

# The Banner

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## UNCA's student meal plan may extend

By Meghan Cummings  
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) has proposed a meal plan that will enable students to purchase food anywhere on campus rather than restricting student meals to the Dining Hall. "I think we should be able to use it anywhere at any time," said Amy Moon, an SGA senator. "If you are a resident on campus, it is required that you buy a meal plan, and the

only place you can use it is the cafeteria. We are trying to make it so that you can use your card at Dante's or Cafe Ramsey."

One of the main motivations behind the bill is that students often miss meals because they do not have enough time to eat in the dining hall if it is busy, according to Moon. "A lot of people have classes scheduled right on top of each other," said Moon. "If you have one class, and then you only have 30 minutes until the next one, you really don't have time to run all the way down to the dining hall for lunch, and then

back up to campus, especially if it is really crowded.

"Sometimes after big lectures, it gets so crowded down there you can't even find a table," said Moon. The bill has strong support from residential students, according to Moon.

"A lot of students have mentioned this," said Moon. "A lot of people say they wish they could have more options with their meal plan."

If it is impossible to use the meal card because of time restraints, students often end up spending extra money at other dining places, ac-

ording to Brianna Barker, freshman.

"My schedule doesn't work with the dining hall hours, and a lot of times it is difficult to find time to eat," said Barker. "I have to spend a lot of extra money outside the cafeteria trying to find food."

However, allowing students to use their meal card in Dante's and Cafe Ramsey could cause those two places to get over-crowded, according to Ken Barefoot, director of dining services.

"Right now Ramsey couldn't handle it, and Dante's really

couldn't handle it," said Barefoot. "Could you imagine going into Dante's at noon when there are 150 people there? It is just not designed for that kind of business."

The lack of dining facilities to handle an increase in people could make it difficult to allow students to use their meal card in other campus dining places, according to Barefoot.

"It would be great if we had the facilities that would allow us to do it, but right now it would be difficult," said Barefoot.

However, according to Moon, an

extension of the meal card to Dante's and Cafe Ramsey would not cause overcrowding problems in those places.

"I don't think that would happen," said Moon. "I think there would be an equal amount because a lot of people do like to eat in the cafeteria. It is mostly a matter of time, and just to be able to get something different once and a while."

"This would probably just be an

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## Campus visitor almost cost students hundreds

By Krystal Lucas  
Staff Writer

Residents of Aycock Hall were relieved of a \$625 collective assessment following the arrest of a campus visitor last week.

"An investigation was conducted, and we were able to determine who had the biggest part in doing damage to a fire alarm panel," said Jerry Adams, UNCA safety investigator. "The collective assessment was removed once we were able to determine who was responsible."

Approximately \$625 worth of damage was done to the fire alarm panel on the night of March 17, according to Nancy Williams, assistant director of housing and residence life. If no suspects had been found, there would have been a collective assessment for the students living in Aycock.

A warrant was served to Christopher Haskins of Asheville on April 2, according to Adams. Haskins was then arrested and taken to the Buncombe County Detention Center. Adams said he was charged with injuring or tampering with a fire detection system.

Haskins was visiting his friend and UNCA student, Sean Garner a junior environmental studies major on March 17, according to Adams. They admitted to being under the influence of alcohol when the vandalism occurred.

"I don't remember anything about that night, and I don't remember seeing Chris do damage to the fire alarm," said Garner. "Alcohol was a part of that. I am not saying there is any excuse. I should have been sober enough to stop anything from going on."

Garner will not have to appear in state court for his involvement. However, he will have to appear before the university's Student Conduct Board to answer for drinking on campus and throwing his

computer monitor down a flight of stairs. "There is no law against destroying your own property, but he will appear before the Student Conduct Committee to answer for his actions," said Adams.

Haskins said that although he confessed, he was not given many options by public safety officials.

"I confessed to them what I did," said Haskins. "I would think they would be happy to have the thing paid for even though I did not do everything they said I did. I was not given many options in the situation."

"I think this could have been resolved without anyone being arrested," said Garner. "Once Chris found out about the damage, he was willing to pay, but they went ahead and charged him."

Some of the Aycock residents were upset about the possibility of a collective assessment charge on their accounts if no suspects were found, according to Aycock resident Laura Fox, sophomore.

"I think charging the entire building is absolutely ridiculous," said Fox. "It is like an elementary school teacher keeping the whole class in from recess for what two kids did."

UNCA uses collective assessment far less than other schools, according to Williams. The State Housing Professionals Conference meets once a year to discuss collective assessments and other housing policies.

"I don't think collective assessment is fair, but it is legal," said Williams. "Some schools do not post damages to people's accounts. They want the people to come in themselves and pay. We haven't done that because we haven't used collective assessment that much. Charging the account gives students time to come up with the money." "I pay enough money living in Governor's Village without them charging me for something I didn't do," said Fox.

Sometimes direct payment is fair because

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## Protest ignites violence



PHOTO BY TRAVIS BARKER

Police officers arrested five protesters downtown Tuesday during a bicycle rally promoting clean air

### Bikers arrested during rally

By Emma Jones  
Staff Writer

A bicycle rally for clean air ended in violence in downtown Asheville on Tuesday. Those who witnessed the incident said some of those participating were UNCA students, but could not name anyone specifically.

"Yesterday, 50 people, in accordance with their rights, rode for the message of safety and clean air," said Andrew Jorge of Asheville. "Instead of being protected by the people who are supposed to be traffic cops, the riders were brutalized and attacked."

Captain Thomas Aardema of the Asheville Police Department, who is over the investigation, could not be reached for comment Wednesday.



PHOTO BY TRAVIS BARKER

Some protesters were restrained by police.

The bicycle riders were participating in a rally for the Critical Mass campaign, an international group that advocates biker safety and opposes vehicle-produced pollution.

"The idea is to get as many bikers on the streets to show how biking and traffic are completely incompatible," said Jorge. "When you get bikes and cars together in

dangerous situations, you get serious injuries."

The protesters rode down Merrimon Avenue toward downtown on Tuesday afternoon, blocking rush hour traffic near the Vance Monument. This re-

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## Construction worker arrested for stealing

By Emma Jones  
Staff Writer

Nearly \$3,000 in construction equipment was stolen during daylight hours from the West Ridge parking deck site on March 14.

"This was a major theft," said Jim Young, construction supervisor for the site. "It is the only felony theft we've had up here. Until this happened, the problems we had were very minimal."

Public Safety Officer Darrell Rathburn spotted a car leaving UNCA via the old service road shortly

after noon on March 14 with a generator in the trunk, according to an investigator.

"The officer fell in behind the car as it pulled away, and he turned on his blue lights to stop him because it looked suspicious," said Jerry Adams, UNCA public safety investigator.

"The vehicle sped up and ran the red light at Division Street. The suspect wrecked into a ditch near the Montford Avenue intersection. The driver got out and ran away. There was a female in the passenger seat of the car and the officer was able to take her into custody."

The suspect, 33-year-old Darryl Dean Cannady, was apprehended

and arrested at his apartment later that afternoon. More tools were found in the car.

"There is a storage trailer over there where they store their tools," said Adams. "We had evidence that he had broken a lock and gotten the tools out of their storage trailer."

"He stole a generator that was rented, and two power tools, a ram set and a heavy-duty hammer drill," said Young.

Cannady and the woman taken into custody, 39-year-old Verna Cheryl Wilson, were charged with felony breaking and entering and larceny.

"They both have pretty lengthy criminal histories," said Adams.

Cannady was an employee with Young's crew on the construction site a few weeks before the incident, according to Adams. Young was unaware of Cannady's extensive criminal past.

"He seemed to be a fine worker," said Young. "I didn't have any problems with him on the job. In the new-hire paperwork packet, there are questions that ask about any criminal records. It is pretty apparent this gentleman didn't answer the questions truthfully."

After a short period of time with the work crew, Cannady left, claiming family illness, and did not return to work.

"He worked for me for about two weeks. He told us he had a young son that went into a coma," said Young. "I kept his job open for him for about two weeks. I told him to take care of his family, and when he got better to come back to work. He came and got his checks, and he never did come back to work."

Cannady's attempt to steal the materials from the site failed due to his own mistakes and the convenient presence of a public safety officer, according to Young.

"You have to be pretty stupid to do this, especially in the middle of the day," said Young. "Security does a good job of patrolling, and they're

very visible. Typically, you don't get fortunate like we did here with security. They did a really good job, and I'd like to commend them on that."

"The officer just happened to be in the right place at the right time," said Adams. "It was a good job by Officer Rathburn."

Though applicants for Young's crew are questioned about their criminal record, they are not obligated to give proof of their answer.

"You have no way of checking their record without going out and

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