



James McClure Clarke (D)

## Clarke, Democrats sweep elections

James McClure Clarke won the close race for the 11th district congressional seat. The race was "too close to call" throughout the night because neither candidate held a comfortable leading margin. The final tally showed Clarke having 22,939 votes and Hendon trailing with 21,598 votes.

In Buncombe County in the state legislation races the Democrats dominated the elections. All the incumbent North Carolina state representatives maintained their seats. Democrats Marie Colton, Gor-

don Greenwood and Jim Crawford swept the polls.

Sheriff Tom Morrissey (D) soundly defeated republican hopeful, Ken Durham in the race for Buncombe County Sheriff. J. Ray Elingburg (D) won the race for Buncombe County Clerk of Court defeating Betty Budd (R) by a wide margin.

The consolidation issue was defeated outside the city by a vote of 20,883 to 12,642. The issue passed inside the city of Asheville, but did not pass outside the city. The bill had to pass both in the city and in

the county and surrounding municipalities before consolidation could occur.

In the national tallies the Democrats won control of the house by 24 seats. The Democrats now have 265 seats to the Republican 166 seats. This will cause the House to be slightly more liberal. Experts are predicting a tough time for the President in the remaining years of his administration. The Senate remains having a Republican majority with 54 seats. The Democrats have 46 seats in the Senate.

# Kaleidoscope

servicing the students of the University of North Carolina at Asheville

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### Questionable construction?

## Student center requires repairs

By Jonathan Austin

Buncombe Construction Company began repairs on UNCA's student center Monday, just four months after completion of the \$5 million project.

Workers for Buncombe Construction, the general contractor for the structure, began to remove portions of the student center's concrete walkway after numerous complaints from UNCA officials.

According to Sam Millar, UNCA's plant engineer, "He [the contractor] has not done his concrete levels properly, so you have low spots where water would just lie and puddle. It was a hazard," Millar said, "and in the winter, when it freezes, it would have been a real concern."

Dr. Erik Iovacchini, vice-chancellor of student affairs, commented on the situation, saying, "They [the contractor] thought the work was alright. We didn't."

The school's major complaint was that the concrete slabs at the front doors of the student center did not slope enough to allow water drainage.

"This is a correction," said Millar, "of something that has been discussed for three or four months. This has been an ongoing thing."

Millar said, "If we hadn't gotten the job done now, we would have been stuck with it for the life of the building."

"We don't have to pay for it; that's part of the construction," Millar said. He added, "The Chancellor has withheld some funds from their payment until they [the contractor] get the work done."

Ben Treece, president of Buncombe Construction doesn't completely agree with Millar.

Concerning the payment with-

holding, which totalled \$10,000, Treece said, "I think that's a strong arm tactic and they didn't need to do that." He continued, "It's just a matter of lack of faith on their part."

Treece doesn't believe that the work was done incorrectly. He agrees that there should have been more slope to the concrete, and that there should have been a drain installed. But he was quick to defend the way his company did the work.

"Sure there should have been a drain in the sidewalk, but it wasn't in the blueprints!" he said. "We took steps to solve the problem. We sandblasted the area, trying to smooth it so the water would run off. We even sawed little joints through the concrete to let the puddles drain," he said.

"I agree," Treece continued, "that the slabs would not drain properly. But in my opinion, the digging didn't need to be done."

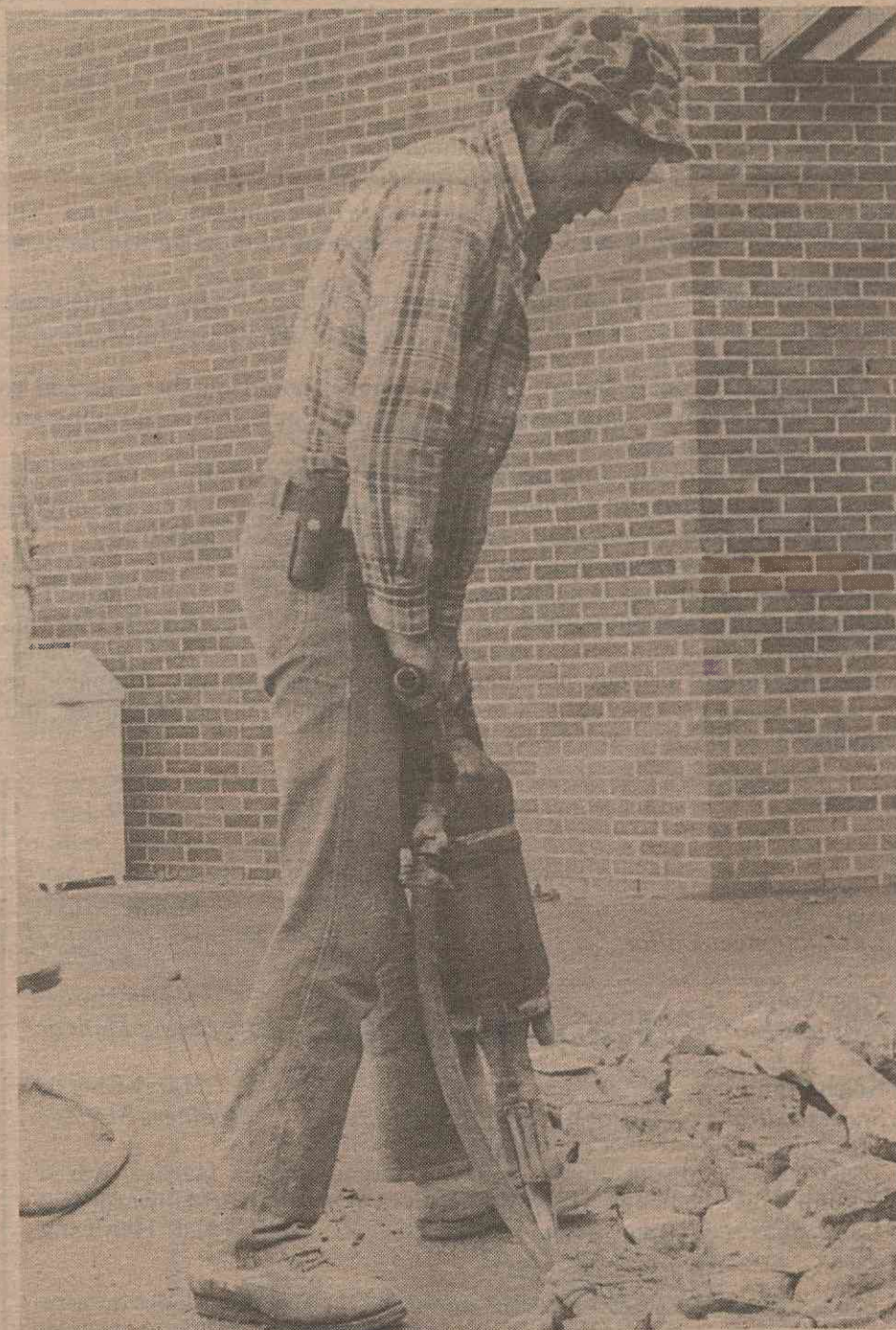
Possible ice formations in the winter were the major reasons to install a drain.

The installation, though, was a definite distraction to the students. One student, when asked about the work, replied, "I don't mind the short detour that much, but I do mind the noise."

The noise of the work was loud, due to the use of a jackhammer to remove the concrete. The thickness of the concrete, along with the presence of steel reinforcing rods in the walkway, caused the work to last more than five hours Monday.

When asked why the work wasn't done earlier in the year, before school, Treece replied, "Well, the building was just barely completed

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Work began Monday on reconstruction of the sidewalk in front of the new student center. The student center was completed only four months ago.