

Who is
Gary Larson?
Page 10

Rackham to be
next vice chancellor
Page 5

Are new laws
affecting UNCA?
Page 3

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Serving the students of the University of North Carolina Asheville since 1982

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(Photo by Jonna McGrath)

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY: Gordon Greenwood, former UNCA baseball player when the university was known as Asheville-Buncombe College, ini-

tiates groundbreaking at the new baseball and soccer fields. Construction began March 25. (See related story on page 13.)

Gramm-Rudman Act having limited effect

By Julie Ball

The federal budget cuts caused by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act will have little significant effect on students who receive financial aid at UNCA, according to Carolyn McElrath, UNCA director of financial aid.

Student aid funding was cut by 4.3 percent on March 1.

McElrath said she is more concerned about President Reagan's proposed budget cuts for the 1987 fiscal year. His proposed budget calls for even deeper cuts in financial aid.

"Gramm-Rudman is not as bad as what the president is proposing," said McElrath.

Reagan's budget requests this year include:

- slashing the cost of the Guaranteed Student Loan pro-

gram by one-third, chiefly by requiring students to pay interest while they're in college. The government now pays the interest until the student starts repaying the loan.

- merging work-study and supplemental opportunity grants and giving them \$400 million, which is half the funds now spent on them. Furthermore, work-study would pay only 50 percent of a student's wages, down from 80 percent.

- eliminating students whose families earn more than \$23,400 from eligibility for Pell Grants.

McElrath said it is important for students to remember that proposals are not laws and that they must be approved by Congress.

continued on page 7

Hardy wins runoff for SGA president

By Julie Ball

In a close runoff election, UNCA students elected Ken Hardy as 1986-87 president of the Student Government Association by a margin of only eight votes.

The election was held March 26 in the Highsmith Center.

SGA Elections Commissioner Jack Gardin called the runoff on March 13 after Steve Magoon and Hardy were the top two vote-getters in the general election.

The two failed to receive a majority of the total vote, which is required by the SGA constitution.

According to the results, Hardy received 130 votes while Magoon obtained 122 votes.

Upon his victory, Hardy said his primary goal as president is to improve communications between commuters and the SGA.

He cited the elections as an example of problems in communication.

"If they (students) don't know what's going on, how can you represent them?," asked Hardy.

He said for the next election he hopes there will be more debates between candidates.

He said he wants to "try to make students more aware of candidates goals."

Hardy added that he wants to continue the Guardian Bulldog Escort System and the Designated Drivers program.

He is also interested in setting up a Volunteer Action Center.

Students would volunteer, and local agencies would have a pool of volunteers to draw from when they needed them.

These agencies include Big Brothers and the Red Cross, according to Hardy.

As president, Hardy must appoint six students to fill the empty senate seats in the SGA. These seats are vacant because not enough candidates ran for the posts.

He said he already has several candidates in mind.

"We've got a list of about 12 and we've got six seats," said Hardy.

The senate must approve the appointments.

Gardin said the turnout was "real good for a runoff election," although some students said lack of time and limited voting facilities may have contributed to the lack of participation by the majority of students.

Weekend Weather

The UNCA Atmospheric Science department provides this information to the campus community each week in the Blue Banner.

Thursday: Fair with a high in the mid-70s.

Friday: Sunny and mild with a low in the mid-40s and a high near 75.

Saturday: Increasing cloudiness with a low in the mid-40s and a high in the upper 70s.

Sunday: Variable cloudiness with possible showers; a low near 50 and a high near 70.