

News

UNCA ranks high in guides

Kay Alton
Staff Writer

UNCA ranks high as a public liberal arts school for students seeking quality education at an economic price, according to "Fiske Guide to Colleges 2001," "The Princeton Review's The Best 331 Colleges" and *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best College 2001*.

The ability "to get a liberal arts education for such a low price qualifies UNCA to be a best buy," said Mason Currey, a junior literature major.

"For my personal rating, I would give UNCA a seven on a one to 10 scale," said Adam Harwood, a senior computer science and math major. "UNCA does not offer courses in depth that I would like in computer science, because it is a liberal arts school."

Fiske ranks UNCA as the 14th best buy in public colleges in America. This is the 7th year UNCA has had an entry in Fiske, according to Weast.

"Sometimes these guides are not the be-all and end-all," said Philip Weast, assistant vice-chancellor for enrollment management. "It is just that right now we are a hot institution, and there is a lot of growing interest in us."

UNCA has a beautiful campus that is safe and easy to get around in, and the theatre department is good. However, students do not get along with the local community, have a number of cliques and are un-religious, according to Princeton's review.

"There are definitely a lot of religious groups on campus, so I would

disagree" with the review, said Currey.

Weast said these publications often do not know the right questions to ask of an institution. This fact points to the misinformation some feel about UNCA's community involvement rating in the guides.

"I do not agree that students don't get along with the community," Harwood.

The reviews ignore programs like the retirement interest in College for Seniors, the Key Center for Service Learning, the mentoring programs for elementary-age students conducted by UNCA students and the new childcare plans, according to Weast.

Also, at UNCA, intercollegiate sports are unpopular or non-existent, almost everyone smokes and student publications are ignored, according to Princeton's review.

"I have noticed that a lot of resident students smoke," said Currey. "I think that I agree that almost everyone smokes, but it is impossible to tell just by looking around."

Currey said he agreed that student publications are ignored, because he works with the literary magazine "Headwaters" and observes little student interest. He said he also noticed students disregarding *The Blue Banner*.

"I think that a lot of students ignore *The Blue Banner*," said Currey. "Some of the columnists are not very good, because personal opinion topics come out of left field and give a weak opinion."

The *U.S. News* online publication lists UNCA as 2nd in the 4th tier of their college ratings, with colleges in each category ranked against their peers, based on their composite weighted score. *U.S. News* publishes the ranks of the top schools,

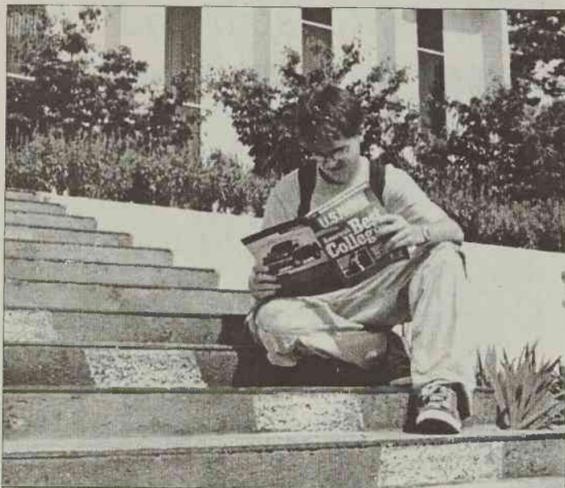


PHOTO BY PATRICK BRASWELL

Jason Shope, a senior multimedia arts and sciences major, reads the *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best College 2001*.

and the others are grouped into tiers, according to the publication. "The reason we wind up in the 4th tier a lot of times is because we are classified as a public liberal arts college," said Weast. "We are classified on a national basis, which means there are only a handful of us, and we wind up automatically in a very limited tier on a national scale."

According to Weast, student satisfaction with their education experience and campus environment and quality of instruction sums up the good points that these guides include.

These rankings in college guides "continue to keep our name in front of the public as a good buy, a good quality education, and the more

often we have that name recognition, the more often we appear on the radar screen of prospective students," said Weast.

Another issue that could appear as a result of the ratings is the size of UNCA, according to Weast.

Some people are concerned that the university might get too large even though the mission statement said the student body will never go over 3,500, according to Weast.

"Even though we increased the size of the freshman class, that does not mean we are going to increase the overall cap we have placed on ourselves," said Weast. "We value the small size of the institution and the experience that comes along with it."

continued from page 1

NEWS from the OUTSIDE WORLD

Polls show Gore and Bush close

Three polls by *Time* magazine, NBC, and Gallup show that presidential candidates George W. Bush and Al Gore are currently around the same level in potential voters' eyes. The polls showed Gore as being seven points ahead.

Knight fired for negative actions

Bob Knight, former University of Indiana coach, was fired after more than 20 years of coaching. He was "defiant and hostile" to students, and he violated the school's zero-tolerance policy by grabbing a freshman by the arm last week to lecture him about manners. The student said, "Hey, what's up, Knight?" His dismissal is a result of several weeks of negative behavior.

OPEC to increase oil production

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will raise oil production by 3 percent starting in October. They will produce 800,000 more barrels of oil a day, so that they can reduce the \$35 a barrel price that the U.S. currently pays.

Scientist reaches plea agreement

The fired Los Alamos nuclear scientist, Wen Ho Lee, who has reportedly downloaded confidential materials onto a non-secure computer, reached a plea agreement that will resolve federal charges regarding the way he handled private government information. Lee will plead guilty to one count of unlawfully gathering defense information, according to the associated press.

Italian flood kills 10 people

Floods killed at least 10 people and injured many more in the southern Italian region of Calabria early Sept. 10. Five people are still missing at the Le Giare campground where the flood occurred.

Clinton shakes hands with Castro

Cuban leader Fidel Castro attended the United Nations summit in New York last week. He shook hands with President Clinton, and also defended his communist revolution in a four-hour talk to 2,400 supporters.

\$1.6 billion asked for wildfire relief

President Bill Clinton wants to double the amount of funding to help fight wildfires in the West. He asked for \$1.6 billion from Congress so that communities affected by the fires could be restored.

Palestine delays statehood

The main Palestinian policy makers decided to delay statehood for at least two months, so that they could continue peace talks with Israel.

Cornel Pewewardy, a national expert on use of American Indian imagery in sports mascots, will give a lecture on "Why educators can't ignore Indian mascots" Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m. The event will take place in the Highsmith Center.

For more information, call (828) 254-9044.

Thefts

Some of the items stolen include purses and book bags. A portable stereo system in Zageir Hall and a video cassette recorder from Karpen Hall were both stolen last week. One book bag has been recovered, according to Adams.

"Anything they can do to make the campus safer is good," said Joe Edwards, a sophomore atmospheric science major. "I think it is really good on a campus as small as this that the police force is taking action."

Harris has not gotten any feedback from the students that have received the flyers. She hopes that students will be more aware of when they are putting themselves in jeopardy.

"I was thinking somebody would call and ask me about it, but no one has," said Harris. However, "that is okay, as long as they get the hint that all you have to do is go to the bathroom, and someone could take something or hide in your closet."

One incident of theft involved a

man who was arrested the first week in September for possession of stolen property. He had stolen two bottles of wine from the Dining Hall. He said that he had been living in the woods around UNCA, according to Adams.

"The campus and the greenery are beautiful, but people jogging or walking alone need to think about what else is in the woods, too," said Harris. "There is no telling how long this guy stayed out there."

Vehicles are also targets for theft, and Harris has been putting STOP pamphlets in automobiles.

"Lock your cars," said Harris. "I went by two last week that had cell phones sitting on the front seat and the windows were (partially) rolled down."

Harris also said that propping open dorm doors at night should be stopped since it invites crime.

"Do not prop these doors open," said Harris. "We make several checks throughout the night, and last week I found three or four of

them open at three o'clock in the morning. That is not good."

Some students said they agree with public safety.

"We are all too trusting. Students should not give out the codes as often as they do," said Dintsch. "You always have that idea that it is not going to happen to me."

If students are expecting a late night visitor they should go down and open the door, instead of propping open the door or giving out the door code, according to Harris.

"We have very low (crime) statistics. That does not mean that we do not have any crime here," said Harris.

Harris said that along with students' other responsibilities of studying and going to class, personal safety is their responsibility as well. Students who have been living at home, where parents probably took care of things like locking up the house, need to learn that these tasks are important.

"There are only so many of us,"

continued from page 1

WebMail

makes processing of attachments very easy," said Parker. "We are very excited about the benefits that this will offer UNCA and the students who decide to use it."

The benefits of WebMail include the increased accessibility of attachments, the ability to access the account outside of campus, and the use of the campus e-mail as a tool for faculty to reach students and vice versa. The new WebMail service cost the university \$5,000, according to Parker.

"It is important that the students in a college, who probably know more about computers than me, have the newest technology," said Lewis.

If students, faculty or staff are confused on how to start an ac-

count or use it, the computer center will help, according to Parker.

"We are having some workshops for staff members on how to use WebMail to the best of its abilities, and we are thinking about having some student sessions as well," said Parker. "It is not a difficult program to use and we hope that students give it a try."

What made it difficult for the Pine e-mail to compete with the other free e-mail services is that it did not offer the same performance and accessibility that programs such as Hotmail does, according to Parker.

"We need to provide the functionality that other free services do and with such an educated group of students, they know that we were

lacking these benefits before," said Parker.

The idea that students can get these services from their campus e-mail can be a strong selling point for the computer center.

"It is probably too late for me to change now, but if I was a freshman or sophomore, I would definitely change just to make things easier," said Davis. "Right now I have to run two e-mail accounts into one using a program, and it can be confusing at times."

Other students agreed with Davis and said that to change over now would probably be a waste of time.

"I am about to graduate soon, so I think I am just going to stick with Hotmail," said Jeremiah Neilson,



Every time a company makes a product, they also use energy and natural resources. Every time you make a purchase, you could save some of that energy and those resources. Cause when you buy durable and reusable products, there's less to throw away. And less to replace. For a free shopping guide, please call 1-800-2-RECYCLE.

BUY SMART. WASTE LESS. SAVE MORE.

Ad Council ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE finding the way that work