

THE BLUE BANNER



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History professor discusses Civil War

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Four men and a 13-year-old boy kneel shivering in the snow and chill January wind of the Appalachians amidst five fresh corpses.

An elderly man, denied even the right to pray before dying, lies among the dead. Three more prisoners await their execution, without the chance for a trial.

The victims' families discovered their bodies in shallow graves the next day. Some of them had been exhumed and partially eaten by wild pigs.

Murdered in 1863 by Confederate soldiers from the 64th North Carolina Regiment after two other prisoners escaped, historians say the victims of what would become

known as the Shelton Laurel Massacre possibly never participated in the raid for which they were arrested.

The Confederates, commanded by Lt. Col. James Keith, learned of the men's potential involvement after torturing Laurel Valley locals for information. According to historical records, an investigation by Gov. Zebulon B. Vance later proved that only five of the men were guilty.

Sheltered from the Civil War's major battles, Western North Carolina suffered only the occasional skirmish within the area of Madison and Buncombe counties. **Daniel Pierce, chair of UNCA's history department,** commented on the lack of major fighting.

A Civil War era Union
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SGA addresses tuition and fees

SHANEE SIMHONI
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SGA senators and executives voted on a proposal for tuition and fee changes that would affect students for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years.

A tuition increase was up for debate, as well as five categories of general fee increases: education and technology, athletics, student activity, student health and transportation and safety fees.

"The university has listed its priorities," said **James Whalen, SGA**

president. "It's our job to list the student priorities, and how much the student priorities are going to cost."

Whalen said SGA does not decide tuition and fees, but provides the fee committee and the tuition committee with recommendations for the next two years.

"We're looking strictly at what the student priority list is, and not which departments we like," Whalen said. "For me, college affordability is the number one issue that almost every student faces."

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Photo by June Bunch - Contributor
Bicycles hang from the ceiling at the Asheville Bicycle Recyclery.

Recyclery offers bikes

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Hidden treasures such as frames and spokes emerge from shadows cluttered with tires worn from miles and memories. In the Asheville Bicycle Recyclery, bike-related desires reside at a finger's reach, often at no cost.

Cyclist wanderers find the shop hidden behind the French Broad Food Co-op piled with bikes, swarmed with people and painted-in bicycle outlines and store hours written on a gigantic garage door.

Upon entering, a sign above the tool table reads, "Build a bike from recycled parts, use funny looking tools, share."

Tools shine in kids' hands, who seem unaccustomed to wielding wrenches or chain checkers. Tire pumps stand tall, worn, respected. Hex keys fall and disappear, clanking somewhere unseen.

Dominique Amarante, a frequent patron, skims through tire protectors while newcomers walk around, dazed.

"It's one of the coolest things in Asheville," Ama-

rante said.

Onlookers nodded in agreement.

No inch of space goes wasted. Ceilings hang bicycle rims, walls hitch handlebars and floors weigh down with frames. A desk in the corner provides tags to begin claiming used-bike parts.

Customers come to learn skills such as changing tires or fixing frames mainly employing used parts. They service everything themselves and keep the bikes after tweaking them.

"All this stuff's been donated," said **Nathan Sanders, a volunteer for four years,** pointing toward the many rows of bike frames tagged and ready to be worked on.

Sanders, a Florida native, said he began volunteering at the shop after convincing himself bikes could save the world, making everyone healthier while eliminating exhaust from vehicles.

"It's an obsession," he said.

Pointing to used-bike parts, Sanders said the shop lets them go free of charge in exchange for work trade. New parts, however,

cost. The shop sells new parts for little more than they pay to stock them, in case someone can't salvage anything used.

"We round it to the nearest 50 cents. If a tube costs \$2.43, we sell it for \$2.50," said **Joseph Crawley, a founder of the shop.**

As a nonprofit, any money made sustains the shop and keeps shelves stocked, a system which ensures volunteers have enough tools to give patrons access to everything at once.

Patrons use these tools to fit various used parts together, at least in theory.

Oftentimes, volunteers use creativity to fix used parts too hard to restore using traditional methods. The shop volunteers call the learning environment unique and challenging.

"Sometimes you really have to stare at things and figure something weird out to make things work again," Crawley said.

Crawley began making things work in late 2001. He and his friend Michael Adams started the shop in a shed after returning to Asheville from a bike trip across the country.

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Autism rates increase

VALERIE McMURRAY
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Autism spectrum disorders are increasingly prevalent in the United States, although it is unclear whether spectrum disorders are affecting more individuals every year or if rising rates are attributable to improving awareness and better means of diagnosis.

"Today we're realizing that starting to diagnose at an earlier age when you start seeing the signs is very important because the sooner that you do receive services for your child, the better the outcome can be," said **Juliette Heim, a resource specialist for the Autism Society of North Carolina.**

Heim is also a parent advocate - her son Logan was diagnosed 10 years ago. She is currently one of just 18 such counselors statewide who must guide families through the diagnosis process and beyond.

"We're getting more and more calls all the time," she said. "We're receiving many more calls from people that are older. Teenagers are getting diagnosed all of a sudden. We are receiving calls from adults who have gone online and taken a self-evaluation. We need more programs for adults. We've been so busy dealing with younger children and that population."

Individuals benefit from behavior therapy and other intervention strategies. Heim's son Logan received speech and music therapies as well as help for social skills.

Care is costly, and people who can't pay out of pocket often must go without.

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Species face worldwide dramatic decrease in population

MICHAELA HALL
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A recent study released by the World Wildlife Fund reported a 52 percent decrease in average species populations worldwide between 1970 and 2010. Wildlife throughout the world has been more than cut in half.

David Gillette, an environmental studies professor at UNC Asheville, said

it is a relevant problem, and often overlooked, since people tend to miss the big picture.

"People are happy when they see things in the same condition they saw them in when they were young, not realizing it was a lot different," Gillette said.

According to a pamphlet issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, local animals, such as several species of Eastern and Mid-

western bats, are suffering great losses.

Scientists estimate more than a million bats have died from a disease called white-nose syndrome, causing the most dramatic decline in North American wildlife in 100 years.

Susan Cameron, who works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service doing terrestrial species listing and recovery, said the non-native syndrome,

first documented in New York, was more than likely brought to the United States by people via clothing, then spread among bats.

Cameron said this loss could potentially cause a ripple effect.

"Bats are incredibly important predators of night-flying insects, so that can impact things like insect abundance," Cameron said. "Once we had millions of little brown bats in

the Northeast eating lots of insects -

what does it mean to suddenly remove those?"

One student said she joined Active Students for a Healthy Environment, UNC Asheville's oldest environmental organization, to help make changes locally.

Lauren Martin of Maypack, New York, said the group is open to all students and is a great way to make

others aware of issues and take action.

Martin said the group meets on a weekly basis and also does proactive work such as river clean-ups. They also plan to have a table set up during UNC Asheville's Greenfest to help raise awareness for local issues.

"Something I really believe strongly in is eating food that is locally grown

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