

# The Banner

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## UNCA basketball televised

By Holly Beveridge  
Staff Writer

Two basketball games will be televised from Justice Gym for the first time ever in the upcoming 1999-2000 season, according to Mike Gore, UNCA's sports information director.

In a Big South doubleheader against High Point, both the men's and women's Bulldog basketball games will be televised from Justice Gym on Feb. 18.

"It's not just a plus for our basketball program," said Gore. "It's a plus for the whole university. It gets our message out."

Although the men's Bulldog team received television coverage at the Asheville Civic Center last year in the Big South tournament, UNCA has never had a home game televised from campus.

Fox SportsNetSouth will regionally televise the upcoming men's and women's doubleheader throughout the Southeast, from points in Louisiana to points in Virginia, according to Gore.

"When you're on regional television like that," said Gore, "you've got a chance to maybe get some highlights on ESPN or CNN, so that's exciting as well."

Playing a home game on television provides a chance to show off the school as well as UNCA's basketball program, said Gore.

"People who love college basketball just tune in on SportsNet(South), and they see UNC-Asheville," said Gore. "They're bombarded by UNC-Asheville for an hour or an hour and a half."

According to Pam Laughon, associate professor of psychology and gender equity advisor for UNCA's athletic department,



PHOTO BY NAOMI RICHARD

Kyle Kallander, commissioner of Big South, discussed the deal with SportsNetSouth to televise one men's and one women's basketball game in the upcoming season.

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## Suspension of officer stands

Officials release no answers as end of Rathburn's two-week suspension approaches

By Sarah Wilkins  
Staff Writer  
Emma Jones  
News Editor

UNCA officials declined comment Nov. 3 regarding the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the suspension of Darrell Rathburn, a UNCA public safety officer.

Although the end of Rathburn's two-week suspension is approaching, university officials have not decided on a course of action.

The decision will be made whether to fire Rathburn or keep him as an officer by Nov. 8, according to Shirley Wilson, director of human resources.

A UNCA employee can be suspended for as long as one day to two weeks, depending on the circumstances, according to Wilson. Rathburn's term of suspension will end on Nov. 9.

Rathburn was indicted by a federal grand jury Oct. 25 on eight counts of assault and one count of illegal possession of a firearm.

According to the indictment, Rathburn, "having been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, did knowingly possess in and affecting commerce a firearm...which had been transported in interstate commerce."

United States Attorney Mark Calloway, one of the lawyers involved in the case, could not be reached to clarify Rathburn's role in the alleged possession.

Federal law states that "It shall be

unlawful for any person...who has been convicted in any court of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence to ship or transport in interstate or foreign commerce...or possess in and affecting commerce, any firearm or ammunition."

Another federal law states that anyone who has been convicted of a count of domestic violence is not allowed to carry guns at all, according to a 1996 Associated Press article. There are no exceptions made in the law for law officers or members of the military.

The penalty for breaking the law could extend to 10 years in prison and a fine up to \$250,000, according to the article.

This stipulation was hidden in a federal spending bill that went into effect Sept. 30, 1996, according to the article.

Rathburn also could not be reached for comment Nov. 3.

Seven victims were allegedly assaulted by Rathburn, including a 76-year-old woman, according to the indictment. One of the victims was allegedly assaulted twice in a three-month period, first on Dec. 19, 1995, and again on March 17, 1996.

From October of 1995 to October 1996, Rathburn allegedly assaulted five other men. All eight assaults resulted in "bodily harm," according to the indictment.

Rathburn is currently not on campus, according to Eric Iovacchini, vice chancellor of student affairs.

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## Veritas Forum stirs controversy about "absolute truth"

By Johanna Luks  
Staff Writer

The bringing together of religion, education, and science in the fourth annual Veritas Forum raised arguments about the definition of truth, according to faculty and students involved with the forums.

The Veritas Forum brings Christian professors from around the country to speak on issues of absolute truth, according to Berry Stubbs, coordinator of the forums.

"This university predominantly teaches students that you come into class and pick and choose your world view. This (forum) is to say that this isn't the way reality works. You don't pick and choose. Truth is truth," said Stubbs.

The forum coordinators say that students are told that truth is subjective and personal. I thought it was interesting that they believe there's absolute truth," said Alexandra Morris, a senior philosophy major. "They're implying that there's one truth, and they know it. If you disagree, you're wrong because they've got the truth on their side."

The Veritas Forum aims to dispel the separation between church and state and states that cause us to avoid issues of religion on campus, according to David Steele, associate professor of mathematics and a faculty respondent.

"By dying away from a spiritual component of our life, I think we give a false impression to students that the spiritual component is not important," said Steele.

The program for this year's Veritas included time for faculty responses to the main speakers, an addition that made Veritas an official cultural event.

"Initially, we didn't choose to do (faculty responses) at all, we were kind of forced to do it," said Stubbs. "Peg Downes

(the director of the humanities program) thought something like this needed to have other views presented to get cultural event status."

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"They're implying that there's one truth and they know it. If you disagree, you're wrong, because they have truth on their side."

-Alexandra Morris, senior philosophy major

## Speaker advocates possibility of extraterrestrial existence



PHOTO BY SARAH LACY

James Kirkpatrick buys Steven Greer's book at Greer's extraterrestrial lecture

By Phoebe Hicks  
Staff Writer

The founder of the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence (CSETI)

spoke about the possibility of extraterrestrial life and technology in Lipinsky Auditorium Oct. 30.

Steven Greer, international director and founder of CSETI, said he believes that extraterrestrials (ETs) have

technologies that could save the planet, because they do not depend on fossil fuels.

Steven Greer believes that we could have been a pollution-free population since the 1950s because of the technologies that these life forms

possess, but the secret of their existence has been strictly guarded by government officials.

The audience of about 100 included both skeptics and believers.

Bob and Bobbi Shope of Black Mountain saw some articles about Steven Greer, and also saw him on television. Bob Shope called himself a skeptic, while his wife said she was more interested and had a sighting in the Black Mountain area when she was on her way home from the grocery store.

Bobbi Shope said she and her mother saw what looked like an ET space craft on the top of a hill, but by the time they reached the top, it was gone.

"It just makes you wonder," said Bobbi Shope. "I like coming to things like this because one of these days we might know."

According to Steven Greer, high-ranking government officials have kept the existence

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