

The Banner

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Textbook rental not a future alternative

By John Stanier
Staff Writer

UNCA students who want the option to rent their textbooks should plan on continuing to buy them. With regard to developing a textbook rental policy, Mike Small, UNCA's business officer and manager of the UNCA Bookstore, said, "There are good, clear and understandable reasons why we're not."

Two area schools, Western Carolina University (WCU) and Appalachian State

University (ASU), currently have textbook rental policies. Although UNCA does not have a textbook rental policy, Small said most schools do not. "If you took all the schools in the country, and as a percentage of those how many had textbook rental programs, it would be very, very small," said Small. "It must not be in the best interest of the student/school/education to be renting."

"I don't think at UNCA with the liberal arts and wanting to get the best book... that (textbook rental) is the best interest for the student," said Small.

According to Small, there is no real prospect for such a policy. "To my knowledge, nobody has seriously considered it. I know there's been talk about it and discussion but I don't know that anybody has seriously looked into it or thought about it."

A textbook rental policy at UNCA would lead to several necessary changes.

First, an additional amount would need to be added to the required fees paid by students. "It's in the tuition... it's not something you can just walk into the store and selectively pick some rentals and buy some. You're paying that rental fee if it's a

rental school," said Small. All students at UNCA would be required to pay this additional fee.

Second, books for the program would have to be adopted, or officially recognized, by the rental program. Faculty members choosing books for classes would need to commit to use the books for a certain amount of time. Texts would need to be used for at least two or three years for the program to be able to support itself, said Small.

The WCU book rental policy has advantages and disadvantages for students. All

students pay \$65 per semester for rental. This entitles them to the adopted book for each course for which they are registered. The fee covers one book per course; however, not all courses, especially special topics courses, have adopted books. In addition to the rental fee, students must pay for all supplemental materials required by faculty.

WCU students are also responsible for any damaged or lost books. Replacement fees and late fees for books not returned on time are levied on the stu-

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UNCA students survive hit-and-run accident

By Amelia Morrison
News Editor

Three UNCA students, victims of an Aug. 30 hit-and-run accident, are now dealing with the aftershock. Freshmen Justin Donaldson, Jay Aaron Van Ootenghem, and Thomas Clinton Bergin were traveling east on Interstate 40 returning from Donaldson's home in Franklin, N.C. A tractor-trailer struck the rear left quarter area of Donaldson's Saturn compact car, sending the car spinning out of control, said the official NC Collision Report.

"He hit me from behind; there wasn't much I could do," said Donaldson, the driver of the vehicle. "We were just past the West Asheville exit on 40 east, in the right hand lane following another car. I felt a bump, a push, and I started to lose control of the car, and I fought the wheel, but I couldn't straighten it up. After that it was pretty blurry."

After striking Donaldson's vehicle, the truck driver, Charles Edwin Edwards, failed to stop at the scene of the accident and continued traveling on I-40, said the report.

All three students were taken to the hospital and treated. Van Ootenghem, the back seat passenger who Donaldson said was wearing his seatbelt, is currently in the hospital in critical but stable condition, said Merrell Gregory, the manager for public and community relations at Mission St. Joseph's.

Van Ootenghem's parents "reported today that he has partially regained consciousness, and that he is responding to their voices. He has given indication that he understands what they are saying, and he has opened his eyes," said Gregory.

Van Ootenghem's father said,

"We want to get Jay back to UNCA as soon as we can."

As UNCA awaits Van Ootenghem's return, Eric Lovacchini, vice chancellor for student affairs, said, "It's a tragedy, and our thoughts and prayers go out to the student and family as they deal with this. We hope to see our student back real soon."

Although Van Ootenghem remains in the hospital, Donaldson and Bergin are back to their classes.

"It shook everybody up pretty bad," said Donaldson. "It's been a lot of shock."

Donaldson also sustained injuries in the accident. "I was thrown out when the car flipped, before it hit the guard rail," said Donaldson. "I opened my eyes and I was lying on my back on the shoulder of the four-lane. I got up and walked around. I had blood in my eye and running down my face. The officer told me to lay down."

Donaldson, who sustained a head injury and other minor injuries was released from the hospital at 3:15 a.m. on Aug. 31. Bergin was released the night of Aug. 30.

Edwards, is being charged with a hit-and-run felony, said the report. Edwards "said he did not know he had caused the wreck," said Steve Finney, the trooper who investigated the accident, in the *Asheville Citizen-Times*.

"Considering he hit me with the front of his truck, I don't see how he didn't see," said Donaldson. "It was completely dark and my lights were on."

"The noise was incredible. Even if he didn't see, he should have heard," said Donaldson.

Donaldson said that he was not wearing his seatbelt, but that the accident will make him drive more cautiously in the future. "I don't think there's anything I could have done differently, but I think I will be more careful in the future."

Building blocks on campus

By Kjrsten Keane
Staff Writer

Several construction projects are currently underway on campus that aim to improve residential and educational environments for students, said Ron Reagan, director of facilities planning and construction at UNCA.

"We are working as hard as we can to finish," said Reagan.

Four of the major projects on campus include changes to Founders Residence Hall, Carmichael Hall and Karpen Hall, as well as the construction of a new dormitory, West Ridge Hall.

"I feel the construction on campus, while extremely aggravating at times, is all part of the improvement of the residence halls and campus," said Larry Minton, resident director for Founders Hall. "A little annoyance now equals progress and convenience in the future."

The addition of air conditioning to Founders Hall and Carmichael Hall began over the summer.

"The schedule wouldn't allow us to complete all of (Carmichael) in the summer," said Reagan. "We went in and did all the demolition work that needed to be done while that building was empty. There weren't any classes there in the summer."

"I am very excited about Carmichael Hall becoming air-conditioned," said Shelly Moss, a sophomore history major. "The unpleasant conditions make it difficult to concentrate at times."

Air conditioning in Carmichael Hall will be finished in November, and air conditioning in Founders Hall is scheduled to be tested the week of September 15, said Reagan. "We are not trying to delay any project, especially in Founders Hall."

"We'd like to finish in time to test the air conditioning out and

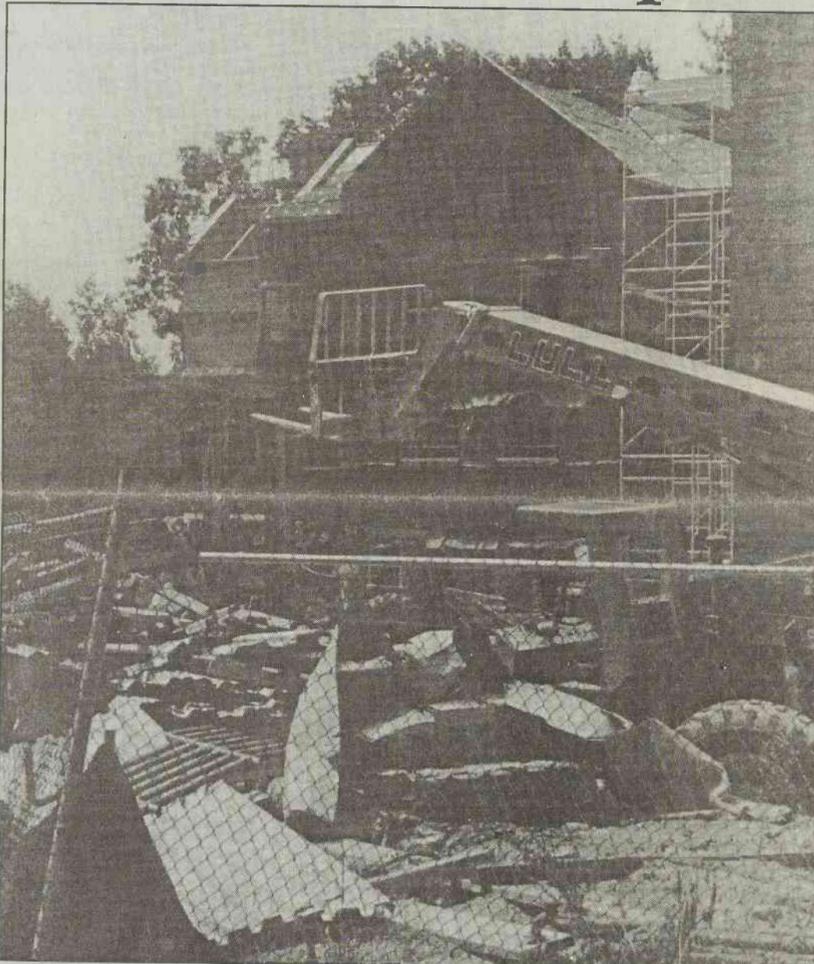


PHOTO BY CARRIE ENDERS

Construction equipment sits idle amidst the rubble at the new West Ridge Residence Hall site, scheduled to open summer of 1999.

it be warm enough that we could get some air conditioning to the students," said Reagan.

In addition to having air conditioned buildings, students will also have a new dormitory on campus to accommodate the growing number of resident students.

West Ridge will provide housing for 150 more students, with ac-

commodations similar to those of South Ridge Residence Hall, said Reagan.

"Right now we're planning on having West Ridge completed during the spring of next year and it will be ready for summer students," said Reagan.

"I'm thrilled about the addition of a new dorm," said Sarah Clere,

sophomore literature major.

Reagan said that by the time West Ridge is ready for students, a new parking garage capable of holding 225 cars will also be completed. The garage will be accessible from the updated Division Street entrance.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL GOUGE
Miranda Wyatt Banks, a UNCA graduate, died in a fatal car accident Aug. 23.

UNCA mourns loss of alumnus, daughter

By Samatha Hartmann
Staff Writer

A UNCA graduate and her 3-year-old daughter were killed in a car accident Aug. 23 on Interstate 26 near the Biltmore Square Mall.

Miranda Wyatt Banks, a 29-year-old Hendersonville native, and her daughter, Madison Kaye Banks, were on their way to church when a car traveling in the opposite direction crossed the median and collided into Banks' vehicle. According to Troopers at the scene of the accident, the driver who caused the collision allegedly fell asleep at the wheel.

Banks is remembered fondly by friends,

students, and faculty at UNCA.

"She was so full of happiness," said Michael Gouge, a UNCA adjunct mass communication professor who attended UNCA with Banks from 1987-1990. "I don't think I have ever met a soul that was so luminous and joyful. I remember looking out of the window in science class one day, and I saw her walking down the sidewalk. She was just smiling and happy to be in the world. There was a certain radiance about her."

"We are saddened by the loss of Miranda Wyatt Banks, who graduated from our program in 1991," said Alan Hantz, a professor of mass communication. "Miranda was an excellent student and a delightful individual. She always carried a smile in our halls. Our deepest sympathies go out to Miranda's family and loved ones."

Gouge said he is delighted to be at UNCA as an adjunct professor this fall, but being on campus again has brought back many memories of Banks.

"I have been numb for several days," said Gouge. "Every building and sidewalk seems to have a memory of her. I just try to remember the good times."

According to Gouge, Banks continued to pursue her interest in photography after graduation.

"She was a photographer for *The Banner*, and also worked part-time for the *Asheville Citizen-Times* once she graduated," said Gouge. "Before she got married, she talked about going back to graduate school to get her masters degree in photography."

Melissa Beretta, a 26-year-old Asheville

resident and former UNCA student, said she remembers Banks as a beautiful person both inside and out.

"Miranda would make a point to follow-up on things casually mentioned in conversation," said Beretta. "Most people aren't even concerned enough to remember. She was very considerate."

Gouge said Banks was the kind of person you met once and immediately liked.

"Miranda would do thoughtful things for no reason at all," said Gouge. "If she saw something in a store she thought you might like, she would buy it for you as a gift."

Beretta said the funeral service was very emotional. She said the church was so full that many people had to stand outside.

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