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UNCW growth could destroy natural habitats on campus

ASHLEY SHEFFIELD

STAFF WRITER

There is controversy on the UNCW campus over the topic of campus growth. One topic being discussed is campus development and the impact on the campus' natural habitat.

The Building and Grounds Committee, one of the various committees that reports to the Faculty Senate, recently met along with the chancellor to discuss this topic.

The UNCW Web site states that "the campus consists of 650 acres, of which approximately 25 percent are designated as conservation areas."

The Herbert Blumenthal Memorial Wildflower Preserve, a 10-acre site centrally located on campus, serves as one of the areas that "will continue to remain undeveloped," according to the Web site. Recently a new parking lot was built right next to this preserve, lessening the critical buffer zone between humans and wildlife.

It is proven that some species survive but reproduce poorly near human interaction - a phenomenon called the edge effect.

"Historically we have always been about having a campus that incorporates the natural landscape into the development that takes

place," said Bob Buerger, Environmental Studies professor and member of the Building and Grounds Committee, "Whether we will continue to do that or not is the question that everyone is asking right now."

Steve Emslie, professor of

reason they're declining is partly because of loss of habitat."

Not only do these wooded areas provide an aesthetically pleasing campus and a habitat for wildlife, they also serve as teaching space. "As an example in my Advanced Natural Resource and Wild Land Management class, we go on working field trips into the woods behind campus to look at important subject matter issues such as soil compaction, vegetation and impact from human use," Buerger said.

The campus contains vari-

ous environments such as forest, wetlands and vernal pools, which make up habitat for native plants and species, some of which are listed as threatened or endangered.

Dan Noland, professor of English, president of Faculty Senate and past chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee said, "Historically,

SEE GROWTH, PAGE 2



Heather Curtis/the Seahawk

About 25 percent of the campus is made up of conservation areas.

Biological Sciences and chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee, tells about the previous habitat which is now home to the Watson Education building and soon the Arts Center. "I'd walk through those woods every morning ... I used to see lots of migrating warblers, neotropical warblers and other species in there - some of which are species of concern ... neotropical migrants are declining, and the

NC lottery discussion

Panel talks about pros and cons

ASHLEY PARKER

STAFF WRITER

A panel discussion was held on the proposed North Carolina State Lottery Oct. 16.

North Carolina is one of four states out of the 13 Southeastern states that do not have a lottery. Tennessee most recently passed lottery legislation in 2002, but it is not underway yet. With Tennessee on board, all of North Carolina's bordering states now have lotteries, and we are the only state on the East Coast without a lottery.

The proposal has been dubbed the North Carolina Education Lottery because all of the proceeds are intended to go to into the school system. The projected proceeds are debated by both sides, but the number falls somewhere between \$250 million and \$450 million annually. This money would go into the state's general fund, but be earmarked for education, an idea that has many teachers in favor of the lottery.

The debate Thursday included three panelists on each side of the issue. Those in favor were: Gardner Payne, an attorney and lobbyist representing the North Carolina Lottery for Education Coalition; Bernard Allen, a state representative from Wake County and former teacher; and Candace Gauthier, a professor of philosophy here at UNCW specializing in ethics. The opponents of the lottery were: Don Carrington,

vice president of the John Locke Foundation (a nonprofit think tank); John Rustin, director of government relations for the North Carolina Family Policy Council; and Rev. Michael Queen, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Wilmington.

The pro group cited lottery proceeds in neighboring states, Gallup polls showing public support for the lottery, and even Benjamin Franklin to present their position.

"Lottery is the fairest tax of all because it is only a tax on the willing," Payne said.

The anti-lottery group claimed the lottery is "state-sponsored" gambling and can potentially lead to social problems like crime, job loss, compulsive gambling and domestic violence.

Carrington estimated that if every household in North Carolina played the lottery, families would lose \$435 a year to the state in addition to taxes. "Taxes are deductible, lottery investments are not," Queen said. "Let us pay for education."

"If the lottery is so ineffective, why aren't other states discontinuing it?" said Stephanie Morton, a kindergarten teacher in Pender County.

The lottery proposal has been brought before our state eight times since 1983 but has consistently been defeated. Proponents want a public referendum on the lottery in November 2004. So far, no such referendum has been approved.

Inside This Issue

Visit Us

www.theseahawk.org

OP/ED

5

UNCW Life

7

Classifieds

11

Sports

12

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