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Dec. 1,  
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## The Blue

# BANNER

"Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing is like shoveling the walk before it stops snowing."--Phyllis Diller

**WEATHER:** Variably cloudy with a chance of showers Saturday. Mostly sunny and mild Sunday. Highs near 60. Lows in the 30s.

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## SGA PRESIDENT IS OVERPAID \$1,100; SENATE INVESTIGATES

**TERI SMITH  
NEWS EDITOR**

A Student Government Association (SGA) senate investigation committee presented a report on Nov. 21 regarding its investigation into allegations of malfeasance on the part of the SGA president, Gerard Moses. The investigation committee was formed to "investigate the accuracy of rumors alleging the misconduct of Moses," according to an SGA resolution that evolved from an executive session of the senate on Nov. 16.

According to SGA sources, questions were raised when it was discovered that Moses had received SGA scholarship monies at the beginning of the semester, before the money had been approved by the senate. It also appeared that Moses had been doubly awarded monies last year, totaling an overpayment of \$1,100.

There's no question I've been overpaid," said

Moses. "But I did not know I had been overpaid, and I didn't wrongfully take money from anyone."

The investigation committee recommended that the Senate should not further investigate allegations of malfeasance against Moses, that the SGA should examine its rules and procedures concerning the dispersal and internal control of its assets and that SGA reconsider its use of the term "scholarship" in its allocations of funds, according to the report. Further, the committee "strongly encourages the administration of UNCA to examine its procedures of dispersal and allocation of funds, and to examine its systems of internal control."

"Things escalate through rumors, and the investigation committee was formed to clear Gerard's name," said Ryan DeSear, vice president of SGA. "A committee of that nature is always formed to protect an individual's rights."

SGA scholarships are awarded at the end of each

semester after an approval vote by the senate. Last year, monies, totaling \$1,100, were reportedly removed from the SGA scholarship account by wire transfers and applied to Moses' account. An additional \$550 was applied to his account at the

"Now it appears that Gerard may have to repay \$1,100," said Combs.

It does not seem clear at this point who will have to be repaid, according to Combs.

Combs said that last year's office manager did not pick up on the discrepancy.

Moses had listed his SGA scholarship on a form in the financial aid office when applying for financial aid.

"Everyone who applies for financial aid if supposed to let us know about any resources they receive," said Carolyn McElrath, director of financial aid. "Gerard did what he was supposed to do."

"We put it [Moses' SGA scholarship] on the system, and it was allowed to feed into the business

**"I do think there are some problems within the business office or financial aid, that this situation even occurred," -- Ryan DeSear, SGA vice president**

end of each of the semesters [when SGA approved scholarships], according to sources within SGA.

"The same thing happened this semester," said Robbie D. Combs, office manager for SGA. "But during a budget committee meeting, a senator questioned why scholarship monies had already been deducted from the SGA budget when they had not yet been approved. I proceeded to find out."

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## A Break From The Usual Routine



Students from Ahn's Tae Kwon Do Institute demonstrate their abilities in Lipinsky Auditorium.

Phot by Lat Ray

## Students Put Knowledge To Work

**Dan Clifton  
Staff Writer**

A recent survey involving Buncombe County residents was conducted on campus by UNCA students. Selected mass communication students participated in the 1994 Buncombe Poll, which was funded through the Appalachian Center for Social Research.

"The primary purpose of the survey was the student experience and the student use of the data gathered," said Mark West, survey director and mass communication professor. "The second goal was to examine some issues in hopes of better understanding local and national politics."

A total of 28 students from two classes, mass communication theory and mass communication research, took part in the survey.

"I cannot praise our students highly enough. They were very professional, and very motivated," said West.

"They did an exceptional job in conducting the survey and there were no problems with the student interviewers at all. Everything went just as I would have hoped," he said.

"The first couple of calls were difficult, but after that it got easier," said Jeff Howell, senior who participated in the

survey. "I enjoyed it. I thought it was fun to talk to people and get their answers."

Some skepticism was aimed at the undergraduates not being able to conduct the survey, according to West.

"Some people thought that undergraduates weren't sufficiently sophisticated or motivated to do a large scale survey," said West. "I was delighted to prove them wrong."

West points out that many undergraduates at UNCA are paying for their own education, and many are of non-traditional age. This, according to West, is a reason for the commitment students have for their work.

"I've always thought that UNCA students were more motivated than students at other universities," said West. "(UNCA) students have a degree of self-motivation that I think is unusual."

The majority of the students who were involved in conducting the survey plan to be journalists, according to West. The benefit for these students is that they will better understand the limitations of surveys.

"Students will better understand what numbers mean and how the numbers are created by a survey," said West. "I think it makes for better reporters and it makes for more literate consumers of survey data."

"For me, there was a definite benefit in working on this project because I plan to return to work in the public relations field," said Teri Smith, student director of the survey. "The basis for good public relations programs is research."

All students who participated must now do research concerning at least one particular question on the survey.

"Students have the data to generate their own research, and so students become part of a research project," said West. "And one of our major goals here at UNCA is to involve undergraduates in the process of the creation of knowledge."

The survey involved 423 randomly-chosen Buncombe County residents, who responded by telephone from November 6 through 10. Questions ranged from the economy, to health care, to the job President Clinton is doing in office.

For Howell, one of the surprises of the survey was the response to the religious question concerning being 'born again.'

"I was a little surprised on how many people answered that they were 'born again'," said Howell. "I would have thought it to be less."

In fact, 61.1% answered "yes" they were 'born again' or have had a 'born

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## Will Over 60% Of the Student Population Have A Space To Call Their Own?

**Teri Smith  
News Editor**

Plans are currently being made to reallocate space that will become available in the Highsmith Center when the new dining facility opens next month.

This week, members of Encore, an organization for non-traditional students, learned that the Highsmith Center staff is considering the option of converting the commuter lounge to office space. The revelation occurred less than a month after Encore members met with Larry Wilson, vice chancellor for academic affairs, to discuss issues that were of particular importance to commuters and other non-traditional students. Two of the primary issues for the group were the allocation of space and the unavailability of telephones.

"Encore really needs an identifiable space, where commuters and other non-traditional students can come to have meetings, where the organization can conduct its business, and where the

organization's supplies can be centrally located," said Carol Schramm, advisor to Encore. "From our point of view, that space absolutely must have a telephone."

"We are currently a nomadic organization, with things being scattered in the trunk's of cars and all over campus," she said. "Encore is working to serve a large segment of the student population, and I believe we can do that job more effectively if we have a recognizable space, rather than being scattered."

"This issue [about the allocation of space] comes immediately after we return from Thanksgiving break to find a bunch of new parking spaces across from Owen painted with green stripes," said Renee Barger, a non-traditional commuter student. "It's like a slap in the face, and I'm not sure who we're supposed to believe anymore."

Commuter students make up over 60% of the total student population at UNCA, according to Sharyn McDonald, director of Highsmith Center.

"I think we can clearly say that we are going to try

to create better space [for commuters] and that there's going to be more space and that it will be in the vacated dining hall," said McDonald. "I can't tell you what it's going to look like, in terms of walls or anything else, until the physical plant meets with us and tells us what is possible."

"I am concerned about the groups besides Encore who have asked for space," said McDonald. "It will be a group decision, not an individual decision. And, if Encore has greater needs, and who decides if they are greater or not, someone has to make that decision."

"I don't know that everybody is going to be happy with every decision we make," she said. "We don't have an ideal situation here and we don't have enough space here for everybody. So, what do we do, temporarily, to take care of most everybody."

McDonald said she is scheduled to meet with the Administrative Cabinet on Dec. 5 to "discuss the preliminary plans for the temporary space and the assignment of vacated space."

Wilson said that he was not aware of any plans to convert the commuter lounge to office space and that he plans to discuss the concerns raised by members of Encore with the Administrative Cabinet. He has already sent cabinet members a memorandum outlining the major concerns.

Underdog Productions is sponsoring a Critical Issues Symposium on the Highsmith renovation on Dec 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Side Door. There will be a panel discussion about the Highsmith Center and its future renovation. The panel will include Chancellor Patsy B. Reed, Larry Wilson, vice chancellor for academic affairs, Eric Iovachinni, vice chancellor for student affairs, Arthur Foley, vice chancellor for financial affairs, Ronald D. Reagan, director of facilities planning, and Sharon McDonald.

"This will be an opportunity for students and others to bring their ideas, suggestions, and con-

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