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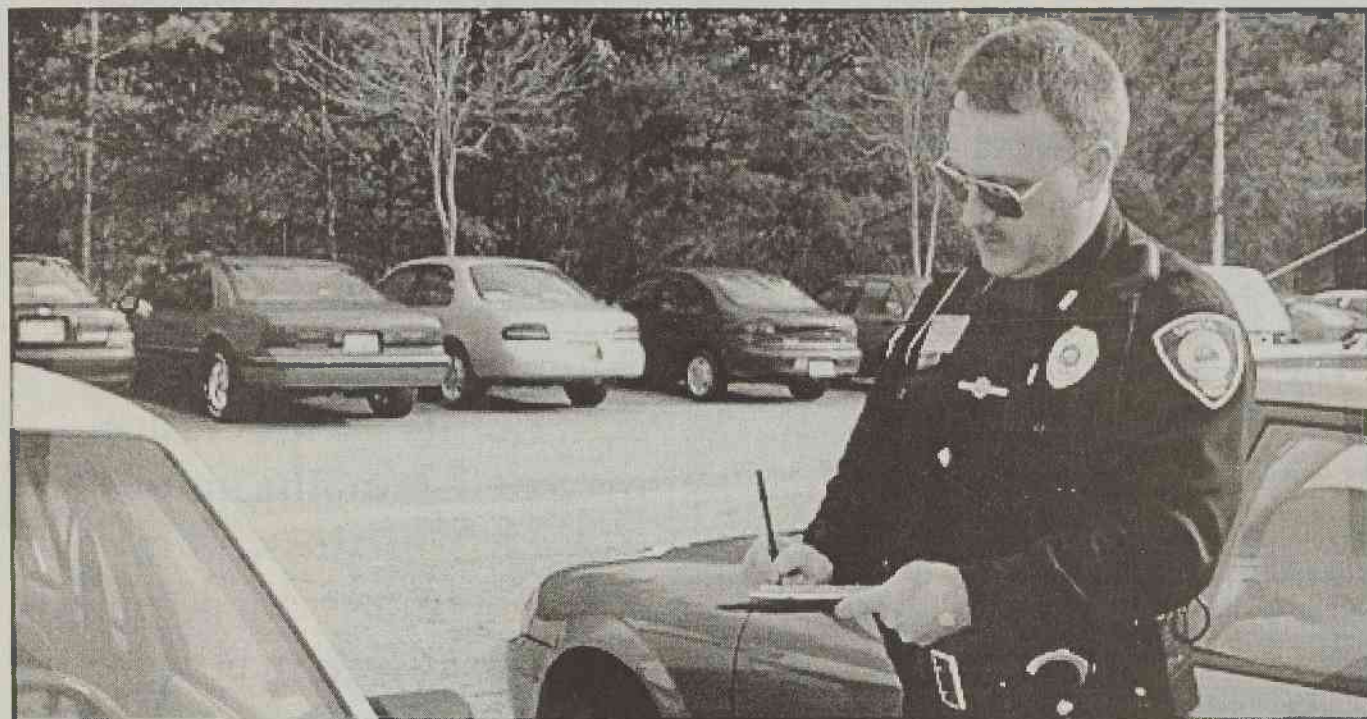
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Parking Decals Exceed Spaces



WALTER FYLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Public safety officer Steve Metcalf issues a parking citation to a vehicle parked in front of a fire hydrant behind the Highsmith Center. UNCA issues more parking decals than it has parking spaces.

Keith Cromwell

Investigative Reporter

University officials said parking is sufficient at UNCA, with parking spaces around campus totaling 2,157. However, the university issued 6,642 parking decals last year.

"I live in Mills (Hall), and can never find a spot to park close to Mills," said Brian Smith, a sophomore literature and language major. "It's nice (that) they build parking decks for resident students. However, building them closer to the resident halls would

be nice."

UNCA has approximately 768 spaces for residential parking, 427 spaces for commuter students, 471 spaces for faculty and staff, 407 open spaces, which is used for faculty, staff and commuter students, and 33 visitor spaces.

Of the decals issued, 1,026 were for resident students, 2,856 were for commuter students, 1,197 were for faculty and staff, 856 were for graduate students and 586 were for the participants in the College for Seniors program.

Campus Parking Management Associates, a national group that studies campus parking, said they recommended one parking space

for every 1.5 permits issued for faculty and resident students and one parking space for every two permits issued to commuter students, according to Williamson.

Over the last several years, CPMA has worked with hundreds of campus parking administrators from colleges and universities throughout the United States in an attempt to develop an acceptable standard for how many parking spaces a campus should have, according to the CPMA report.

"Although the results of these efforts have not been entirely conclusive, they represent what may well be the best guidelines cur-

rently available," said the report.

UNCA maintains a ratio of 3.4 permits per parking space for commuter students, 1.3 permits per parking space for faculty and staff and 1.3 permits per parking spaces for resident students.

Location is always going to be a problem because the university cannot put everyone right outside where they want to be, according to Diane Williamson, public safety supervisor for parking services and communications.

Parking spaces "in the con-

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UNCA Event to Inform Public About Injustice

Angela Brock

News Reporter

UNCA is taking steps to preventing hate crimes on campus by having Judy Shepard, a mother who's 21-year old son was murdered because of his homosexuality, speak. The event focuses on addressing the issue of social injustices, specifically within the UNCA community, according to Bunny Halton, assistant director of student activities for programming.

"The level of support we've had in getting Shepard on campus has been remarkable," said Amy Love, a freshman sociology major and member of the UNCA-OUT! organization. "I hope this is reflective of growing recognition of the need for a change in climate and consciousness on campus."

Shepard is focusing on hate crimes in general, not just crimes targeted towards gays and lesbians, according to Josh Kumm, a senior psychology major and coordinator for the event.

"Shepard experienced something in her life that was tragic, but she has been able to turn that around and use what happened to her to educate people so people feel safe in their community," said Halton. "We are incredibly lucky to get a speaker of this caliber, and it is the kind of thing we need to make happen at UNCA more and more."

Shepard speaks nationwide about the prevention of hate crimes and

ways communities and schools can become safer for everyone. The Shepard family established the Matthew Shepard Foundation, which advocates social justice and promotes equality for gays and lesbians.

"In Fall 2000, our campus found itself with the situation of harassment of men and women on this campus due to their perceived sexual orientation," said Kumm. "Our hope now is to establish a greater sense of acceptance toward our differences, to create a campus-wide environment of safe space for men and women of all backgrounds and choices, and to discuss life issues and learn from one another positively and safely."

There has been vandalism and harassment in the past toward gays and lesbians on the UNCA campus, according to Kumm.

"I am sure Shepard is familiar with the school environment and these issues, and I think that is why the administration is backing this," said Kumm. "We cannot change the state environment without first making sure our environment is safe, even if not supportive, and it is not right now."

Those who attend this event are opening their awareness to what hate crimes mean, according to Kumm.

"The more exposure you have to subculture, the better chance subcultures have of being seen as something that can be talked about further," said Kumm.

"Our hope is to have a very egalitarian environment," said Kumm.

Multimedia Chair's Contract Renewed John Kundert-Gibbs Granted Another Three-Year Contract

Thad Eckard

News Reporter

The future of John Kundert-Gibbs, director of multimedia arts and sciences, no longer hangs in the balance. Kundert-Gibbs received notification that the school intended to reappoint him for another three years after his current three-year contract.

The arrangement came after a prior notification two weeks ago that the school would not reappoint him.

"There was officially no reason for terminating me, and then, when the decision was reversed, there was no reason for the reversal," said Kundert-Gibbs.

Rules prevent the tenure committee and Tom Cochran, vice chancellor of academic affairs, from releasing any information pertaining to UNCA's rationale for releasing faculty.

The original letter Kundert-Gibbs received indicated that the school did not plan to keep him sparked concern from some students.

One student said he feared if Kundert-Gibbs' contract were not renewed, the multimedia department would suffer.

"They are not cutting the program," said Eric Black, a sophomore multimedia arts and sciences major. "But, they are eliminating something that will cut the program. This will look like somebody else is the bad guy."

After Kundert-Gibbs received the first notice, he sent an e-mail message to his students asking them to write letters on his behalf.

"I am having problems concerning my perceived ability to teach effectively in and out of the classroom. If we can't deal with this problem, it pretty much means I will not be with you in the future," said Kundert-Gibbs, in the e-mail message to his students.

Kundert-Gibbs said he asked students to write letters on his behalf to Cochran to help him stay at UNCA.

"I strongly believe a letter writing campaign will have a significant impact on the outcome of the decision being made this week. If I

"I am having problems concerning my perceived ability to teach effectively in and out of the classroom. If we can't deal with this problem, it pretty much means I will not be with you in the future."

-John Kundert-Gibbs

Director of Multimedia Arts and Sciences

might, I would ask any of you who feel so inclined to do me a very large favor: write a short letter explaining any significantly positive elements of my teaching and mentorship with you," he said, in the e-mail.

"When I was talking with him about this, there were 25 written letters in his office for him to take to the meeting," said Black. Cochran said he did not count the letters, but 25 seemed "a little high."

Gordon Wilson, chair of philosophy, served on the current tenure committee and helped review Kundert-Gibbs' case.

The tenure committee did not see any of the letters, according to Wilson. All the tenure committee sees is a folder with five documents.

Testimonials, such as letters, are not part of the folder.

The documents included a letter from the candidate applying for the position, a letter from the candidate's supervisor, a curricular vitae, an annual faculty report describing the candidate's accomplishments in teaching, scholarship and service, and student evaluations.

The candidate's supervisor then meets with all tenured faculty members in the department to discuss the candidate, according to Wilson. To better evaluate the candidate, these members are supposed to observe him or her in class.

Cochran said his recommendations will go to the chancellor Jim Mullen's office.

Washington Protest



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY CLAIRE JONETH

Protestors in Washington, D.C. display banners against the United States' drug war in Colombia, South America.