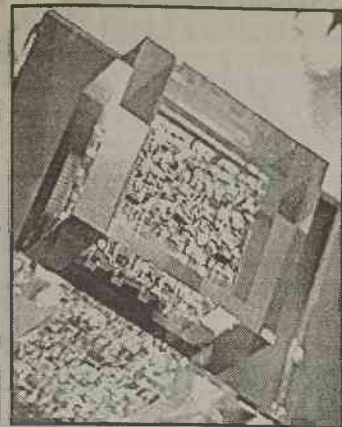


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Book Co-op not worth the hassle and may not save money, some students believe

Monica Williams
Staff Writer

Students may have an opportunity to get more money for their used books through an effort sponsored by Student Government Association and the North Carolina Student Legislature (NCSL).

However, the two organizations plan to keep 15 percent of the profits each book brings, and then send a check for the remaining money to the person who sold the book.

"People can come and find the book that they need, and give us the money," said Tiffany Drummond, delegation chairperson of NCSL. "At the end of the Book Co-op, we will take out 15 percent for our costs, and then right a check to the person who sold the book, and they will receive a check in four to six weeks."

Some students said that the Book Co-op would be nothing but a hassle. "Students should just put up their fliers like they usually do, and just sell their books that way," said sophomore Shawaka Mosley. "The Book Co-op is too much of a hassle because you have to wait so long to get your money. Everything around here is a hassle anyway. Selling your book to the bookstore means getting \$20 for a \$90 book, and the Book Co-op means waiting around for weeks to

get your check."

"The Book-Co-op allows students to sell their books directly to other students," said Sergio Mariaca, student body president. "Students will save money by allowing students to

purchase used books at used books prices. It will also allow students to make money because they will be able to sell their books for more money than they would get from the bookstore."

According to Drummond, students were not getting a fair amount of money for their books at the bookstore.

"We (NCSL) felt that the students were getting ripped off," said

Drummond. "The bookstore did not offer students enough reimbursement for their books and then raise the prices when it comes to selling them to other students."

Some UNCA students agreed with Drummond.

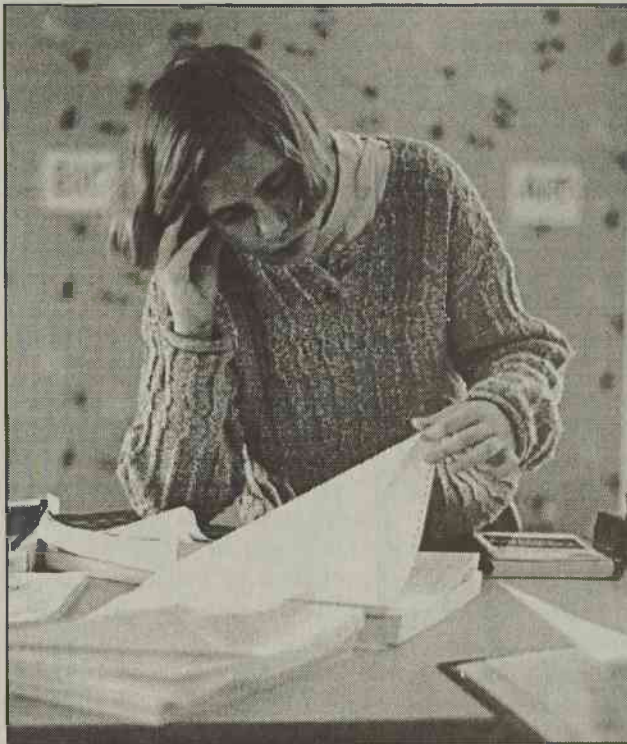
"The bookstore rips you off," said freshman Piper Nieters. "It is about time we get some money for the books that we pay for. I think that the Book-Co-op is a good thing."

Mariaca also said that the competition that the Book Co-op has to offer is needed to best serve the students.

"The bookstore had a monopoly on book sales," said Mariaca. "You could walk around campus and find individual students taking it upon themselves to sell their books, as opposed to getting hardly any money from the bookstore. Now, we can centralize that competition to make it better serve the students' needs."

According to Mariaca, this program has been installed in college campuses around the country.

"The Used Book Co-op is something that has been successful at many other colleges around the nation and we are trying to bring it to UNCA," said Mariaca. "At most other univer-



Photos by Del DelLorm

Senior Laura Howell waits while Sherrie Willcox looks up a buy back price in her computer, while freshman Sharon Baggett looks to see if her book is on the list to be used next year.

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Professor presents paper in Rhode Island

Brian Castle
Contributing Writer

UNCA political science professor,

and Sudanese asylee Elmoiz Abunura, recently traveled to Providence, R.I. to present his views on the current political powder keg situation in his war-torn homeland.

During meetings that took place on the weekend of Nov. 21-24, Abunura presented a paper to the Middle East Studies Association of North America. The paper, "Racism

and Identity Crisis Within the Northern Sudanese Nationalist Movement," outlined Abunura's perspective on the racial and religious policies of Sudan's Afro-Arab elites toward the oppressed tribes of southern Sudan.

Professor Abunura, who also serves as advisor to the UNCA chapter of Amnesty International, saw the MESA conference as an opportunity to educate other scholars on the root causes of the continuing human rights violations in the land that he himself was forced to flee as a political target.

"The only solution to the ethnic conflict in Sudan is recognition of the rights of minorities, to preserve and develop their own culture," said Abunura. "And also, working for a new democratic, federal, and secular Sudan where the followers of Islam and Christianity and traditional African religions have equal rights,"

stated Abunura.

Abunura was also notified of the potential publication of his paper in a volume of essays on the Sudanese

conflict. He will also attend the 4th International Conference of Sudan Studies in Cairo, in June 1997.

In his presentation to the Sudan Studies Association Panel of MESA, Abunura argued that the northern elites, who collaborated with the British during Great Britain's occupation of Sudan between 1898 and

1956, used a variety of ideologies to justify their hegemony over the southern tribes since the British granted independence in 1956.

The latest of these ideologies, embodied by the National Islamic Front, that took over the government in 1989, includes elements of racism and religious intolerance.

According to Abunura's paper, the northern elites now seek to define themselves as Arab and Muslim, to the exclusion of the African polytheistic tribes of the south.

In this attempt to justify their civil war on the south, the northern elites deny their own African heritage, which involves centuries of race-mixing between Arabs and Africans.

They have also asserted their brand of militant Islam on the non-Islamic south by making the ancient Islamic Sharia the legal code for the entire country, with no secular allowances for their polytheistic countrymen.



Elmoiz Abunura

Photo by Del DelLorm

UNCA students charged with marijuana possession

Trish Johnson
Staff Writer

Three UNCA residents received a violation for possession of marijuana on Oct. 18, according to a UNCA incident report.

The bust was made in Mills Hall, room 321, where the offenders live. They will appear in court on Jan. 7.

UNCA security is strict enough when it comes to drug busts, according to Dennis Gregory, UNCA department investigator.

"We don't want to have to start going in the dorm rooms every hour to look for marijuana," said Gregory. "We try to only react when we get a complaint, which is what happened in this case."

A female neighbor of the three residents, Hooper Turner, Ryan Todd, Dale Haskins, called campus security after smelling the marijuana odor. When the officer arrived, the odor was very strong even with a towel stuffed under the door, according to the report.

Several students, male and female, besides the residents were in the room at the time of the bust.

"There are an equal amount of female and male drug users on campus," said Gregory. Apparently the most common drug found on the UNCA campus is marijuana.

"Nine times out of 10, it is marijuana, but we have confiscated pills and cocaine before, but it is still rare," said Gregory. "We usually get

about five or six arrests for marijuana possession a year. So far, this semester we have only had this one incident."

Three out of the four roommates were present at the time of the bust, so the fourth roommate was not charged, according to Gregory.

A marijuana roach was found on a coffee table in the dorm room, which

ous years. "This is probably because of a better reporting system," said Gregory.

The drugs are mostly found in dorm rooms, cars and on the person charged. "Even though the drugs were found on campus, the students have not been suspended at this point," said Gregory. "It

depends on what happens at their court appearance in January."

According to the UNCA Student Guide, the minimum penalty for a first offense of marijuana possession is probation, for a period to be determined on a case-by-case basis. It also states that a person on probation must agree to participate in a drug education and counseling program, consent to regular drug testing.

The handbook also states that the student charged must also perform community service, as the chancellor deems appropriate. Refusal or failure to agree to the terms of probation shall result in suspension from enrollment or from employment for any unexpired balance of the set period of probation.

If a second offense should occur, the Student Handbook states that "progressively more severe penalties shall be imposed, including expulsion of students and discharge of faculty members."

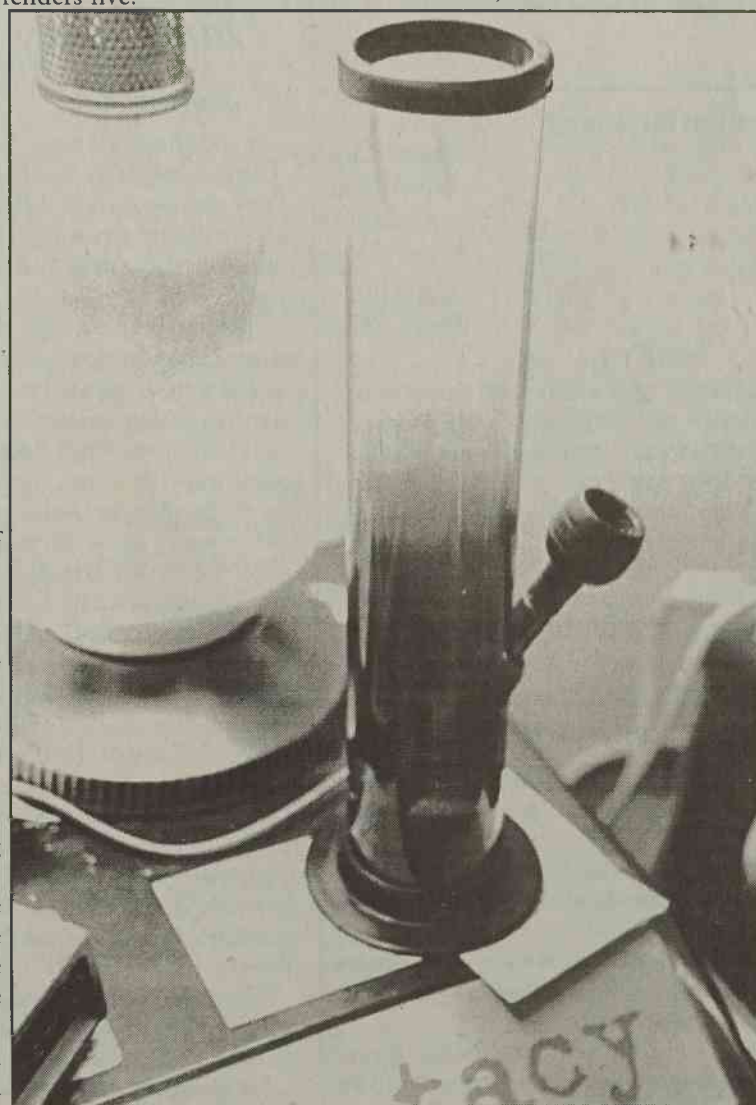


Photo by Michael Taylor

Smoking devices such as these are becoming more prevalent on campus as marijuana use by students increases.

was confiscated for evidence, according to the report.

The drug use at UNCA seems to be getting worse because this year has had more drug searches than in previ-