martha Maule said the employees at these institutions should not be forced to sell emergency contraception.

"I think that everyone is entitled to their own beliefs and that if they feel that they are compromising their beliefs by prescribing the

morning-after pill, then they shouldn't have to," Maule said.

Maule advocates that there is a struggle between right and wrong when it comes to taking emergency contraception and that sexual intercourse should be reserved for marriage.

"I don't think the morning-after pill should be sold on college campuses because I don't think there should be a morning after, period," Maule said.

Swick, who attended UNCA last semester, said although she thinks emergency contraception is important, she can understand the concern.

"I know some people who use it for their primary source of birth control," Swick said.

There is no limit to how many times a woman can request the emergency contraception, according to Wilson.

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UNCA community brings to light drug and alcohol abuse

By Jim MacKenzie
STAFF WRITER

Following an increase in alcohol violations and a series of student deaths, UNCA officials said they fear underage drinking and drug use could grow into a significant problem.

"This is my fourth year here," said Provost Mark Padilla. "I know that students have used and abused alcohol and drugs, but we've heard this year anecdotal information that an increase is on the rise."

UNCA could be at a crossroads with drug use, according to Padilla.

"A variety of individuals have pointed out to us that it is on the rise," Padilla said. "I don't have any hard survey evidence. But the information I was getting, it raised concerns that we're getting to the tipping point that we

may have or could have a bigger problem with alcohol or drug abuse."

The administration does not necessarily distribute the reasons behind student fatalities to the campus, according to Chancellor Anne Ponder.

"We have lost three students in as many months, each one to very different circumstances," Ponder said. "Student fatalities are not something we treat as news. We treat them as personal tragedies."

The administration works to keep all students safe, according to Ponder.

"If there were circumstances where four students were involved, or other students were in any way at risk, we would find a way to address that risk,"

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AIDS pandemic intensifies locally

By Kristen Marshall
STAFF WRITER

North Carolina students stand at the forefront of the fight to spread awareness and dispel assumptions about HIV and AIDS, a disease in which people 25 years old and younger account for half of all new infections worldwide.

"One of the things you have to get around when you think about AIDS is that it affects the individual. Something like this never affects an individual. It affects an entire social structure," said John Stephens, junior literature student and UNCA's Student Global AIDS Campaign founder.

Stephens, who lived in Kenya for several years and witnessed first hand the devastation of HIV and AIDS in the poverty-stricken country, said the chapter's first year was a success.

A series of events hosted by SGAC, packed the Alumni Hall and the Humanities Lecture Hall each time, according to Stephens.

Five students, sophomore Maddie Hayes, junior philosophy student Sasha Doyle-Weiss, junior literature student Benjamin Cox, junior art student Elizabeth Morgan and Stephens make up the chapter's leadership board and meet twice a week for organizational purposes. When larger meetings take place, as many as 30 people attend.

"One of our main goals is raising awareness," Stephens said. "I think the student body has AIDS, Africa and the pandemic in their consciousness a lot more so than they did a year ago."

SGAC, a nationwide movement with almost 100 chapters at high schools and universities, consists of students dedicated to ending HIV and AIDS around the world, as well as in their own backyards.

Carolyn Steele, sophomore communication and public relations student at North Carolina State University and advocacy chair of its SGAC chapter, focuses on educating the student population.

"The disease affects everyone on all campuses because we all have to deal with it," Steele said. "People think they're invincible, that there's no way they can contract it, but every hour someone under the age of 25 becomes infected."

The Center for Disease Control estimates about one million people live with HIV in the United States, including those not yet diagnosed.

According to the 2005 North Carolina HIV/STD Surveillance Report, for every 1,000 people living in North Carolina, 14 are infected with HIV or AIDS.

In 2004, there were 16,041 reports of HIV in North Carolina, according to Michael Harney, prevention educator and street outreach worker for the Western North Carolina AIDS Project.

"We have roughly 40,000 new infections a year in this country," Harney said. "Divide that by 50 states, and you get about 800 cases per state. North Carolina's number is two state's worth. There's a problem here."

Since 1983, Buncombe County reported 605 cumulative cases of HIV, according to the surveillance report.

"It's interesting that AIDS exploded in the '80s, so when it came onto the scene, most of today's students were just coming into existence," Stephens said.

Harney, who has been an HIV/AIDS activist for almost 12

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