

# The Banner

Volume 26 Issue 11

November 13, 1997

## Rape remains unreported crisis on campus

By Veronika Gunter  
Staff Writer

National statistics report that women in the 16-24 age group, which includes the majority of college-aged women, are four times more likely than women in any other age group to experience sexual assault. The last forcible sexual assault reported on UNCA's campus came in 1993. However, to staff and students, this does not mean the crime of rape has not been re-

peated. "I have no doubt this crime is seriously underreported on our campus," Public Safety Director Dennis Gregory said.

"Not only is rape (in general) underreported, acquaintance rape is even more often not reported," Maggie Weshner director of the counseling center said.

"There is the fear of not being believed, the shame and embarrassment women feel, and not wanting people to know," Weshner said.

Statistics also report that 1.75 women are raped on average every hour. One in every

four women will be the victim of sexual assault in her lifetime, statistics state.

Sophomore music major Maia Remick said rape is a very real threat for women, and though "it sucks" that women must guard themselves against the crime, to be safe, women must realize "that's the way it is."

Remick, a member of the Rape Crisis Center (RCC) Student Alliance, said she knows women at UNCA who have been sexually assaulted, and most did not turn to counseling.

UNCA alumn Bob Carpenter organized

the RCC Student Alliance last year before graduating in December and joining the staff at the RCC. Carpenter now works as the RCC fund developer and community educator.

The RCC offers a 24-hour hotline, trained counseling, and trained victims advocates. RCC has 30 volunteers, half of whom are college students; one full-time professional counselor; and one full-time advocate who performs crisis intervention, goes to the hospital with victims, and fills many other roles.

The organization provides no-cost coun-

seling and advocacy, including trained volunteers who accompany victims to doctor appointments, police stations, court appearances, and most other places the woman might need emotional support.

Of Remick's friends who were sexual assault victims, some told no one for a long time, others told friends.

"But friends don't always know what to say. The Rape Crisis Center is there to help women," Remick said.

RCC workers and volunteers served 300

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## Crime escalates in library

By Mandisa Templeton  
Staff Writer

Theft and vandalization of books and journals in Ramsey Library has increased over the past several weeks, according to university and library officials. The serious crime is not only costly for the library, but damaging to the general public, said one librarian.

"Could you imagine that someone would rip the pages out of an encyclopedia?" said Librarian Leith Tate. "Yes, it happens."

According to Amy Justice, assistant director of student development, the year started out with only two or three cases of library theft and destruction. However, in the last two to three weeks, about 10 cases have been reported. Justice believes the increase is due to the time of the semester, as more and more deadlines arise for students.

"There are people who come in here and they rip out a page of a newspaper, and they don't think anything about it, like a want ad or something, (or) a classified ad," said Tate.

"People say, 'Oh, I'm tearing out one classified. I'm going to apply for this job. Big deal.' But it is a big deal when they consider the fact that those materials are purchased by a state institution for the use of the general public, which potentially could be thousands of people. The thoughtlessness of one person is depriving the general public the right to free access. It's depriving the public of that information, regardless of how insignificant the violator thinks it is," Tate said.

"If you were to do this (in a mall at Belk or Dillard or wherever, nobody would talk to (the offender). They would call the police immediately. There would be nothing you could say," she added.

Tate believes students take books and rip out pages because they are "desperate."



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH HARNDEN/MODEL ALLY RANDELMAN

Theft and vandalization of library materials, a serious crime that disadvantages students and costs the library time and money, is on the rise, according to librarians and university officials.

"What a lot of people get desperate about is (that) they don't have enough money or that they don't have enough time," said Tate. "The copy machines might have lines and people are waiting to use them."

Junior Angela Bryant told of a friend who ripped out pictures of Maxine Waters, an African-Ameri-

can congresswoman, as well as articles from a newspaper, because of financial strains. Bryant said there was nothing wrong with stealing the material, because the magazines were not in high demand.

"The magazines that my friend destroyed were primarily black magazines like Essence, Jet, Ebony,

and Black Enterprises that most of UNCA wouldn't look at anyway," said Bryant. "So, I feel there is no harm done, actually, because most of them are just popular and do not have any educational information."

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## Money crunch cuts adjuncts, crowds classes

By Amanda Thorn  
Staff Writer

Last minute cuts in class sections and adjunct professors due to an unexpected budget crunch have caught many students and adjuncts off guard, leaving some confused and frustrated.

Adjunct assistant professor of Spanish Mary Kirby found out only days before academic advising began that she would not return to teach Spanish 102 in the spring, after five and a half years of teaching the Spanish 101 and 102 sequence at UNCA.

"I was unprepared for it," Kirby said. The news "came out of the blue" from her department chair 15 minutes before her class met, she said.

"It was very upsetting to my students. It was a shock and a disappointment," Kirby said. "The students were upset because it was unexpected for them to have their section cut."

Most of the students were going to be able to continue in the same section of Spanish with Kirby, one level higher, in the spring, she said.

Adjunct professors, or part-time professors hired on a semester-by-semester basis, make up 39 percent of the teaching faculty this semester, according to Tom Cochran, associate vice chancellor of academic affairs.

The university currently employs 167 full-time faculty and 106 adjunct professors. In terms of equal teaching loads (full-time professors teach three to four classes per semester, while adjuncts teach one to two), adjuncts total about 43.5 full-time professors, Cochran said.

"I don't know exactly the number (of adjuncts who will be teaching next semester), but I do know it will be fewer because we (will) have

\$60,000 less this spring than we had last year," Cochran said.

Cochran attributed the crunch to this year's delayed budget reports by the legislature.

"There are real consequences when the legislature goes well into the academic year to finalize budgets for institutions and universities. This is one of those consequences,"

Cochran said. "We didn't get the formal budget information from General Administration until late September—two months

later than usual." However, he also said this year's total budget did not change, but the university distributed its funds differently this year than last, meaning a shortage of faculty funding will occur in the spring semester.

Because the university committed more money to regular faculty in the fall, only \$230,000 is available to pay faculty in the spring, as opposed to the \$290,000 available last spring, said Cochran.

As a result, as many as 33 adjunct professors may not return in the spring, Cochran said.

"It's not quite a correct statement to say that (an adjunct) is fired, because the decision to hire them is semester-by-semester," Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs James Pitts said.

Pitts considers the current budget crunch relatively minor.

"Relative to September, there is a bit of a crunch mid-year. We're not in a situation of having to lay off full-time faculty, and that's what I would call a (serious) crunch," said

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James Pitts

## HOW week to show students how to help

By Catharine Sutherland  
News Editor

Monday marks the start of Help Our World (HOW) week, an effort coordinated by UNCA students and campus leaders to increase awareness of poverty, homelessness, and hunger, and to show students how they can do something about it.

"We're so blessed here at UNCA. We

have food, we have homes, we have clothing.

"There are people living on the street without food, homes, or clothing, and I think it's helpful for (students) to become aware of what's out there," said Debby Zemek, co-chairperson of the HOW planning committee and a member of many student organizations.

A variety of campus organizations will sponsor activities and speakers throughout the week.

Activities will include scheduled volun-

teer sessions at Manna Food Bank; clothing, canned food, and book drives; a poverty simulation; skipping a meal in the cafeteria to feed the hungry; an all day fast; and cooking and serving food for the homeless.

Speakers will include Jim Turpin, founder of Project Concern, a humanitarian organization dedicated to helping children in impoverished areas around the world; Reverend Scott Rogers, director of Asheville-Buncombe Community Christian Ministry; and Stephen Hearne, director of ad-

missions at Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity.

Zemek feels serving dinner to the homeless will be one of the best experiences students can have during HOW week.

"It will be the biggest hands-on thing there is, so it will help people become more aware," she said.

Unlike listening to a lecture about homelessness, "you're actually feeding the homeless, and sitting down and talking to them," Zemek said.

HOW week has occurred on campus

several years in the past, but this year's activities surpass the number of those held in the past, according to Zemek.

"I'm glad and surprised at the feedback we've gotten," said freshman Lori Long, co-chairperson of the HOW week planning committee.

"I hope as the week goes on it gets even better," said Long.

Look for flyers and sign-up tables in front of the cafeteria before and during HOW week, or contact a sponsoring organization to participate.