

# THE BLUE BANNER



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## Bumgarner awarded for FYE program

Kristen Willett  
 News Reporter

Sarah Bumgarner received the Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate Award for her work as director of the First-Year Experience program at UNCA during a reception held Feb. 17 in Kissimmee, Fla.

"My award represents the work of the faculty who teach in the program more than anything else," said Bumgarner, director of the first-year experience program and an economics lecturer. "In my opinion, it's a university recognition, not an acknowledgment of a single individual."

The 21st annual National Conference on First-Year Experience, sponsored by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience & Students in Transition and the Houghton Mifflin Company, presented Bumgarner and nine other individuals with Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate awards.

Recipients of these awards share the common goal of improving the educational experience of first-year students, yet their methods for doing so are uniquely responsive to the particular institution settings they work in.

Last fall, heads of universities throughout the nation selected faculty members who exemplified excellence in working with first year students. Chancellor James Mullen nominated Bumgarner as a candidate.

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COURTESY OF UNCA

# Yeager indicted on eight counts

Rachel Crumpler  
 News Editor

A grand jury indicted Robert F. Yeager March 4 with eight charges, including three counts of embezzlement and five counts of obtaining property under false pretense, according to Buncombe County District Attorney Ron Moore. No date

has been set for a trial. "It's a very sad day for Bob himself and also for UNCA," said Merritt Moseley, a literature and language professor. "It's sad because, whatever the rights and wrongs of it, it makes UNCA look bad, and it makes professors look bad. We are a public university, and we have to maintain the public perception that we are good stewards of our money."

A former literature professor at UNCA, Yeager, who was removed as director of Pegasus Press in November, was unavailable for comment.

Mario DiCesare, a former director of Pegasus Press, said the original allegations shocked him.

"It's mind boggling," said DiCesare. "I don't understand the greed or the stupidity."

Four of the five false pretense charges concern travel expenses, billed to both UNCA and Pegasus Press, according to the Buncombe County Superior Criminal Court Clerk's records.

Bill Styres, UNCA's internal auditor, noted the double-billed travel expenses in his report.

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COURTESY OF UNCA

# Asbestos found in Carmichael

Lana Coffey  
 News Reporter

Carmichael Hall will be renovated as part of the bond referendum passed in 2000, according to Tom Cochran, interim vice chancellor of academic affairs. Part of the renovation will include the removal of materials containing asbestos.

"We're not going to work because there's asbestos in there, but we are glad that we get to do the work and take the asbestos out while we're in there," said Steve Baxley, director of facilities and management planning.

There is no way to know for sure if asbestos in Carmichael Hall has caused any health problems for anyone, but questions exist about the safety of the building, according to Melissa Burchard, assistant professor of philosophy who has had an office in Carmichael for five years.

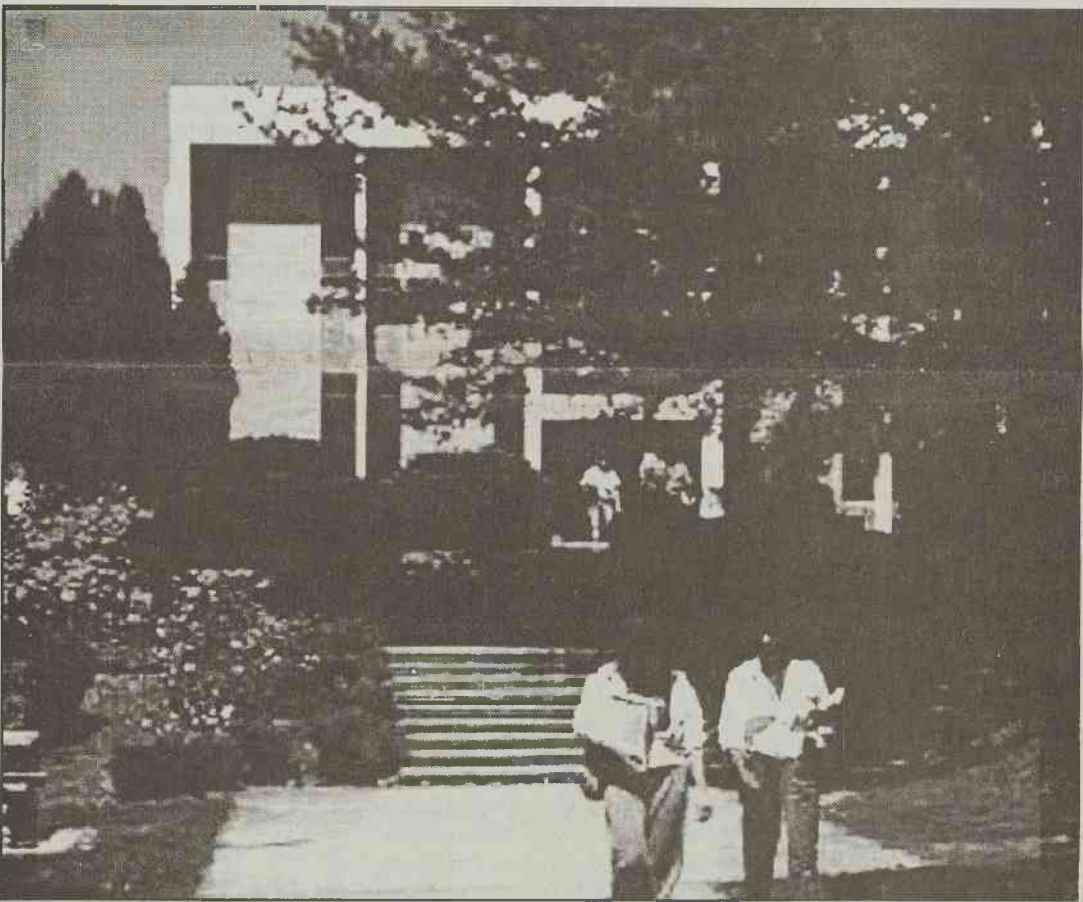
"There are people in the building who are very concerned that there are environmental causes in the building that are responsible for, or at least linked to, a number of cases of very serious illness that have occurred over the years," said Burchard.

Burchard herself has been sick recently, but said she has no evidence that her illness was linked to any environmental toxins in Carmichael.

"I don't have any evidence at all that this is linked to the building," said Burchard. "That's one of the problems, that we don't have evidence."

While there is asbestos in Carmichael, Baxley says the asbestos does not exceed dangerous levels.

There are two different types of



COURTESY OF UNCA

Carmichael Hall, which contains asbestos, will be renovated with money from the bond referendum.

asbestos, but the kind that exists in Carmichael is the less harmful of the two, according to Baxley.

The administration has told the faculty members with offices in Carmichael that the kind of asbestos in the building is relatively harmless at low levels, according to Burchard.

While a number of faculty members in Carmichael have had quite serious illnesses, Burchard said there is really no way of knowing if toxins in the building caused these illnesses.

"It may be coincidental that so many have gotten sick, not just because we live in this building, but because we live in this world," Burchard said. "There's no reason to think that we have high levels of asbestos."

Carmichael Hall, which was built in 1966, is probably the biggest project for remodeling, according to Cochran. It may even be torn down and rebuilt. However, the future of the building is still being

discussed.

The other buildings being renovated, other than Carmichael, include Zageir Hall, the Physical Plant and Highsmith Center. Several of those buildings contain asbestos, according to Baxley.

The physical plant and the floor tile of Highsmith Center are among the places where low levels of asbestos exist.

"We don't know of any health

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# Benefactor to UNCA dies

Rachel Crumpler  
 News Editor

Morris Karpen, a generous contributor to UNCA, died March 3.

"Morris was a modest man who respected each and every person for who they are and for the potential inside them," said Beverly Modlin, vice chancellor for university relations, in an e-mail. "We shall all miss him."

Morris Karpen and his wife Leah made considerable donations to UNCA.

They provided UNCA with two unrestricted endowments allocated for classroom enrichment, established an employee loan fund and provided the money needed to update the equipment in the mass communication department.

"It's just about impossible to summarize all they have done," said Modlin in an e-mail.

Karpen also benefited many institutions in Buncombe County. He donated land to the county to use for soccer fields, and provided start-up funds for a homeless shelter and battered women's shelter.

"He knew life was not always easy for others, and wanted to do what he could to help people, so they could, in turn, do more for themselves and for others," said Modlin in an e-mail.

Karpen founded Karpen Steel Products in NY, and in Asheville, he founded a new company called Laser Precision, which produced computer-generated metal parts.

"He is an incredible example of a person who has learned to use his mind to enrich his life and the lives of those around him," Modlin said in an e-mail. "He was a splendid example of 'learning for a lifetime.'"

# Woodfin police chief fired, sexual behavior leaked to media

Stuart Gaines  
 News Reporter

Protected state reports about former Woodfin Police Chief Pete Bradley's sexual behavior leaked into the media for political purposes during the scandal surrounding Bradley's dismissal. The scandal also includes allegations that Woodfin Mayor Homer Honeycutt

illegally "fixed" traffic tickets.

"It's a typical situation," said Lucious Wilson, a senior political science major. "The mudslinging going on between these Woodfin officials is not surprising, and I'll be interested in seeing the outcome of these events."

The Woodfin Board of Aldermen fired Bradley in a 5-1 decision Feb. 25, according to an Asheville Citizen-Times article from Feb. 25.

Bradley is the second police chief Woodfin hired within the past two years.

Former police chief Chris Fay said that he quit the same post last year because of professional disagreements with Honeycutt, according to an Asheville Citizen-Times article from Feb. 20.

Leonard Clark made the motion to dismiss Bradley in the closed-door meeting.

"Well I guess Mr. Mayor, I'll have to be the one to do it," said Clark. "It's a bad decision, but I make a motion that we relieve the chief of his duties."

The decision came following the release of portions of a State Bureau of Investigation report, which detailed Bradley's attendance at parties where men wore diapers as part of their sexual behavior, according to the Feb. 25 Citizen-Times article.

"I don't understand how anyone who wears diapers could make it all the way to police chief in any town," said Erik Perkins, an undeclared sophomore.

Bradley announced his intention to sue both town and state officials, including Honeycutt, following the announcement of his termination. "When you're voted out, you've got to walk out with your head held

high knowing you did the right thing," Bradley said after receiving news of his dismissal. "There's other places for the battle to continue, not here. That's what courtrooms are made for all across the country," said an Asheville Citizen-Times article from Feb. 25.

The report was first released about seven months ago by the office of

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