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Socialist group points to capitalism for police brutality

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UNC Asheville students gathered in Highsmith Feb. 4 to take part in "Cops, Class, and Race: How Police Protect the 1%," a public meeting hosted by the Asheville Socialists.

"After attending the Feminism and Marxism talk last semester, I realized how much capitalism infiltrates every aspect of our lives, usually with negative consequences," said Janesha Slaughter, a sophomore political science student. "But I've always had the idea that there has to be more out there than capitalism. People often assume that there has to be homelessness and giant gaps of economic disparity and hunger. I don't think it's impractical to pursue equality for all."

Asheville Socialists is a branch of the International Socialist Organization. They support women's rights, the movement to stop racism, anti-immigrant prejudice, anti-gay bigotry and the war on Iraq, according to the ISO website.

Slaughter gave a speech on the intersection of police, class and race. She said she brought up tension between minorities and police officers in America because of unfair targeting of the former by the latter. She said she aimed to bring the most evident criticisms of why capitalism and justice don't mix.

"The underclass most often victimized by this system happens to be black and brown people," Slaughter said. "Hence the mass incarceration of this population is a prevalent problem that must be addressed sooner than later."

Slaughter said that thanks to the prison industrial complex, a phrase coined by activist Angela Davis, private prisons rep-



Photo by Ruthie Keith - Staff Photographer

Alex Buckingham speaks at the forum. He presented an unethical overlap between interests of for-profit industries and the criminal justice system.

"I think often it depends on a particular person or group of people to care about an issue enough to share their concerns with other people," said Volker Frank, professor of sociology and anthropology. "If you look at it through the long lens, you can ask, 'Why now, and what in the past, and what tomorrow?'"

Frank said that often the concern people have with these issues diminishes, and returns to the smaller group with whom concern originated, while the larger public follows other issues.

"It is my interpretation that people may, but not necessarily have to, interpret that it is getting worse," Frank said. "Race relations, violence against African-Americans — we did seem to have accidents and reports over the last two or three years that made it understandable that people interpret those things are getting worse. There's discrimination by institutions against a particular group in society."

Frank said it is hard to say whether or not hatred and criticism of police will end. He said he hopes it will diminish and that people will do something about it.

"We all should be," Frank said. "Not just the

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Photo by Timbi Shepherd - A&F Asst. Editor

DeWayne Martin performs in reaction to structural violence against African Americans.

Exhibitions play on Ferguson frustrations

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DeWayne Barton, black rights activist and installation artist from Asheville, sat on the floor of Karpen lobby, pushing a toy police car in a circle around his body.

"When? Where? Why? How?" Barton said as the car continued its cycle.

Behind him stood a large mass of plastic guns, pill bottles, warped tree limbs and replicas of human skulls.

The installation reflects the recent events in Ferguson, Missouri, as well as other instances of police brutality against African-Americans across the country, Barton explained.

Barton presented the piece Feb. 5 in conjunction with the opening reception for "Ever Forward, Never Backward," an exhibition of photographs by Jim Barker, of Fairbanks,

Alaska, whose work documents the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

Barker's photographs and Barton's installation will be on display throughout February in observance of Black History Month and in anticipation of the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery march next month.

The Smithsonian Institution is currently featuring the photographs on its website because of the rarity and timeliness of Barker's images of the march, said Deborah Miles, director of the UNC Asheville Center for Diversity Education.

"The (original) prints were discovered, and in all their 'batteredness' they are considered to be of considerable value from a collector's point of view," Barker said. "In March, Steven Kasher Gallery in New York is having an ex-

hibition of the old prints."

Although the prints on display in Karpen are reprints, Barker said they capture the events of the Selma to Montgomery march in much more vivid detail than the originals.

"The old prints — kind of hurriedly done — are the ones New York gets to see," Barker said. "You get to see the newer, much better prints."

Many spectators were old enough to remember the historical moment these photographs represent, and they shared the memories the images evoked for them in a group discussion.

Patti Dallas, of Yellow Springs, Ohio, took part in the march with her family. Dallas is currently visiting Asheville, and she said it was by complete chance that she recognized a piece of her personal history in a photograph used to promote the

exhibition.

"I just happened to get a notice about this exhibition last night," Dallas said. "And the picture on the notice — my father, Meredith Dallas, was in that picture."

She recalled how she took leave of her college studies to join her father, mother and sister in Selma.

"I had just started at San Francisco State, and I got a call from my mom, who was very active in the civil rights movement. She said, 'This is amazing — you should come,'" Dallas told the group, tearing up. "And I did. It was the most incredible experience."

Dallas and Barker both said what they remember most about the march is its progressive, utopian spirit and overwhelming hopefulness.

But there is much progress yet to be made, SEE EXHIBITION ON PAGE 9

Dual-enrollment plans unveiled for UNCA, Asheville High

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Starting in fall 2015, UNC Asheville will open its campus to students from Asheville High School and the School of Inquiry and Life Sciences at Asheville.

The agreement, signed on Feb. 5 by Mary Grant, chancellor of UNCA, and Pamela Baldwin, Asheville City Schools superintendent, will give students at both

schools the opportunity to dual enroll at UNCA.

They will be able to attend classes on campus alongside regular university students.

"Students who participate in the program from the Asheville schools will be able to take college courses for real college credits," Grant said, "which expedites the time toward a degree and exposes them to a higher level of work. Grant said the students

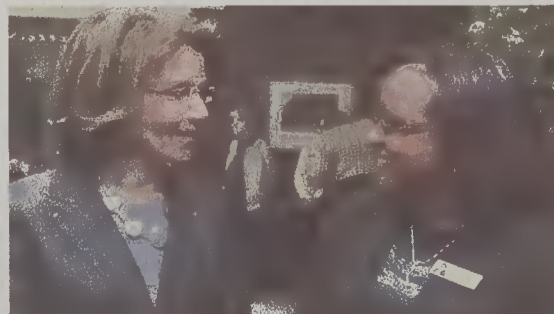


Photo by John Fletcher - Contributor

Chancellor Mary Grant and Pamela Baldwin sign the dual-enrollment agreement. They will be able to experience university life firsthand and get a head start for when they graduate from

high school and enroll in university full time.

She hopes UNCA students will benefit from the experience and an opportunity to act as mentors and guides to their juniors.

Annie Burton, executive director of school and community engagement at UNCA, said prospective students will have access to the university's entire course catalog, depending on the student's academic track.

There will also be dual-credit courses, which will count for both high school and college credit.

She said the cost for students will be the same as regular in-state tuition, prorated based on level of enrollment. The more courses a student enrolls in, the higher the cost, just like for any UNCA student.

But Baldwin said she does not want cost to be a barrier for those looking to attend. SEE DUAL ON PAGE 6