

THE BLUE BANNER

Features



Film Festival Celebrates Women's History

See Page 3

Sports



UNCA Tennis Defeats Liberty University

See Page 5

Volume 33 Issue 7

The University Of North Carolina At Asheville

March 22, 2001

UNCA to Cut Budget by \$499,670

North Carolina Orders Mandatory Budget Cuts of all UNC-System Schools

Amounts State Universities Must Cut From Current 2000 Budgets

University	Amount
Appalachian State	\$1.7 million
East Carolina	\$3.3 million
Elizabeth City	\$425,447
N.C. Central	\$880,090
Fayetteville State	\$600,828
N.C. A&T	\$1.2 million
N.C. School of the Arts	\$310,462
N.C. State	\$5.2 million
*UNC-Asheville	\$499,670
UNC-Chapel Hill	\$7.4 million
UNC-Charlotte	\$1.9 million
UNC-Greensboro	\$1.8 million
UNC-Pembroke	\$472,792
UNC-Wilmington	\$1.2 million
Western Carolina	\$1 million
Winston-Salem State	\$551,010

GRAPHIC CONTRIBUTED BY UNCA'S BUDGET OFFICE
This graph shows amount of funds schools must cut.

Keith Cromwell
Investigative Reporter

UNCA will have to cut \$499,670 from its budget in order to compensate for the 1.9 percent budget cut issued by the state.

"Cutting the budget to universities seems the wrong step to take," said Derek Coulson, a freshmen health and wellness promotion major. "It seems UNCA does not have enough money as it is in some programs."

This is a result of the \$1 billion in spending cuts ordered by N.C. Governor Mike Easley to help the state meet a projected budget shortfall of at least \$700 million.

The university has identified \$300,000 in repair and renovation money that will be cut.

"A number of those projects are at the N.C. Arboretum," said Wayne McDevitt, vice chancellor of financial affairs. "Those projects on campus include several roofing projects that will have to be put off."

The other \$199,670 will come from delaying the purchase of equipment. In addition, some of that money will come from unfilled faculty and staff positions.

"When a position is opened for a week or a month, that's salary money (the university) is not paying out," said

McDevitt. "Also, when someone retires, and they are paid at one level because they have been here 30 years, and you hire in at a lower level, that also creates access money."

No money will be taken out of academic programs, according to McDevitt.

"65 percent of our budget goes to academics, and we are leaving that untouched," said McDevitt.

In 1999, the university spent \$491,586 on travel expenses.

Broken down, \$216,197 was spent for in-state travel, \$216,065 for out-of-state travel and \$59,324 for out-of-country travel, according to the UNCA budget.

Some students said they question why travel expenses were not cut.

Close to \$500,000 on travel "seems a little steep and I think it should be lowered," said Ginger McKnight, an undeclared freshmen. "UNCA could use the money on renovations, new labs or air conditioning."

The university also spent \$719,316 for library books and journals, \$706,021 on office, household, educational, repairs and motor vehicle supplies, \$345,538 for printing and binding and \$106,456 for advertising.

There are several reasons the state faces such a massive deficit.

In the 1999-2000 fiscal year, N.C. had a number of

challenges. The state committed \$836 million to disaster relief in the eastern part of the state, according to McDevitt.

The state faced two law suits in 2000, which cost N.C. about \$500 million, according to McDevitt.

This year is the first year the state is implementing tax cuts that were passed in 1995, which equals about \$1.45 billion.

Also this year, the state lost two additional lawsuits to Chrysler and Ford companies, which cost the state between \$60 to \$80 million.

In addition, revenues decreased due to a slowing economy.

"As a result of all this, Easley asked the university system to cut \$32 million from its budget," said McDevitt.

The 1.9 percent cut will affect schools such as UNC-Chapel Hill, Appalachian State and N.C. State.

Since those schools have larger budgets, they will have to cut more, according to McDevitt.

The governor plans to make these state-wide cuts: \$500,000 in college aid, \$2 million from the Teaching Fellows program, and \$95 million in local government aid.

\$151 million will be cut from the state employee pension fund, \$157 million from the state's emergency reserves, and \$40 million from the Hurricane Floyd relief package.

Judge Gives Former Officer Prison Term

Thad Eckerd
News Reporter

Former UNCA public safety officer Darrell Rathburn received a prison sentence Feb. 28 for abusing suspects while he served as Woodfin's chief of police. U.S. District Court Judge Lacy Thornburg sentenced Rathburn to three years in a federal penitentiary for physical abuse on

six people as he arrested or interrogated suspects.

"His sentence should send a clear message to law enforcement officers who overstep their authority," said Eric Winters, a senior history and political science major. "I think the sentence is very fair."

UNCA's public safety does not want to comment on the subject.

Louis Caliendo, director of public safety, said he did not feel comfortable commenting on the sentence. He also said he felt that directing inquiries to another source would be inappropriate.

Rathburn overstepped his authority on one specific oc-

casión shortly before his dismissal from UNCA, according to Winters.

"Several guests and I were in my room when Rathburn and another officer entered," said Winters.

Since Rathburn saw beer cans in Winters's room, he threatened to give everyone in the room a breathalyzer test, according to Winters.

"I basically told him he was going to do no such thing," said Winters.

Rathburn did not have the legal right to take such action because Winters was over the age of 21, according to Winters.

When Winters refused the test, Rathburn threatened to take Winters to jail.

Rathburn did not press the matter further, but did issue citations for alcohol and noise violations, according to Winters.

Winters said he filed a complaint immediately with Jerry Adams, public safety investigator.

An Oct. 28, 1999 *Blue Banner* article quoted Merianne

See SENTENCE Page 10



JASON GRAHAM/
PHOTO EDITOR

Darrell Rathburn was convicted Feb. 28.

Conference Brings Experts on China

Claire O'Brien
News Reporter

UNCA hosted a discussion forum concerning China March 16 and 17, to improve faculty knowledge of the country, according to Bill Spellman, director of the humanities program.

"It really opened my eyes to the big picture of how much trouble China is in," said Eo Trueblood, a senior art major, who attended one of the lectures on China. "It was a good overview."

The conference was co-sponsored and co-funded by the University of Hawaii's East-West program, and featured speakers from around the country.

The primary goal of the conference was to educate faculty about modern China, according to Spellman.

"We looked at our own faculty expertise, and decided that we really don't have enough Ph.D. expertise in areas like South Asia or China," said Spellman.

Speakers ranged from scholars from the University of Hawaii to scholars from UNC-Charlotte, according to Spellman.

Other schools represented were Appalachian State, University of Colorado at Boulder and Kennesaw State University in Georgia, according to Spellman.

The goal of educating UNCA faculty is to allow them to take this new knowledge and educate students, according to Spellman.

UNCA hosted a similar conference on India last fall, according to Spellman.

"We'd like to develop faculty workshops on Sub-Saharan Africa and on the modern Middle East," said Spellman.

Speakers at the conference were those who are an expert in some aspect of Chinese history, philosophy, literature, or folk culture, according to Spellman.

"(We) can immerse ourselves, at an introductory level in Chinese issues and history," said Spellman.

The topics covered by these

experts varied. Terry Weidner gave a lecture on "The Price of Modernization in China," and Roger Ames spoke on "Confucian Religiousness: Another look at the Godless Chinese."

"Each speaker brought with them a one or two page bibliography of books that we can turn to and develop more materials for the humanities program," said Spellman. "The idea is to enhance the non-Western component of the humanities program."

Weidner's presentation was incorporated into the present humanities curriculum. Weidner has a doctorate in Chinese history. He has also served as a political officer at the U.S. embassy in Beijing.

He is currently the director of the Asian Affairs Center at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Weidner said China grew so rapidly that it faces a massive downside.

He addressed issues of pollution, the transition from a Communist government to a more capitalistic government, and Western cultural imperialism.



WALTER FYLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Penny Prime, economics professor at Kennesaw State University in Georgia, speaks about trade with China.

When Weidner lived in China, the air quality was so bad, he often awoke to the sound of hacking coughs from his roommates.

The cough, caused by air pollution, was so prevalent

that "I thought it was the Chinese national anthem," joked Weidner.

These type of issues are what students and faculty need to be more aware of, according to Spellman.

Public Safety Arrests Suspects

Angela Brock
News Reporter

Four individuals were arrested early March 5 and charged with breaking and entering an office in Rhodes Hall. The suspects were also banned from the UNCA campus.

"We were sitting in the office for creative retirement," said Abe Haim, 21, a local resident involved in the UNCA community and various student groups on campus. "A couple of minutes later, public safety officers (came) in, and we (were) arrested."

Prior to the arrests, public safety received information from the creative retirement office stating that faculty came in that morning and noticed their offices and computers had been tampered with.

Public safety set up surveillance cameras in this area, and with the cameras, arrests were able to be made, according to

Jerry Adams, public safety investigator.

The "night of the arrest, we observed one person, Charles Johnson, who came in the office earlier in the night, and then three others entered later," said Adams. "Johnson let the three other people into the building while he finished up his computer work. That is when we made the arrests."

"They did not physically break down the door, but they gained entry somehow," said Adams. "There was no damage to the computers, but Johnson and the others had no right to be in the building."

Johnson was the only person inside the office for a couple of hours.

He let three other people who were there to pick him up inside the office, according to Adams.

Johnson "told me he had a

See ARREST Page 10