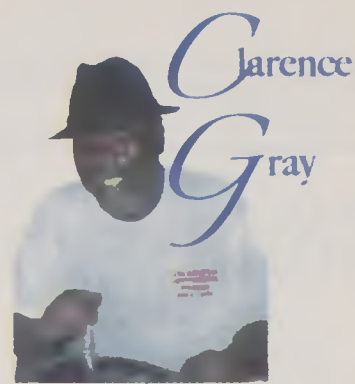




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The Blue Banner



See Below

Middle East conflict raises global concern

By Anna Lee
STAFF WRITER

Hezbollah, Lebanon's militant group, proclaimed victory in a month-long conflict with Israel in Aug., leaving citizens to clean up and many wondering what will happen next.

"I feel it's not a conflict between Israel and Lebanon," said Howard Jaslow, member of the College for Seniors and the president of Asheville's Jewish Community Center, also known as the Temple of Beth Ha Tephila. "It's really a conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. It's the poor Lebanese people who are suffering because they're caught in the middle."

Middle Eastern studies and history professor Samer Traboulsi, a native of Lebanon, declined the opportunity to comment on the issue.

The conflict started when Hezbollah captured three Israeli soldiers on July 12. The conflict has killed approximately 1,109 Lebanese people, half of whom may have been civilians, and 159 Israeli people, of whom 27 percent were civilians.

Hezbollah claims it captured the soldiers to negotiate a release of Lebanese prisoners from Israeli prisons.

The Lebanese prisoners are members of Hezbollah and terrorists, according to Jaslow.

"Whenever Israel will capture some of these people, Hezbollah tries to capture one or two Israelis or some diplomats and make a trade, and the general position of Israel is not to barter or negotiate with terrorists because that gives them more determination to continue what they're doing," Jaslow said.

Since Israel does not view Hezbollah as a valid political group, it attacked Hezbollah at the expense of Lebanese civilians instead of going through with negotiations.

The capture of the three Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah stands as only a single event in a long history of offenses against Israel, according to Jaslow and Linda

Cornett, associate professor and director of international studies.

"This was seen as the last straw in a series of attacks not only on Israeli soldiers but also within the civilian population in Israel," Cornett said. "They believed they had to demonstrate that they wouldn't continue to allow these attacks on Israeli soldiers or Israeli civilians."

Jaslow said the conflict centers around something other than land or material wealth.

"What (Hezbollah) claims is they want literally to destroy Israel," Jaslow said. "It's not about winning a war or gaining territory. It's about the destruction of Israel."

Hezbollah is not just a terrorist organization though, according to Cornett. She said it came into being to protect Lebanon from real and potential threats of foreign occupation, some of which were from Israel.

"It has support in Southern Lebanon because it provides not just military protection from different armed groups that have gone in and out of that region for the past 20 years, but it also provides things like social security and hospitals. It's got scholarships for students going abroad or who need scholarships to continue their studies domestically," Cornett said. "It gives aid to widows and orphans, so it's actually got a stronger base in Lebanon than the government itself."

That is why it would be difficult for the Lebanese army to disarm Hezbollah without international help, according to Cornett.

"The government (of Lebanon), moving against an armed group that has popular support is not going to find that task very easy," Cornett said. "It might incite a civil war."

If the international community doesn't properly aid peacekeeping between Israel and Lebanon's militant, political and community group Hezbollah, a bigger conflict could result, according to Cornett.

Israel claims Syria and Iran are

SEE MIDDLE EAST PAGE 2



A border war between Israel and Lebanon's militant group, Hezbollah, started when Hezbollah captured three Israeli soldiers on July 12, holding them captive to negotiate a release of Lebanese prisoners. Hezbollah proclaimed victory on Aug. 14, leaving Lebanon to repair damage of more than 30 days of war.

*UNIFIL stands for United Nations Forces in Lebanon (1978-present day)

*UNDOF stands for United Nations Disengagement Observer (1974-present day)

Community and school welcome the chancellor

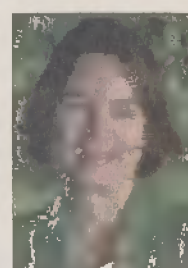
By Brett Albers
COPY EDITOR

Numerous speakers, performances, exhibits and guests fill the schedule next week to celebrate the installation of UNC Asheville's sixth chancellor, Dr. Anne Ponder, and the success and achievements of the university as a whole.

"When we began to plan this installation, we agreed that it is about the university and not about me," said Chancellor Anne Ponder. "We will use it as a vehicle to express and demonstrate who we are and what we do as a university."

With the future in mind, celebration of the official installation of Chancellor Ponder

includes a tapestry of events ranging from concerts and speakers, to art exhibits and performances.



"As I look at the events scheduled for the week, it makes me proud of what people will know about the university," Ponder said.

"This week allows us to make ourselves visible."

While students are aware of the type of community built around the university, the installation provides the public with a strong image of UNC Asheville as well, according to Ponder.

"Of course, we see it all the time, but there will be some guests for whom this will be all they will ever know about UNC Asheville," Ponder said. "I want them to feel welcomed and included in the university we know so well."

The students at UNC Asheville provide the best image of what the university stands for, according to Ponder.

"All you really need to do to know about the best at UNC Asheville is to talk to the students about who they are becoming and what caliber of academic life is available here," Ponder said.

Ponder, an Asheville native, previously worked at other colleges, including Elon, Guilford and Kenyon colleges. She served for 10 years as the president of Colby-Sawyer College. Her experiences at schools across the country allow her to appreciate her hometown.

"I left Asheville to go away to get my education after graduating high school," Ponder said. "Although I visited regularly because I had family in the area, it is at once both distant in my experience but also fully present. So, I feel like I have a main-line access to the culture and possibility of this city, and I have experience in some of the finest circles of higher education away."

Ponder plans to set high goals and aspirations for the future.

"The university is at a great stage in its development, and I'm hoping to make the values and practices of the community even deeper and more available," Ponder said. "We have reinstated the Student Affairs division so there is a rich and primary involvement of student life, interest and well-being as a part of the university community."

One of the biggest challenges facing the university revolves around how to receive proper

SEE CHANCELLOR PAGE 2

Highsmith employee retires, leaves behind both friends and memories

By Christa Chappelle
STAFF WRITER

Students encounter many people during their time at the university, but only a few impact as many lives as Clarence Gray.

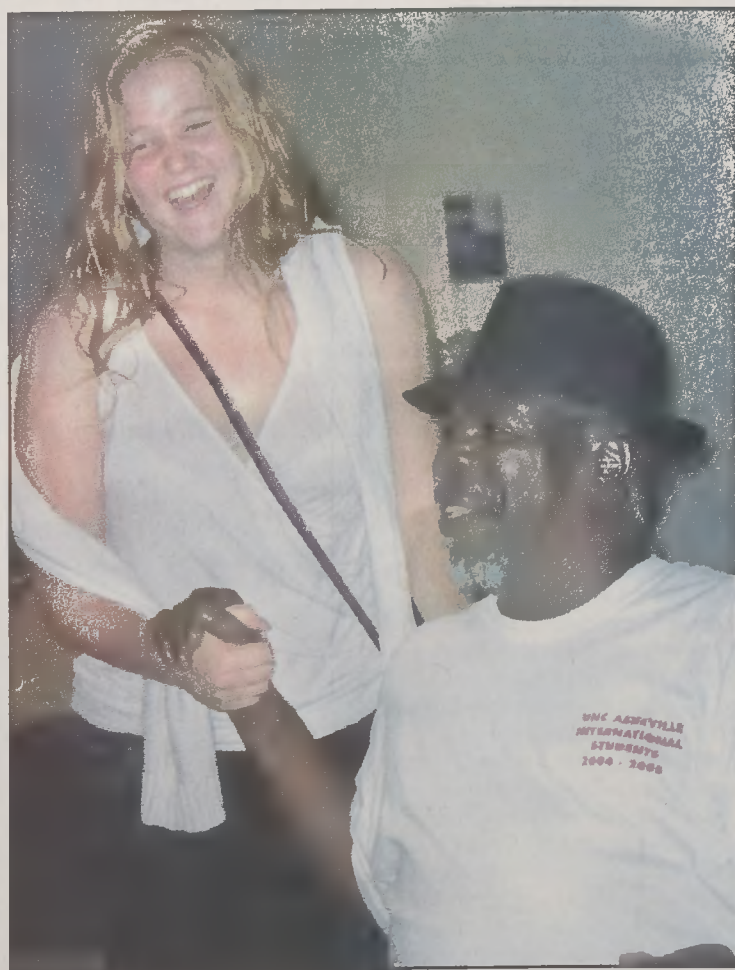
"It's going to be really sad not having him here, especially since he was the morning person," said junior Katarina Reuter, who works at the Highsmith University Union. "I know for all the morning people that work in the Highsmith, they're going to miss that sense of somebody who's always happy. You can come in sad or depressed or if it's raining, it didn't matter. He would do his best to cheer you up."

Last Wednesday, housekeeper and floor maintenance staff member Clarence Gray retired. Highsmith Union and university employees held a retirement luncheon for him and invited students for dessert. Gray has worked for the university for six years.

"My last three years here have been really tremendous," Gray said. "My first three years were horrible, but my last three I have really enjoyed. I had a better chance of interacting with the students. I could spend more time getting to talk to the students."

Due to back problems and extensive back surgery in the future, Gray's doctor recommended he

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ALLIE HAAKE - NEWS EDITOR

Senior interdisciplinary studies student Genevieve Grandadam says goodbye to Clarence Gray before he retires from his housekeeping position at the Highsmith University Union. Gray has worked at the school for six years.

Effects of Katrina live fresh in the minds of many across nation

By Cally Pelllecia
STAFF WRITER

One year after Katrina, UNC Asheville faculty and students reflect on the costliest, and one of the deadliest, natural disasters our country has ever seen and talk about their time spent in the city of New Orleans.

"I tell people here in Asheville that my dad always kept three things in the attic: an ax, so if the water ever rose he could get his way into the attic and chop through the roof; an industrialized-size rope he could tie my mother to so that she wouldn't float off; and an old Coleman cooler, because these are great floatation devices," said Gordon Wilson, UNC Asheville philosophy professor who resided in New Orleans from 1945 until 1997.

Ellen Pearson, assistant professor of history at UNC Asheville, said she and her husband sealed up the windows of their brand new home and left New Orleans for good when Hurricane Andrew began to make way toward the city.

"The process of preparation was so unnerving for me," said Pearson, who lived in New Orleans for 14 years. "It was only a matter of time. I couldn't take that kind of stress when I didn't have to take it."

Mission trips to the city enabled outsiders to witness the destruction in New Orleans. Jordan Skowronski, sophomore student, spent his entire spring break gutting houses in the city.

"I was surprised," Skowronski said. "I knew it was going to be bad, but I didn't think about all the aspects of it. It was kind of like the end of the world. It was very strange. It was surreal."

While eligible houses received aid, Skowronski said he wondered about the households not eligible for assistance.

"We were fixing one house in the entire neighborhood, but what about the rest of the houses?" Skowronski said. "I didn't see any progress on those at all."

FEMA provided 101,174 travel trailers and mobile homes as of August. Louisiana homes were the majority of these, topping off at 64,150 in the latest survey. FEMA also housed nearly 7,000 families on cruise ships.

While thousands took refuge on the sea and in unfamiliar lands across the country, many trailers sat unoccupied in New Orleans, according to Skowronski.

"There was a giant parking lot full of FEMA trailers," Skowronski said. "They were

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