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WEATHER



Light Rain/
Mostly
Cloudy

High 67° F
Low 52° F

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Teamwork takes down Catawba



Jonathan Williams | The Appalachian
Foward Alison Gradischer (front), midfielder Erin Smith (middle), and midfielder Erica Muschamp (back) battle with the Catawba goalie for the ball Sunday. For more on field hockey turn to page 4.

Graduate concern: taxation without representation in ASG

ANNA OAKES
Staff Writer

Appalachian State University Graduate Student Association Senate (GSAS) President Arwen Carter is concerned that graduate students are experiencing "taxation without representation."

Every semester Appalachian students, including graduate students, are charged a 50 cent "SGA Fee," Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Development Dr. Peter M. Wachs said.

This money is then allocated to the Association of Student Governments (ASG), a central organization in Raleigh representing student government associations from all 16 schools in the UNC system.

Graduate student organizations are not represented on the ASG's Council of Student Body Presidents.

"My concern is that ASG has not invited us, as they do Student Government Association (SGA)," Carter said. "We pay for it because it's a state rule, but to my knowledge we're not necessarily reaping any benefits from that."

This semester 1,641 students are enrolled in the Cratis D. Williams Graduate School, Anna L. Basnight, a student services assistant in graduate admissions, said.

That means graduate students paid approximately \$820 to ASG this semester.

Graduate student associations should have a central body in ASG, or at least have inclusion on the Council of

Student Body Presidents, Carter said.

"Even though we do have separate needs and separate desires on a state level, we may be able to converse more as a group than individually," Carter said.

Appalachian's SGA does a lot and has a big voice on campus, Carter said.

"Many faculty and administration believe that SGA represents the entire student body, and that is an untruth," Carter said. "GSAS is totally separate."

When the Renewable Energy Initiative (REI) an extra fee all university students would have to pay, was voted on during SGA elections last spring, graduate students were not allowed

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AppalCART sees 23 percent increase, need for more routes

JASON SECREST
Staff Writer

AppalCART reported last week that ridership for the month of August is up 23.3 percent from a year ago, with total ridership reaching 38,287 passenger trips.

AppalCART transportation director Chris Turner said he wasn't surprised at the numbers showing an increase across the board. The number of passenger trips is up on every AppalCART route.

"Everything is up, and that is good," Turner said.

Specifically, a change made to the Pop 105 route has increased passenger trips and made AppalCART more convenient for students, Turner said.

The Pop 105 route accounts for approximately one-third of the increase in passenger trips.

In the past, a second bus would run the Pop 105 route for the first two hours of the day so students who live at University Highlands would be guaranteed a ride to class in the morning, Turner said.

Now, a second bus runs the Pop 105 route all day. The second bus runs 15 minutes behind the first, so a bus is at every stop every 15 minutes. The change has added 55 service hours to the Pop 105 route, Turner said.

Appalachian State University junior Justin B. Allen said the bus on the Pop 105 route is rarely crowded. Allen said he has only had to wait more than 15 minutes on one occasion and is satisfied for the most part with AppalCART's service.

Turner said the Pop 105 and Blue routes are presently running neck and neck for the most used route.

"It's pretty amazing when you think of how far the Pop has to go," Turner said.

Another route that has increased in passenger trips is the Orange route.

Turner said the increase on the Orange route is due to the increase in students living at Mountaineer Village.

Mountaineer Village is being built at Mountaineer Village, which should cause the number of passenger trips to continue to rise.

AppalCART senior dispatcher Troy Greer said he wasn't surprised at the increase either.

"We're growing," Greer said.

Greer, who has been with AppalCART since 1981, said he has seen AppalCART expand from a service which only ran vans for senior citi-

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Student Rec completion depends on Boone's winter

JUSTIN BOULMAY
Senior Staff Writer

The Student Recreation Center is roughly 21 percent completed and should be open in early 2006, Director of Design and Construction Clyde D. Robbins said.

The project is being managed overall by Shelco, who have a good reputation in North Carolina, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs Jane P. Helm said.

Robbins said nearly 20 subcontractors are working on the site, and roughly 40 to 60 workers are there each day.

Most of the site grading and underground utility have been completed, along with the slab and steel structure for the basketball module, he said.

The steel structure for the three-story part of the building is about 80 percent complete, Robbins said. That section of the recreation center will house offices, utility space and club sports.

The contractors have already started working on the

50-meter indoor pool, Robbins said.

"What they're trying to do is, when they set the last of the steel upon the center portion of the structure, they will move to trying to get the bond beams and the footers

in for the pool structure," Robbins said. "They'll move the crane into the pool and start to set the steel on the pool structure."

Robbins said the weather in the next couple of months will influence how much more of the facility will be completed.

"If we get good weather through the fall and good early weather in the winter, we may get the building buttoned up," Robbins said. "It's critical that we get the building in such a condition that [the contractors] can work through the winter. That

means we've got to get part of it closed in so we can get temporary heat."

Mild weather could put the projected opening date in September 2005, although Director of University Recreation Joe R. Carter said he doubted the facility would be open until February 2006.

"When we first signed the contract with Shelco [in] November 2003, they gave us a 104 week construction delivery date which would put us into February 06," Carter said. "Since that time we've made some changes."

Changes included scrapping the idea for a 25-meter pool and opting for a 50-meter pool, Carter said.

"There was some concern that if we ever had a swim program, we wouldn't have an adequate facility," Carter said. "That added about four months to the construction phase."

The new center will also be the home of a 30-foot climbing wall. Robbins said the university was exploring options and has not yet purchased a wall.



Robbins



Peter Larkins | Chief Photographer
Students file onto the Pop 105 bus. Students living in University Highlands and other apartment complexes along Highways 105 and 421 use the Pop 105 extensively.

Equity Office project opens the door to accept diversity

ALISON FOSBENNER
Staff Writer

Ever wonder what the circular, red, white and green 'Open Door' stickers, buttons and magnets represent? It is much more than what it appears to be.

"The Open Door symbol is simply an outward sign of an inward commitment to inclusiveness, and it points the way to some of the many friendly and welcoming places in the Appalachian community, making them readily identifiable to all of us who seek to be understood, accepted and valued for who we are," according to the Open Door brochure.

The Open Door program has a kick-off party today

from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Plemmons Student Union outdoor amphitheatre. All current participants and anyone interested are welcome.

"We hope that there will be a vital and vibrant gathering of all the different kinds of people who don't know who each other is," Susan H. King, staff development specialist of the

Equity Office, said.

A few Open Door members will give brief testimonials about Open Door. The festivities also include food, entertainment, games and prizes.

The new Open Door stickers, buttons and magnets will be available.

This year the Open Door program has been reconstructed.

"We've reached the five year mark, it seems like a good time to

enter the next phase. With a rededication and a restatement of our commitment to acknowledge and embrace diversity in all its forms," King said.

Five years ago a campus life committee started an early form of the Open Door program.

"Our program, whatever it would be called, would reach over all people who felt that at any time for any reason, they were marginalized or categorized," King said, explaining the premise that they began with in 1999.

As for the new Open Door concept, significance is highly placed on the fact that diversity encompasses all that is human, King said.

"Most of diversity is not

seen. Most of it is on our interior," King said. "And the things that we can see, on our exterior, are often not indicative to who we are."

Often the classification of diversity is thought to be limited to sexual orientation and ethnicity. King explains that diversity also includes political affiliation, language, learning style, gender, geography, age, physical ability and religion or lack thereof.

"It's all of the things that divide us," King said.

The display of the Open Door emblem shows that the individual is accepting of all the above and willing to listen to others. Anyone with a significant dilemma should feel comfortable about sharing feelings with such a

person. Open Door is about making friends and being a friend.

"It's really important to have a program like this on campus," Samantha R. Wendel, junior psychology major and Open Door member, said.

There are just over 1,000 Open Door members at Appalachian State University.

"It's new and relatively small. I'm excited to see where it goes," Wendell said. "I am a big supporter of equality, everything that Open Door stands for."

Anyone interested in the program can pick up an Open Door registration form at various places around campus, or visit www.equity.appstate.edu to register online.