

# The Blue Banner

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In tune

Photo by Sandra Sigmon

"Womansong," a singing group, performed recently in Highsmith Center during Women's History Month.

## Former security officer files suit against UNCA

By Vicki McCoy  
News Editor

A case charging UNCA with violating a North Carolina General Statute was dismissed in court last Friday.

The suit, Charles C. Dewberry v. The University of North Carolina at Asheville, charged that UNCA had violated N.C.G.S. 126-7.1, which says that state employees must be given preferential consideration in hiring when another state position is being filled.

Dewberry, a former UNCA security officer, claimed that the statute had been violated when he was not hired as the Director of Security and Services, a position currently held by Jeff Van Slyke. According to Dewberry, he was a state employee when the committee filled the position.

Assistant N.C. Attorney General Tom Ziko, who represented UNCA, subpoenaed members of the search committee who were in

charge of filling the position. Yet of the six members of the committee, only Pete Williams, the director of housing and residence life, and Eric Iovachini, vice chancellor of students affairs, testified.

In response, Dewberry called Van Slyke and himself as witnesses to support his case.

When Williams, who was the first to take the stand, testified that approximately 25 applications were taken for the job, and each member of the committee reviewed them individually.

"We were supposed to pick the top five applicants and put them on an 'A' list," Williams said. "Then we were to make a 'B' list and a 'C' list."

Williams said Dewberry did not make the top five of any committee member's list.

Dewberry, who represented himself at the hearing, asked Williams if the committee received any guidelines about the qualities the best candidates would possess.

Williams responded that guidelines had been given.

"We were interested in finding someone who had a degree in criminal management; who had some college experience, preferably someone who had worked on a college campus, and we were obviously looking for someone who had experience," Williams said.

When asked if the committee discussed hiring veterans or state employees, Williams said that those qualifications had been mentioned but were not given as specific instructions.

In approximately one hour of testimony, Williams testified that he did not know about the possible violation of state law at the time and said he would not have ruled any differently if he had.

"I think Mr. Van Slyke was the best qualified," he said.

In further testimony, Williams

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## Security loses two officers

By Kim Cooley  
Asst. News Editor

UNCA has lost two of its security officers within one week of each other, according to security officials.

Kevin Reardon, was dismissed from the UNCA security department on March 21. The details surrounding the reasons for Reardon's dismissal are sketchy. Jeff Van Slyke, chief of Security along with Eric Iovachini, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs refuse to comment.

"Reardon was not mad or vindictive. He knew what he did was wrong and was very sorry he did it," Van Slyke said. Van Slyke would not release the reasons for Reardon's dismissal. "It just didn't work out," said Iovachini. "We have a period of time in the State Personnel Act to review employees. Sometimes it is best to make the break right away. We don't have to give the employees much information. I don't feel we have to."

Reardon's dismissal is clouded by rumors of him pulling a gun on a student in the UNCA cafeteria in a joking manner. Van Slyke nor Iovachini would comment on the rumors.

Larry Layman, UNCA security guard turned in his resignation to the security department at 6 a.m. Tuesday, effective immediately.

"After a 5 year investment, I find no joy in severing my relationship with UNCA. I do so only because I can no longer tolerate the arrogance and ignorance that has dominated the administration of the Department of Security and Services since the arrival of Mr. Van Slyke," Layman said.

"This guy doesn't have credentials to support his arrogance. He has less training than any officer in the department," Layman said.

"Layman was bitter," said Van Slyke. "It doesn't bother me that he is gone. It's the best thing to happen to the university in 5 years."



Photo by Chris Gore

Something for everyone

Scott Duyck and his parents, Lamar and Joyce, learned more about UNCA on Visitation Day

## Lonise Bias conveys hope

By Michelle Newton  
Sports Editor

Lonise Bias, mother of the late University of Maryland basketball star Len Bias, gave "A Message of Hope" in Lipinsky Auditorium on March 20.

"God took one man to save many. Len Bias has done more in death than he could have done in life for this nation," Bias said.

She began her talk by challenging young people to take a stand on what is right. "We need more people to take a stand. When you don't take a stand for what is right you are just as bad as a drug dealer on the street."

Bias has traveled the country for four years challenging young persons and adults to wage war against substance abuse.

"I know what I'm talking about," said Bias. "I've paid my dues by travelling this nation talking to young people."

"The enemy is destroying our children like crazy. We must go beyond just saying no."

Bias' son, Len, died in 1986 from cocaine use only two days after being drafted by the Boston Celtics. She has turned this loss into a mission to help others and

she tries to make her audience understand that they have no power over drugs.

"I don't care what you think. When you mess with drugs you are saying you can walk on coals, shake the hand of satan, and come back untouched," said Bias. "Our institutions are running over with people who thought they had power over drugs."

"Every time I get up to speak, my son's death is rubbed in my face over and over again, but I just hope my message will cause you to take a stand for what you know is right," Bias said.

Bias also addressed the topic of alcohol in her talk. "Being 19, 20, or 21 is nothing but a number. Maturity is a state of mind, not a number or what you look like," said Bias.

"How can you drink responsibly when the front part of your brain is affected first by alcohol and that is the part that controls decision making. Most young people today just aren't mature enough to drink and it's time for us to take a stand on it."

Bias went on to say that there are lies that young people don't

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## Smoking restrictions strong possibility

By Jackie Gasperson  
Staff Writer

If a number of UNCA students and faculty get their way, NO SMOKING signs will start going up at various locations on campus.

Approximately twelve students and faculty members formed a committee in order to have certain areas designated for smokers.

Currently, the committee is exploring what specific restrictions they will propose.

"We are getting a report together that covers the problems, the solutions we will propose, and a very specific outlook concerning what areas of the buildings should be designated smoking areas," said Roland Leatherwood, a member of the committee.

Right now we feel strongly about banning all smoking in hallways and classrooms, said Leatherwood.

After touring all the buildings, asking people their opinions, and gathering various information, the committee will then take the

written proposal to Chancellor David Brown for approval.

As far as controversy goes, not many students seem to oppose the idea of having designated smoking areas.

"A lot of students who were very against it have come out and said that they can't see the propositions as being unfair. Some of them have actually ended up joining the committee," said Leatherwood.

Those people who want smoking designated to areas argue that this does not place unfair restriction on the smoker's rights because nonsmokers are the ones being forced to breathe someone else's smoke.

According to Jim Petranka, assistant professor of biology, "the smoking debate should not boil down to a fight between nonsmokers who demand clean air to breathe and smokers who demand the right to abuse their bodies any way they please."

"It should be a united effort to solve one of our most pressing

social problems," said Petranka.

"Smokers should aggressively support any actions that may help them kick the habit," continued Petranka.

However, trying to ban smoking all together would definitely cause an upheaval.

"[If smoking was totally banned,] I might drop out for that reason. It's not because I have an uncontrollable habit. It's just the idea," said Joe Blackmon, a student smoker.

I think that in each building there should be a place to smoke, continued Blackmon.

According to Leatherwood, various universities have tried to ban all smoking and the reactions were unfavorable.

"Forty states have now adopted legislation nationwide to ban or restrict smoking in state institutions. The few states that have not, including North Carolina, are primarily states with strong tobacco lobbies," said Petranka.

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## Students engage in drug awareness

By Linda Greene  
Staff Writer

UNCA students are participating in a variety of events observing the first official Drug Awareness Week on campus this week.

Activities were scheduled throughout the week, including Literature Fairs located in the lobbies of Carmichael, Highsmith and Zager buildings.

Milena Vari, a member of the Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC) and one of the coordinators of the event, stated her concerns. "There is a definitely drug problem on campus. Our goal is to change attitudes toward drug use. Right now there is pot, LSD, and 'shrooms' being used. Cocaine isn't around, mainly because the word is associated with death."

In addition to SHAC, sponsors of Drug Awareness Week include the Counseling Center and a newly-formed group on campus called S.H.A.P.E., Students Hunting Alternative Pleasure Experiences.

Vari explains the purpose of Drug Awareness Week. "We are tying this week together with the Alcohol Awareness Week held last semester. Hopefully this will become a full year of events promoting education and awareness to change attitudes," Vari said. "Many students believe they're young and invincible, nothing bad can happen to them. If we can change those attitudes with new approaches we can make a positive difference not just with the individual but throughout the community," Vari stated.

For a complete list of events, contact the Counseling Center.