

# The Banner

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## Gun incident concerns students in dorms

By Mike Bryant  
Staff Writer

UNCA students have voiced concern about the university's lack of action in an incident involving student possession of a loaded handgun on campus.

"I do not understand how the university can allow someone who had a loaded handgun in his dormitory room to remain in campus housing," said Joseph Andrew, a freshman. "I live on the same floor in the resident hall where the gun was discovered. It is hard to feel comfortable knowing that another student had a loaded gun just down the hall."

UNCA police officials charged Justin Lane Donaldson on Feb. 15 with possession of a handgun on school property, a felony offense, according to Jerry Adams, an investigator for public safety at the university. The gun was discovered in the student's room on Feb. 10 following an anonymous report to Nancy Williams, assistant director of housing and residence life.

University officials have refused to specifically comment on the Donaldson incident, citing the confidentiality provisions of the Buckley Amendment or General Education Provisions Act of 1974.

"The university is unable to discuss or release any information regarding any action, if any, that the school has taken or will take in this matter," said Eric Iovacchini, vice chancellor of student affairs. "The provisions of the Buckley Amendment prevent disclosure of this type of information on any student."

The university has generally waited for the legal resolution in the public court system before deciding on a course of action, according to Iovacchini.

"If the determination by university officials is that the student or students do not pose a harm to themselves or others, we usually await the decision of the public courts before deciding on university action," said Iovacchini. "However, the university can act independently of the public courts in cases that violate university policy."

"In matters involving the violation of school policies, the university can hold a student conduct hearing before deciding on any action to be taken against a student," said Amy Justice, assistant director of



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TARA HAMMOND

Students are concerned that the university's delay in dealing with gun possession on campus could lead to further threats to safety.

student development. "The hearing is closed, and any action taken by the university is disclosed only to the student."

Students should tell university officials their concerns about campus-related matters.

"Students need to contact the appropriate university officials with any fears or concerns they may have involving their academic environment," said Iovacchini. "That kind of information may change a previous position taken by the university in a particular matter."

The university has initiated action regarding the weapon incident, according to Donaldson.

"I have a student conduct hearing scheduled for April 1," said Donaldson. "Also, I am scheduled for District Court in Asheville on April 9."

Donaldson expressed regret for having the gun in his room, but he does not understand why other students in his dorm are so upset with him.

"Having a gun in my room was a stupid mistake," said Donaldson. "However, I do not think students who know me are concerned with my presence in the dorm. I hope I can remain at the university and continue to live in the dorm."

A meeting has been scheduled for March 18 in South Ridge Residence Hall to discuss the concerns of the

residents, according to a housing official, according to Melanie Rhodarmer, resident director in housing and residence life.

"Students will have the opportunity to voice their views on the evening of March 18th in South Ridge about the gun incident, Donaldson and other matters," said Rhodarmer. "I am hopeful that the concerns of any of the residents, including Donaldson, can be openly discussed at that time."

Some students said they did not want to wait to discuss their concerns at the meeting.

"I hope the university will remove Donaldson from the dorm," said Clint Bergin, a freshman. "I was his roommate at the beginning of the fall semester. I do not think he should be allowed to remain in university housing after having a loaded gun in his room."

"I did not feel I could be comfortable as his roommate any longer," said Thad Eckard, a junior philosophy major. "I moved to another dorm, and I feel a lot better now. He was a difficult roommate. The gun was only one of the problems. He just does not show any respect for those living around him."

"I do not feel Donaldson should be allowed to remain in the resident

hall," said Jay Van Oorteghem, a freshman.

Complaints had been made to a resident advisor about Donaldson, but housing took no action, according to Eckard.

"I know that a complaint had been made to Amanda Thorn, a resident advisor on the second floor of South Ridge," said Eckard. "Donaldson is a Sigma Nu pledge, and I believe that Thorn is engaged to another member of Sigma Nu. Basically, nothing was done about the complaint. It was disappointing."

Thorn refused to comment on Eckard's allegations, or any circumstances involving Donaldson.

"I am not able to respond to any matters involving Donaldson," said Thorn, a senior mass communication major.

I cannot discuss it due to the confidentiality of my position as resident advisor. I will say that I think Donaldson is a good person," said Thorn.

Donaldson said he hopes the scheduled meeting of the residents at South Ridge will change the minds of those students concerned by his presence in the dorm.

"If students get to know me, they will see that I am no threat or problem," said Donaldson.

## UNCA faces office space shortage

By Meghan Cummings  
Staff Writer

UNCA is trying to develop additional office space on campus for new full-time faculty arriving this fall. There are currently no unoccupied offices available.

"All offices are occupied by somebody right now," said Tom Cochran, associate vice chancellor of academic affairs. "In terms of identified standard kinds of offices, we effectively have none."

Although all faculty members currently have an office, many question where new faculty will be able to work.

"When it comes to expanding the faculty, right now we do not technically have any empty offices," said Shirley Browning, associate vice chancellor of academic affairs.

Office space is the most serious space issue on campus, given that there are no more offices. However, classrooms and laboratories are also often insufficient to handle the growing needs of the school, according to Cochran.

"We have very few (technologically equipped) classrooms, and what everybody wants now is to teach with the technology that is available," said Cochran. "We have a need to fix up a lot of these rooms and make them more usable by today's standards."

Cochran said the university's long term plan for easing the space problem is to build a new office and classroom building that will provide more technologically advanced classrooms.

The new building is part of the ten year facilities plan that was created in 1997, according to Arthur Foley, vice chancellor for financial affairs.

"In 1997, following nearly a two year planning process, UNCA adopted a 10 year campus facilities master plan," said Foley. "The first new capital project identified is a classroom and administrative office building."

However, the school needs to find a way to create office space

for the new faculty who will come in the fall. Temporary solutions are necessary while planning, and eventually fundraising will take place for the new building, according to Cochran.

"You can't build a building in six months," said Cochran. "We're not going to have new offices for these faculty, so the short-term problem is where do we put these new people?"

One temporary solution the university is considering is to divide infrequently used classrooms into offices, according to Cochran.

"One of our strategies is to take some of these classrooms that are not utilized and just convert them to offices," said Cochran. "Then we have to decide whether to make them temporary or put in new walls and heating systems to make them permanent."

Another possibility is to give offices that are currently being used by part-time professors to the new full-time faculty, according to Browning.

"We do have some offices used by adjuncts, and, sadly, we may need to let full-time faculty have priority over those offices," said Browning.

The other option is to ask part-time faculty to share an office, according to Browning.

"I don't think that would be an unreasonable request as long as the instructors do not need the office at the same time," said Frank Quinlan, adjunct assistant professor of atmospheric sciences. "Many adjuncts already share an office."

There will be at least five additional full-time faculty members coming to UNCA in the fall. The new positions were created because the increase in full-time enrollment allowed the school funding for additional professors, according to Cochran.

"This fall is our next big wave of new faculty," said Cochran. "We are anticipating at least five new full-time faculty members."

The new positions will give ad-

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## Health and fitness proposes two new majors

By Emma Jones  
Staff Writer

Administration in Chapel Hill," said Keith Ray, chair and associate professor of the health and fitness department.

"These programs are going to have to be really grounded in traditional and social sciences," said Peter Caulfield, chair of the university planning council and associate professor of literature.

The proposed public health promotion major would prepare students to educate and provide services to people in the areas of disease outbreak and health hazards, according to the proposal.

"Public health promotion is primarily going to be focused on interdisciplinary studies of public health," said Ray.

"Majors may choose to do community wellness education, corporate health and wellness, a hospital-based

wellness program or they may go on to graduate study," Ray said.

A student graduating as a sports medicine major would be educated in the field of athletic or fitness-related injury prevention and treatment, according to the proposal.

"Sports medicine graduates may go on to serve in some capacity as an allied health professional," said Ray. "They may go into the physical therapy market or go on to graduate school for physical therapy."

The proposal that has been submitted to the administration and faculty is a preliminary plan and the beginning of a process of submissions to different areas of the UNC-system administration.

"I want to make sure that everyone

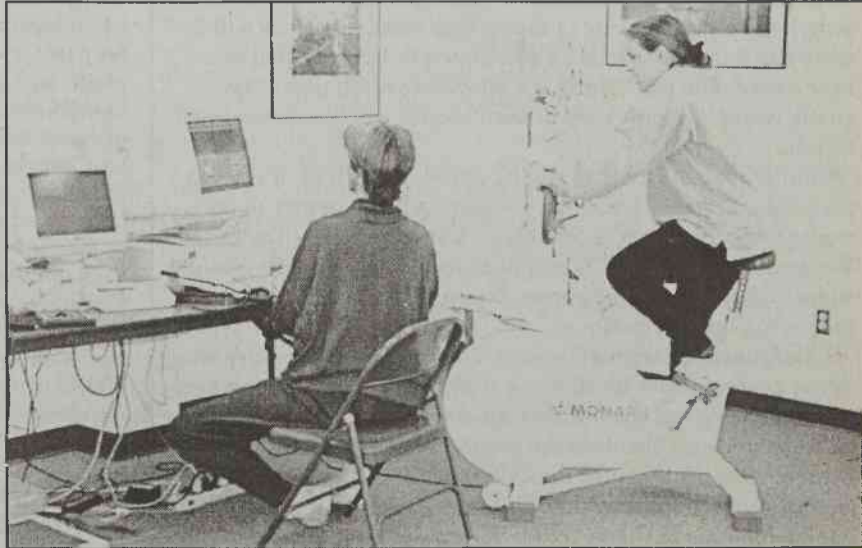


PHOTO BY CARRIE ENDERS

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The health and fitness department wants to expand its program to include two new majors.

Faculty and administration are evaluating two new degree programs proposed by health and fitness department.

The department has submitted basic outlines called "requests to plan" for degree programs in public health promotion and sports medicine. Each major will involve new courses.

"It depends on three things. First, the plan will need to be consistent with the university's mission. Second, we need to consider the impact it will have on other departments. Third, we need to consider whether or not we can get new money from the General