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Weekend Weather: Partly sunny with highs in the 60s, lows in the 40s.

The Blue BANNER

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

November 30, 1995

Female student reports threat from armed male in dorm room

Andrea Lawson
News Editor

A UNCA student allegedly entered the dorm room of a female student with a gun on Nov. 19 and threatened to rape and kill her, according to public safety reports.

The incident began on Nov.

19 at around 10:30 p.m., according to safety reports. A female campus resident stated that she was awakened by a male student. According to reports, he told the student he was not thinking rationally and that he intended to rape her, kill her, then drive to Greensboro and kill someone who had

previously brought charges against him. When the student asked him if he had a gun, he said it was in the living room hidden under a blanket.

The student was able to get him into the living room, where she gained control of the weapon, according to the report. The student asked him to

stand on the other side of the room, and he told her how to unload the gun. She talked to him for a few minutes, and agreed to have breakfast with him in the cafeteria the following morning, according to the report. The student stated she had no further contact with him after breakfast and reported

the incident the following morning, according to the report.

Jeff VanSlyke, director of public safety, said no formal complaint has been filed against the male student. VanSlyke also said that the student has been officially suspended from school.

VanSlyke said the pending felony charge against the stu-

dent involves burning of personal property and took place on Greensboro. According to records on file at the Guilford County Courthouse in Greensboro, the date of the student's previous felony charge was June 28, 1995. VanSlyke said he be-

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Students voice safety concerns at forum

Renee Slaydon
Staff Writer

Students were given a chance to voice complaints and concerns about campus security in a forum held on Nov. 15 in Laurel Forum.

The two-hour forum allowed five panel participants to speak for the first hour. During the second hour, students and the panelists participated in a discussion concerning desired changes and issues with campus security, date rape, and sexual harassment. According to participants, about 20 students showed up for the forum.

Panel participants included Eric Iovacchini, vice chancellor for student affairs; Melissa Himelein, assistant professor of psychology; Maggie Weshner, director of UNCA's counseling center; and Rodney Miller and Richard Reynolds from the department of public safety.

Iovacchini began the discussion by saying that it is his personal belief that UNCA's campus is relatively safe. According to Iovacchini, most of the problems in campus security are crimes of opportunity, such as automobile break-ins and thefts of equipment.

"I think as an academic institution the kinds of programming we need to do are educational. We need to convey to our planners that we need to consider personal safety when we are designing

the campus for the future," said Iovacchini.

However, during the discussion that followed the panel presentations, Iovacchini admitted that it would be safer to call 911 in case of a serious emergency on campus. "If you have a flat tire, call public safety," said Iovacchini.

Alyson Baumrucker, a junior sociology major, expressed a concern about the location of the security phone which is located in front of the public safety office. "If you get that far, then what's the point in picking up the emergency phone? You're already there," said Baumrucker.

Iovacchini also said during the evening hours, while officers are patrolling the campus in a security vehicle, there is not anyone on duty in the security office. "I think we need more staff. I think we need coverage, at least double coverage, while students are here," said Iovacchini.

Iovacchini suggested that students give their input into the ongoing master planning process currently underway. "Let those folks know what your priorities are. I'm frustrated because I feel that students feel unsafe here," said Iovacchini.

Melissa Himelein suggested that students organize a demonstration to address their concerns about campus security and public safety.

Himelein also spoke on the topic of

date rape. According to Himelein, the term "dating" is defined loosely. Himelein called it a "mutually planned or spontaneous activity between two people." This could simply mean meeting someone at a

"If you have a flat tire, call public safety."--Eric Iovacchini.

party and then leaving with them.

Himelein also pointed out that date rape is more common a crime than people realize. "The criminal that you should fear most is probably someone you know," said Himelein.

Himelein pointed out that studies have shown date rape cases usually occur before a student even begins college. "Although it's still true that colleges are fairly dangerous places in terms of date rape, it's also true that high school environments are probably just as dangerous. Most date rapists have extensive histories of sexual intercourse forced and unforced," said Himelein.

Date rapists are typically moti-

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Photo by Marti Parson

Forum panelists Eric Iovacchini, Melissa Himelein, Maggie Weshner, Rodney Miller, and Richard Reynolds addressed students' safety concerns.

Senate passes resolution to recognize banned fraternity

James Hertsch
Staff Writer

The UNCA student senate officially recognized the Asheville chapter of the Theta Chi fraternity as an on-campus organization, and passed a formal resolution calling for an end to the fraternity's ban from campus at their meeting on Nov. 16.

Junior Wes Morrison said he introduced the formal resolution, written shortly before the meeting, to address concerns some student senators had over the constitutionality of the recognition bill.

The formal resolution asked the administration to take steps to begin the process of allowing Theta Chi to come back on campus," said Morrison. "For me, it was what I described in my senate speech as a one-two punch, the formal resolution being the first document that we send to the chancellor, saying 'we'd like you to take these steps,' and then the stronger document, saying, 'We, the senate, want to recognize this organization as an on-campus organization.'"

The resolution passed with 12 votes in the affirmative, and three in the negative. Senators Mark Dann, Rebecca Barraclough, and Adrian Tatum opposed the resolution. The bill recognizing Theta Chi as an on-

campus organization passed with 12 votes in the affirmative, and four in the negative. Dann, Barraclough, Tatum, and Lisa Ridge opposed the bill.

UNCA administrators banned Theta Chi from the UNCA campus after denying their appeal in a hearing on Oct. 28, 1992. According to *Banner* articles from 1992 and 1993, members of the fraternity violated the terms of an 18-month probation. Theta Chi

"We've all been spanked by our mothers and fathers for different things. I've been spanked for four years now, and, believe me, I feel the sting of that spanking every day."--Ben Leonard, Theta Chi member.

was originally placed on probation after a member was found wearing a hat with racist slogans on it at a basketball game on Feb. 5, 1992.

The ban was originally set at five years, which, if this ban were carried to its

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Forum on Greek system misses intended audience

Renee Slaydon
Staff Writer

A forum was held on Nov. 16 in Highsmith Center to inform students about Greek organizations.

Although the forum was for students who are not members of Greek organizations, fraternity and sorority members made up most of the audience.

Members of the fraternities and sororities on campus began the forum by explaining the different types of philanthropies (community service projects) that their organizations participate in. Gamma Phi Beta, Sigma Nu, Pi Lambda Phi, Sigma Pi, Alpha Phi International, and Alpha Xi Delta were all represented in the forum. Chuck Walker, who holds the commander position in Sigma Nu, moderated the event.

Nina East, director of student development, spoke on what the Greek system has to offer. East said UNCA's mission statement aims to help people know what it means learn humane values and critical thinking skills, and living a life different from the one you've always lived.

"That's part of what Greek organizations as well as many organizations at UNCA can offer," said East.

East pointed out that working with various philanthropies enables members of Greek organizations to experience lifestyles other than their own.

"You're not just raising money to

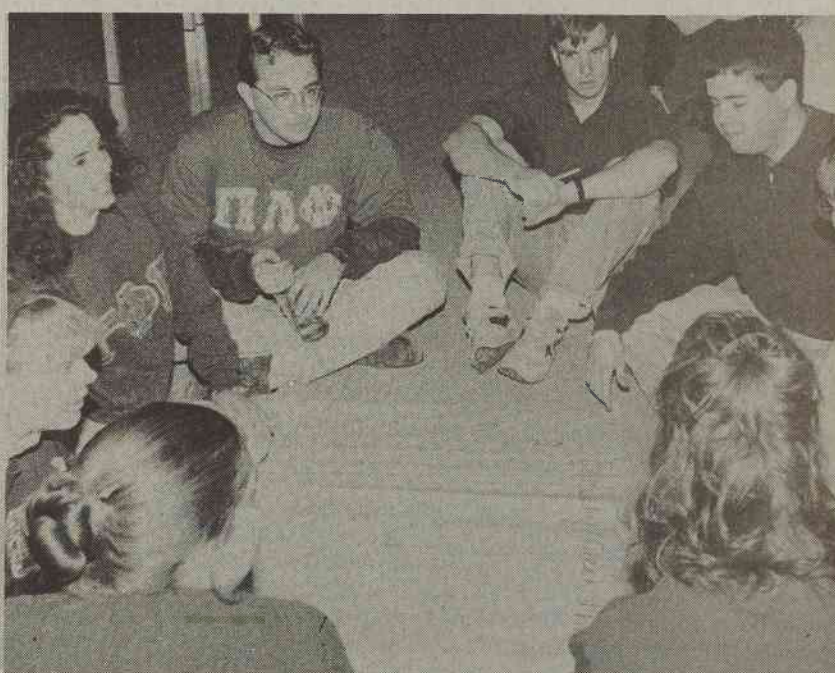


Photo by Lat Roy

A Gamma Phi Beta and Pi Lambda Phi member lead a group discussion on greek issues at the forum.

give to people, you're interacting with people who are different from you," said East. "That's a real important part of learning about human values. That's something that I don't think the average person in the United States population knows about. I don't think the average person out there really thinks about Greek organizations that way."

East presented a video portraying a panel of college professors from an-

other university. The panel discussed pros and cons of Greek organizations on college campuses.

Some criticisms discussed on the video included the fact that Greek organizations are not conducive to the academic experience. It can also lead to elitism, racism, and hazing. In addition, incidences of rape may stem from fraternity or sorority parties.

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