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Weekend Weather: Cloudy and warmer with a chance of thunderstorms on Sunday. Highs in the 70s, lows in the 50s.

# The Blue BANNER

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

April 17, 1996

## Basketball coach accepts job offer

Jennifer Thurston  
Staff Writer

UNCA head men's basketball coach Randy Wiel accepted an offer to coach at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro last Friday.

Wiel has coached at UNCA for the last three years and posted a record of 32 wins and 50 losses, including an 18 and 10 record and a second place finish in the Big South Conference this year. Wiel came to UNCA from an assistant coaching position at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he played basketball before graduating in 1979.

"I thought he was a marvelous coach, absolutely fantastic," said Tom Hunnicutt, director of athletics. "He treated the players well and that is real important with me. Someone that they can look up to in pride. We're trying to build a mold. And that mold is a mature person with a proven record as a coach."

A search committee has already been formed to begin narrowing down the candidates. The committee is chaired by John Gupton, chair of chemistry and includes members of the administration, the athletics department, community members, and students.

"I'm disappointed (about Wiel) because I think he was a good coach and a really good role model and teacher," said Eric Iovacchini, vice chancellor for student affairs. "We're going to have really big shoes to fill."

Iovacchini stated that when a coach leaves a program, athletes inevitably transfer to other schools or new recruits fail to sign letters of intent. "That happens," he said. "We hope that students will stay. We'll try to get a new coach as soon as we can. But they'll have to fit UNCA in terms of recruiting students who will do well academically."

Both Hunnicutt and Iovacchini expected to fill the position in less than four weeks. "Really, it's pretty slow when you're hiring a basketball coach," Hunnicutt said. "Most schools do it in about two or three weeks. But we're trying to follow the established procedures here at UNCA which are a little more involved."

Hunnicutt said that his phone was "ringing off the hook" with candidates interested in the position. Potential candidates for Wiel's job include Chris Ferguson, an assistant at Virginia Tech and a native of Hendersonville. Others are Matt Doherty, an assistant at Kansas University, Jimmy Black, a former assistant at Notre Dame University, Butch Estes, the former head coach at Furman University, and John Lentz, the head coach at Lenoir-Rhyne College.

Wiel replaces MTSU coach David Farrar, whose contract was not renewed after a 15 and 12 season. MTSU is a Division I school in the Ohio Valley Conference and has about 17,000 students. According to the *Asheville Citizen-Times*, Wiel will earn more than \$100,000 a year and has signed a three-year contract with MTSU. Wiel's assistants at UNCA, Andy Herzer, Jim Ryan, and Rich Yonakur will go with him.

In addition to Gupton, the search committee will include Jesse Ray from the Board of Trustees; Michele Cornish, UNCA's senior woman administrator; Sergio Mariaca and Eric Filipek, students; Phil Murphy, a local businessman; Tom Cochran, vice chancellor for academic affairs; and Bobby Robinson, community member.

## Payment of athletic salaries from student services account questioned

Jennifer Thurston  
Staff Writer

More than \$100,000 in partial salaries for eight athletic department employees, including more than \$25,000 of the athletic director's salary, was paid last year from a student services account, according to UNCA records. The account's funds are used to "support and complement academic programs" that contribute to the "cultural, social, intellectual, physical, and emotional development" of the student body, according to a definition of the account in the UNCA Budget Manual.

"They (athletics) recruit 30 or 40 students a year," said Eric Iovacchini, vice chancellor for student

affairs. "Their duties include) advising students and counseling students. That's why we use student service dollars."

"I doubt that it costs that much," said Dhaval "Doc" Patel, SGA president. "My argument is, why not put it all into one account? So that everyone knows how much athletics is costing. I did not know that this much was coming out of (the student services account). I'm not happy with the answer. But this is the answer I got from Yav (Iovacchini)," Patel said.

The functions of the account, supplied to *The Blue Banner* by the administration, include student services administration, admissions and record

maintenance, including recruitment of athletes, counseling and career guidance, financial aid administration, social and cultural student development, and intramural athletics programs. The account is paid for by state funds.

In the UNCA Chart of Accounts, last updated on March 31, Tom Cochran, the vice chancellor for academic affairs, is listed as the responsible administrator for the account. When contacted about this story, Cochran said the account had not been used by his department for at least three years. The account is now controlled by Iovacchini, who also

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## Campus prepares for national conference



courtesy of Undergraduate Research

The tenth annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research will be held on campus this weekend. Close to 2000 people are expected to attend.

## Student, staff reactions to conference are varied

Denise Sizemore  
Staff Writer

The tenth annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) will begin tomorrow on campus. Faculty and most students said they are pleased about the conference, but some were concerned about use of campus facilities during the conference.

Many students expressed concerns about the closing of the dining hall during NCUR. "NCUR is a great thing for the students participating in it because they get to show their work and what they've accomplished," said Kellie Gosnell, a freshman majoring in psychology. However, Gosnell said she was also concerned about the closing of the dining hall.

"If teachers expect us to attend these (presentations), how can we attend them hungry?" said Tonya Vess, a freshman.

"I know there was some concern about the cafeteria being closed," said Kathy Whatley, professor of physics and director of the Undergraduate Research Program. "People who are in the dorms who are either volunteering to help with the conference or attending sessions will be provided for. We're still working out the details."

Whatley also said the days NCUR is taking place were not included in the meal plans for students.

"A lot of people are saying 'I paid for these meals and I'm not getting them,' and that's not true," she said.

Another concern of students is requirement by some professors to attend NCUR presentations. "My education class requires me to go to a session of NCUR and write up a paper for 25 points of my grade," said Melissa King, a sophomore majoring in biology with teacher certification. "Another section of the same class gets extra credit if they go to a session."

"I heard that every professor is supposed to make it part of their syllabus for students to attend a session to show support for NCUR, but obviously that didn't get across to every professor," said King.

Several students, who wished to remain unidenti-

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## Student complaints prompt opening of cafeteria

Michael Taylor  
Staff Writer

In a reversal of a decision made last year, the administration has asked that University Dining Hall remain open during the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) this weekend. Ken Barefoot, director of dining services, says that he was contacted on Friday, April 5 and asked to open the cafeteria.

"NCUR has realized that they need to take care of the students that they're asking to stay here, so they're paying for it," said Barefoot. "Their philosophy is that if you're here, then you're here for the conference. So if

you want to eat, you need to be part of the conference."

Close to 2000 people are expected to attend NCUR this week from all over the United States. Originally the University Dining Hall had been scheduled to be closed.

"I think that originally everybody felt that the students were just going to leave and go to the beach, like this was a second spring break," said Barefoot. "As it's gotten closer, there's going to be 200 volunteers, and professors are urging people to stay. Somebody said, 'We've got to take care of these people.'"

Marriott, who has provided

food service for UNCA since 1986, already had a significant commitment to NCUR to provide refreshments throughout the conference. Although they were never providing any significant meals, they will be delivering drinks and muffins to several locations across campus.

"Our commitment with NCUR was just to do basic refreshments, such as coffee and juice," said Barefoot. "So I certainly don't mind being open, because in the end, if the university would have decided to open up, it wouldn't have been

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## UNCA growth minimal, not eligible for more funding, study finds

Susan Sertain  
Staff Writer

An April 12 study approved by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors included an assessment of the current method of distribution of operating funds across UNC's 16 campuses.

The study indicates that there are five institutions, based upon the criteria that the consulting firm and the general administration agreed upon, who appear to be significantly underfunded, said Arthur Foley, vice chancellor for financial affairs at UNCA.

"Those five universities had experienced significant enrollment growth over the past 10 years. UNCA was not one of those five," he said.

Even though UNCA seems to have more students now with the need for larger dining hall, sports facility and more dorms, the UNCA Fact Book reveals there has not been a significant increase in enrollment compared to those five institutions, he said.

"UNCA was not one of the five campuses identified as eligible for equity adjustment," said Joni Worthington, assistant vice president for communications for UNC general administration.

"This was only phase one of a two-part study," said Worthington. "We aren't saying that any campus has more funding than it needs."

The effect that this report will have on UNCA is not known. "At this point it is only a study," said

Thomas Cochran, vice chancellor for academic affairs. "We had hoped that this could be a real opportunity for us to get some improved funding and it still may be. We haven't lost hope."

This report is the result of a legislative mandate for a study on different means of funding the state institutions. This became known as the Equity Funding Report, said Cochran.

Kent Caruthers of MGT of America, Inc., was retained by UNC general administration after the special provision was adopted in the 1995 session of the North Carolina General Assembly.

"The consulting firm was hired to assess the 16

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