

The Blue Banner

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Rathburn guilty of assault

Kay Alton
Staff Writer

Darrell Rathburn, former UNCA public safety officer and Woodfin police chief, received a guilty jury verdict on seven out of eight counts of assault and illegal possession of a firearm on May 10, 2000, according to a May 11 *Asheville-Citizen Times* article.

"A sentencing date has not been set in the Rathburn case," said the office of the clerk of the U.S. District Court.

Rathburn may receive no active prison sentence and no fine, or the maximum sentence of 10 years in prison with a fine of \$250,000 for each count, which could equal 70 years in prison and a \$1,750,000 fine, according to the article.

"The probation office does an extensive background assessment before a sentencing date can be set, and this assessment generally takes several months," said the clerk's office.

Jurors in the civil rights case found Rathburn guilty of violating the civil rights of six citizens who testified that as police chief from 1995 to 1996, Rathburn choked, kicked, punched and pushed them during arrests or interrogation, according to the article.

Another separate count, according to a Oct. 6, 1999 federal indictment, was having illegally possessed a firearm after conviction of a domestic misdemeanor crime.

The U.S. Attorney's office and Rathburn's attorney, Tom Man-

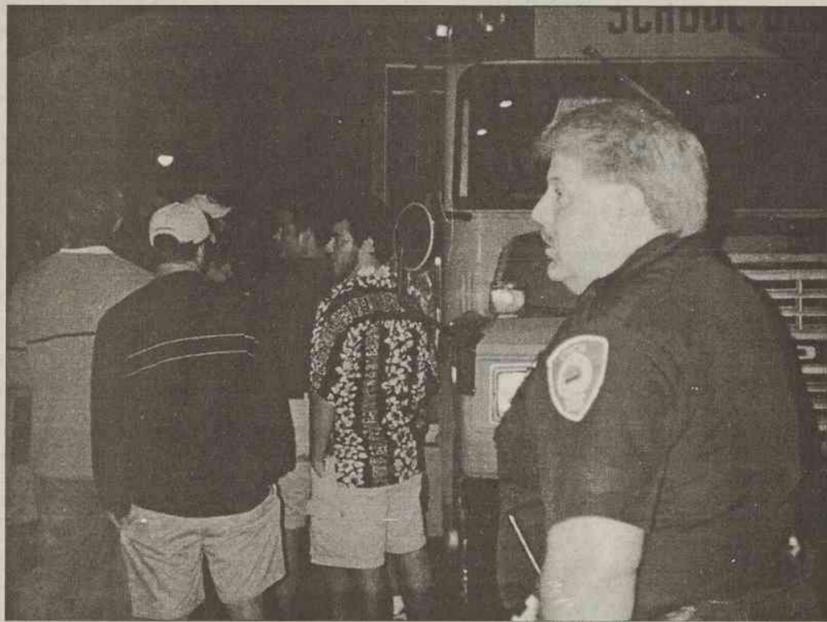


PHOTO BY JASON GRAHAM

Darrell Rathburn, former public safety officer and Woodfin chief of police, was found guilty of assault and illegal possession of a firearm.

ning, said that sentencing guidelines usually call for between four and five years in prison, according to the article.

Rathburn testified in the trial that he never used excessive force on any citizen. He also said the former and current Woodfin police officers who testified in the trial did not like his style of dedicated "by-the-book" police work, were all best friends and did not like him, according to the article.

Manning classified the suspects in this civil rights case as thieves, drunks and thugs who did not like

being arrested, according to the article.

Jurors returned their guilty verdict on seven of the eight counts after two and a half hours of deliberation, according to the article.

Rathburn resigned as Woodfin's police chief in Nov. 1998, and he became a public safety officer at UNCA, a position from which he was suspended after his indictment on Oct. 25, 1999.

Subsequently, Rathburn was separated from UNCA's employ on Nov. 8, 1999. He was later employed at Asheville-Buncombe

Technical Community College; however, he also left that job.

Merianne Epstein, director of public information, said there were no complaints against Rathburn while he worked at UNCA, according to an Oct. 28, 1999 *Blue Banner* article.

Rathburn's UNCA background check conducted by public safety was done in conjunction with the N.C. criminal justice training stan-

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Biking brings issues to U.S.

Justin Wolf
Staff Writer

Two UNCA representatives will participate in Girls on the Move, a 3,865 mile cross-country bicycling expedition that raises awareness of issues important to girls and women.

"It is a wonderful program for women like me to promote ourselves as mentors to the young girls," said Karen Chapman, a student library assistant. "It is great that we can promote such things as nutrition, being physically fit and leading a healthy life."

Chapman and Meg Turner, assistant director of special academic programs, will be stage riders, who participate for two or three weeks at a time. "I am just really excited to be

part of a national project to support and empower women," said Turner. "I am honored to be representing UNCA."

A team of 22 core riders will make the entire 10-week journey. In several instances, celebrities and community members will join the ride when it passes through their area, according to Ralph Lauren Girls, a sponsor of the event.

"I am glad to be sharing the expe-

riences I have with others," said Turner.

Turner will be riding from Chicago, Ill. to New York City, N.Y. from Oct. 20 to Nov. 17. Chapman, along with four other Asheville women, will be riding 1,421 miles from Denver, Colo. to Chicago, Ill. from Oct. 8 to Oct. 28.

"This is the first time that I have ever done anything like this, but I am sure it will not be the last," said Chapman. "I am a commuter bicy-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MEG TURNER

Meg Turner, assistant director of special academic programs, will be a stage rider for the event.

clist anyway, so this is just pushing me further into it. I am getting addicted to it."

Girls on the Move was created by Outward Bound, the largest non-profit adventure-based educational organization in the world. The concept for this event came from a group of instructors who witnessed positive shifts in girls' perceptions of themselves after finishing past

Outward Bound programs, according to their press release.

"Girls deserve to be celebrated and need role models to help them grow into strong and confident women," said Sara Schoolwerth, an Outward Bound employee. "I was at the Women's Conference when Girls

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Safety director search continues

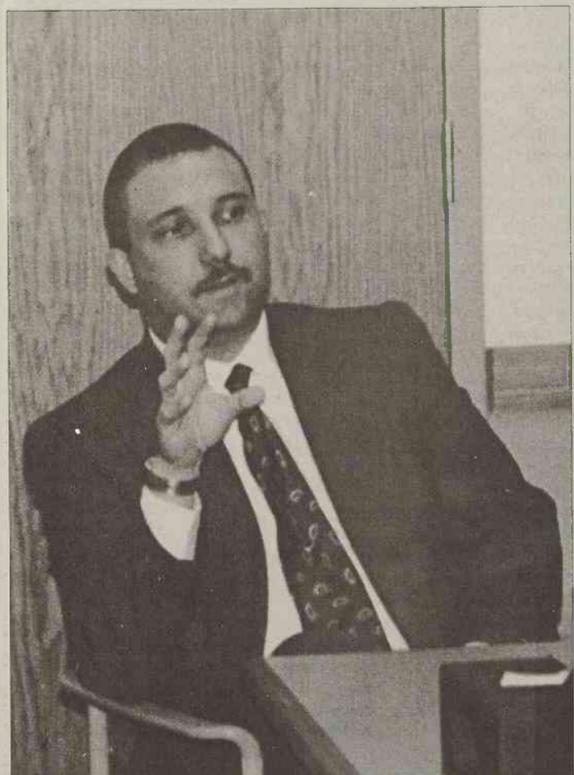


PHOTO BY SARAH LACY

Louis Caliendo, a candidate for director of public safety and UNCA alumnus, holds a discussion with students on Sept. 12.

Rachel Crumpler
Staff Writer

UNCA is currently searching for a new director of public safety. The search committee, comprised of five UNCA staff members and two students, has spent the last week interviewing three candidates: Louis Caliendo, Patrick Meyers and Marshall Bosley.

"I think (all the candidates) are qualified," said Merianne Epstein, director of public information and member of the search committee. "They all have an interest at being the best at what they do, have a record of working well with other members of public safety and other people in the campus community and have all done campus public safety work (before)."

The search committee began to advertise nationally for a new director this summer after Dennis Gregory, the current director of public safety, announced that he would retire. According to Epstein, the committee received approximately 60 applications, which they eventually narrowed to the three candidates they interviewed from Sept. 12-19.

"We were looking specifically for someone who would work the best on our campus," said Epstein. "We

looked at who showed leadership capacity, flexibility and understanding. We want them to have a good education and relate well on a diverse campus."

Gregory said the director of public safety position entails looking out for the campus community by monitoring the parking services, police department and security department.

"Basically, public safety is responsible for the safety and welfare of the campus community, including the students, faculty, staff and guests," said Gregory. "This office is responsible for parking services, for the police division and the security division of the department."

Candidate and UNCA alumnus Caliendo said that he wants to bridge the gap between students and public safety officers. Once students trust the officers, they will be more likely to confront officers with their problems.

"Being a graduate from UNCA, I know what students expect from public safety, and I know my job within the public safety office," said Caliendo. "I think I can work with both sides to bridge the gap between the two."

"I want the students to know the officers as people (and) as friends,"

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UNCA to give Liberia books

Annie Crandall
Staff Writer

Ann Weber, professor of psychology, is coordinating a book drive to donate reading material to help rebuild a library system in Liberia.

"They have nothing," said Weber. "They will accept any reading material, books for children, magazines, encyclopedias, romance novels, fiction, non-fiction, absolutely anything that can be read."

Through the help of her neighbor, Deb Hart, a UNCA alumnus, Weber initiated a drive for books and magazines on campus. Hart currently works for the N.C. State Department, and Hart contacted Weber after working for some time in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia.

"The civil war that ended just a couple years ago wiped out, among other things, the library. It destroyed the limited education possibilities that they had and devastated the country," said Hart ac-

cording to Weber.

This led to the idea of drop-off sites for donations, which are located throughout the campus. The main collection point is at the rear entrance of Ramsey Library at the doors marked "Books for Liberia."

"There is at least one collection box in every building and one on almost every floor," said Weber.

The first book drive for Liberia was a huge success, according to Weber. In early 1999, the books were shipped to the University of Liberia, a nursing school at Monrovia, and several elementary schools in Liberia.

In the first book drive, the library staff donated space for the books to be stored, helped box them, then helped load them into Hart's car and trailer to be taken to Washington, D.C.

The State Department arranged for the boxes of books to be shipped to the American Embassy in Liberia. From there, university students and

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