

Library Rip-Offs Wrecking Havoc

by d. patrick miller

A new security system has been instituted in the Atkins Library that will hopefully curb what has become one of that establishment's biggest headaches: the ever-increasing rate of book thefts. At this point the security system consists of a simple check-out procedure that is administrated upon a library patron's exit from the building. Library personnel simply inspect the patron's books and/or journals to make sure that they do not include stolen library property.

At the present time library personnel are being shifted to handle the book watch, but within a few weeks uniformed security guards will be hired to perform the same duty. And according to Joe Boykin, chief librarian at Atkins, next year's security system will be composed of an electronic surveillance mechanism similar to that now used by the Public Library of Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

Atkins Library has been without a security system of any kind since it moved into its new buildings in the fall of '71. Mr. Boykin stated that library funds have been insufficient since that time to provide any type of safeguard against book theft, and that it was necessary for him to document the book theft problem before requesting non-library funds.

A recent random sample inventory of the library volumes provided Boykin with such documentation, and the statistics proved rather frightening. Since August of 1970, the date of the last inventory, roughly seven to ten percent of the library volumes have disappeared. Boykin says that a more thorough inventory now being conducted will probably turn up some of those books, but a definite theft problem cannot be denied. Seven percent of the library's present ownings equals nearly ten thousand books.

The presentation of these rough statistics to the University administration finally gained some funds to provide security measures for the library. For the remainder of this year the funds will cover the cost of the check-out procedure, including salary for uniformed guards. Next year a much larger expenditure will be made to install some type of electronic system.

Boykin stated that the electronic system will be installed because its long-range cost is much less than the long-range cost of guard-hiring. At this time three systems are being considered for possible use in the library; they are the "Check-Point" system (now used at the Public Library), the "Tattle-Tape" manufactured by 3M Corporation, and the "Bookmark" by Remington Rand.

An official of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library described Check-Point system in use in airports. Check-Point consists mainly of a metal-detecting device placed at the library check-out plus metal strips placed in all library volumes. To avoid setting off the mechanism (which results in the automatic locking of exit turnstiles), a library patron must hand the library materials that he is taking to the check-out librarian, who inspects them and returns them to the patron after he has passed through the detector.

UNCC's library security system will probably be at least similar to the Check-Point system, and over a six-year span should cost six to seven thousand dollars less per year than hiring guards for the same amount of time. The actual total cost of a mechanical system runs



Lonely

—journal photo/m. aldrige

somewhere around eight to nine thousand dollars a year. Much of this is spent in the initial installation.

Chief Librarian Boykin of course urges student cooperation with all of the library's security attempts, hoping that students will understand that the measures are being instituted for their convenience and protection, and not to cause discomfort. If book thefts are decreased it should become much easier to find needed books. It is not too easy to do so now.

The library is also beginning a "missing book" service in conjunction with the new security measures. At this time cards are available on each floor of the Dalton Tower on which the names of needed but missing books can be listed. The cards are to be handed in at the check-out desk, and that is where a search for the missing books begins.

After completion of a procedure of searches and double-searches for the missing volumes, the ones that fail to show up are re-ordered if the need for them is still urgent. By this system the library should be able to recover from theft losses of the past, while its new security system prevents book theft from continuing as a present and future problem. With patron cooperation backing up both the new library systems, Atkins Library may begin to fulfill its potential while easing the frustration of its users.

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Elections: The Contenders

The first of three flights of Spring elections will take place next week on March 21 and 22. Major officers in the SBG, SUB and the media will be elected at that time.

The Student Government presidency as three contenders: Richard Butterfield, a veteran legislator and current chairman of the Judicial Committee; Steve Robards, he present Vice President of the SBG and David Freeman III.

Contenders for the SBG Vice presidency are Tom Duley, the Chief Justice for the Student Superior Court and Jack Dunne and Phil Nesbitt, both veteran legislators.

Rules Committee chairman

Kenneth "Fish" Foster will try to out incumbent Randy Russell from the chairmanship of the Student Union Board while Garry Hill and Toby Carr will both try for the Vice Chairman's slot.

In the media, Jay Eaker will try for a second term as *Journal* editor if he can ever finish his first. Cartoonist Max Street is trying for the business manager's slot. Both are uncontested.

The *Rogues 'n Rascals* editorship will be contested by incumbent Tom Alsop and Richard Gant, a BCA major in design. Jeffrey Beam is alone in the field for the editorship of *Sanskrit*.

Vying for general manager of *WVFN* are Chuck Gross and Jim

Yates. Bill Farrington (alias I.W. Harper) is uncontested for the assistant manager's spot. Charlene "Chuck" Mannix and Buddy McManus are competing for the program director's job.

Pat Gardiner and John Lindsay are both running for news director while old timer Joe Blanchard is alone in the contest for chief engineer.

Frank Burke is uncontested for the business manager's position.

The *Journal* invites all candidates to submit a statement for publication in the March 19 issue. **Deadline is Thursday, March 15.** Statements should be approximately two typewritten pages double spaced.

Library Usage Policy

Immediate family members (spouse and children over twelve years old living with parents) of all members of the UNCC community eligible for regular university identification cards may acquire a library-use identification card.

The circulation policies for these users will be those governing student circulation. The spouse or parent who is the member of the UNCC community (faculty, staff, or student) will be held responsible for all overdue books, fines and/or lost book charges. All cards will be issued for an academic year, ending just prior to beginning of the fall semester. They may be renewed by presenting them to the Circulation Librarian.

Procedures and Regulations

(1) An application form for the family library identification card, may be obtained from the Circulation Librarian.

(2) The completed application form together with the current student or faculty identification card of the spouse or parent should be presented to the Circulation Librarian between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

(3) The identification card prepared at that time by the Circulation Librarian must be taken to the security office for the photograph that will be attached on the corner of the card. The charge for the card will be \$5.00.