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# the Seahawk



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## SGA Elections: Textbook costs a big issue



Dan Hacker | THE SEAHAWK

Candidates for SGA Student Body President and Vice President debate Monday. Plans to lower the cost of textbooks, including book rental and exchange programs, were a big issue.

**KATE TURNER**  
STAFF WRITER

Today is the last day for students to get their votes in for SGA elections. The competing candidates are as follows: Aaron Voyles, Brenton Hammond and Katie Gurgainus for Student Body President; Jermisha Dodson and Kaitlyn Helms for Vice President; Sheridan Long and Carli Heath for Sophomore Class President; Samantha Moore, Sara (Bethany) Sullivan and Brian DesRoches for At-Large Representatives.

There are a few common themes in this year's presidential campaign platforms, such as linking the university with its surround-

ing community, alternative methods of obtaining textbooks without the hefty expense and advocating student involvement. "I will attempt to involve students more in the decision making processes of the school; it is our university," Voyles said.

Many solutions are on the table in response to the high price of textbooks, such as a book exchange program, a book rental system, or the buy back alternative. "Text books have become a burden for many students. The average student pays almost \$900 dollars for required texts," Gurgainus said. "It is our commitment to offer students an alternative to buy-back, ultimately reducing unnecessary expenses. We feel that collaborating with our cam-

pus bookstore in initiating a text book exchange would benefit both students and the university."

Paying for textbooks has become a serious concern for students in recent years and many students are relieved to know that it is a priority of those running for student government positions. "Other than the main expenses like tuition, buying books is one of the most expensive aspects of college. There is no guarantee that you will be able to sell them back at the end of the year either," junior Jessica Puzzo said. "I think advocating for a more efficient system should be at the top of a student body president list, and I would certainly be motivated to participate in that."

## Indoor smoking ban: Good for health, bad for business

**KELLI MERCURIO**  
CORRESPONDENT

Bans on cigarette smoking in indoor public areas such as restaurants, bars and hotels are gaining popularity in hundreds of cities and many states around the country. New Jersey is one of the most recent states to pass a smoking ban, and South Carolina has a bill

in its legislature right now. However, a lot of the bans are taking effect on a local level.

A smoking ban would have a huge effect on Wilmington because of our town's abundance of restaurants and bars.

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Page Gambill | THE SEAHAWK

A smoking ban would benefit workers, but restaurant owners fear it would drive away business.

## VOX to host "Fill My Pills" party

**KATY LUQUIRE**  
STAFF WRITER

Earlier this year, a 14-year-old rape victim in Hendersonville, N.C. had to wait 79 hours to get her emergency contraceptive prescription filled. It took more than the 72-hour window because the prescription conflicted with her pharmacist's personal beliefs.

Pharmacists across the nation are refusing to fill birth control and emergency contraceptive prescriptions on the grounds of their individual morality. There are no federal or state laws that require pharmacists to fill them.

The Voices of Planned Parenthood (VOX) will have a "Fill My Pills" party in early April to contact the 54 pharmacies in the Wilmington area about their policies regarding birth control and emergency contraceptives. They hope to gather enough information to publish a list of pharmacies that

will fill the prescriptions "on-site, without discrimination or delay," according to a Planned Parenthood handout.

Senior Kara Davies, the VOX adviser and community education leader at the local Planned Parenthood, will be organizing the event.

"Our goal is not to attack the pharmacists. Instead, what we want to happen is, if the pharmacist refuses to fill the prescription, it will be referred to another pharmacist in the store," she said.

The people most affected by pharmacy refusal are low-income families and those who live in rural areas.

"We have 54 pharmacies to choose from," said Davies. "What if we only had one?"

VOX's next meeting will be Tuesday, March 28 in the Randall Library Café. For more information, visit: <http://student.uncw.edu/org/vox>.

## New Caribbean restaurant to open on campus

**ADAM PRICE**  
CORRESPONDENT

A new restaurant is opening at Wagoner Hall that will offer a full-variety Caribbean menu and full service in a casual dining atmosphere.

Sammy's is slated to open its doors the week of March 27 and will be a fast-casual-style restaurant.

"You will go to an order/counter area and place your order. There you will get your drink and sit down. The server will bring the food to the table," said Richard Fauson, Director of Auxiliary Services. "Seating wise, it will be about 120-

140 seats."

Sammy's has everything on the menu from appetizers to salads to burgers and a variety of sandwiches, entrées and desserts. Along with the expected Caribbean cuisine, they will be offering a dish called tropical chicken pasta that is served with penne pasta, tomatoes, red onions and seasoned chicken, and topped with parmesan cheese and a carrot sauce.

"We are trying to incorporate as many students as we possibly can, and most of these will be part-time

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Courtesy of uncw.edu