

The Banner

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Report questions firearm policy

by Michael Gouge
Assistant News Editor

Officer Dennis Gregory recently told *The Banner*, "I feel the firearms issue is dead." Gregory said UNCA has no need for changing the current firearms policy prohibiting security officers from carrying guns on the day shift. In his view this policy "is not an issue."

But many others, including the Student Government Association (SGA), feel differently. "In order for our security force to be effective, we need to allow them a way to defend themselves and others," said the SGA in a letter to Chancellor David Brown.

In 1985, Robert E. Cansler of the N.C. Attorney General's office offered his personal views of UNCA's security force. Many of the suggestions in his 44-page report were acted upon, but one that was not acted upon was his position on the firearms policy.

Cansler said in his report, "This writer is well aware that carrying of weapons by campus officers was a topic of extreme controversy during the late sixties and early seventies. This writer was unaware of any controversy of this type in existence today. To the best of this writer's knowledge, UNC-Asheville is the only constituent institution of the

UNC system at which this topic remains an issue."

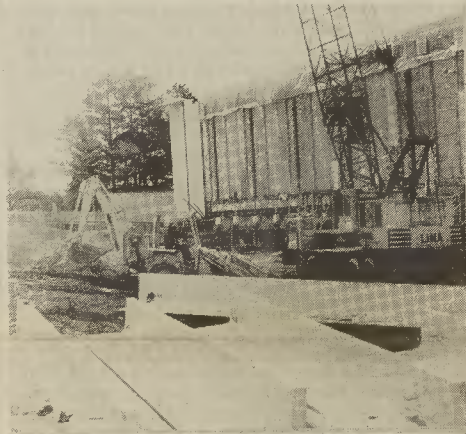
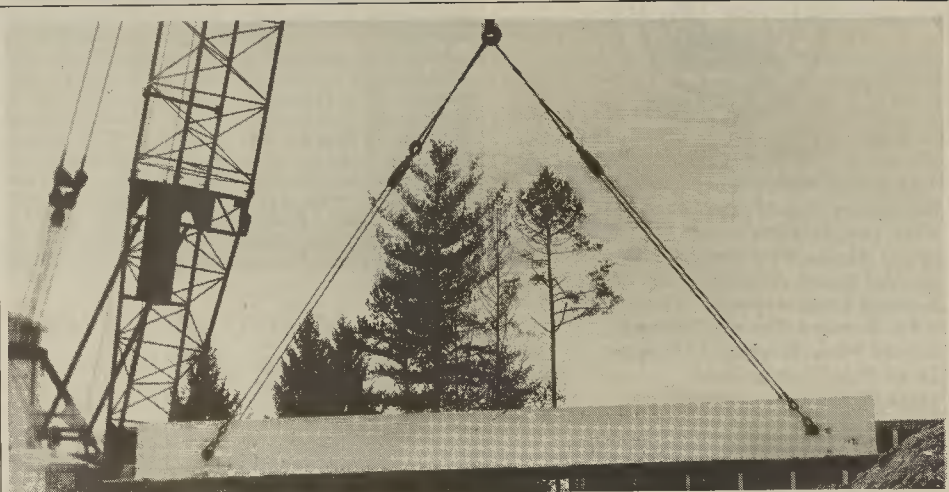
Several area universities were questioned about their firearm policy. When asked if A-B Tech has such a firearm policy, Bruce Clyne, director of security, responded, "Absolutely not!" Clyne added, "Our security staff are armed 24 hours-a-day. We are just like UNCA; we have a public road running through campus." Clyne also said, "Being in the city of Asheville, we are in a high crime area."

Clyne said, "For the safety of the officer and his duty to protect the people on your campus, firearms are necessary equipment." Clyne said possible criminal targets such as the bookstore or business office, open only during the day shift, require police protection.

According to a uniform crime report of Asheville and Buncombe County, Clyne said the statistics indicate "a 42 percent increase in breaking and entering" plus other significant increases in larceny and assault.

A-B Tech is not the only school that has a different firearm policy than UNCA's firearm policy. Bill McClure, assistant director of public safety at Western Carolina University, said, "We don't

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Staff Photos-- Susan Dryman

A 75 ton crane (top) moves a column of Ramsey Library for storage. Brant Ussery (lower left) and Steve Olin (right) stand on

the 25,000 ton columns. The library construction (lower right) is scheduled for completion by May, 1990.

National paper recognizes UNCA

by Vicki McCoy
Staff Writer

UNCA received national attention in a recent article in *USA Today*. The article focused on students who were accepted by Ivy League schools but chose to attend smaller universities instead.

Michelle Zacks, a UNCA student who was accepted by Yale University, was one of the students interviewed by *USA Today*. According to the article, Zacks said she did not want Ivy League "elitism." The article also said UNCA had the third largest increase of applications among smaller universities for the 1988 school year.

John White, director of admissions for UNCA, agrees with the information in *USA Today*. "Our applications are up 20 and 30 percent ahead of last year," White said.

White said there are several reasons why UNCA is increasing in popularity. "Size and cost are major considerations," White said. "At UNCA, we are small. We can be more personal."

White also emphasized cost as a contributing factor in choosing UNCA. "It costs an out-of-state student less than \$7000 to go here as compared to \$18,000-plus at the Ivy League schools," White said. "Students are much more consumer

oriented. They want a good education but at a good cost."

Michelle Franklin, a double major in mass communication and sociology, said cost was important in her decision to attend UNCA. "It's ridiculous to pay over \$18,000 at an Ivy League school if you can get an education that's just as good at a smaller, less expensive school," Franklin said.

According to White, academics are also an important part of the scope of UNCA. "We allow students time to explore and be diversified. You can enroll and be undecided about your major," White said.

Franklin also said she liked the emphasis placed on academics at UNCA. "They really stressed academics when I came to UNCA for an interview. That really impressed me," Franklin said.

Dr. J. Michael Gillum, professor of literature at UNCA, said the general education requirements at UNCA were different than at other schools. "Our general education program is one of the good things about UNCA," Gillum said.

According to Gillum, most schools allow students to select courses from the beginning levels without

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Columns preserved for new library

by Scarlet Bell
News Editor

If a student walks past the Ramsey Library construction site, he or she might notice a stack of white columns assembled on a plateau of dirt next to the building.

These 20 columns are being stored until they are reattached to the new library addition, so that a part of the old library will be a part of the new, according to Steve Olin, the on-site architectural representative of Boney Architects.

"It's an unusual project. We're taking an old building that was built in the early 60's...and we're taking off the skin, saving it, duplicating and reproducing the panels, and putting them back on a new addition which is larger than the original building," Olin said.

"It's part of the philosophy of not having to destroy something in order to create something new."

Olin said that approximately 40 percent of the "skin" of Ramsey Library was being

salvaged by preserving the white columns. Brant Ussery, the on-site contractor of L.P. Cox Company, said that saving a part of the old building would help preserve the "character" of Ramsey Library, also.

"The use of pre-cast panels as a cosmetic skin for a building is something that's just come about in the last 50 years," Ussery said. "It's become more and more prevalent now in new designs than ever."

"The original character of

the building has been preserved by using the same techniques, and the same materials, just to make it larger," he added.

In order to remove the white columns from the library, Ussery said the weight of the columns was mathematically calculated, the crane size and manpower needed to move the columns were determined, and the original contractors were contacted so that he and his

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Student elections computerized

by Melissa Church
Staff Writer

UNCA students will be voting for student government candidates on computers during the upcoming elections. This is the first time in election history that the voting has been computerized.

"The voting will be just like what they are doing in most major cities now," Chris Brown, vice-presidential candidate, said.

The elections will be held on March 6 and 7 for the offices of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and senators.

"The main reason we're doing this is for accuracy," Kevin Frazier, freshman

senator, said. "We also feel that it will provide a more professional and respectable way to vote."

"Also, it will provide much faster results," Frazier said.

The votes will be tallied by the VAX machine, which will be more accurate than a person counting paper ballots, Frazier said. He added they will still have the Scantron sheets to back up the computer's count if there is any dispute.

Frazier explained that there will be two parts to the voting. "First, the person running the booth will enter the student's I.D. numbers into a computer. It will come up on the screen whether or not the student is a legitimate

student at UNCA and whether or not they have already voted."

After the student is checked off by the computer, he will be given a Scantron sheet that has been modified for voting, Frazier explained.

There will be four locations on campus where students may vote. There will be a voting booth in the Carmichael Hall lobby, the Rhoades Hall lobby, the library and the Highsmith Center lobby.

The elections are being run by the Student Government Association Elections Commission, which is headed by Donna Hudgins.

Because the voting booths will be spread on campus, the

candidates are going to have to divide their time, Brown said.

"I think it will make a much more fair race because you are not concentrating in one particular area," Brown said. "You are really going to have to be spread out all over the place to cover your people."

Brown also said that this new voting process should open the elections to commuters. He said he felt in past years the commuters did not really know there were elections going on unless they went through the Highsmith Center.

Hudgins, elections commissioner, also said she

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