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Weekend Weather: Chance of rain, with highs in the 70s and lows in the 50s

The Blue Banner

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

September 26, 1996

Campus Events

■ The UNCA Center for Jewish Studies Lecture/Brown Bag Lunch presents "Land for Peace, A Military Perspective," by Robert Yearout. The lecture will be in the Private Dining Room of the Dining Hall, Room 200, on Thursday, Sept. 26 from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

■ There will be a viewing of the total lunar eclipse from 9 p.m. to 11:30 on Thursday, Sept. 26 at Greenwood Field (weather permitting). Telescopes will be available. Questions? Call Randy Booker at 6442.

■ Tickets go on sale Friday, Sept. 27 for Theater UNCA's production of "Arcadia." The box office is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 253-5778 for reservations.

■ The Puma Classic Women's Soccer Tournament begins Saturday, Sept. 28 at Greenwood Field with East Carolina vs. Appalachian State at noon. At 2 p.m., the UNCA women's soccer team plays Georgia Southern. The games are free to all UNCA faculty, staff, and students with ID.

■ The volleyball team will play Liberty University at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 27 in the Justice Center. The match is free to all faculty, staff, and students with ID.

■ The Puma Classic Women's Soccer Tournament continues on Sunday, Sept. 29 with Georgia Southern vs. East Carolina at noon, and UNCA vs. Appalachian State at 2 p.m. Free to faculty, staff, and students with ID.

■ The volleyball team will face Radford at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 29 in the Justice Center. The match is free to all UNCA faculty, staff, and students with ID.

■ Western Carolina University percussionist Mario Gaetano will perform at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 29 in Lipinsky Hall 018. The recital will feature music for solo marimba and vibraphone. A donation of \$4 is requested at the door. Call the UNCA Music Department at 6432.

■ "Opening Doors: A Dialogue on Organizational Racism" will be held from 6-8 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 30, at the MAHEC building on Biltmore Avenue. Call Carolyn Briggs at 6671 or Ed Katz at 6411.

■ Daily 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. campus tours begin on Monday, Sept. 29 for prospective students, their families, and others interested in UNCA. Tours are hosted by the University Ambassadors. Questions? Call Jay Jordan at 251-6481.

■ An informational meeting will be held regarding the LITEX trip to Europe over Christmas break on Monday, Sept. 30 in Zageir Hall at 7 p.m. All students are invited to participate, and a class will be offered next Spring in conjunction with the trip. Call Dan Henderson at 251-6977, or see page 10.

New public safety vehicles added, raises student questions

Alex Self
Staff Writer

The university has added three new vehicles to the fleet over the last year to replace an aging security vehicle, according to public safety. However, the addition of three new vehicles to the campus police department this past year was an "unnecessary" use of funds, according to some UNCA students.

"Those (cars) I saw last semester drove a lot better than my car," said a UNCA junior who asked not to be identified. "And I drive probably 40 miles a day to get here."

Since January, UNCA has acquired three new public safety vehicles, which include two Ford Crown Victorias, and one Jeep Cherokee. All of the cars were obtained from Motor Fleet, a

state-supported agency based in Raleigh that leases cars to all state affiliates, such as UNCA, said sergeant Dennis Gregory of the campus police.

Gregory said that public safety was "beginning to have some problems" with their old security car, and that they decided to replace it because of financial considerations.

"The cost of repairs was exceeding the cost of a new car," said Gregory.

The car that was replaced was a 1993 Chevrolet Caprice, which was also being leased from motor fleet.

One student complained that the old police car was not only sufficient, but more cost-effective.

"We should have just bought the ones we had, instead of having to keep paying on them (new cars)," said a source who asked to remain anonymous. "Even if they did buy them, it would be more cost-effective than re-leasing them every time."

Gregory said the campus police department had no say in Motor Fleet's decision to get new cars.

"We pay a basic price for a lease of

the car, and they replace the cars every so often, every 50,000 miles or whatever," said Gregory. "We have no option as to when they replace them."

"They just call us and say, 'We're going to replace your car,'" Gregory said.

By leasing cars from Raleigh, as opposed to buying new cars, the university saves a considerable amount of money, according to Gregory.

"If the university had to purchase three vehicles, you're looking at \$65,000 just to purchase them," said Gregory. "Then to purchase gas is another \$200 a week."

"We pay a monthly payment that includes gas, tires, repairs, insurance, tags, the whole nine yards," Gregory said. "It's a real savings for us."

"I've paid \$600 in parking fines, so they probably bought the Jeep with that."

--senior Kisha Dowell

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PROPOSED HIGHSMITH PLANS TEMPORARILY SHELVED

Monica Williams
Staff Writer

The renovations planned for the Highsmith Center have been put on hold, according to the university's director of facilities planning and construction. A start date has not been set due to various problems in the planning process and funding.

"When we first started this project, we were looking at possibly getting the building completed some time in 1998," said Ron Reagan. "We are probably looking at some time in 1999 before we can actually complete construction and have students move in."

Reagan said that there have been setbacks because the proposal and planning processes have both been very lengthy.

"We don't look at it as a delay," said Reagan. "We interviewed a firm out of Charlotte, and signed a contract with them for advanced planning. That got us in the planning and programming phase of the project."

"A committee with students, faculty, and staff were selected and met with the architect to go over each of the activities to go into the building," said Reagan. "The information from those meetings were taken back and more drawings were made and more meetings were scheduled."

"It is just a long process," said Reagan. "That (Highsmith) is a real complicated building. We are putting more activities in there than there are now."

According to Reagan, another factor that is slowing the process is that they have to meet with all of the groups who are to have spaces in the renovated Highsmith.

"We had to meet with those specific groups to make sure we get all of their wants and needs designed," said Reagan.

Some students are upset that the new Highsmith will not be available for use as was planned.

"I am a little disappointed that it will not be ready for me to benefit from, specifically, the Greek

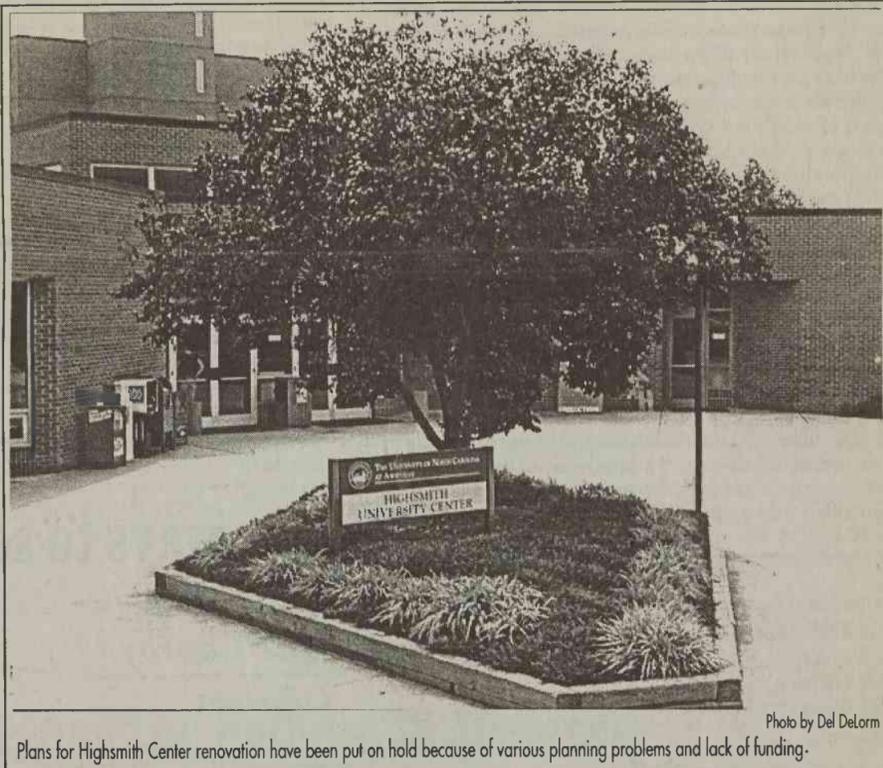


Photo by Del Delorm

Plans for Highsmith Center renovation have been put on hold because of various planning problems and lack of funding.

offices," said sophomore Jay Johnson, a management major. "I am a member of Kappa Delta Rho, and we were supposed to be in the second floor."

"It would be nice for us to have an office," said Johnson. "It looks like we won't have one until I am gone."

However, other students are not concerned about the halted renovation plans for Highsmith.

"It doesn't bother me one way or another," said junior Brent Esenberg, an atmospheric science major. "If it's not done, then it's not. That way I

won't have to put up with construction noise."

According to Arthur Foley, vice chancellor for financial affairs, funding problems could hinder construction further down the road.

"At present, funding is not delaying construction, because we are not ready yet to go to construction," said Foley. "However, if we do not get the funding situation organized in the next six months, then

HIGHSMITH cont. on pg. 8

Forum coming to UNCA with some student apprehension

John Hodges
Staff Writer

The Veritas Forum, a conference dedicated to modern problems and Christian solutions, will be visiting the campus of UNCA in Lipinsky Auditorium on Oct. 1-4, according to the campus minister of the Reformed University Fellowship. Some students and organizations have expressed some apprehension about the messages of the forum.

"The Veritas Forum is a forum designed to bring faculty to speak on the issue of absolute truth," said Berry Stubbs of the Reformed University Fellowship. "The forum was thought up about five years ago, sensing the need to speak to the issue of whether truth was relative or absolute. Not

just moral truth, but really in all areas of a person's world view.

"It was believed by some folks that the general gist that was being taught on campus was that truth was relative," said Stubbs. "Students are now consumers who pick and choose what they want to believe is true, as opposed to searching for absolute truth in every field."

Some students said that they had concerns about the way that the issue of sexuality would be approached from the Christian point of view.

"I know that there are a lot of gays and lesbians that are Christian," said Amanda Farrell, founder and co-president of UNCA Out!, a campus organization that promotes education, understanding, and pride in homosexuality as well as a social group for

sexual minorities and others.

"I do not think that is impossible for someone to be both Christian and homosexual, bisexual, etc. I plan to go to as many as lectures as possible. I will do my best to listen to him (speaker Thomas Schmidt) with an open mind and try not to be offended, especially if what he has to say is backed up by scripture."

"I really hope that he doesn't take things out of context," said Farrell. "It is so stereotypical to hear the argument that gays are immoral. I've heard that so many times before, so I am hoping that he will not just regurgitate what has been thrown at us so many times."

"I don't expect Dr. Schmidt to do that, but I have a little feeling that that's what we might be in for," said

Farrell.

Stubbs said that absolute truth is transcended truth, or truth that transcends contemporary culture. He also said that the Veritas Forum is not targeted toward a specific audience, but rather will be aimed towards everyone.

The Veritas Forum will address many controversial issues, according to Stubbs.

"The first night, the issue of truth in a philosophical sense will be addressed," said Stubbs. "Are we able to establish a world view that's true or not true? It is going to deal with what is a world view, and then what are the competing world views in our culture

VERITAS cont. on pg. 10