

Mandatory environmental class considered

By Lorin Mallorie

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As the nation's fresh administration hits hard with a new environmental agenda, students discuss the possibility of a more aggressive policy on environmental education in the UNC Asheville curriculum.

"Members of society need to be environmentally well-informed to behave in responsible manners and to elect political leaders who will make wise decisions that bear on our interactions with our environment," said J. William Miller, environmental studies department chair.

"Our well-being and perhaps existence may depend on how we choose to live in our earth environment," said Miller, who has been at the university for 20 years.



J. William Miller

A liberal arts school at a public price, Miller said UNCA has the strongest environmental studies department he's seen in two decades of teaching. Collectively, the department acknowledges the importance of an informed public

regarding current and continually developing ecological concerns.

UNCA students suggested Intro to Environmental Science as an additional ILS course. Currently, ENVR 130 is offered to all majors as a cluster course or elective.

Junior Georgia Frierson's concentration is environmental management and policy. Due to continually modified research, propaganda and global policies, Frierson suggested the creation of an environmental studies class focusing on contemporary issues instead.

Some aspects of the ENVR 130 course may not benefit the average student's environmental awareness, she said.

Associate Provost Edward Katz suggested students communicate their ideas to two faculty groups, the Faculty Senate

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Ditch the car, hop on the bus

By Rhys Baker

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The Asheville City Transit System added a park and ride shuttle to its bus service. Free parking at Biltmore Square Mall and Goodwill Industries on Patton Avenue will be provided for patrons of the buses. The service is called Hop & Ride, and its first day of action was Feb. 14.

The Hop & Ride program is designed to help commuters in South and West Asheville avoid the hassles of parking and driving in downtown Asheville, according to the city of Asheville's Web site.

UNC Asheville students ride city buses for free with a UNCA One Card. A trip on the bus costs \$1 without an ID.

John-Carl Brew, junior and chair of Active Students for a Healthy Environment, lives at The Grove and catches the bus about once a week to get downtown. He used to ride the buses more.

"I used to live in West Asheville right by the Goodwill. If I moved back, I could use the park and ride service, but I did live close enough to the Goodwill to walk," Brew said.

The service will only be of use to UNCA students who live in South and West Asheville and need to commute into town or to the other areas on the affected buses routes.

The Hop & Ride will service bus routes 1 and 9. Each location will have 10 parking spaces located near a bus shelter.

The Hop & Ride for Route 1 will serve residents of West Asheville. It arrives at Goodwill between 25 and 30 minutes past the hour, every hour, from 5:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m.

The bus operates Monday through Saturday. It goes through Haywood Road, West Asheville, the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles, Goodwill, the Hop & Ride location, Malvern Hills and Sulphur Springs Road.

The Hop & Ride for Route 9 will serve residents of South Asheville. It arrives at Biltmore Square Mall every hour on the hour from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m.

The bus operates Monday through Saturday. It goes through Merritt Park, Clingman Avenue, Haywood Road, Pisgah View Apartments, Ingles Market, Brevard Road, the Western North Carolina Farmer's Market, I-26 exit 33 Hotels and the Biltmore Square Mall Hop & Ride.

Brew condones the use of buses be-



Cassidy Culbertson - Photography Editor

Trevor Hall, 19, boards the Asheville City bus in front of Governor's Hall.

cause he believes that mindful behavior is necessary in the era of climate change.

"Even if riding the bus hasn't been proven to prevent wide scale damage to the climate, it at least encourages the practice of considering the impacts of your decisions," Brew said.

The Hop & Ride increases the capacity of the Asheville City Transit System by decreasing traffic in downtown Asheville. This is great because the city of Asheville plans to make itself into a hub of sustainability in the United States, according to John Stevens, a UNCA chemistry professor and the chair of the Blue Ridge Sustainability Institute, which has the motto, "Knowledge Into Action." The BRSI's headquarters are in downtown Asheville.

According to Stevens, the purpose of the BRSI is to collect and build upon knowledge that can be used to provide leadership for sustainable growth in Western North Carolina through the area's biodiversity and its pioneering history of ecological awareness and self-reliance.

The City of Asheville's Web site states

that Asheville buses provide a service for Asheville bikers in order to support more sustainable transport options. Bikes can be taken onto the city's buses whenever possible for no extra charge. Stevens supports the development of bike-friendly communities.

"Another interesting example of what is happening around the world is the city that is being built in the Middle East, which is being designed to have a zero-carbon footprint - this is a city that is being designed with no vehicles being allowed. Here in WNC we need to be more bold in our thinking as we engage in the new green economy," Stevens said.

The Asheville transit system provides 24 bus routes that extend around Buncombe County from Black Mountain and Warren Wilson College, to Weaverville, to the Asheville Regional Airport and to the NCDMV.

For more information and routes visit ashevillenc.gov