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## Students face drug charges



PHOTO COURTESY OF AN ANONYMOUS CONTRIBUTOR.

Public safety recently confiscated marijuana paraphernalia during three incidents involving students in dormitories.

**By Susan McCord**  
Staff Writer  
**Sarah Wilkins**  
News Editor

UNCA public safety recently handled three separate incidents of marijuana possession by students on campus, a crackdown which is part of the UNCA zero-tolerance policy for drugs and alcohol, according to Jerry Adams, public safety investigator.

"Students need to know that we have zero tolerance for alcohol and for drugs, and if we get called, we are going to take action," said Adams.

The incidents occurred when students and resident assistants reported to public safety that they smelled marijuana coming from dormitory rooms in Governor's

Village and Founders Hall, according to Adams.

"I don't believe it's right to tell on people," said a female student charged with possession of marijuana, who does not wish to be identified.

"If what we were doing was bothering a student, it would have been a lot more courteous to knock on the door and say, 'Hey, I'd really appreciate it if you all wouldn't do that,'" said the student.

The students that were interrupted smoking marijuana in the rooms were generally cooperative, and handed over the contraband to the officers, according to Adams.

"In two cases we did not have to search, in the other we did, somewhat," said Adams. "We found some things, and the rest of the stuff was given to us."

Two of the students, a male stu-

dent and the female student, will be prosecuted by city courts, according to Adams.

The other student, whose name public safety would not disclose, will be penalized by UNCA's student conduct committee, according to Adams.

Officer discretion determines whether students are penalized through the school or sent downtown.

Even if a student is charged with marijuana possession by city police, he or she may still be subject to punishment through UNCA by the Student Conduct Committee, according to Meg Duttnell, assistant director of student development and a participant in the committee.

"At least two students sit on the committee, in addition to a staff chair," said Duttnell. "It's a very fair system, set up to help the student succeed."

The punishments imposed depends on a number of factors, including whether the student has a previous record, according to Duttnell.

"It's a very individualized system to protect the students (and) to give them a fair shake," said Duttnell.

If the offense was coupled with another violation, such as an alcohol violation, punishment could be worse, according to Duttnell.

Also affecting how the Student Conduct Committee handles marijuana offenses is how well the student cooperates with the committee and with university officials.

"If a person is more cooperative, the officer sometimes takes a different route," said Adams. "Each

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## N.C. campuses need \$6 billion

**By Davon Heath**  
Staff Writer

A study by the UNC system has indicated that over six billion dollars will be needed for capital improvements for the 16 UNC schools, according to Tom Byers, special assistant to the chancellor.

"Three years ago the legislature asked the university system to undertake a systematic study of the 16 UNC campuses, to evaluate the equity and the adequacy of the facilities," said Byers.

Representatives from UNCA, Appalachian State University (ASU) and Western Carolina University (WCU) joined to discuss these funding needs with state legislators on March 27.

The study of the UNC campuses took into consideration statistical information, such as enrollment figures and projections, and looked at problems on site.

"UNCA's projection (for expenses) over a 10-year period is set at about \$152 million," said Byers.

The appropriations request for UNCA covers renovations and additions to the Highsmith Center, a new math/science building, a new physical plant building and renovations to Carmichael Hall, Zaiger

Hall, Phillips Hall and Lipinsky Hall.

Plans also call for adding 365 new beds to replace some existing ones. Additional parking and other general campus improvements will also be made, according to the Facilities Profile and 10-year Capital Plan.

"The list of needs for UNCA is extensive," said Byers. "This campus is 40 years old."

The buildings "have been well taken care of, but things do wear out, and they become obsolete," said Byers. "It is the obsolescence that's become the big issue now on all the UNC campuses."

UNC system President Molly Broad proposed an increase in student fees, which would help fund improvements. The proposed fees would be \$100 the first year, another \$100 the second year, and an additional \$75 dollars the third year, according to Byers.

"For this meeting, we are the host institution," said Byers. "We have all agreed we'll focus on the science building, because almost every one of the 16 UNC campuses science facilities are an issue."

Improvements at this level will have to go through a legislative process, according to Byers.

The legislators' campus visit in-

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PHOTO BY WALTER FLYLER

Appalachian State University Chancellor Frank Borkowski presents some financial needs at the meeting on March 27 at UNCA.

## Biochemistry added to program

**By Kathryn Krouse**  
Staff Writer

UNCA chemistry majors can take classes under the new biochemistry concentration this fall, which could double the amount of chemistry majors, according to representatives of the chemistry department.

"UNCA's admissions office has already indicated that they would find the biochemistry concentration to be a valuable recruiting tool," said Keith Krumpke, associate professor of chemistry.

The new concentration under the chemistry major will allow students to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree (mainly pre-medical) or a Bachelor of Arts degree (mainly pharmaceutical) in biochemistry, according to Bert Holmes, chair of chemistry.

"It fits the spirit of what UNCA wants to be in terms of being an interdisciplinary, broad based, liberal arts school," said Holmes.

UNCA will be the only state institution to offer the biochemistry concentration in Western N.C., according to Holmes.

"This will make our students competitive in the job market with this curriculum because it is similar to that of our peer schools," said Holmes.



PHOTO BY JASON GRAHAM

Keith Krumpke, associate professor of chemistry, is involved in the biochemistry concentration.

Hiring new faculty is not necessary to teach the concentration right now, according to Holmes.

There are only two new classes being added for the concentration. The rest of the courses already exist in the biology and chemistry majors.

"We can cover it this year by hiring adjuncts. Since it is mainly a combination of courses that are already being taught, with different packaging, it does not require a new set of courses with new professors," said Holmes.

As the concentration's student enrollment numbers increase, the need for new faculty may arise if new sections need to be added or when new research opportunities become available, according to Holmes.

The funding for the concentration comes partly from general administration, according to Holmes. The N.C. Center for Biotechnology will also provide resources to institutions that offer biochemistry.

"I can assure you that our stu-

dents, when they graduate, will be as good, or better, than graduates from the larger schools," said Holmes.

The biochemistry courses will be a concentration instead of a major because of the requirements placed on the curriculum, according to Holmes.

"To do a major, you have to get permission to plan," said Holmes. "You have to have the plan approved by the general administration, and then it will take three or four years to get it implemented."

"If you add it as a concentration within an existing major, you can begin in a year or so," said Holmes.

The project to offer the concentration began a year ago when Holmes and Krumpke attended a conference at McAlester College in Minneapolis, Minn., according to Holmes.

The conference guided the chemistry department's design for the biochemistry curriculum, according to Holmes.

Biochemistry "is an emerging field. The pharmaceutical industry is booming," said Holmes.

"There are a lot of job opportunities for biochemists. Out of college, the lowest starting salary for a student with a degree in biochemistry was \$32,000," said Holmes.

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## Cellular phones given for safety

**By Allison Watson**  
Staff Writer

Bell Atlantic Mobile (BAM) and the North Carolina Coalition

Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV) came together and donated 10 wireless cellular phones to UNCA's public safety department to help protect students against domestic violence.

"I feel like these phones are a good idea, but their effectiveness is questionable," said Art vonLehe, an environmental science major.

If a student feels threatened, such as being stalked, they can go to public safety and pick up one of the wireless phones to keep with them in case of an

emergency.

The question concerns whether someone in a violent domestic situation will actually have the opportunity to pick up the phone and use it.

"We realize nothing is foolproof. These phones will still be available,

and may make the difference between life and death," said Allen Tasker, a BAM representative.

The NCCADV and BAM gave phones to other N.C. universities as well. The two groups felt that providing wireless phones to college campuses may save lives in the future.

"This is a chance to add more options towards safety on

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PHOTO BY JASON GRAHAM

Vicki Harris, public safety victim/witness officer, charges one of the cellular phones given to UNCA.