

# The Banner

Volume 25, Number 20

February 27, 1997

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Overseas drug warning

The U.S. Department of State has issued public service messages to warn college students of the dangers of possessing or using drugs in foreign countries.

Each year more than 2,000 U.S. citizens are arrested abroad. More than half of these are held on charges of using or possessing drugs. Additionally, the State Department warned students about violating local laws regarding the use of alcohol in public places, being intoxicated in public, and drunk driving. Once an American leaves the U.S., the laws of the foreign country apply. An American abroad is not protected by the U.S. Constitution or U.S. laws. American consular officers can visit Americans in foreign jails but cannot intervene in a foreign legal system on their behalf. Americans suspected of drug violations have often spent months or years in pretrial detention, and in some countries are subject to the death penalty for violating drug laws, the State Department said.

The State Department offers a free pamphlet entitled "Travel Warning on Drugs Abroad" that students can order from the Bureau of Consular Affairs at 202-647-1488 or view online at <http://travel.state.gov>.

### AmeriCorps seeks recruits

AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, has launched its annual drive to recruit up to 25,000 men and women to apply for a year of national service. AmeriCorps volunteers serve one or two years with local non-profit and national organizations. Volunteers receive a monthly living allowance and an educational stipend of \$4,725 at year's end to pay college tuition or student loans.

AmeriCorps\*VISTA seeks 1,500 recruits 18 years of age or older, particularly college graduates, to serve in disadvantaged communities. AmeriCorps\*NCCC seeks 1,000 people, aged 18 to 24, to serve in a full-time residential program whose main priority is restoring the environment.

For information, contact AmeriCorps at 1-800-942-2677 or visit their website at <http://www.cns.gov>.

### UNCA skiing discounts

Sugar Mountain Ski Area is offering mid-week discounts on lift tickets to UNCA students through the end of the season. Monday through Friday day or twilight skiing tickets are \$16, half-day tickets are \$11. Sunday through Thursday night tickets are \$11.

### Scholarship fund honors slain man

Friends of Gerald Allman, one of the men who was shot and killed on May 17, 1995 at the Union Butterfield plant in Asheville, have established a scholarship fund in his name at UNCA.

Russell Truluck, a business friend of Allman's and president of Inform Systems Data Document, Inc., has organized the effort. Through his work, \$10,000 has been raised to endow the fund, which will provide scholarships for students with financial need.

Truluck recently presented a check for \$7500 raised during the first annual Gerald Allman Golf Tournament to Beverly Modlin, UNCA vice chancellor for university relations.

## Champs!



PHOTO BY DEL DeLORM

### UNCA wins Big South conference title.

Kyle S. Phipps  
Sports Editor

The UNCA men's basketball team won its first ever Big South regular season title on Feb. 22 by defeating Winthrop University 81-70. Preseason polls picked the Bull-

dogs to finish seventh.

Instead, UNCA set a school record with 11 wins in the conference. At season's end, the Bulldogs finished tied with Liberty University with 11-3 conference records. However, UNCA beat Liberty twice in the

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## Student levels charges

By Catharine Sutherland  
Staff Writer

Ryan McGarghan is one student who does not feel that the new student conduct system is working. He claims the new system violated his constitutional rights and placed him on specific probation, one step below expulsion from the university, without his knowledge.

McGarghan, a UNCA junior, said last week that the student conduct system denied him his right to a fair trial, due process of law, and the ability to prepare an adequate defense. His charge came after a student conduct committee "tried, convicted, and sanctioned" him during a Feb. 6 meeting at which he was not present.

"If you don't show up to a conduct committee meeting, they assume you're guilty. In the United States, I'm innocent until proven guilty," said McGarghan.

Under the old student court system, a student who failed to appear for a trial would be charged with contempt of court and fined \$25, a charge that would appear on a student's court record.

Under the new system, the conduct committee considers cases regardless of a student's attendance.

"When the appointment is made and not kept, the case is still re-

viewed," said Ellie Marsh, faculty advisor of the committee that reviewed McGarghan's conduct

matter. "Students who choose not to show up at the meeting will have their case reviewed without their input."

McGarghan's failure to appear for his student conduct meeting appears to be the result of miscommunication between university and student due to incomplete address records, and not a "blatant disregard for authority," stated the conduct committee in its review of his actions.

Following an incident report filed with the housing office last December, which charged McGarghan with noise and possible alcohol violations inside a residence hall, the housing office turned the case over to the student conduct system when McGarghan failed to appear for an arranged meeting with a housing office administrator.

The conduct system followed regular procedure and mailed letters to McGarghan's address in

January notifying him of his upcoming student conduct committee meeting.

The only address the university had on file was a permanent Hendersonville address, however, after McGarghan, who had resided on campus at the time of the incident, relocated to an off-campus address at the start of the spring semester and failed to give the university his new address.

"It's the student's responsibility to have the correct address on the computer system," said Sue Hintz, assistant director of student development and head of the student conduct system. "I'll only send letters to the permanent address if that's the only address listed. If there is more than one address, I'll send it to the one that's local."

Hintz said she labels letters from the student conduct system "Dated and Confidential Material," so that even if a student's parents were to receive them they would realize the important nature of the mail and contact their son or daughter.

Reliance on this technique did not prove sufficient in McGarghan's case, however.

"I do not live in Hendersonville. I do not have contact with my mother. My mother does not open up my mail," said McGarghan,

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## New conduct committee questioned

By Catharine Sutherland  
Staff Writer

Only six months into its inception on campus, the student conduct system faces its own bout of trials as some students question the new system's ability to protect their constitutional rights.

"I don't think students' rights are being looked out for as much under the new system as they were under the old one," said Charles Yeganian, a senior political science major and former public defender in student court.

"Neither system is what I would consider ideal, but if I had to

choose the lesser of the two evils, I would choose the old system, and I think the majority of the students who have been through the process would agree with me," said Yeganian.

Many students and administrators involved in the creation and working of the new conduct system disagree, claiming the new system, which gives students the option of meeting with a housing administrator or with a three-person conduct committee to discuss conduct incidents, is a great improvement from the old.

"Judging from how many complaints we had about the old court system and how few we have had about the new conduct system," the

new system has so far proven a success with students, said Nina East, director of student development and supervisor of the student conduct system.

"I think it's far and away a better system than student court," said Brian Pittman, a junior history major who served on the Student Affairs Task Force on Student Conduct that revised the student court system last spring.

"My biggest reason for getting involved with the task force and the new system was because I thought the old court was not helping students. If anything, student's rights were being violated by the old system," said Pittman, now in his third year of involvement with the campus

conduct system.

According to SGA senators Stephen Gross and Josh Littlejohn, the student conduct system will soon be receiving suggestions from SGA as to how the organization believes the process could change for the better.

SGA's list starts with the need for confirmation of the accused, a concern stemming from a recent case in which a student did not receive notification of his student conduct meeting due to incomplete address records filed with the university. Miscommunication in the notification process led to sanctioning decisions being made and put into effect without the student's knowledge.

The student should sign a form saying that he or she received a subpoena and that the suggested time is okay with the student, said Gross, referring to the effectiveness of the subpoena system used in the former student court.

Despite the assurance of student notification guaranteed by subpoenas, they may not be the best route to take in the notification process, according to Sue Hintz, assistant director of student development and head of the student conduct system.

"Student prosecutors and clerks had to track down students. It was a tough job and everyone hated

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## UNCA reinforces AIDS awareness

By Stephanie Hunter  
Staff Writer

The UNCA health promotion program sponsored four films last week in order to create a campus-wide awareness of AIDS, according to the chair of the health and fitness department.

Hoping to reinforce the issues presented in the drama department's production of "Angels in America," the health promotion program wanted to have other events on campus to reinforce AIDS awareness, said Cheryl McClary. "The chancellor has always wanted the campus to have an AIDS event to make our campus more aware of AIDS, and to make the student's interest peaked enough to become educated," said McClary.

Furthermore, anytime during the month of February, a university can designate a week as AIDS awareness week on campus, and UNCA chose last week, said Vicki Brunnick, adjunct instructor in the health and fitness department.

Students in the peer education class chose two of the films, and the student Hippocrates organization chose the other two, said

McClary. Through the peer education class, taught by Brunnick, the students learn how to better communicate health education to other students, said McClary. "Your peers can teach you more than a professor ever can," said McClary.

These two organizations screened "AIDS: The Women Speak," "Sex, Condoms, and Video Tapes," and "The Band Played On," "AIDS Research: The Story so far."

One of the selected videos entitled "And the Band Played on" shows how AIDS came into this country and how no one took it seriously. "That's why it spread like wildfire," said McClary. "We thought in this age of antibiotics, modern medicine, and technology that there could never be another disease that we couldn't control, and we were wrong," said McClary.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 650,000 to 900,000 people living in America have AIDS, and the CDC expects this number to continue to increase almost 5 percent.

The CDC believes that the epidemic appears to be slowing down overall and with more efforts and education this number will decrease.

In North Carolina alone, 6,887

people have AIDS; furthermore, North Carolina ranks 19th in the number of AIDS cases reported nationwide.

UNCA Health Services offers testing for HIV, said Linda Peyeritz, clinic coordinator. An HIV test indicates the antibodies that will eventually, if a person is HIV positive, develop AIDS.

"The testing that we do here is anonymous testing," said Peyeritz. Peyeritz defines anonymous as nothing such as a name or social security number is associated with the laboratory work which leaves the infirmary. "All of our lab work leaves in an anonymous state," said Peyeritz.

UNCA Health Services uses a private laboratory in Asheville, and a courier picks up the blood from the UNCA Health Services office for delivery, said Peyeritz.

"I do require that students see me and that we talk a good 30 to 40 minutes prior to drawing blood, and that is called a pre-HIV test counseling. I do require that students come back and talk to me again to get their results because I won't give any results for any blood work over the phone," said Peyeritz.

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### Study Break



PHOTO BY JENNIFER THURSTON

Jeff White, a senior music major, practices Pat Metheny's "Better Days Ahead" in the music department in Lipinsky.