

THE BLUE BANNER



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New emergency phones installed on campus

Rain storm, cold spell kills butterflies

Whitney Setser
News Reporter

UNCA public safety and facilities management had two new emergency phones installed in the parking lots of Zageir and Owen Hall during the week of Feb. 12.

"I'm glad they have put a safety phone out there, because I was concerned about Zageir parking," said Lindsay Thoma, a junior environmental science major. "It is so far away for students to park and (have) to walk back to Founders and Mills Hall."

As new parking structures are built, all parking lots will be equipped with the wiring needed in case an emergency phone must be installed, said Lou Caliendo, director of public safety.

"We made a policy that as we expand parking areas and as we build parking decks, we will put in emergency phones as needed," said Stephen Baxley, director of facilities management.

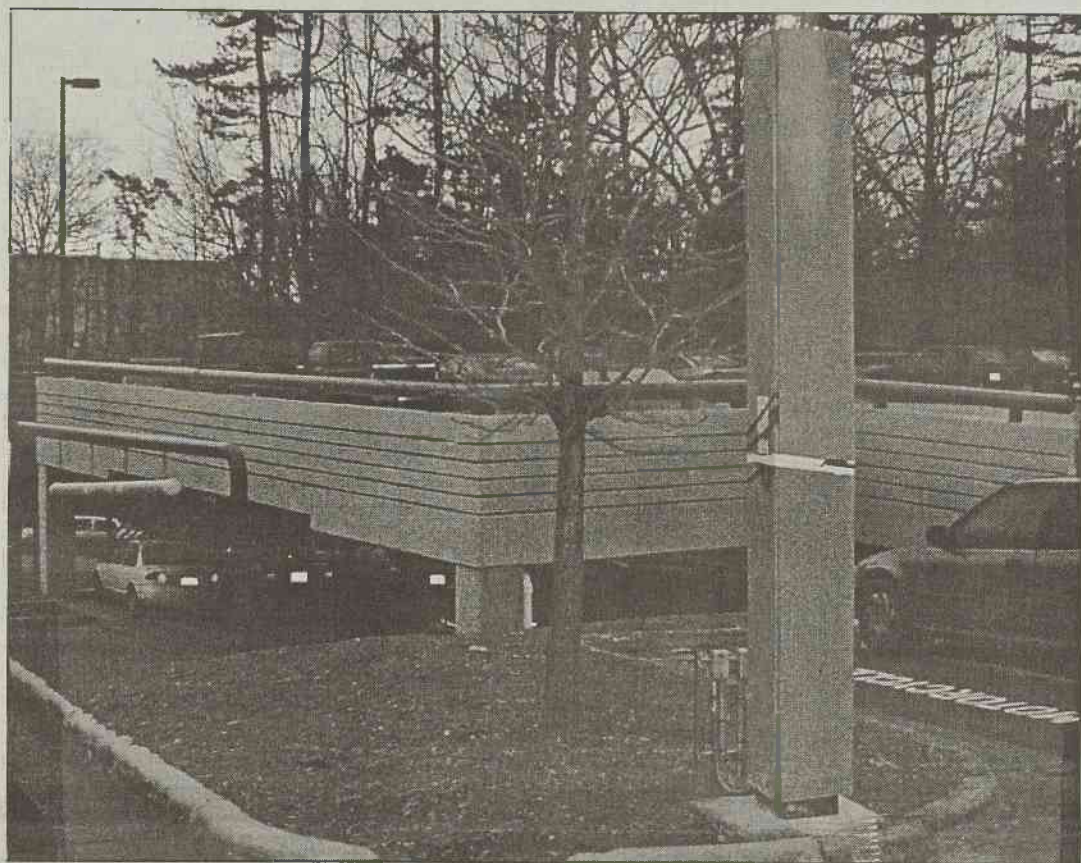
Now, UNCA has four emergency phones available, according to Caliendo. The phones are located in the dining hall and the parking lots for Campus Drive, Zageir Hall and Owen Hall.

"I feel pretty safe anyway, but it's nice to know they are putting the phones in," said Jim DeBardi, an undeclared freshman.

The older UNCA parking lots were not originally equipped with the wiring to support an emergency phone system, so installing the phones was costly, said Caliendo. The phones will be paid for out of the parking and safety fund, which was created out of parking fees.

"There is a lot of cost involved in getting a parking area wired for these phones," said Caliendo.

In addition to the cost of the wiring, a lot of time and planning goes into the installation of the emergency phones, said Baxley.



ED FICKLE/ PHOTO EDITOR

Two new emergency phones were installed during the week of Feb. 12. When the emergency button is pushed, the call is automatically dispatched at the public safety office.

First, the job must be advertised and competitively bid on by contractors who are willing to do the job, according to Baxley.

"We didn't get bidders, and it delayed action," said Baxley. "We had to start all over again getting bids for the job."

Caliendo said although UNCA's safety record is good, more arrangements for emergency phones should be taken.

"I'd like to see (an emergency phone) in the commuter parking lot near the main entrance," said Jerry Adams, public safety investigator.

Installing emergency phones has been discussed for the past five or six years, according to Baxley.

"Statistically, UNCA is a safe campus, but it only takes one incident to erase that record," said Baxley.

Each emergency phone is assigned a phone number. When the button is pushed, even if the caller is unable to speak, the number is automatically dispatched at the public safety office, according to Caliendo.

"I'd rather have an officer tied up being an escort or doing something from the crime prevention aspect than have to go and write up an incident report for an attack or assault," said Caliendo.

Anytime, 24 hours a day, public safety can send an officer to check on anyone who uses the emergency phones, according to Caliendo.

"Anything that makes people feel

safer on campus is a good idea," said Porscha Yount, an undeclared sophomore.

Caliendo said the student body is interested in the emergency phone system.

"I've spoken with students at different times around campus, and I know that they are interested in getting new phones put in around campus," said Caliendo.

Public safety and facilities management are both working with members of the Student Government Association to gain information on where new emergency phones are needed on campus, said Caliendo.

"I've spoken with several SGA members about . . . where they

"I'm glad they have put a safety phone out there because I was concerned about Zageir parking. It is so far away for students to park and (have) to walk back to Founders and Mills Hall."

-Lindsay Thoma
junior
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science major

would like to see additional phones placed," said Caliendo. Baxley said he would like to listen to any ideas students may have about the placement of new phones.

"Students who have ideas, suggestions or opinions (about emergency phones), we'd like to hear them," said Baxley. "They will help give us direction and priority."

Several students said they wanted more phones to be placed in poorly lit areas of campus.

"This is definitely a good idea for public safety to be looking out for (us), but we need to go further (with safety), especially considering the lack of lighting on campus," said Hope Huskey, a junior literature major. "We need more phones."

"We should have courtesy phones in buildings far away so we can make on-campus calls without having to use 35 cents to let people know we're fine late at night," said Laura Lewandowski, a sophomore multimedia arts and sciences major.

Elizabeth Moe
News Reporter

A rain storm followed by a severe cold snap killed between 220 and 270 million monarch butterflies in the Mexican mountains, according to *The New York Times*.

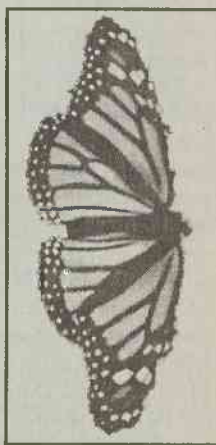
"It was macabre," said Dr. Lincoln P. Brower, a butterfly biologist. "I've been going down there for 25 years, and I've never seen anything like it."

Monarch butterflies lay dead in piles more than a foot high in some places.

Seventy-four percent of the monarchs in the Sierra Chincua colony and 80 percent of the monarchs in the Rosario colony were killed by the storm, according to a report by Dr. Brower and research teams from the United States and Mexico.

The Sierra Chincua and Rosario colony are the two largest colonies

of monarch butterflies in the United States and Mexico. With a few other small colonies, they comprise the entire breeding stock of monarchs for the Eastern United States and Canada. However, this incident should not jeopardize the existence of the species, according to Brower's report. Scientists said the entire species was not endangered because other smaller populations of monarchs that don't migrate to Mexico could be found elsewhere, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation Web site.



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Over 200 million monarchs died in a cold rain storm.

"This recent major loss of monarch butterflies is far from a chance event," according to the Forest Conservation Web site. "In the last 30 years, nearly half the prime forest in the area had been degraded or destroyed. Their dwindling habitat virtually guarantees that when an infrequent severe mortality event occurs, most or all of the population will be impacted."

The monarchs mass migration north from Mexico each spring, a highly unusual behavior for any insect, has been a subject of study for biologists for some time.

Journalist kidnapped and killed, video sent to U.S. officials

Elizabeth Moe
News Reporter



COURTESY OF GOOGLE.COM

Daniel Pearl reported for the *Wall Street Journal*.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation now possesses a videotape that gives undeniable proof that Daniel Pearl, the *Wall Street Journal* reporter abducted four weeks ago, was killed by Islamic extremists.

"His murder is an act of barbarism that makes a mockery of everything Danny's kidnappers claimed to believe in," said *Wall Street Journal* publisher Peter Kann. "They claimed to be Pakistani nationalists, but their actions must surely bring shame to all true Pakistani patriots."

Pearl is the tenth reporter to die while involved in coverage of the war against terrorism, according to

the Committee to Protect Journalists.

"The videotape showed Pearl speaking with someone, almost as if he were conducting an interview, when suddenly an unseen assailant grabbed him and slit his throat," according to *The Washington Post* Web site.

Feb. 20, someone posing as a journalist delivered the tape to Pakistani officials, who shortly sent it to the U.S. Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan.

Then, FBI officials began examining it to determine the identities of the abductors, according to *The New York Times*.

Pearl was the *Wall Street Journal's* South Asia bureau chief for about two years.

He began investigation into the case of Richard C. Reid, the British citizen accused of attempting to

blow up a commercial flight from Miami, Fla. to Paris with explosives in his shoes, according to the MSN Web site.

Pearl was gathering information on Reid's relationship with Sheikh Mubarak al Gilani, who studied Islam with him in Pakistan.

He was on his way to what he believed was an interview with Gilani when Islamic extremists kidnapped him, according to the CNN Web site.

Three days after Pearl failed to report home, Pakistani and Western news organizations received an e-mail that showed Pearl with a gun held to his head.

Jan. 30, the abductors threatened to execute Pearl if their demands were not met within 24 hours.

The demands included the release of all Pakistani prisoners at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay,

Cuba, where captured al Qaeda and Taliban fighters are held, according to *The New York Times*.

News organization officials received no further messages from Pearl's abductors until the videotape surfaced Feb. 20.

Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, suspected for involvement with the kidnapping, admitted to luring Pearl to his abductors by suggesting the interview with Gilani.

In court last week, he also said he believed Pearl had been killed, according to the CNN Web site.

American officials are attempting to extradite the main suspect to the United States for trial.

Officials said the Pakistani government is reluctant to send the suspected kidnappers to the United

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