

# The Banner

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## Perkins guilty of sexual assault charges

By Amelia Morrison  
Managing Editor

After pleading guilty to sexual assault charges, UNCA basketball player Nick Perkins is no longer playing for the Bulldogs.

UNCA Chancellor Patsy Reed. His removal from the team followed Perkins pleading guilty to one count of felony sodomy and one count of misdemeanor solicitation of sodomy in Paulding County Superior Court in Georgia. He was sentenced to three years probation, 15 days in jail and a \$500 fine. His jail sentence will start June 15.

Perkins was originally indicted with nine offenses, including rape, child molestation and aggravated sodomy in an incident involving a 14-year-old girl. Five other Paulding County High School students also pleaded guilty to charges.

Of the six defendants involved in the case, Perkins' sentencing was "least severe, mainly because he was least involved," said Todd Alley, the Georgia district attorney who prosecuted

the case. Alley said Perkins did not have sex with the girl, and was the last person to receive oral sex.

The university is currently considering Perkins' enrollment status for the remainder of this semester and for next semester.

For any student who is convicted or who has pleaded guilty to a felony offense, "we enter a process to try to determine if he/she is a danger to

himself/herself or to others," said Reed. "We would not make a decision until we had a basis on which to make a decision."

The university has started that process, according to Reed.

Perkins, a freshman and guard from Dallas, Ga., received a basketball scholarship and started playing for the Bulldogs last fall.

The university was aware of the

charges, filed January 1998, when they awarded Perkins the scholarship.

"He was recruited before this incident happened. He was admitted after he was indicted," said Reed.

Reed said that despite Perkins' recent guilty plea, the university would not have acted differently.

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## Summer school schedule limited to longer terms

By Emma Jones  
Staff Writer

UNCA's summer schedule will consist of fewer course offerings as a result of longer summer sessions, according to the schedule's planner.

"Part of it has to do with the fact that we've eliminated the three-week term," said Philip Weast, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment services. "There are some faculty who probably believe they can spend three weeks teaching during the summer, but when it comes to a five or seven-week term, it's a little too long for them."

The nine or 10 month faculty teaching contracts do not include the summer sessions, according to Weast.

"Summer is just considered an add-on time, rather than a part of the contract," said Weast. "The faculty is often engaged in research, or they have to be away for whatever they're doing to enhance their own profession."

The move to longer sessions resulted from students complaining about the work load associated with the three-week courses, according to Weast. However, some students are in favor of the shorter courses.

"I don't think a lot of students want to be here for the whole summer," said Kim Angelon, a sophomore biology major. "I'd rather have the three week courses and have the rest of my summer to make money or do something else that is useful."

Some students are going to other schools to take the classes that are not offered at UNCA this summer.

"I'd rather be able to take my summer classes here because the credits are easier to transfer," said Aaron Vidaurri, a UNCA sophomore. "If we don't have a good selection, then we're kind of forced to go elsewhere. Half the time UNCA doesn't even accept the credits."

Weast said he is aiming for a different approach to future summer school schedules.

"I don't know how it has been deter-

mined in the past because I've only been here eight months. One of the things I intend to do is get a better handle on what the students need," said Weast. "What we've done is study historical trends of what has been needed in the past."

Problems with implementing past summer trends have arisen with the recent enrollment growth, according to Weast.

"If a student is not able to get into a class because there are so many students enrolled, then we need to make more courses available," said Weast. "I want a student to be able to get a degree in four years, or as close therein as possible."

"Some students, like me, who have to be here for over four years need to get a lot of their classes done over the summer because there is just no extra time," said Angelon.

Arts 310, a class required as part of the humanities core program, is not on the summer 1999 schedule, according to the UNCA summer schedule printout. Both Tom Cochran, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs and Weast said they not were aware that it was not being offered. They are now making efforts to secure a section of the class for the students who need it.

"I'm planning on living in Asheville this summer, so if they don't have any classes I want, then there's really no reason for me to live here," said Chris Sapp, a UNCA sophomore.

The summer sessions consist mostly of general education requirements, but the focus could shift to more special topics courses, according to Weast.

"I'd like to get to the point where students can get their general education requirements during the year and maybe focus the attention of the curriculum in the summer on more specialty types of things that really stretch a student in a special topic," said Weast.

Although more specialty courses would allow some students to focus on upper level courses outside the normal school year, many others would not be able to complete the core courses that are required to graduate. Courses such as humanities,

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## Outdoor project questioned



PHOTO BY PATRICIA GONZALEZ-DEAVENPORT

Zageir's \$3,000 stream garden, funded by donations, is part of a campus beautification project at UNCA.

## Students and faculty express concern about upkeep of stream

By Meghan Cummings  
Staff Writer

UNCA's landscaping crew is almost finished with the creation of a stream garden near Zageir Hall. However, some students and faculty have expressed concerns that it is not being properly cared for.

"It looked great at first, but now it looks kind of like they just stopped taking care of it," said Lori Hurley, a junior biology major.

The work the landscaping committee has done on the stream garden by Zageir is part of a campus beautification project, that is funded by donations. The total cost for the project is about \$3,000.

The goldfish and some of the plants in the stream were donated to the school, according to Melissa Acker, grounds superintendent and director of landscaping. The water quality in the stream garden has declined over the last few months

because the water is not being circulated, according to Michael Stuart, associate professor of biology.

"The re-circulation pump had been turned off, and the water had become quite stagnant," said Stuart.

The stagnant water created problems for the fish in the stream because there was too little oxygen in the water, according to Stuart.

"I always see the fish up at the top gulping for air, which is a sign that there is not enough oxygen in the water," said Hurley.

Although the two pumps that circulate water through the stream can be turned off through the winter, the landscaping crew had to turn them off in September due to the water shortage, according to Acker.

"We realized that this would be a problem," said Acker. "What we decided to do was to turn the pumps on whenever it

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PHOTO BY TRAVIS BARKER

Recent city restrictions prevented water recirculation in the Zageir garden stream. Improper upkeep led to rotting vegetation and oil scum.

## UNCA may install surveillance in buildings

By Mike Bryant  
Staff Writer

UNCA officials are considering a proposal to install surveillance equipment in some campus buildings due to continual theft and property destruction.

"There is an increasing concern for the safety and security of dormitory students on the university campus," said Nancy Williams, assistant director of

housing and residence life.

"University officials are studying a plan that would place cameras in some of the more vandalized areas of the campus," said Williams.

Safety equipment, such as fire extinguishers and signs, have been stolen, destroyed or damaged, according to Williams.

"The glass covers on several fire extinguishers have been broken, and parts of the extinguishers have been removed," said Williams.

"The number of these incidents has steadily increased over the last couple of years," Williams said.

The university is reluctant to implement a proposal that would call for the installation of cameras or other types of surveillance equipment, according to Williams.

"Several discussions concerning the use of security cameras on campus have taken place over the past few years," said Williams.

"University officials realize the sensitive nature of such a proposal and would prefer to avoid the implementation of any form of surveillance. However, officials are concerned the recent increase in vandalism could jeopardize the safety and security of all students," Williams said.

University officials have priced the cost of both fixed and portable security camera systems, according to Williams. "A portable or movable sur-

veillance system seems to be the most cost effective and practical," said Williams.

The cost of such a system would be less than \$1,000.

"I would not object to some type of surveillance system if the university felt it was necessary to ensure the safety and security of the students," said Jessica Mancino, a UNCA freshman.

"It would not bother me much at all. Anyway, I do not think the university would use such a

system unless it would be beneficial to the students," said Mancino.

The primary use and placement of any camera or surveillance system would be at or near the security doors of the residence halls, according to Williams.

"The purpose of such a surveillance system at UNCA would be to deter vandalism or

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