

News Briefs

Compiled by Trevor Metcalfe

Fake currency found, makers face jail time

A group marketing a fake currency in the Asheville area was recently convicted of conspiracy against the government in federal court. Bernard von NotHaus is faced with 25 years in prison for creating and distributing a currency called the Liberty Dollar. NotHaus apparently presented the money as an alternative to the official currency, free from inflation. Charges are still pending against William Kevin Innes, who attempted to convince local retailers to accept the currency.

Teenagers sick after synthetic drug use

Three Madison High students were hospitalized Monday after becoming sick from synthetic marijuana. According to principal Tony Tipton, one student was convulsing on the floor, while the other two were pale and passive. The three reportedly consumed Mary Joy, a brand of synthetic marijuana. Known to cause elevated heart rates, paranoia and vomiting, among other symptoms, many states have outlawed the substance.

Railway brings 4,000 new jobs to N.C.

North Carolina is getting more than 4,000 new jobs from an agreement with Norfolk Southern Railway Co., Amtrak and N.C. Railroad Co., according to Gov. Bev Perdue. The agreement will start up the state's rail modernization program and utilize \$461 million in federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The project will improve tracks between Raleigh and Charlotte, and create 24 projects in 11 counties.

Management department prepares for cuts

Anne Marie Roberts

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Management and accounting students at UNC Asheville say they worry budget cuts will depreciate the educational value of the department, but according to faculty, the answer lies with good planning and management skills on the part of the students.

"We want students to know their education is of primary interest to us, and they need to understand the value of patience and good planning, which is more important now than ever," said **Linda Nelms, professor of management and second vice-chair of the faculty senate at UNCA.**

The campus-wide budget crisis affects the department of management and accountancy in two major ways, Nelms said.

"The reduction of hours for our adjunct professors means courses can't be offered flexibly," she said. "Also, our internship coordinator position was one of the few actual academic jobs eliminated."

The chair of the department, **Claudel McKenzie**, declined to comment.

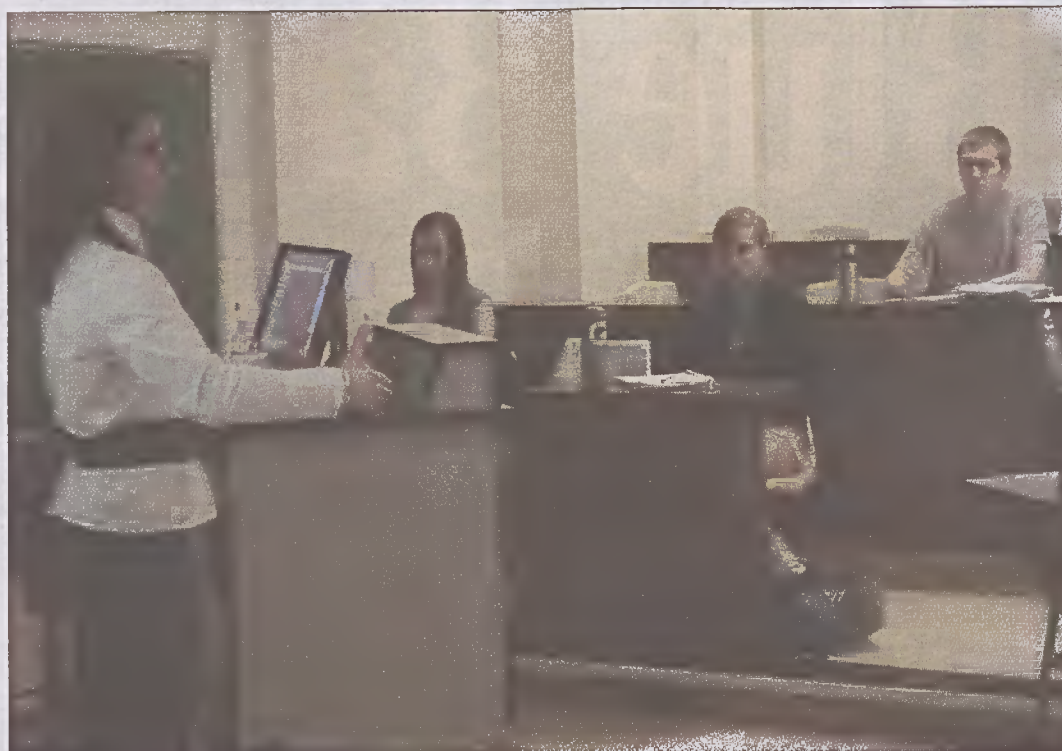
"It is a smaller department, it's very intimate," said **Brittany Curtis, who is planning to declare a management major in the fall.** "If there are any losses, they will certainly be felt because the department is so small."

Nine professors work for the department. The remainder of the faculty consists of lecturers and adjunct professors.

"We have always promised our students they would be able to take the core classes needed to complete the program at night," Nelms said. "Many of our students need to work, and night is the best option for classes for them."

With the reduction of adjunct hours and positions, that option may become slimmer for students since the frequency of classes and times offered reduces drastically.

"It's frustrating for me to see that some of the best teachers get paid less because of a lesser



Jess Peete - Staff Photographer

Assistant professor Alycia Fogle lectures in her Principles of Marketing class. Cuts to the management department could affect the number of classes offered and the flexibility of the class schedule.

degree, so I can't even imagine how they feel already getting paid less and now being cut in their hours even more," Curtis said.

The other major change to the program comes with the elimination of the director of management internship position.

"Students will now have to find their required internship on their own or with the help of the career center," Nelms said. "Internships will be hugely impacted by this change."

The internship coordinator position, held by David Mitchell, afforded students guidance in locating and securing an internship and establishing a final project, as well as a collaborative link between students and advisors.

"The internships were really mentorships from a professor for our professional development," Curtis said. "Will the professors who take on the extra work from this eliminated role now be paid less for all the work they do while their workload increases?"

An indirect effect of budget cuts does mean a redistribution

of responsibility among the department, faculty senate member Nelms said.

"Adjuncts don't get paid for advising or staying late, and they can't serve on department committees," Nelms said. "That work then falls on the faculty we have left. Everyone wears a hat. I like wearing hats, but just one at a time."

Students said they hope departments across campus recognize the added pressure placed on faculty and that the university will find ways to prevent it from negatively impacting the classroom.

"My biggest concern, in regards to budget cuts, is that professors will become so overwhelmed with having to take on additional classes and having fewer resources that student learning and the college experience will suffer," **Anna Bernhardt, senior management student**, said.

The management and accountancy department stands with other departments across campus in making sure the core curriculum does not change in its educational standards, Nelms

said.

"In the midst of all these budget cuts across campus, the number one priority and concern for our department has been, and always will be, the students," **associate professor of management Bryan Schaffer** said.

Many management and accounting students said they are not aware of the details of how the budget shortfall may impact their department.

"As a student who pays thousands of dollars a year, you should know what's going on with your money," Brevard-native Curtis said. "I want to know what's going on, especially for my department."

Curtis said she believes the Internet should play a vital part in alerting students to changes within their department and assisting in understanding how it impacts them.

"(The changes produced by the budget cuts) are going to make it necessary for students to be proactive with planning for their education, which is not a bad thing for a management/accounting student to learn," Nelms said.