

## Inside

### NEWS



Crew gives back to the hikers, trails they love

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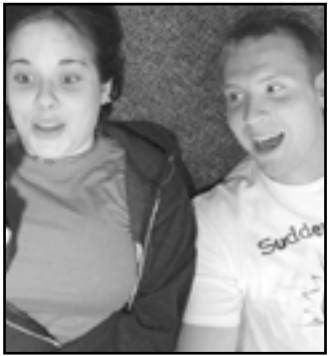
### OPINION



Being healthy takes a huge load off a wallet

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Noun is improv at its finest

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Football adds Big 12 school to schedule, baseball scores 12-5 win

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### ONLINE

- ◆ SGA Results available tomorrow at 5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Drag Show hits Legends April 2
- ◆ Check us out online theapp.appstate.edu

### WEATHER

 **Mostly Cloudy**  
High 54° F  
Low 39° F

Your detailed forecast, Page 2

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All photos by Jonathan Williams The Appalachian

## A man for all seasons

AMANDA FOWLER  
Staff Writer

For Christmas in 1999, Dr. C. Ray Russell's wife gave him the weather station that today has expanded into the most widely read media outlet in Watauga County.

Russell, an associate professor in the department of computer science at Appalachian State University, also runs his own weather Web site, www.booneweather.com.

After receiving his weather station, Russell began posting weather data on his Appalachian Web site that averaged 150-200 page views per day in December 1999. On his Web site now, Russell gets over 200,000 page views on active weather days.

Russell has come a long way since his first weather station. Today, his Web site operates off 19 weather stations, taking his forecasts all over the High Country. Just recently, Ray's Weather expanded its services to Wilkes County and Russell said he sees Morganton and Marion as their next goals. Russell said he is open to taking his forecasts other places, but Morganton and Marion are strategic targets right now.

A Web site expansion is also in the works. Russell said he has looked into a pay site that he hopes will be up in the fall. He predicted a possible \$25-\$35 yearly charge for access to a site that would include more features, such as weather models, picture archives and discussion between meteorologists on how they decided the forecast.

Even if the creation of the pay Web site happens, the

current Ray's Weather site will be available for free.

Russell estimates that he spends about eight to 10 hours a week working on his Web site, but on breaks and during the summer when he gets time away from school, his hours drastically increase because he has more time to work.

These hours are a reduction from what Russell worked in the past. He now has help with his weather predictions from three professional meteorologists who work part time at Ray's Weather.

Having four people is a major advantage considering the complexity of weather forecasting in the High Country.

"We're trying to forecast from the top of Beech Mountain to Triplet Valley," Russell said. "Trickiness comes into play with elevation."

Russell said there are some weather phenomena that only occur in the High Country. Cold air damming events happen only on the eastern slopes of the Appalachians.

"It's the complexity and diversity in such a small piece of geography," Russell explained.

The problem with finding an accurate forecast for the High Country can be tied to the fact that larger weather services do not have the resources to cover the area.

Russell said the problem with larger weather services is that because they are predicting weather for a huge region, their forecast is mostly a generalized prediction of what will happen to most people.

Continued on page 2

## Out-of-state, grad students will feel 2005 tuition crunch

JUSTIN BOULMAY  
Senior Staff Writer

The Board of Governors approved tuition increases for out-of-state and graduate students for many of the 16 University of North Carolina system schools Friday.

Both resident and non-resident graduate students at Appalachian State University will receive a \$300 increase in their tuition.

Out-of-state undergraduates will pay the same increase as well.

All universities, with the exception of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, had their fee recommendations approved.

The Appalachian State Board of Trustees (BOT) had recommended a \$123 increase in student fees.

BOG Chair J. Bradley Wilson said he was pleased with the vote.

"It was unanimous and without controversy, so that certainly should indicate that the various chancellors had made their case well and the board felt the rest of these increases were meritorious," he said.

However, the past few months have seen BOG members, such as chair J. Bradley Wilson, urge the

rest of the board to freeze tuition. The BOG acted accordingly in February.

The bill for tuition varies for students depending on the number of semester hours they have.

For example, a graduate student with two semester hours pays \$1,636.65, while a student taking six to eight hours pays \$4,707.80, according to the Appalachian Student Accounts Web site.

Director of Financial Aid Esther Manogin said the pool of applicants will increase for aid, but the university's resources to provide it will stay the same.

"The only impact as far as awarded financial aid is an adjustment to be made to the cost of attendance because tuition and fees, we actually count that in the cost of attendance," Manogin said.

"So naturally if the cost of attendance is higher because of tuition and fees, students will have a greater need of financial aid, and unfortunately we don't have any additional funding that's going to go to meet that increase now."

The North Carolina General Assembly can still ini-

Continued on page 2

## Four ASU students rescue stranded hikers over break

CLAIR BAXTER  
Staff Writer

Four students from the Living-Learning Center decided they would take a 40-mile hike into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park over Spring Break.

Although the trip started out innocently, these four students became heroes by the end of the week.

The four Appalachian State University students: sophomore interdisciplinary studies major Josh R. Hollinger, sophomore undecided major Kerry C. Puckett, sophomore

music industries studies major Doug I. Stoll and freshman management major Maksym A. Yusko headed out for their hike March 5.

The first night, the hikers ended up in a spot called Gregory Bald and hiked the Appalachian Trail over the weekend.

The weather got much colder March 7 (Monday) and a cold rainfall stopped the hike at a spot called Russell Field.

Over the night, temperatures dipped below 20 degrees.

The hikers woke up the

next morning to six inches of snow on the ground.

The students ran into two through-hikers (hikers who are walking the entire length of the Appalachian Trail in one trip) who they decided to trek with.

Approximately two hundred feet before reaching their shelter for the night, the group heard a whistle blowing and cries for help.

Roughly 100 feet below the shelter were four other hikers, including a couple that attempted to cross a fast-moving, waist-deep stream.

The woman, Kimberley, slipped, fell in and was soaked from head to toe.

Her fiancé, Chris, along with all of their extra clothes and sleeping bags, was also soaked when he attempted to pull her out.

Because the temperatures were in the low 20s and the couple was drenched, Chris had gone into shock and Kimberley was blacking out.

Two of the hikers began carrying Kimberly up to the shelter where they could find her warmth and the hikers who stayed at the shelter began to collect

firewood to warm up the shelter for their arrival.

"The group impressed me with their ability to work well together and do so quickly," Puckett said. "Nobody was giving orders during this whole time."

Once they arrived in the shelter, both Chris and Kimberley's clothes were stripped and they were put into sleeping bags.

Their bodies were rubbed for heat and warm drinks were provided by the hikers in order to raise their metabolisms.

Once Chris and Kimberly

were warmed up and returned to their normal state, the hikers escorted them out of the park and back to safety.

"Aside from the great feeling we all experienced after saving the lives of two people, this experience taught me that preparation and proper gear are integral to planning a safe, enjoyable trip," Puckett said.

"Too many people out for Spring Break did not realize that planning a backpacking trip in the mountains at high elevations during March takes serious planning and preparation."

## Accident claims life of ASU junior

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER  
Staff Writer

Michael Andrew Lane, a junior political science major from Winston-Salem, was killed in a late night car accident March 16.

Lane and his friend, junior business education major Benjamin D. Culp, were driving home when Lane lost control of a 1996 Toyota sport utility vehicle on Poplar Road.

The SUV went down a steep bank, overturned and hit a tree, crushing its roof.

Lane was pronounced dead at the scene and Culp was taken to Watauga Medical Center without any serious injuries, North Carolina Highway Patrol Trooper Timothy B. Hendrix said.

Hendrix said the roads were wet, but conditions did not appear to contribute to the accident as Lane was driving significantly slower than the posted speed limit of 55 mph.

Lane graduated from R.J. Reynolds High School in 2002.

He was active member of his high school soccer

"He was just an incredible kid."

JUSTIN C. CAVENAUGH,  
FRIEND AND SOPHOMORE ECONOMICS MAJOR

team as well as Knollwood Baptist Church, where he played basketball and participated in a variety of mission activities.

"He was just an incredible kid," sophomore economics major Justin C. Cavanaugh said

His friends are establishing a special scholarship fund in his name.

"We just want to have something where kids can come up here and keep his memory as long as possible," Cavanaugh said.

Students and faculty can pay their respects by signing a memorial book in Plemmons Student Union. The book will be given to Lane's family.

## Superman



Molly Milroy | The Appalachian

Austin F. Pantaleo catapults himself off the diving board in the pool in Broome-Kirk Health & Physical Education Building Tuesday.

# NEWS

## News briefs

**Donate to Dollar Drive for Change until April 8**  
 Donations for the Dollar Drive for Change will be collected until April 8. Visit a contact table in Trivette Hall or Plemmons Student Union between the hours of 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity, Watauga Humane Society and OASIS. Checks will be administered April 17 during the student appreciation celebration that will start the celebration of the installation of Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock.

**The Rhododendron looking for trends**  
 Is there a trend that you have specifically noticed on campus? Respondents will receive their picture in the yearbook. E-mail the Rhododendron staff at rhodo@appstate.edu with submissions.

**Humane Society visits dealership Saturday**  
 Watauga Humane Society will be at University Nissan Saturday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. with animals and volunteers. Bandana's restaurant will be selling barbeque and proceeds will go to the Humane Society.

**Easter egg hunt on the slopes Sunday**  
 The first ever Easter egg hunt on the slopes will be held at Sugar Mountain Resort Sunday. The "golden egg" containing a 2005-06 season pass will be placed amongst hundreds of other fun-filled plastic eggs. Participants should load the Yellow lift at 9 a.m. The hunt will start as soon as all participants have gathered. All ages are welcome. A valid pass and skis or snowboard are required for participation.

**Silent auction to raise funds for Staff Council**  
 A silent auction will be held April 1 in the Roan Mountain Room of Plemmons Student Union to raise money for the Staff Council annual scholarship fund. The auction will last from 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Items for bid include gift certificates, leather goods, jewelry, home improvement items and "gently used" items. If you would like to donate items, contact Tina Parlier at 262-6252.

**Computer seminars on campus begin April 13**  
 Appalachian State University's Division of Continuing Education will host upcoming computer seminars. The registration deadline is one week before the beginning of the class. The first class is April 13 and the cost is \$135 per student. Call Andrea Mitchell at 262-2921 for more information.

**Chancellor-For-A-Day switch is today**  
 The Appalachian Student Ambassadors present their annual Chancellor-For-A-Day switch today. Opening ceremonies begin at 9 a.m. and closing ceremonies take place at 3:30 p.m., both in Cascades Café in Plemmons Student Union. Students are invited to attend and speak with the Chancellor Peacock if they see him around campus.

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## A man for all seasons

Continued from page 1

These services are unable to devote the resources to predicting weather for areas like the High Country.  
 "They're never going to tell you what's going to happen on top of Beech Mountain or on top of Grandfather Mountain," Russell said.  
 But sometimes, even Russell himself can get it wrong.  
 Russell said the weather center missed two snowstorms this winter.  
 "We've had events this year where we could have a half-inch of snow on one side of Boone and have eight inches of snow on the higher elevations of the Tennessee line," Russell said. "There is probably only a 25-mile difference. I still think our forecast is day in, day out by far the most accurate that you can find up here."

It is Russell's accuracy that has won him loyal fans. Russell said he has been contacted by school superintendents requesting help on whether or not to cancel school or let school out early.  
 Ray's Weather fans even range outside the High Country area. Russell said he has received e-mails from Appalachian parents saying that their students never call except to ask for money but, because of Russell's site, they can at least see what the weather is.  
 Meeting people has been Russell's favorite part of creating the Web site.  
 "I've gotten to know so many people through this," Russell said. "It really gives you an appreciation for the people around here. It gives you a sense of the history and diversity of this area."

## Out-of-state, grad students will feel 2005 tuition crunch

Continued from page 1

tiate its own in-state tuition increases.  
 To encourage legislators to accept the BOG freeze on tuition, students from across the UNC system will go to Raleigh April 6 to discuss the issue with their elected representatives.  
 The event, titled "Save Our System," will be led by the Association of Student Governments.

Transportation to Raleigh will be available for Appalachian students early that morning.  
 ASG Director of State and National Affairs Gary J. McCoy said Appalachian hapledged to send 100 delegates to the event.  
 "This is the most important opportunity for students to voice concerns to legislators that make direct impacts on their everyday

lives," McCoy said.  
 The event will also focus on issues such as encouraging legislators not to cut university budgets.  
 "It's simple logic," McCoy said. "The more people we have there to show the legislator that we care, the more they as a body will have to care about our needs as students."

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**The Appalachian Forecast for Boone and surrounding areas**

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Regional Travel Weather				
	Today	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
City	Hi Lo	Hi Lo	Hi Lo	Hi Lo
Asheville	64 43	70 47	66 54	63 43
Charlotte	69 46	74 49	71 56	65 49
Johnson City	61 43	70 46	64 51	62 42
Greensboro	66 44	70 48	67 51	57 48
Raleigh	66 47	73 51	71 55	61 51
Winston	67 46	71 50	68 51	59 47

**Sun**

Rise      Set

**Today**      6:25 a.m.      6:42 p.m.

**Moon Phases**

Full	Last	New	First
Mar 25	Apr 1	Apr 8	Apr 16

Local weather information courtesy booneweather.com "forecasting without a net"

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# NEWS

## Textbook committee meets, SGA campaigns

**ANNA OAKES**  
Senior Staff Writer

### University Textbook Committee receives charge from Chancellor

In the first meeting since its creation, the new University Bookstore Committee received an official charge from Appalachian State University Provost Stanley R. Aeschleman Friday.

During the meeting, librarian Glenn Ellen Starr Stilling was elected to chair the committee, which will recommend policies regarding textbooks and other educational materials after researching textbook policies.

"I was very impressed with the serious attention all committee members gave to [Aeschleman's] charge," she said.

The University Bookstore Committee, which replaced the former Bookstore Council, was recommended in a motion by Faculty Senate in December. At the same meeting, Faculty Senate passed a motion to discontinue the current

textbook rental system at Appalachian.

Aeschleman said he and Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock want a recommendation from the committee that maximizes flexibility to faculty while considering the financial needs of students, Stilling said.

Stilling said she was "very delighted" the provost wanted a balance between these two aims.

The next meeting of the University Bookstore Committee will occur after Easter Break, Stilling said. It is highly unlikely the committee will finish its work this semester, she said.

"It's just not enough time," she said.

Stilling added she was uncertain about possible meetings during the summer.

The chancellor and provost have stated a decision about Appalachian's textbook system will be one of the most important decisions they make, the committee chair said.

"I think we will work very hard, and our discussions will be very thoughtful," Stilling said.

### SGA textbook rental campaign comes to close

A two-week campaign by the Appalachian State University Student Government Association to launch the textbook rental system debate into campus radar will come to a close this week.

The campaign's primary focus was to encourage students to vote in an online student referendum during SGA presidential elections this week asking students if they want to continue or discontinue the textbook rental system.

"A big part of the campaign is to allow students to voice their opinion through the student referendum," SGA Vice President Nick V. Albu said.

Over the past two weeks, SGA has publicized the textbook rental issue through signs, pamphlets, free T-shirts, a Web site (textbooks.appstate.edu) and a commercial, which aired this week during Comedy Central's The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, Chapelle Show, South Park and the "Adult Swim" block on Cartoon Network.

In addition to students, SGA has worked to educate all stakeholders in the textbook issue, including parents, staff, faculty and alumni, Albu said.

"The campaign began when Faculty Senate made their motion [to remove the textbook rental system]," he said.

Since then, SGA has passed several pieces of legislation in support of the textbook rental system, including the enabling act for this week's student referendum. SGA also sent a survey about the issue to every faculty member on campus, Albu said. Results of the survey should be compiled within the next week.

"I really want to stress that this is not over," Albu said. "SGA will continue to lobby and engage in rigorous debate on this issue; our opinions will be heard."

SGA Director of Student Affairs David C. Humphrey has been involved with the SGA textbook rental system campaign. Humphrey hosted a forum in the "Breakfast of Champions" series, which focused on the textbook issue.

## Who is the next SGA president/vice president?

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## Crew gives back to the hikers, trails they love

**MILLIE TOLLESON**  
Staff Writer

The officers of the Appalachian State University Trail Crew have been providing trail maintenance services to the Boone area for years. However, they just recently decided to make their hobby into a club and utilize other students who share their love for the outdoors.

"We see a need for it because we're all hikers," junior recreation management major Ray "Otto" Douglas said. "This is a way to give back to the hiking community, the love of hiking and the love of the trail."

According to the Trail Crew's constitution, "the purpose of the ASU Trail Crew is to organize students interested in the outdoors and to provide a labor force that will focus on maintaining and rebuilding regional trails."

The Trail Crew, which received official club status in February, plans maintenance days throughout the semester to focus on whatever areas members feel need work.

Junior recreation management major Dan B. Winters said the club does not meet regularly. Instead, they plan a few workdays in advance.

"We would rather spend more

time doing maintenance than having formal meetings," Winters said.

Club officers stressed the club's flexibility. Students who have ideas of areas that need work should feel free to mention it to club officers.

"We're real enthusiastic about the Appalachian Trail, but we're open to new ideas," senior recreation management major Chris L. Peckham said. "If someone knows of a place that needs to be worked on, sure, we would probably work on it."

The Trail Crew currently works closely with the Tennessee Eastman Hiking Club to work on the

Appalachian Trail.

"The Tennessee Eastman Club is made up of hikers about age 64-94," Peckham said. "They are a great group, and with our help, they get a lot more done."

The Trail Crew is in the process of getting tools donated from the Forest Service.

Winters said the club is interested in beginning a program in which club members would alternate walking trails and checking for damage.

"This club is about interaction between members," Douglas said. "It is a very social club to do a common, necessary job."

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