

THE BLUE BANNER

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Purse snatchings plague campus

By Penny Kramp

Just a couple of minutes is all the time it took for Kathe' Davenport to answer the phone. When she returned to her Swain dorm room she couldn't find her purse. Two hours later it was found in a neighbor's shower--minus her \$4.

Joy Nichols fell asleep last Wednesday afternoon and awoke to find her purse missing. A friend found it in a clothes dryer in Aycock dorm.

Kim Clontz visited her neighbors across the hall from her Highrise dorm room last Tuesday. She glanced out and saw a man leaving her room.

A few hours later a shopper found Clontz's wallet in a bathroom in Woolworth's on Haywood Street. She lost \$10 and a blank check.

These are just three incidents of a crime which is quickly becoming a campus epidemic.

UNCA Department of Security and Services reported six purse thefts in January.

Several common threads connect the crimes:

- .an unlocked door
- .a woman's purse or wallet

.dumped evidence
.the description of the suspect.

Charles Carreno, director of UNCA security and services, described the suspect as a tall (6'), slender black male in his early 20's.

Arnold Jones, security officer, said it is doubtful a UNCA student is committing the thefts.

"I'm quite sure if it was a student someone would recognize him," said Jones.

"It is hard to say if it is the same person. It could be friends working together," said Carreno.

Carreno said carelessness is the main cause of the problem.

"There has been no forced entry into anyone's room or desk. The trend seems to be to walk through buildings, see an unlocked door, grab the purse, and run," said Carreno.

Unless there is physical evidence, or the person is caught in the act, security cannot make arrest, according to Carreno.

"Nine out of 10 times the woman is not interested in prosecuting anyhow. They just want their money

back," said Carreno.

OFFICE THEFTS

Phyllis Hutchins got her money back--by taking matters into her own hands.

Hutchins, UNCA university relations receptionist, left her office on the second floor of Lipinsky for a couple of minutes Jan. 9.

When she returned a "tall, slender black fellow in a bright blue jacket" emerged from her office.

"He asked for the math department and went on. I thought it was weird so I looked in my purse which I kept under my desk, and my wallet was gone," said Hutchins.

"I can't describe the feeling that overcame me. I was so furious that I ran out in the hall. When he saw me he began running and I did too," said Hutchins.

The thief ran down the steps so Hutchins "kicked off" her high heels and continued the chase.

"I never thought about the danger. All I could think about was my credit cards and pictures that I could never replace," said Hutchins.

She finally cornered him downstairs in the music department and demanded he return her wallet.

"At first he denied having it but then he began pulling up all these layers of clothes and pulled out my wallet," said Hutchins.

He then ran back up the steps and out toward Zageir, according to Hutchins.

"I wouldn't recommend anyone trying what I did. I just acted on reflex," said Hutchins.

Marion Thompson, infir-



YOU NEVER FORGET YOUR FIRST PAPER. Sarah Sisk, 18 months, finds the Banner amusing.

Staff photo by Sylvia Hawkins

New library put on hold

By Cathy James

UNCA's library expansion plans are on hold because former Governor Jim Hunt's budget proposal did not include funds for it, according to Senator Dennis Winner of District 28.

President Friday's request submitted to the State Advisory Budget Commission contained the request for the funds.

However, it appears the request was not on Hunt's budget and ultimately it did not make it to the legislature, according to Mel Blowers, UNCA librarian.

"I'm not sure who let the horse out of the barn; I'm just concerned

with trying to get it (the request) back in," said Wayne McDevitt, special assistant to the chancellor and former director of Hunt's western office.

"The addition doesn't look favorable, but we haven't given up," said Blowers.

Estimated costs for the addition is between \$6.9 and \$7.2 million.

Blowers said this year is unpredictable as far as the budget is concerned. The request for funds for the expansion is largely a political decision now.

"The delegation is committed to do whatever we can to get the request



THIS SCENE IS BECOMING more frequent around campus as the number of purse thefts rise.

Staff photo by Sylvia Hawkins

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