

The Banner

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UNCA will soon pay to print in labs, library

By Mike Bryant
Staff Writer

Users of laser printers at the Ramsey Library and UNCA computer labs may have to pay for printing beginning with summer school sessions in 1999.

"The amount of paper waste and large-volume copying has made it necessary to initiate a policy of charging for printing in Ramsey Library," said Robert Bland, associate university librarian for technical services.

Similar reasons for charging students for printing were stated by a

representative of the computer lab center at UNCA.

"The increasing amount of wasted paper and the substantial increase in volume of copying from Internet sources has led to the need to charge for printing," said Mike Honeycutt, academic computing coordinator at UNCA's computer center.

Meetings involving library and computer lab representatives have occurred over the past year to consider the implementation of a printing-charge policy, according to Bland.

"We have given careful consideration to the needs of the students at UNCA," said Bland. "We want to continue to provide the students

with the resources to meet their printing needs at the lowest possible cost to each of them. We included representatives of the SGA in one of our December meetings, and welcome their continued input in this matter."

UNCA is one of the last branches of the university system that continues to offer free copying to its students, according to Bland.

"UNC-Chapel Hill charges 5 cents per page for copying, and North Carolina State University charges 6 cents per page," said Bland. "There is one school that charges 10 cents per page for copying. We feel that those charges are certainly too high. A charge of 3 cents per page is our

target at UNCA."

This charge for printing would exclude any copying using the dot matrix printers, according to Honeycutt.

"We will still provide the use of the dot matrix printers for students at no cost," said Honeycutt. "We realize those printers do not match the speed or quality of the laser printers, but they will be available to students at no cost, if needed."

Student response was mixed at the possibility of the implementation of a policy that would add to the cost of their education at UNCA.

"I think it is ridiculous to charge the students for making copies," said Lauren Owens, an undeclared

sophomore.

"I can see why they may have to begin charging for copies," said Troy Shurtleff, a sophomore math and computer science major. "I work in the computer labs, and I see a large amount of wasted paper, especially with the laser printers. I think that charging a minimal amount for copies would eliminate a big portion of that waste."

The need for involvement by the SGA was voiced by a number of UNCA students before this charge for copying is implemented this summer.

Input from the SGA and any other students are welcomed, according to Honeycutt.

"I would urge anyone who has any suggestions or comments regarding this matter to contact us," said Honeycutt. "It is important to us that the students understand and have input because it most directly affects them."

"One of the reasons for consideration of charging for copies is to be able to continue to upgrade the equipment available to the students," said Bland. "This is not a money-making venture, but rather an alternative method that would allow us to meet increasing costs that have resulted from a more ex-

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In honor of MLK Jr.



PHOTO BY TRAVIS BARKER

A parade and keynote speaker Willie Fleming, a faculty fellow at Appalachian State University, were part of the celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 21. The event was sponsored by the UNCA African American Student Development Office.

UNCA cooperates with water regulations

By Meghan Cummings
Staff Writer

In response to the recent water shortage in Asheville, UNCA has taken strides to conserve water on campus. These efforts have aided in the overall reduction in water usage, according to sources at the City of Asheville Water Resources Department.

"I think the school is doing a pretty good job," said Jennifer Ball from the City of Asheville Water Resources Department. "Their maintenance staff seems to be on track in trying to keep leaks to a minimum and trying to keep water usage down. They have been doing that for several years, even before this drought."

The amount of water used in the December and January billing period this year was significantly less than that used last year, according to Stephen Baxley, director of facilities management at UNCA.

"We have reduced consumption

by about 13 percent," said Baxley. "I'd say 13 percent of the amount of water we use is a pretty significant amount."

All users of the Asheville water supply have been asked to be increasingly conservative with water because of the severity of the shortage, according to Don Hollister, mechanical engineer and consultant with the Waste Reduction and Technology Transfer program.

"About three or four weeks ago, the water levels in the reservoirs were at the lowest ever recorded," said Hollister. "It gets pretty scary when you think that we are dependent on those reservoirs. If they run out we will have nothing left."

According to a news release from the City of Asheville Water Resources Department, as of Jan. 20, the two reservoirs that serve most of Buncombe County held 104 days supply of water. Although this is an improvement over the 85 days of water that was recorded on Dec.

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Environmental studies receives \$1.7 million grant

By Emma Jones
Staff Writer

UNCA environmental studies professors and students are pursuing their lead contamination research thanks to new grants, according to one of the lab's water quality experts.

The lead contamination in homes is a big

public health problem, said Richard Maas, director of the environmental studies program at UNCA. Maas also coordinates the Environmental Quality Institute (EQI) with Steven Patch of the mathematics department.

"The EQI is part of the environmental studies program at UNCA, and it really is a collaborative undergraduate research program of Steven Patch and myself," said Maas.

Both students and outside scientists are

involved in working with the EQI's research grants, according to Maas. The EQI is presently working with a number of grants, one of which is through the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP). The \$1.7 million grant funds NYCDEP's project to eliminate lead contamination in the public water system.

"New York City is the ultimate place to try to do this research because you've got millions of homes that are all connected to

the same water supply. Other larger cities have a number of different water sites, so the water chemistry is different in this part of the city than in that part," said Maas.

Grants as large as this one are competitive and open to the public for bidding, according to Stuart Erdfarb of the NYCDEP.

"The great majority of our contracts for which there are detailed specifications are publicly advertised and are solicited using Competitive Sealed Bids," said Erdfarb. "Such contracts are awarded to the respon-

sible bidder who submits the lowest responsive bid."

With a reputation for objective research, UNCA's lab was chosen for the grant even though they were not the lowest bidder, according to Erdfarb.

"With specific regard to the contract awarded to the Environmental Quality Institute, there were nine bids submitted,

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Emergency student loan suffers due to nonrepayment

By Samantha Hartmann
News Editor

UNCA's emergency student loan fund, a short-term institutional loan for students in the event of an emergency, was temporarily unavailable at the beginning of this semester due to an unpaid balance of \$19,428.38, according to the UNCA controller's office.

"We are still working on the out-

standing balance," said Jolene Moody, university controller. "We are doing everything we can to collect."

The Leonard S. Levitch student loan fund, better known as the emergency student loan fund, was established in 1974 to assist students financially in the event of an emergency.

"It is a revolving type of program," said Carolyn McElrath, director of financial aid. "We are dependent on students repaying the loans in

order to make it available for other students."

Alice Means, accounting technician in the university controller's office, said her records indicate an approximate total of 128 unpaid student accounts from 1991 to the present. Of the 128 accounts, 39 are pending from 1997, and 49 are pending from 1998, according to Means. If this pattern continues, Means said it is possible the available balance may be depleted sooner than expected.

According to the Levitch promissory note that students are required to sign upon emergency loan approval, repayment must be submitted in full by the end of the current semester.

"We say in the promissory note that it is the responsibility of the student to ascertain if the account is free of emergency loans and has been repaid either by refund deduction or direct payment prior to the next semester," said McElrath. If a student is a financial aid re-

ipient, emergency loans are not automatically deducted from their aid refund, according to the promissory note.

"The current procedures are to loan up to \$250 per semester per student, with the financial aid director being allowed to approve a higher amount in extreme circumstances when financial aid is pending," said a memo from Moody dated Jan. 28.

According to McElrath, students would qualify for an emergency

loan if they had difficulty paying rent or utilities, needed car repairs, were awaiting financial aid because they applied late, or had a medical emergency.

"Sometimes, we have students who are in dire need," said McElrath. "Let's say they applied late, or we happen to have some technical problems in the office. Until financial aid hits our system, we will allow a loan in excess of \$250. If it

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