

## Controversial punishment divides students

By Courtney Metz  
Staff Writer

A death penalty forum last Thursday in the Highsmith Union addressed debate on a campus full of diverse views and individuals.

"I don't think that anyone should be able to decide if someone should live or someone should die," said Sarah Young, vice-president of the American Civil Liberties Union and member of the UNC Asheville chapter of Amnesty International. "Life imprisonment is a reasonable alternative."

The forum, "The Tragedies of the Death Penalty," was co-sponsored by the ACLU and Amnesty International and featured four speakers with different views.

"It was basically a forum to inform the student body about what the death penalty means, what are reasons to be opposed or be in support of the death penalty or just to share genuine stories of people's personal experiences with this," said Young, a political science and environmental policy student. "The death penalty still has major effects on our society today and there are major things going on with it."

There are many reasons to oppose the death penalty, according to Young.

"There are the classical arguments that it doesn't deter crime," said Young. "Where the death penalty is used in the Southern states, they have much higher murder rates than in the states in the Midwest that do not use it. It is discriminatory. It is four times more likely for an African-American man to be convicted of a death penalty sentence than a white man. If you look at



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MEGAN WILDMAN

Students voiced opinions for and against the death penalty at an ACLU forum Thursday. Some students said they felt execution was the only option for some criminals while others said there are no benefits of the death penalty.

those on death row, 95 percent of them could not afford their own attorney."

Statistics clearly show acts of discrimination, according to Young.

Over 80 percent of people executed since 1976 were convicted of killing white victims, although people of color make up more than half of all homicide victims in the United States, according to the Amnesty International Web site.

Many students say they are in favor of the death penalty.

"In a society with so many brutal acts of violence against innocent victims, especially children, I believe it is a justified punishment," said Kathy Lockemy, a 37-year-old management student. "I have a problem with my tax dollars supporting someone spending life in a facility where many times they have access to things that many law-abiding citizens don't have."

Those funds would be better used to help the victims, according to Lockemy.

The death penalty does not help

the victims either, according to Young.

"There are a number of studies out there that victims do not find peace in another man's death," Young said. "Another person's death does not lead to real justice. You can only find that type of peace through another means. There have been a number of murder victims who have stood up and said that this isn't working and that it is tragic."

Many also believe that the death penalty is prone to human error.

## Market

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we work with is New Life Homes in Nairobi, Kenya and then a couple of other provinces in Kenya. We found out that 80 percent of the children get adopted within one year."

Referring to an article by Kofi Annan, Stephens said AIDS in Africa has a woman's face, but it also has the face of an infant as well.

"The word AIDS doesn't invoke much empathy, just the term, but a baby invokes empathy in everyone, and that's really what the face is, that and a woman's," Stephens said.

The Amani Children's Foundation was chosen due to the gravity of the AIDS crisis, according to Dagg.

"We usually choose some big charity to donate the money to," Dagg said. "I chose Amani because recently, I was reading a bunch of articles of how AIDS was running rampant around the world."

The total donation added up to \$1,300, with \$300 coming from student organizations and a \$1,000-donation from Starbucks, according to Dagg.

All donations will go to the Amani Children's Foundation, according to Stephens.

"One thousand dollars is the cost of supporting an infant for their first year of life," Stephens said. "That includes the cost of rescuing the infant, nursing the infant back to health and then giving the medical treatment, emotional support and its daily necessities such as food, water and shelter for a year. In effect, that saves the infant's life."

This particular donation will go toward a recently rescued infant named Annette who was abandoned at a hospital, according to Stephens. The remaining \$300 will go toward the sponsorship of another child.

"That \$1,000 is going to go to baby Annette, a beautiful baby girl who was rescued from a hospital where she was abandoned within the first few days of her life," Stephens said. "She was suffering from malnourishment and was severely underweight and sick. Baby Annette was nursed back to health and now she is supported for the year."

While providing a night of fun and entertainment, the Night Market allowed students to participate in an event and work together for a good cause, according to Jang.

"A lot of us really don't recognize how easy it is and how important it is to donate something for a good cause," said Jang.

Although the Night Market raised larger donations in the past, there were some new

"We had a great integration of all the campus organizations, so that was very successful in that aspect," Jang said.

## SGA

committee, according to Noor.

"We felt that appointing a committee which contained individuals who had already made up their minds before the investigation had taken place would not be a fair or partial trial," Noor said. "So we gathered senators who had not voiced an opinion about what they thought and, up until that point, had remained largely unaware of what was going on."

Lange shows favoritism and a lack of respect for seniority, according to Laughlin.

"I appreciate Anna Lange's personal endeavors as an individual, but I think there needs to be a separation with her job as vice president," Laughlin said.

Laughlin seeks Lange's position as vice president of SGA, according to Noor.

"I think (Laughlin) does a lot for himself personally to help students, but doesn't help to make the body that he's a member of very successful," Noor said. "He,

in some ways, goes out of his way to make it difficult for other individuals, particularly the vice president."

Laughlin said he has no plans to be vice president.

"My present time constraints both here on campus and in the community prohibit my ability to hold any further responsibilities," Laughlin said.

Lange said she accuses herself of being too lenient.

"There are power struggles in the Senate and people fighting for my position, including Senator Laughlin, trying to make our meetings ineffective," Lange said. "I need to be stricter on people speaking out of turn and disrupting meetings."

SGA meetings are notoriously lengthy, according to Lange, and tend to run around two hours.

### A transition in power

Former Vice President Devon

Sanchez-Ossorio stepped down from his senate position last week, according to Laughlin.

"He said it was for time constraints, but let's be honest here. I just don't think we're doing anything, and I don't think he thought we were being effective," Laughlin said.

Laughlin said with the end of the semester fast-approaching, he is disappointed with the lack of progress and movement in the student government.

"There's a certain sector of the group, a few key individuals, who do a lot of work, and there's a majority of individuals who don't necessarily do as much," Laughlin said.

Lange said she blames lack of movement on a number of the senior members.

"Some senior senators, like Senator Laughlin, repeatedly do not sign up to help with events, tabling and advertising," Lange said. "This puts many of the

newer people in an interesting position because the senators they are looking up to are not owning and participating in SGA-sponsored activities. They think, 'If they aren't helping, why should I?'"

### A bright future for SGA

Regardless of current power struggles, the three freshmen senators continue to be a positive force in SGA, according to senior senators.

"I think the freshmen senators have sort of hit the ground running," Laughlin said. "All the freshmen seem to be adjusting well and are very involved in all the groups. It's great to see the new leaders of the student body taking on this responsibility in this way. I'm very impressed with every single one of them and how they're handling themselves so far. There's nothing but good things to come from them."

## Soccer

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COURTESY OF THE ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Liberty nearly doubled UNC Asheville's shots on goal during regulation time, but the Bulldog's won in overtime.

and just for an exhibition match. It was a nice thing. Most people haven't played teams like that."

The finals for the NCAA tournament are on Dec. 1 and Dec. 3 in Cary.

"I love this team. I love being around this team. I'm so excited about doing this with the team, being in the NCAA, playing against whoever we play," Barrow said. "It will be a really fun day and an awesome experience and to share it with some of my best friends will be something I never forget."

Student tickets for the game are \$5, advance tickets are also available. The Bulldogs play the No. 1 seed at Fetzer Field. More details are available on the UNC Web site.

"Carolina is a nationally ranked program and has been for many years, but the crazy thing about soccer is one-zero can win," Cone said. "We just have to play good defense and score one goal. At this point in time anything can happen."

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