

## Inside

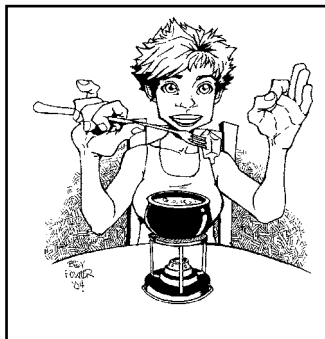
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# No voting in Farthing; Democrats' request denied

ANNA OAKES  
Staff Writer

The Watauga County Board of Elections turned down a request to move the Boone 3 Precinct polling location from the Agricultural Conference Center on Poplar Grove Road to Appalachian State University's Farthing Auditorium Friday.

The proposal was requested by the Watauga County Democratic Party.

"[The Board of Elections has] repeatedly turned down any place over [on campus] ... [and] I'm not happy about it," Pam P. Williamson said. Williamson is

"[Students] should have a fair chance to vote."

College Democrat President Soshia Brecheen

the chairperson of registration efforts for the county Democratic Party.

The Board of Elections' decision is the second re-

fusal in two years. A similar request by Appalachian's College Democrats and College Republicans was rejected in 2002, Williamson said.

Boone is divided into three polling precincts. Boone 1 is located north of U.S. Highway 421 and King Street, Board of Elections Supervisor Jane A. Hodges said.

Boone 2 includes the area south of King Street, north of Rivers Street and the east side of Water Street. Boone 3 is the area south of Rivers Street and the west side of Water Street, she said.

"The Agricultural Center is far away," College Demo-

crats President Soshia S. Brecheen said. "The people who live in [Boone 3] are mainly students, and they have a hard time getting to the Agricultural Center."

"[Students] should have a fair chance to vote," Brecheen said.

As of mid-July, there were 1,816 registered voters in the Boone 3 precinct, Williamson said. Of those, she said 1,460 (about 80 percent) are identifiably students.

The Agricultural Conference Center is about a half mile from campus. If the weather is poor on Election Day, it could be a significant challenge for students to

get to the polls, Williamson said.

"Students ... don't really have very good access to vehicles during the week, and especially during the day," she said.

John S. Hovis is chairman of the Board of Elections.

"[Farthing Auditorium] did not meet state and federal laws," Hovis said.

Hovis cited poor security, insufficient parking and poor lighting as reasons for rejecting Farthing. The proposed area for voting in Farthing Auditorium was "a hall," Hovis said.

The room was not secure because it had three entrances, Hovis said, but

he noted that auditorium employees offered to block two of the entrances.

"What we have [at the Agricultural Conference Center] is still much more accessible," Hovis said. "I know it might be dangerous to walk up there, but how many people walk to vote?"

Hovis said he was sure students could call someone to get transportation to the polls.

If the campus Republicans and Democrats want their followers to vote, they will see to it that voters have transportation, Hovis said.

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## Appalachian construction takes time out after Frances

JUSTIN BOULMAY  
Senior Staff Writer

Some on-campus buildings and construction projects suffered from leaks last week during Hurricane Frances.

"We had some leaks that reappeared that we thought had been previously corrected," W. Kelley Ingram, project manager for the Solarium and University Bookstore addition, said. "Apparently, with the amount of rain we had, we found that they had not been totally corrected."

A few ceiling tiles and some of the dry wall work were damaged by the storm, Ingram said. It will take probably three or four days to make repairs.

"It's not going to set the job back," Ingram said. He said the Solarium and the bookstore are set to open in October.

Ingram said the problem might not have been with

the roof but some of the windows.

Director of Student Programs David L. Robertson said a lack of quality work by the previous contractor opened the door for water to get into the building.

"I'm really confident in the office of design and construction, and Bovis Lend Lease; between those two, they will get this right," Robertson said. "They're just having to go back and cover for some really incompetent work done on the roof."

Crossley Construction Corporation was responsible for the completion of the bookstore addition and the Solarium.

The contractor was declared in default this summer after failing to fulfill their obligations.

Ingram said Bovis had been hired to finish Phase I of the bookstore. Phase II involves renovating the cur-

rent bookstore after the new addition opens.

Bovis Lend Lease is the same contractor working on the Library & Information Commons.

Patrick A. Beville, project manager for the Library & Information Commons, said the rain actually worked in the University's favor in that the contractors have seen which spots in construction projects are weak and can go back and fix them.

"It allowed us to double-check our work," Beville said. "Like in the bookstore, it showed up a few minor problems that can be corrected before we actually occupy the building, so there won't be any future problems, or hopefully not."

Ingram said there was leaking in Walker Hall and Sanford Hall. Beville said Rankin Hall had some leak-

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Joe Strickland | The Appalachian

Dr. Janice T. Pope's office gets cleaned in Walker Hall.

## Students 'Speak Out' on Sanford Mall

SGA provides outlet for student opinion

CRYSTAL GENES  
Staff Writer

Appalachian State University's Student Government Association (SGA) provided students and community members with an opportunity to "Speak Out" on Sanford Mall Monday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Miriam N. Makhyoun, president of SGA, and vice president Nick V. Albu helped to expand the University's unscheduled free speech zones after asking administration to reconsider the policy in July.

Zones were expanded to include all of Sanford Mall and Durham Park, in addition to Duck Pond Field and the Amphitheatre outside Plemmons Student Union.

"I worked over the summer to augment the unscheduled public speaking areas and I knew that we actually had to come up with a way to get people to use that because what's the point of getting more area if people don't know about it," Makhyoun said.

The event had a "flexible



Daniel Hood | Intern Photographer

Senior advertising major David W. Cline "speaks out" at Sanford Mall Monday. "Speak Out" was organized by SGA.

theme du jour" on censorship and, Makhyoun said it went over schedule by nearly two hours.

Numerous students, faculty and Democratic candidates, such as Jim Cain (N.C. Senate) and Cullie Tarleton (N.C. House) took advantage of the microphone to voice their opinions and beliefs on various issues.

One student even used it as an opportunity to advertise his techno show and played a sample from his

iPod.

"The opportunity you have here is outstanding," Cain, who was wearing a friendly smile and a button proclaiming, "I am a progressive candidate," said.

He compared "Speak Out" to Hyde Park's soapbox events in London and said he was excited and interested to hear students speak.

"I want your ideas," Cain said. "I don't want to be the guy that talks all the time. I don't want to determine where your future is going

to be. If you guys don't get involved, what you're doing is letting old farts like me determine how you're going to live the next four to eight years. You need to be involved in your future."

Participants spoke out about upcoming events, upcoming elections, the current Bush administration, the Patriot Act, the War on Terrorism, the advantages of industrial hemp and women's issues, among others.

Those who were not com-

fortable speaking into a microphone could write freely on a large wooden display wall.

"This event today, I think, is a very good thing. It is a step in the right direction. We need more of these: open forums, political discussion, debate and just exchange of ideas. That's what the American university system is based on," David W. Cline, a senior advertising major from Salisbury said.

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