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the Seahawk

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NATION ON HIGH ALERT

MICHELLE SARACENI

STAFF WRITER

Three weeks after the Department of Homeland Security raised the United States terror threat warning level from yellow (elevated) to orange (high), a terror-preparedness campaign was launched to eliminate terrorism-related panic in the United States.

Department secretary Tom Ridge initiated the new campaign. The last time the United States had an orange terror threat level was Sept. 11, 2002.

Included in the new preparedness campaign is a Web site (www.ready.gov), a number people can call for information (1-800-BE-READY) and a series of print ads designed to alert people of possible terrorism target areas.

Ridge and his department hope that these services can prevent what happened after the threat

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Andy Bader/the Seahawk

Despite attempts to foster minority presence, minority enrollment is less than 6 %.

Affirmative Action policies under scrutiny

KIARA JONES

STAFF WRITER

Affirmative action policies have come under attack after President Bush declared University of Michigan's admissions policy unconstitutional.

The previously accepted affirmative action policies implemented by many universities in the United States recently came under scrutiny when Bush asked the Supreme Court to rule against UM's admissions policy because of the way UM scores its applicants for admission.

According to *Time* magazine,

Bush stated, "At the undergraduate level, African-American students and some Hispanic students and Native American students receive 20 points out of a maximum of 150, not because of any academic achievement or life experience, but solely because they are African-American, Hispanic or Native American."

Implemented in 1965, affirmative action is an active endeavor to improve the employment and educational opportunities of minorities and women.

"The university actively recruits minorities as a part of our mission," said Linda MacRae,

associate director of admissions and director of diversity recruitment at UNCW.

According to MacRae, the admissions office does not have a separate policy on affirmative action, but keeps in line with the mandate from the chancellor's office on equal opportunity to not tolerate any disrespect of persons because of race, gender, age, color, national origin, ethnicity or creed.

Some students at UNCW do not support affirmative action.

"I don't think just because

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U.S. URGED TO RAISE STUDENT AID, GRANTS

SARAH BRODERS

NEWS EDITOR

With the United States urging universities to raise student aid and grants, the financial aid system and family life have become a topic of debate.

Last year 57 percent of UNCW students received financial aid, said Emily Bliss, director of the office of financial aid and veteran services. "The average financial aid, except for unsubsidized and plus loans, was \$6,253," Bliss said. "Cost of attendance was \$10,583."

Allan Carlson, with the Family Research Council, is one of the many people who feel that the system's student aid process has to change. In the Dec. 16, 2002, issue of "The Weekly Standard: How the student-loan system stifles young families", Carlson argues that the huge debts so many young people receive in turn for their education is hindering their family life.

"It burdens young graduates with quite a bit of debt," Carlson said, "and that simply discourages family creation and we know that because of statistical studies we've done."

Carlson explains that as college costs increase, so will the number

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Homeland Security Advisory System

SEVERE

Severe Risk of Terrorist Attacks

HIGH

High Risk of Terrorist Attacks

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

GUARDED

General Risk of Terrorist Attacks

LOW

Low Risk of Terrorist Attacks

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