

The Banner

Volume 27 Issue 8

March 12, 1998

Dorm phones will get voice mail over break

By Nicole Miller
Staff Writer

A voice mail system identical to the one already used by UNCA staff and faculty will be in place on all residence hall phones when students return from spring break.

Mike Small, director of the UNCA bookstore and head of campus telecommunications, said that original plans called for dorm telephones to be connected to the voice mail system in February, but problems were encountered when trying to meet the original goal.

"We had hoped to start sooner," said Small. "However, BellSouth had to add more phone lines to the voice mailbox, and some other logistics problems slowed us down."

Small said that the voice mail will not cost the students any extra money over what they already pay for phone service. Administrators had originally planned to charge an additional fee to students who chose to use the voice mail system, but decided instead to include the price of the service in the overall on-campus phone price.

"The more we got into it, the more we thought it was better to offer it as part of the phone contract," Small said. "There is no catch. It is really free voice mail."

According to Small, most other schools with voice mail do not offer it to resident students for free.

The purchase of the main voice mail system cost UNCA about \$95,000, which Small said "was an excellent price." That initial expenditure got voice mail to all campus offices.

The university spent an additional \$1,000 to add residence hall phones to the voice mail system.

Part of this amount, he said, is the cost for the 24 additional phone lines that BellSouth had to add for the voice mail system.

Small said that UNCA purchased and will maintain the voice mail system with money that accumulates from a commis-

sion the school receives each month on long-distance calls made from the residence halls using the AT&T College and University Systems (ACUS) long distance plan.

Small said that the university will spend about \$1000 per month on voice mail service for now, and that may increase as they add more voice mailboxes.

According to Small, there have been some misconceptions about the allocation of money from the ACUS commission. He said that some people thought the university could use the money for more education-related purposes, such as equipment purchases.

"They don't understand that it was a commission off a phone-generated revenue and therefore had to be spent in the phone arena. It could not have just been spent on anything," Small said.

Small also said that Chancellor Patsy Reed felt that since the money essentially came from students, the students should receive a direct benefit from it.

"The chancellor saw this as a way to give value added to the whole campus," said Small.

In addition to offices and residence halls, the university has plans to add all commuter students to the voice mail system by the beginning of next semester, Small said.

Voice mail will also be free to commuters, even though they do not contribute to the commission received from ACUS.

Small said he does not know exactly how much it will cost to add commuter students to the voice mail service.

"The resident students are paying for the ability of the commuters and the staff and offices to be on voice mail to make the system more effective," said Small.

He stressed that having more people using the system increases its effectiveness.

"For example, if a professor wanted to send the same voice mail message to an entire class, it would be helpful for the entire class to be on voice mail, rather than having a few that the professor must contact through other means," Small said.

"I think they should have done it a long

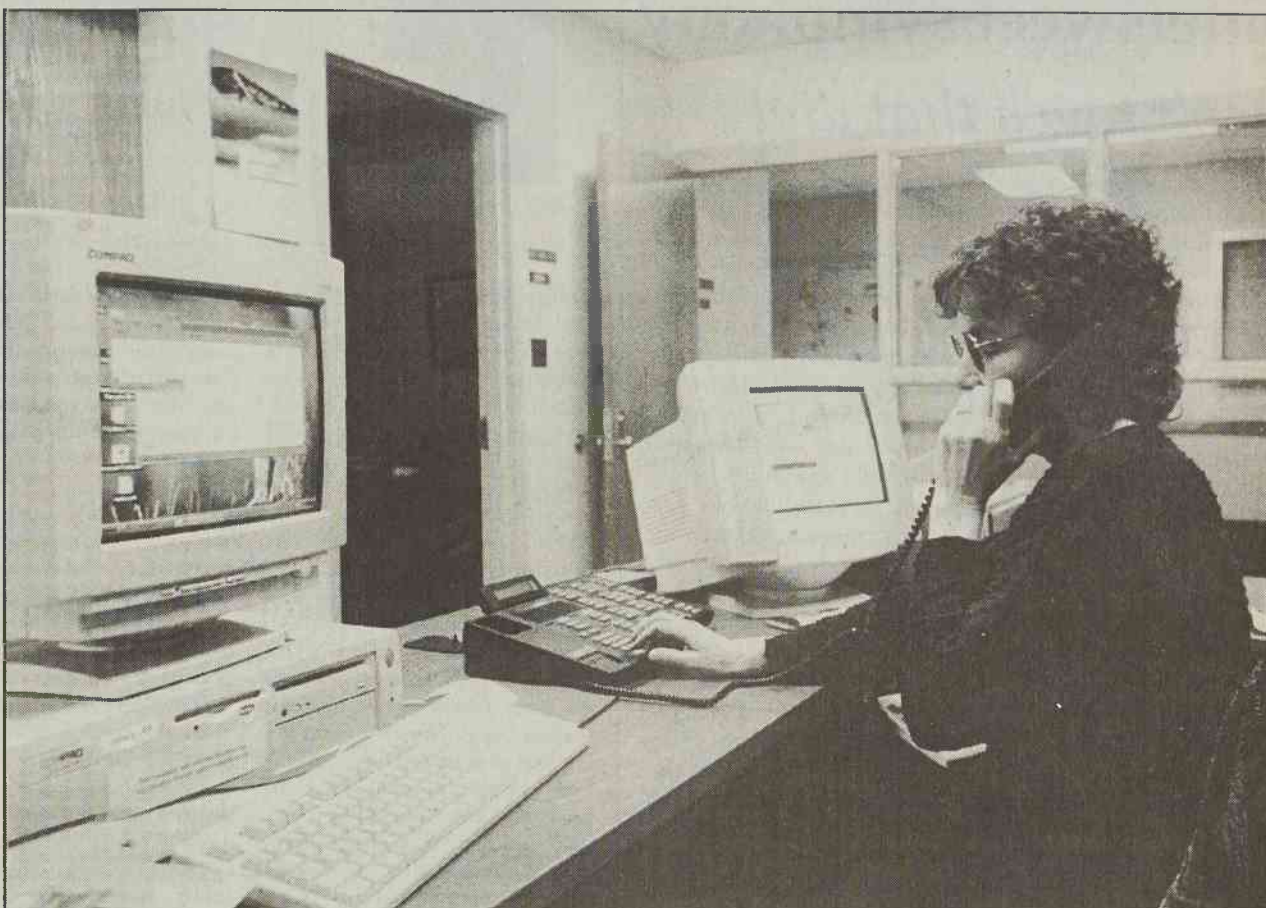


PHOTO BY TRAVIS BARKER

Secretary of the Computer Center Freda Cooper (pictured above) has used the UNCA voice mail system since October, when school offices were connected to the system. UNCA dorms will get voice mail next week.

time ago to save people from having to buy answering machines if they didn't already have one," said Freshman biology major Annika Smith. "I think it's a good idea. I am glad they're not charging."

"If the money is out of the residence students' hands and in the university's, it no longer really matters that the school is 'sharing' it with offices and commuters," Smith said.

According to Small, each resident student will receive a pamphlet about the voice mail system when returning to school from

spring break. Small also said that students who do not want voice mail do have the option of having their mailboxes removed, or they can simply use their answering machines instead.

The voice mail will not work if the student has an answering machine hooked up to the telephone line. Those residents who do choose to use the system must follow the prompts in the voice mail system to set up their own personalized mailbox.

Residents must also choose a unique password with a minimum of six digits.

Small urges students not to make their passwords too complicated because, if a student forgets a password, no one can retrieve it. The switchboard would instead have to cancel and then re-initialize the mailbox. Resident Assistants have received training on the voice mail system, and students may direct questions to them, the switchboard in Phillips Hall, or to Small.

"The overall plan is that the Resident Assistants will be able to answer some routine questions that a regular person could not answer," said Small.

UNCA rated as safest college campus in state

By Gene Zaleski
Staff Writer

A nationwide study on the safety of college campuses has ranked UNCA as the safest college in North Carolina.

The study used data from 383 college campuses nationwide.

"I think this is the highest nationwide ranking UNCA has ever achieved," said Director of Public Safety Dennis Gregory. "We have improved quite a bit, but we have a long way to go."

UNCA ranked 66th among all schools nationwide.

The study, titled *Dangerous Colleges*, based its rankings primarily on data from the U.S. Department of Justice's annual report *Crime in the United States*.

Universities are required to report hard-crime rates such as murder, rape, robbery, burglary, and motor vehicle theft, to federal law enforcement agencies. The rankings also factor in crimes which schools are not forced to report, such as larceny and petty theft.

"When a crime occurs we report it to the Uniform Crime Reporting which in turn goes to the FBI so they know nationwide what the trends of crime are," said Gregory. "We also have to contribute to the federal Campus Security Act, which requires schools to offer students, employees, and applicants

SAFETY RANKINGS OF NORTH CAROLINA UNIVERSITIES

National Ranking in parentheses

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1. UNC Asheville (66) | 12. Fayetteville St. (291) |
| 2. Appalachian St. (128) | 13. Winston-Salem State University (295) |
| 3. UNC Wilmington (165) | 14. Pembroke St. (321) |
| 4. East Carolina U. (169) | 15. NC Central U. (335) |
| 5. Western Carolina (185) | 16. NC A&T U. (341) |
| 6. UNC Chapel Hill (192) | 17. Davidson Coll. (344) |
| 7. UNC Greensboro (237) | 18. Pfeiffer Coll. (346) |
| 8. NC State Univ. (243) | 19. Duke University (352) |
| 9. UNC Charlotte (244) | 20. Wake Forest U. (357) |
| 10. Mars Hill Coll. (277) | 21. Elizabeth City St. (380) |
| 11. Queens College (285) | |

SOURCE: DANGEROUS COLLEGES STUDY

GRAPHIC BY CHRIS BROOKER

statistical summaries of the crimes reported on their campus."

According to Gregory, UNCA's high safety ranking is due in part to the administration placing great attention on the welfare of the students.

"I think security is a real important issue for the administrators, faculty, staff, and students," said Gregory. "The university promotes security programs that make you aware of what is going on around you and how to protect your property."

Junior biology major Cynthia Grimsley cited a sense of community at UNCA as the primary reason for the low crime rate on campus.

"I think the major reason for lack of crime is because UNCA is such a small, close knit campus," said Grimsley. "A lot of people know each other and that kind of helps." Gregory said that the biggest crime problem on the UNCA campus is petty larceny, and the frequency of

See RANKING on page 8

New multimedia major awaits state funding

By Amelia Morrison
Staff Writer

A new multimedia arts and sciences major designed to prepare students for jobs in the field of computer-based communication may be instituted at UNCA as early as next semester.

The UNCA administration is currently waiting for final approval and funding from the N.C. General Assembly.

"We are awaiting final approval. Everything has been submitted," said Tom Cochran, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs.

"The computer technologies and communication technologies have merged in ways that were entirely unexpected and not predicted five years ago," said Mark West, associate professor of mass communication and director of the multimedia arts and sciences minor.

"It's a gigantic market," said Emmye Taft, a sophomore computer science and environmental science major. "There is an emphasis on what is more visually appealing."

Archer Gravely, director of institutional research, said that the new major will be the first bachelor's degree program in the nation to be completely multimedia.

The new major will combine mass communication, computer science, art, music, and drama in order to

prepare students for careers which require extensive knowledge and skills in print and visual media, such as Internet web-page design.

West said courses such as media development, 3-D animation, content and delivery, and programming for the Internet will be part of the new program.

"Our intention is for it to be truly interdisciplinary," said West. "To

Director of Institutional Research Archer Gravely said that the new major will be the first bachelor's degree program in the nation to be completely multimedia.

train people to work in the new media, we need to take a different approach than we have traditionally taken in mass communication."

The multimedia major will result in a new multimedia academic department.

The department will consist of computer labs and equipment, a new full time faculty person, and

secretarial support. "This is an expensive, high end computing project that will need a lot of funds," said Gravely.

"We asked for approximately \$250,000 in lab money," said West. "This major is going to be heavily computer based."

Gravely said that if the General Assembly does not fully fund the new program, UNCA will be unable to get it off the ground.

"We could not fund the program out of existing internal money," said Gravely.

"Funding for this program will be new funding," said West. "I think that is a major concern on campus and legitimately so."

UNCA faculty and administration said that they are confident that the new major will be approved due to its unique and cutting edge nature.

"I think the state is interested in funding new and different things," said West.

"We are almost certain it will be approved," said Cochran. "We are optimistic that it will sell through unscathed."

The program has already received approximately \$75,000 as a one time grant for technological advancement.

"The grant came unexpectedly," said Cochran. "We spent it on equipment that would help launch the multimedia arts and sciences

See MAJOR on page 8