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The Blue Banner

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Diversity on campus

Students, faculty and staff gather at forum to discuss the presence or absence of diversity

By Caitly Pelliccia
STAFF WRITER

University Ambassador Tiffanie Tatum said in three years with the program, she never gave a tour of the university to an African-American, raising the prominent, yet controversial, issue of diversity on campus.

"Being an African-American student on UNC Asheville's campus has opened my eyes a lot over the past three years," said Tatum, senior mass communication student. "We are moving backward in history. Schools are no longer

"Schools are no longer becoming desegregated, but more of going back to being segregated."

TIFFANIE TATUM
University Ambassador

becoming desegregated but more of going back to being segregated schools."

The minority population at UNC Asheville has not risen above 10 percent since 1996, according to information provided by the university.

The Student Government Association, alongside a number of other student organizations, hosted a diversity forum in Rhodes-Robinson Hall last Friday to educate students on the "Blue

Book." This book, established by students and faculty in 2000, addresses issues concerning diversity and creates a plan calling for immediate action.

The forum began with a moment of reflection. Garrett Male, a representative of Equal Access who is in a wheelchair, could not attend because the venue was not accessible for handicapped audience members.

"As a student organization charged with raising disability awareness, we feel it that actively participating in tonight's discussion, in an inaccessible location, would directly contradict our mission," Male said in his letter read by student Grace Silvia.

Flyers to publicize the event posted by Jason Tuell, junior literature student and SGA senator, stirred up controversy, according to Time Laughlin, senior economics student and SGA commuter senator.

"The flyers insinuated blatantly that the administration was lying," Laughlin, said. "It's essential that we, as a student body, represent the entire group. We have to foster a positive relationship with the administration."

However, some students said they disagree with the compliant approach.

"I think the flyers sound out a really direct and important message," said Sarah Young, junior political science student and member of the Student Diversity Alliance. "Sending out a strong



Don Locke, diversity and multicultural affairs director, and Mark Gibney, political science professor, continue to discuss issues after the diversity forum Thursday.

message was necessary."

Some administrators said the flyers were not appropriate.

"I was invited less than 36 hours beforehand," said Chancellor Anne Ponder. "No one showed me the flyer. The implications of the way the host chose to promote the

event might not have kept me away, but I would certainly have found it offensive."

Don Locke, director of diversity and multicultural affairs, said the flyer confused him.

"I don't know what they mean," Locke said. "Anne Ponder came

here just a year ago, and I don't believe we have committed to anything on which we have not delivered."

Trilce Marquez, Hispanic senior sociology student, said there was

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America changes torture law

By Anna Lee
STAFF WRITER

Critics say a new law passed by Congress last week allows the president to legalize torture and the use of evidence obtained through controversial interrogation of enemy combatants.

"There is nothing complicated about a lighted cigarette to the scrotum," said Mark Gibney, political science professor, in response to a claim that the bill was complicated.

The law affirms the United States' definition of torture as an act which causes the victim to almost reach the point of death or the failure of a bodily organ, according to Gibney. By this definition, a lighted cigarette to the scrotum would not be torture.

"Waterboarding, one of the more

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Nation tunes in as Candidates battle for the seat to represent WNC

By Brett Albers
COPY EDITOR

With mid-term elections drawing near, a close race between incumbent Charles Taylor and challenger Heath Shuler for North Carolina's 11th Congressional District brings forth issues directly pertaining to UNC Asheville, such as education funding.

Charles Taylor, member of the Republican Party and representative for North Carolina's 11th District since 1991, vies to return to Washington and continue to serve the district.

Heath Shuler, the Democratic candidate, intends to bring a new face to the district as he competes for Taylor's long-held position as the representative for Western North Carolina.

New to politics, Shuler is best known for his three-season career as former NFL quarterback for the Washington Redskins. After retiring, he became a real estate investor in Knoxville, Tenn., and began to pursue a political career after returning to Waynesville, N.C.

"He's young and vivacious," said Lucretia Young, Shuler campaign campus coordinator. "He's

not a novice, but he has a clean start and a clean record. I think our district really needs to start with a clean slate, politically."

Media stations across the nation are covering the race between Shuler and Taylor. It's considered to be one of the closest congressional contests of the season, according to a USA Today report.

Shuler matches Taylor in polls and in fundraising, according to Young.

"He's done a good job of keeping with Taylor in fundraising for the campaign," Young said. "That's what sets him apart from previous candidates who have faced Taylor."

Some feel electing Shuler now will disrupt the progress Taylor has made as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

"Usually when you're mid-stream and you want to switch horses, you want to hop onto the better one," said John Noor, campus coordinator for the Taylor campaign. "I don't necessarily feel that Shuler is the best one."

Taylor's role on the Appropriations Committee is crucial for continuing positive funding for our district, according to Noor.

"To give up all the opportunities we have with funding, resources and benefits with Charles Taylor for someone who will start at the back of the pack if elected is detri-

mental," Noor said. "To trade up for Shuler, who will lose the ability for our district to get resources and funding, just isn't a good choice."

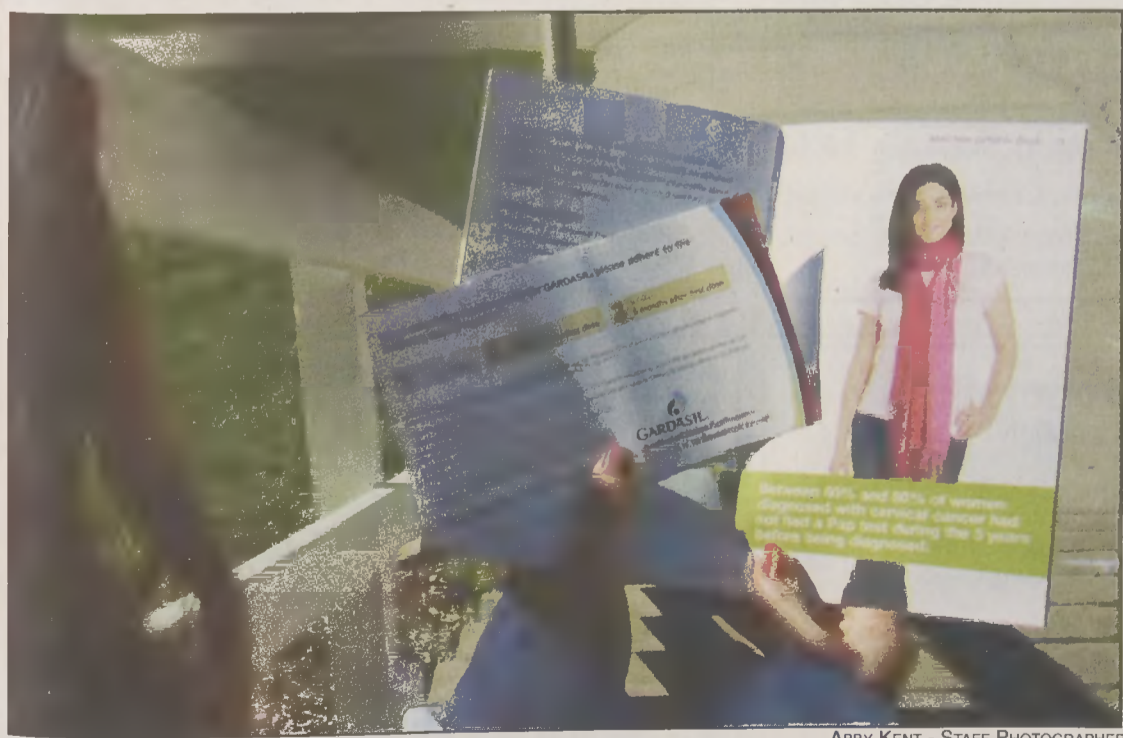
One of Shuler's main issues involves finding sources for financial aid so the door can remain open for anyone to go to college, according to Shuler's campaign Web site.

"Shuler has kids," Young said. "So he understands the importance of making sure a quality education is available to anyone who wants it."

Taylor has a strong record of providing funding for education in Western North Carolina, a part of the state that is generally ignored concerning funding for education.

"Taylor's devotion to education in Western North Carolina is his strongest asset," Noor said. "Education is the way that we are going to pull Western North Carolina out of the place we're in now. It's going to be through educating the citizens of this part of the state and giving them the tools to come up with creative solutions that will solve a number of other

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Abby Kent - Staff Photographer

A student looks through an informational brochure available in the health center about a new vaccine that prevents almost 100 percent of cases of human papilloma virus.

HPV vaccine to protect thousands

By Courtney Metz
STAFF WRITER

The Food and Drug Administration approved a new vaccine that shows nearly 100 percent effectiveness in preventing the human papilloma virus (HPV), a sexually transmitted disease that can lead to cervical cancer in women.

"I'm especially glad to see it for my daughter's generation," said Kelley Wolfe, adjunct instructor

in the health and wellness department. "Anything that can reduce our risk of cancer is a good thing for us. I'd like to see it to be made more affordable and more widespread, but I think it will be over time."

The FDA approved the HPV vaccine, Gardasil, in June, after six months of testing. It requires a series of three shots over six months and each shot costs \$120 without insurance, according to

the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The prices should come down," said Michelle Barbeau, freshman literature student. "If something can prevent a disease that can potentially kill you, then all measures should be taken to prevent that disease, and it should be available to anyone who wants it."

Studies conducted on more than

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