



The BLUE BANNER

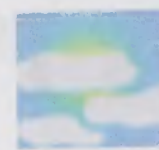


Arts, Etc

Bonnaroo draws thousands for good times and good music, see page 9

Sports

Intramurals gear up for a new season, see page 4.



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THE NEWS IN BRIEF

By Aaron Dahlstrom
Assistant News Editor

Asheville plans French Broad cleanup

Progress Energy plans to donate land around the French Broad River to the city of Asheville, allowing for the city to move in and maintain the land, a task formerly left in the hands of private citizens.

Legal ownership of more than three acres transfers later this week, according to officials. Environmental laws force Progress Energy to perform cleanup of the site before the shift takes place.

University praised as a 'best buy'

For the 14th consecutive year, "The Fiske Guide to Colleges" named UNC Asheville as a best buy among universities. According to the report, the school's academics, small class sizes, dedicated professors and residential life make it one of the top universities for its size and relative cost. UNC Asheville, along with UNC Chapel Hill, comprise the short list of two public universities in North Carolina named as best buys.

Gallery honors students, recent graduates

An art exhibit featuring the works of UNC Asheville students and recent graduates takes place in the gallery of Highsmith University Union.

The artwork features drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, mixed media and photography. The event runs through Sept. 8.

Ex-astronaut pleads insanity in love triangle

Attorneys for Lisa Nowak, former NASA astronaut on trial for allegedly stalking Air Force Captain Colleen Shipman in February, plan to use an insanity defense to keep their client out of jail. Her mental health diagnoses includes obsessive-compulsive disorder and depression, according to court papers.

LIFESTYLES

Goombay Festival showcases African culture

By Courtney Willis
Staff Writer

African dancers clad in vibrant colors danced to the rhythm of African drums down the streets of downtown Asheville.

Vendors yelled out prices of carvings, fabrics and jewelry, and the aroma of fried fish, BBQ and

funnel cake dominated the air.

The Young Man Institute Cultural Center presented the annual Goombay Festival in downtown Asheville last weekend.

"Goombay gives Asheville an opportunity to celebrate different cultures and allows the communi-

ty to see how the African and Caribbean cultures have been woven into American fabric," said Harry Harrison, executive director of YMI Cultural Center.

People of all races come together in the streets of Asheville to listen to live music ranging from gospel and R&B to jazz and reg-

gae. Participants go to watch drummers and dancers, enjoy beautiful, unique crafts and to eat food inspired by African and Caribbean culture.

The worldwide centuries-old Goombay celebration originated in Bermuda during the days of slavery. The word Goombay

translates to rhythm, according to the YMI Cultural Center.

"Seeing the real African drummers dressed up and dancing down the street was exciting and fun," said Lindsay Mosley, 22, Asheville resident. "I was

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Housing: No Vacancy



TREY BOUVIER - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Residents Andrew Kirk, sophomore, Luke Newbold, junior, Adam Edwards, Jake Francis and Kipling Gillespie, freshmen, sit in their converted lounge room in Mills Hall with Summit Leaders Brittney Pritchard and Abby Rayfield, sophomores. While these spaces are temporary, many residents said they would not mind staying in the larger rooms, like this one or the bottom floor lounges in Governors Village.

Admissions overflow forces Residential Education to improvise

By Betty Longhaven
Staff Writer

The demand for on-campus housing swelled this year, leaving new students in temporary spaces they feared would be little more than renovated closets.

"When I first heard about temporary housing, I thought I was going to live in like a modular room or something that would be pretty thrown together, but this seems pretty nice," said Jake Francis, freshman student and one of five new students living in what was once the third floor lounge area for Mills Hall.

The university converted lounges and single rooms into temporary housing units that, in some instances, currently house as many as five students. Also, many residential assistants

(RAs) took on roommates, a characteristic setting UNC Asheville apart from other universities.

"At some schools, if the RA was going to get a roommate, the RA would be really hostile or upset," said Jackie McHargue, dean of students. "Our RAs were really welcoming. Part of what it means to be an RA is to be welcoming to students."

Francis and his roommates help comprise a group of roughly 700 new residential students living on campus this year, according to Vollie Barnwell, director of housing operations.

"That number is up from last year by probably about 60 to 80 students," Barnwell said. "We originally had 85 students in temporary housing, but with cancellations and things like

that, I believe we actually had 65-70 students in temporary housing. By the time move-in day got here, we didn't have anybody that didn't have housing, which we were very happy about."

With so many new students, finding places to put them created a challenge for the university, according to Barnwell.

"Our goal was to impact as few students as possible. So we didn't want to give every student in Founders an extra person in their room," he said. "Yeah, that would have solved the problem, but then you are impacting every student that lives over there."

The larger the overage, the more time the process requires, according to Barnwell.

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Campus preps for changes in health care

By Jon Walczak
Staff Writer

UNC Asheville students face changes in the campus health system, including the combination of the Student Health Center and Counseling Center and the possibility of mandatory health insurance for all students.

"It's really about more advanced communication taking place amongst providers," said Calvin Kelly, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs.

The changes administration implemented include adding more medications to the on-campus pharmacy, ensuring any student who seeks counseling can meet with a counselor on the same day and increased cooperation between staff members.

The administration hired a new drug and substance abuse counselor, and is currently looking to fill the positions of both a multicultural counselor and a permanent director for the Student Health and Counseling Center.

"We have diverse needs, and we wanted to be proactive in terms of being able to address those needs," Kelly said.

While many students believe the changes implemented are a start, some would like administration go even further to improve the campus health system, according to Carrie Jordan, senior history student.

"It's ridiculous that the university is spending money on colored and flavored condoms when they should be providing for basic necessities, such as free ice packs and a wider variety of basic antibiotics," Jordan said.

Administration will also consider mandatory health insurance with a hard waiver. Under the proposed plan, students taking 12 or more credit hours must declare whether or not they have health insurance at the beginning of the year. Those who do not have insurance must purchase it through Pearce & Pearce, Inc., a company based out of South Carolina. The annual cost, ranging from \$550 to \$625, would be added to each uninsured student's bill.

"There has been a big push over the years with rising health care costs to make sure all students are covered," said Dr. Eric Pyeritz, campus physician.

The policy is already in place at almost every public university in North Carolina except UNC Asheville, UNC Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University and Appalachian State University.

While administration has not undertaken an official study to determine exactly how many UNC Asheville students are uninsured, campus health officials have a general idea of the

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SPORTS



OKSANA KUKHARETS - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jesse Norman, UNC Asheville's new head track and field coach, observes his team last week on the track. Norman, 26, joined the staff this summer after assistant coaching for several years at Western.

New coach plans to go the distance

By Meagan Rawls
Staff Writer

This year Jesse Norman will take over as head track and field coach at UNC Asheville.

"Since we hired him, he has hit the ground running," said Janet Cone, UNC Asheville Athletics director. "So far, his boss is very pleased."

Norman, 26, joined the UNC Asheville athletic staff this summer after several years as the assistant track and field coach at Western Carolina University.

After coaching for a year at Robbinsville High School, he took time off to attend graduate school.

"I didn't really want to be a col-

lege coach or a track coach until I started teaching at Robbinsville," Norman said. "During that whole process I decided I wanted to be a college coach."

While growing up he participated in track and field, which sparked his interest in coaching.

Norman said he has several priorities as the new head coach.

"The biggest thing is I just want it to be like a family atmosphere, for people to be dedicated to helping the team," he said.

Another focus will be new recruits. Norman said he hopes for more students to join track and field, aiming for a total of 60 athletes over the next few years.

"We're going to try to be one of the biggest teams on campus," he said.

This year provides a harder training schedule for the athletes, meeting most everyday and running twice a week according to Norman.

"They'll be better than they were last year," he said.

The men's and women's cross country teams are scheduled for six meets this season. For the first time UNC Asheville will host this year's Big South Conference meet for cross country.

According to Norman,

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