

The Banner

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Commuters uninformed

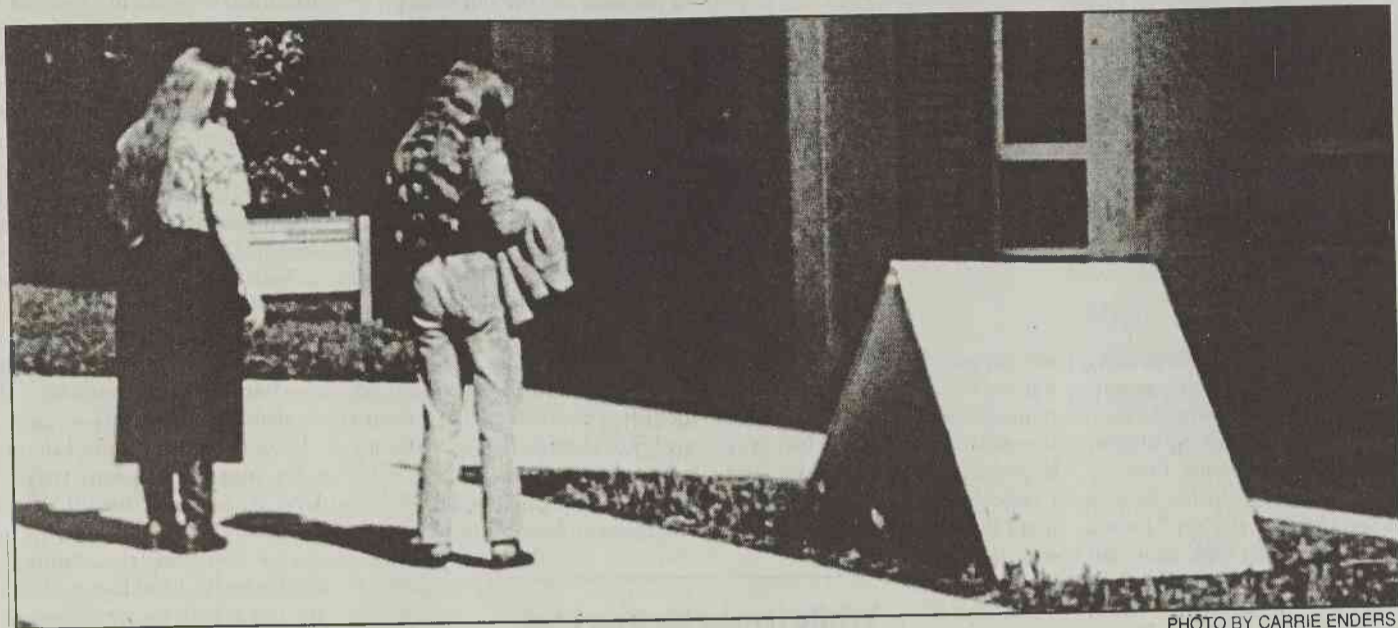


PHOTO BY CARRIE ENDERS

Boards outside of academic buildings are one way the university tries to tell students about upcoming events.

Commuters say access to campus events limited

By Emma Jones
Staff Writer

A method of informing UNCA commuters of campus events has not yet been developed, but the problem is being addressed, according to Eric Iovacchini, vice chancellor of student affairs.

"I think the most feasible solution is a combination of technology and hard copy," said Iovacchini. "I don't think just one thing gets everybody's attention."

Though approximately two-thirds of UNCA's 3,200 students live off campus, most organizational information and campus news is posted primarily in residential student areas, according to one commuter.

"I don't know when any of the club meetings are," said Katherine White, a sophomore environmental studies major. "The only way

you really see that information is on the posters in the dorms. Commuters really don't have access to that."

A recent Student Government Association (SGA) survey polling commuters around campus indicated that other commuters saw a similar trend in the lack of information flow, according to Alphonso Donaldson, SGA president. This problem has been present for some time, and SGA and the administration have proposed ideas for solutions.

"I think if there was a commuter group dedicated to getting commuters involved on campus, then they could spread information around to the rest of the commuters," said Donaldson. "Word-of-mouth is a wonderful thing."

In the past, there have been various commuter groups that usually served a need for a specific group of commuters, according to Iovacchini. The most recent of

these was a group called Encore. This group was made up of non-traditional-age students with families, according to Donaldson. Promoting on-campus childcare was one of their main focuses.

"After one thing or another, it kind of fell apart," said Donaldson. "We haven't had a strong commuter base since then. It's kind of frustrating."

Often, having easy access to campus information is crucial for class requirements, according to Tracie Pressley, a junior management major.

"When I was taking humanities, and we had to do cultural events, I never knew when anything was happening," said Pressley.

With the newly-installed fiber optics on campus, the university is better able to provide some type of school-wide bulletin, ac-

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DMV leaves drivers open to junk mail

Privacy disclosure forms for all vehicle owners not an option

By Krystel Lucas
Staff Writer

The North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles (NCDMV) cannot afford to inform the public about the release of personal information contained in motor vehicle records for use in surveys, marketing and solicitations, according to the NCDMV spokesman.

"If people don't want their personal information to be available to the public, they need to fill out the Privacy Disclosure Form (PDF), and send it off," said John Parks, spokesman for the NCDMV. "There are 6.9 million registered vehicles in this state, and it would be too costly for the DMV to send the PDF to everyone in the state."

Information about the PDF statement is available in license offices and on the DMV Web page, according to Parks.

"I think it is dishonest not to inform the public that their personal information is being released," said Rachel McDonald, a sophomore.

If the PDF is not available to individuals until they renew their license, title, registration or identification card, mass marketers will

have access to vehicle owners' records, according to the NCDMV Web page.

"The information will be made available to mass marketers," said Parks. "This includes names, addresses, and the year and model of your vehicle."

"I'm against any form of surveys or selling off people's names and information for any reason," said Eric Moncrief, UNCA graduate from Hendersonville.

The division is authorized to implement procedures to ensure that people may "opt-out" and prohibit the use of motor vehicle record information for various commercial activities, according to the federal court case *Condon vs. Reno*.

"I'm a victim of mass marketing phone calls," said Susan Stader, a junior psychology major. "I think it is pitiful. We all have a right to know (the PDF) is available."

If the PDF is provided to the public and license holders do not object to distribution of selected information from their motor vehicle records, the state may release the information for any purpose, according to *Condon vs. Reno*.

"I am not due to get my driver's license renewed for another three or four years, and I wouldn't have

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PHOTO BY CARRIE ENDERS

A bulletin board in one of UNCA's academic buildings is crammed with notices for upcoming events.

UNCA re-examines policies for disabled

By Mike Bryant
Staff Writer

UNCA's policies and services for an increasing number of disabled students are being studied and evaluated by the university, according to Amy Justice, assistant director of student development.

"The number of disabled students on the campus has almost doubled in the past two years," said Justice. "The number of disabled students has increased from approximately 30 in

1997 to about 60 in 1999. Disabled students constitute roughly 2 percent of the present student population."

"A disabled person is one who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits a major life activity, has a record or history of such an impairment or is regarded as having such an impairment," according to the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

An evaluation of the university's present disability policies and services will provide faculty and staff with the opportunity to discuss current and future guidelines for meeting the needs of disabled students, according to Eric Iovacchini, vice chancellor of student affairs.

"It is important that the university remain sensitive and proactive regarding the needs of those students who have documented disabilities," said Iovacchini. "We feel that we have been diligent in our efforts to correct the shortcomings and mistakes made in this area in past years."

The university's commitment to comply with the ADA has not come without concerns among faculty and staff, according to Iovacchini.

"University officials are confident that UNCA is in compliance with the requirements established by the ADA," said Iovacchini. "However, there is debate among some faculty and staff as to what extent the university can extend itself over and beyond those requirements. The re-

sources of the university must be utilized as effectively as possible for the benefit of all students. Some faculty have expressed concern in incidents where special accommodations have had to be made for those students identified as disabled in their classrooms. These faculty members believe such accommodations are not fair to other students."

UNCA requires students to identify themselves to the coordinator of disability services before consideration of disability services can be initiated, according to Justice.

"Students have the responsibility to identify themselves as disabled with the university," said Justice. "The services and accommodations

provided for a disabled student are based on documentation and/or consultation with diagnosing professionals. The student must present documentation of the disability by an appropriate professional to receive disability services."

The university does not provide any disability diagnostic services for students, according to Justice.

"I am not aware of any free services for diagnosing disabilities in this area," said Justice. "The cost for such services can start at \$300 in western North Carolina. In addition, it may take at least

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UNCA to be part of college smoking study

By Dru Martin
Staff Writer

A study by a Denver, Colo., research firm will take place at UNCA this fall to examine the aspects of smoking on college campuses.

UNCA was chosen as one of five colleges to participate in the survey due to a connection that Vicki Brunnick, UNCA counselor and substance abuse consultant, has with the Denver research firm Bacchus and Gamma.

Bacchus and Gamma "know the smoking industry is strong in this part of the country," said Brunnick. "I was really glad we beat out some of the bigger schools for this study."

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) provided Bacchus and Gamma with a grant so the study could take place, according to Brunnick. The research is based on social norming demonstrational studies by sociology professors, according to an information sheet from Bacchus and Gamma.

"Their theory is that students and people, in general, have perceptions about what they think is go-

ing on, and in reality everybody is not drinking and smoking," said Brunnick.

"I do not think it is going to be more effective than any other cigarette smoking study," said Steven Ingram, a junior computer science major. "Facts are facts. If people are going to smoke, then they are going to smoke."

"I think the thing they do not always look at in studies is the social aspects of smoking," said Arami Bolick, a senior literature major. "They tend to look at the physical addiction of it all, but I think so much of it can be a

lifestyle issue. You begin to define yourself as a smoker after a while."

"During the week of April 12, the health department will conduct a student drug use survey," said Brunnick. "We have participated in that before, and it takes a look at all substances."

Brunnick will be accompanied by Keith Ray, chair and associate professor of the health and fitness department, to Denver from March 11-14 to find out

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PHOTO BY TRAVIS BARKER

Some UNCA students stand outside Karpen Hall smoking Wednesday.