

THE BLUE BANNER

Volume 35 Issue 1

The University Of North Carolina At Asheville

February 7, 2002

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Men's basketball team holds on to first place in the Big South Conference

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Officials try to keep budget cuts out of classrooms

Kristen Willet
Staff Reporter

This year, UNCA has received \$49.3 million from the state following a four percent cut, which subtracted about \$1 million from the school's budget.

This reduction is in addition to permanent reductions to the budget required by the General Assembly in July 2001.

"We, the administration, have made a very conscious effort to keep the costs away from the classroom," said Steve Honeycutt, university budget officer. Honeycutt said the permanent re-

ductions, amounting to \$523,189, came from expenditures, such as cellular phones, travel, temporary wages, membership dues and community services.

Overall, Honeycutt said academic departments received a 12.3 percent budget cut, while administration had cuts between 18 and 28 percent.

"What the administration was trying to do was protect the students, trying to protect the classrooms as much as possible," said Honeycutt.

The maintenance departments on campus have received a 40 percent budget reduction over the last two years, said Honeycutt.

Salaries and benefits, which make up about 80 percent of the total

budget, were not affected by the cuts. Only non-salary areas were affected in the budget cuts, said Honeycutt.

"We were able to make these cuts without laying anyone off," said Honeycutt.

Instead, cuts were taken from ar-

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UNCA recognized as leader in landscaping

Elizabeth Moe
Staff Reporter

The National Wildlife Federation recently released a report recognizing UNCA as a leading school in campus landscaping.

"It is an ongoing program," said Melissa Acker, UNCA's landscape architect. "(We want) the students involved because they have a lot of good ideas. We are pleased to receive that designation and hope to keep going in the same direction."

"The State of the Campus Environment: A National Report Card on Environmental Performance and Sustainability in Higher Education" is a nationwide survey of colleges and universities with a graded report of their performance.

"The survey generated 1,116 responses from presidents, provosts, and chiefs of administration and operations at 891 of the nation's 4,100 colleges and universities (almost 22 percent of schools)," according to the NWF Web site.

As the first ever nationwide report on campus environmental policy, it examines over 20 different categories of ecological activity.

"The survey and resulting report will help schools assess, compare and improve their own environmental performance, and will heighten public interest in this very key aspect of educational performance," according to the NWF Web site.

Princeton Survey Research Associates and the NWF rated UNCA's campus landscaping and grounds management programs as an exemplary effort toward maintaining an environmentally sustainable campus.

For years, the landscaping team at UNCA, led by Acker, has been

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"We are real pleased to receive that designation and hope to keep going in the same direction."

- Melissa Acker, landscape architect

Enron collapses, stocks and pension plans plummet

Stuart Gaines
Staff Reporter

Details continue to surface about the collapse of the Houston-based Enron Corporation nearly two months after the company filed for bankruptcy.

High-level Enron executives, Washington politicians and the former Enron accounting firm, Arthur Andersen, have all been implicated in this growing scandal, according to an

Asheville Citizen-Times article from Feb. 1.

"I ask Congress to enact new safeguards for 401(k) and pension plans," said President George W. Bush in his State of the Union address Jan. 29. "Employees who have worked hard and saved all their lives should not have to risk losing everything if their company fails."

"Through stricter accounting standards and tougher disclosure requirements, corporate America must be made more accountable to employees and shareholders, and held to the highest standards of conduct," said Bush in his address.

This comment came late in the speech, which did not mention Enron by name at all.

Instead, Bush's address focused primarily on the war on terrorism and the economy, according to a transcription of the speech, available on the Asheville Citizen-Times Web site.

Many Enron employees lost their

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Workers reconstruct main entrance



LOU HORTON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

W.T. Weaver Boulevard will be under construction until the end of the school year as workers create a roundabout entrance into campus.

Erin Cox
Staff Reporter

UNCA's main entrance on W. T. Weaver Boulevard will undergo massive changes in the months ahead, as construction begins this semester to create a roundabout entrance, extend the greenway and implement a stream restoration project.

"I'm not really sure what all the construction is about," said Eric Hamm, a junior psychology major. "It's just kind of a hassle driving

and getting around. It slows progress getting from place to place."

Most students said they did not know what renovations were taking place, but they said the construction presents many problems when they try to enter or leave campus.

"I think they are doing an all right job keeping traffic going through," said Claire O'Brien, a senior mass communication major. "But, (the construction) is tearing up my car. My axles are about to drop off."

Tom Byers, executive assistant to the chancellor, said the university is implementing three separate

projects on the heavily traveled W.T. Weaver Boulevard, in cooperation with the city of Asheville and the North Carolina Department of Transportation, to be completed by the end of the academic year.

Some students said that school officials should not spend large amounts of money on reconstructing the entrance.

"I'm sure this is all for a good cause, but it seems to me that the money could be better spent elsewhere, like for the mass communication department or the art department," said O'Brien.

Stephen Baxley, UNCA facilities management and planning director said money for these projects comes from state funding, not the university.

"You can't sit on money," said Baxley. "You sit on it, and inflation takes away your purchasing power. We've got the money and we want to spend it as fast as we can and as wisely as we can. This means we're going to be doing an awful lot of construction at the same time."

While students, faculty and area residents sit patiently in construc-

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Student charged with possession of marijuana, paraphernalia and a weapon

Whitney Setser
Staff Reporter

A UNCA student was charged with three misdemeanors Jan. 13 for the possession of a weapon, marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

"Marijuana is not something we deal with every day, but it is a college campus," said Mike Slaughter, resident director for Founders Hall. "People do experiment."

Davis James Goldberg, an undecided sophomore was charged with the three misdemeanors.

He was unavailable for comment. Slaughter made a call to public safety when he noticed marijuana smoke coming out of Goldberg's room, according to the public safety report.

When UNCA public safety officer Steve Metcalf arrived, Slaughter gave him a blue cloth bag containing the confiscated marijuana and assorted pipes.

Metcalf also found two knives in

Goldberg's pant pockets, according to the report.

Marijuana is the most frequently used illicit drug in the United States, according to the Higher Education Center Web site.

"It is unfortunate that anyone on a college campus is using marijuana because studies have shown that it isn't mind furthering," said Slaughter.

Frequent marijuana use may be physically and emotionally harmful, according to the Higher Education Center.

It is often associated with other social and behavioral problems, including isolation, poor academic performance and crime, according to the Higher Education Center Web site.

"The school takes this situation very seriously," said Jerry Adams. "It is not uncommon, but we usually don't see a weapon associated with the possession of marijuana."

Students who carry weapons report more harassment, violence and a greater perception of danger on campuses, according to the Web

site for Cornell's Science News Report on weapons on college campuses.

"I wouldn't want to carry something like a huge gun around, but maybe something like mace," said Laina Stapleton, an undeclared freshman.

"I feel safe at UNCA, but I don't like walking behind Highsmith (Center) at night to get to Founders," said Stapleton.

Slaughter said that he feels safe on UNCA's campus, and he said the students also feel that way.

"There are few complaints or concerns about safety," said Slaughter.

Adams said all students should be conscious of the laws about weapons on campus.

He said he wants students to report any kind of violation they might have any information about.

"A lot of students are hesitant to report their friends. I would encourage them to at least let us know," said Adams.

"Any kind of a weapon on campus is a crime."