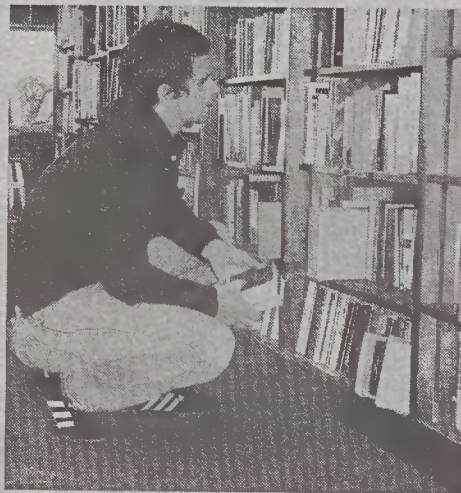


# Books

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10



Left, Battery Park Book Exchange supports a dog-friendly environment and accepts donations for local animal rescue agencies. UNCA alum and Enka High School teacher, Stuart Annard browses books at Montford Books and More.

Susan Terry - Staff Photographer

the Biltmore Estate, the assortment represents the best of many regions known for producing fine products, according to Wright.

"We expect most of the reading and buying to be during the day, and most of the selling of wines and champagnes to be at night," he said

With Sante Wine Bar located just around the corner, Wright's store will not only see retail competition in books but in beverages as well.

"We sell a lot of still wine or table wine," he said. "The amount of champagne and the amount of wine we have is almost equal, sparkling to flat wines. But, we're definitely in the wine business and so are they."

Taking credit for the novel idea of a bookstore with a champagne bar, Wright recognizes that in order to pay the rent in a downtown location, it helps to know how to make use of competition and create a business with a distinction.

"To be in certain retail venues you need to be able to take a look outside the box, and everybody is selling books," he said. "In the book business you want to find readers, people who have an interest and respect for books and that comes with the power of pricing," he said. "At night, our champagne bar is going to be commodious, but sedate. It all helps add up to make a bookstore viable."

Wright plans on easing the store into business so any kinks along the way can be worked out. Officially, he hopes to be open by Feb. 11.

"I have a lot more books than wine, by a factor of tenfold," he said. "So, I'm always a bookstore that serves wine."

## Montford Books offers a home away from home

Less than a half-mile away from Battery Park Book Exchange, Kay Manly, owner of Montford Books and More, offers readers a comfortable and warm setting in which to browse.

"Here, what we're trying to do is have a place for people to have a little retreat from the outside world; it can be like a second living room," she said.

Opened since mid-January, Manly's new store utilizes the space that previously housed The Reader's Corner. She purchased the business in December.

"With the recession, it's a bit of a risk, but I think one thing that is most likely true is that each of the bookstores in the Asheville area is a little bit unique, or has something unique to offer," Manly said.

Montford Books carries two floors worth of titles, as well as vinyls, CDs and DVDs.

"We know that Asheville and this area is a place where there are a lot of readers, which is different than some communities," Manly said. "But Asheville is a reading community, so this gives people a lot of choices."

As the store progresses, Manly also wants to carry local pottery and artwork for sale.

"I think there is a lot of support in this area for independent and small businesses. There's a lot of support from the consumers," she said.

In addition to Montford Books, Manly works full-time at A-B Tech in the adult education program. She admits seeing

some great changes affect the downtown area in her 30 years in Asheville.

Manly believes Montford Books will attract a wide variety of people because of the quality and affordability her bookstore offers.

She plans to have an official grand opening on Valentine's Day.

"It's been interesting piecing together things," she said.

## New book stores give back to the community

One thing Montford Books and Battery Park Book Exchange share are plans to embrace the community in various ways.

With 10 percent of all sales being donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western North Carolina, Manly's official grand opening on Valentine's Day is scheduled to include door prizes, sweets and hot cocoa.

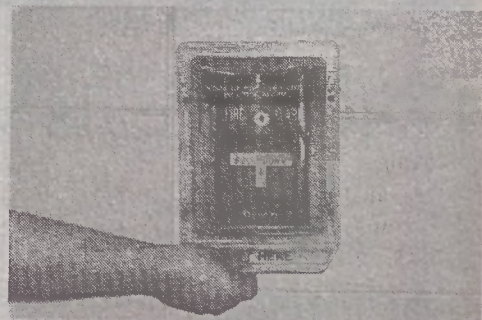
In memory of a beloved pet, Book Exchange, supporting a dog-friendly environment, asks for contributions to local animal rescue agencies in return for a small discount on purchases at the store, according to Wright.

"We will be asking people, if they're willing to make a contribution to some of the areas Life Guards for dogs and we will give them a discount in the book store," he said.

Since Wright's store is located in the historic Battery Park Hotel building, his future plans include revisiting famous authors of historic and literary relevance to the Asheville area.

# Alarms

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Susan Terry - Staff Photographer

Fire alarms in Mills Hall are reported to have been going off since 2007.

alarms. "I understand the necessity for them, but it's pretty frustrating early in the morning, especially when you hear it's just faulty equipment," she said.

Students began taking issue with the faulty fire alarms in Mills last semester.

At one point, SGA senator candidate Austin Mack sent an e-mail to the entire student body with the subject line, "Who is PISSED about these alarms in Mills?"

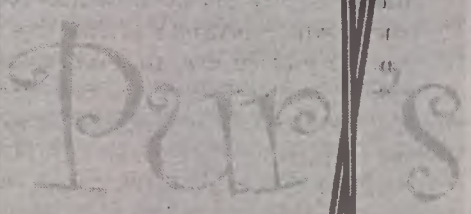
Mack, a Founders resident, reported he experienced excessive false alarms during a trip to Mills.

"I was thinking," Mack said. "If they go off when not suppose (sic) to, will they even go off when there is a real fire?"

*"It's pretty frustrating early in the morning, especially when you hear it's just faulty equipment."*

— Rebecca Abide

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