

# THE BLUE BANNER

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## Yeager arrested, charged with eight counts

## Student charged with sex offense



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Lana Coffey  
News Reporter

Police arrested former UNCA literature professor Robert F. Yeager March 6.

Yeager was charged with three felony counts of embezzlement and four felony counts of obtaining property under false pretense, ac-

ording to the Buncombe County Superior Criminal Court Clerk's records.

Yeager was released on \$24,000 secured bond. No further court date has been set.

"I am unable to comment, beyond saying that this is a very complex story, and so far the media has only presented one side," said Yeager, who was removed as director of Pegasus Press in November,

in an e-mail.

"I am grateful to the many dozens of former students, colleagues, friends and business associates who have written and called to offer support," Yeager said in an e-mail. "Their willingness to withhold judgement in the face of such publicity is a source of strength to me and my family in a difficult time."

A grand jury indicted Yeager with the eight charges March 4.

The three felony counts of embezzlement totaled \$16,500 which Yeager allegedly took from Pegasus Press, according to the court clerk's records.

Four of the five felony counts of obtaining property under false pretense concern Yeager's travel expenses and total \$4,088.21.

Allegedly, Yeager billed his travel

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Elizabeth Moe  
News Reporter

Kevin Lee Johnson, a junior environmental studies major, was arrested and charged Feb. 21 with four felonies: two counts of breaking and entering, assault on a female and a second-degree sex offense.

Johnson posted bail and was released into the custody of his father. He appeared for his first court date March 18 and will reappear in court April 16.

A Buncombe County Magistrate set the bond for each offense as \$10,000 for the second-degree sex offense, \$5,000 for the corresponding breaking and entering, \$1,000 for assault on a female and \$2,000 for the corresponding breaking and entering charge.

According to the public safety incident reports, Johnson broke into the first victim's room at approximately 1:00 a.m. and assaulted her. Approximately half an hour later he broke into the second victim's room and sexually assaulted her.

Both girls reported the incident to public safety within two hours.

Public safety officer Jerry Adams accompanied them downtown to report the incident to the magistrate's office.

"It is a horrible thing to happen to anyone," said one of the victims in an e-mail. "If anyone is ever in this situation, just know you are the victim and that it is okay to go forward with it. It isn't your fault."

Being charged with a second degree sex offense means there is probable cause to believe Johnson "engaged in a sex offense with the victim by force and against (the victims) will," according to one warrant issued for Johnson's arrest.

Johnson was released into the custody of his father Feb. 26 after agreeing to these conditions: "Do not go on or about UNCA campus. Have no contact with states witnesses (withheld witnesses names). Reside with father and follow his rules," according to the supervised pretrial release agreement.

## Unified Solar requests elaborate technologies

Kristen Willett  
News Reporter

Unified Solar wants to incorporate more elaborate environmental technology in the news science building.

"Unified Solar is applying for grants to help pay the initial costs of technologies such as photovoltaic solar panels, geothermal wells, a rooftop garden, composting toilets and the use of wind power," said Zev Friedman, a sophomore human ecology major.

UNCA received \$50 million when North Carolina passed the bond referendum to pay for basic building costs around campus.

Unified Solar would like to see more environmental technology used in the new buildings.

"(Unified Solar) wants this building to be the most energy-efficient building in the United States," said Matt Raker, a junior environmental economics and natural resource management major.

Unified Solar spoke with several foundations about possible funding, and the group believes the Lyndhurst Foundation and a few others may contribute.

"We're having a hard time getting funding because the foundations we're approaching are educated too," said Raker.

"They tell us that the techniques are cost-effective, so we should talk to our state," said Raker.

The proposed technologies would save more money over the years than the school would initially pay for the equipment, according to Raker.

However, if UNCA spent all the money given to them by the state and bought solar panels, reducing the energy cost of the building to zero, then the state would give UNCA no money.

"There's no incentive to be energy-efficient," said Raker. "We would lose that money."

Unified Solar attended a design meeting hosted by UNCA to discuss building standards for the new science and facilities management buildings in September 2001.

Friedman said the group agreed

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## FCC orders WZLS 96.5 off the air

Stuart Gaines  
News Reporter

Asheville's locally-owned rock station WZLS 96.5 has been replaced by an oldies-format station after the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ordered the WZLS off the air Feb. 21.

The order represents the final defeat for WZLS owners, the Lee family of Asheville, in a legal battle over the frequency 96.5 on the FM dial, which has gone on for over 10 years.

"I don't think anyone set out to mistreat the Lees. They got caught up in the bureaucracy that controls these matters," said Hal Green, an employee of Asheville Radio Partners, which is putting the new station, WOXL, on the air.

The FCC originally awarded the frequency to the Lee family in a 1989 hearing. Zeb Lee and his family's Orion Communications were found to be the best suited applicant for the new FM frequency, according to general manager Barry Lee of WZLS.

The hearing was part of the comparative hearing process, which the FCC had used to award frequencies to applicants for 30 years.

The decision was repeatedly appealed by other applicants over the next few years, but the original decision, in favor of the Lees, was upheld each time, according to a June 1997 *Wall Street Journal* article.

In an unrelated but significant case, a 1993 U.S. Court of Appeals decision found part of the comparative hearing process to be unjust. The Bechtel decision ordered



ED FICKLE/PHOTO EDITOR

Former general manager of WZLS, Barry Lee (left) and Jeff Allan (right), a former deejay for the station, stand inside their old studio.

the FCC to formulate new rules governing the selection process, according to a June 1997 *Mediaweek* article about the Lee case.

The Lee case was put into limbo due to the 1993 court decision, but in April 1993, the FCC granted a building permit for the FM station, and WZLS finally went on the air in July 1994, according to the *Mediaweek* article.

The station stayed on the air until it was ordered to cease broadcasting by the FCC in June 1997. The operating license was temporarily awarded to the remaining applicants.

A December 1997 decision by the U.S. court of appeals found in Lee's favor and the operating license was restored. The decision sharply rebuked the FCC's actions, saying

that the commission, "abused its discretion and acted arbitrarily and capriciously," according to a December 1997 *Wall Street Journal* article.

Over 6,000 people signed petitions to have WZLS restored during the interim period in 1997, and they were hand delivered to the

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## Civil rights lecture offers ways to fight discrimination on campus

Whitney Setser  
News Reporter

UNCA hosted a civil rights lecture in the Humanities Lecture Hall March 4.

"Our goal is to make (UNCA) a place where students of every race, ethnicity, faith, gender and sexual identity can find respect and dignity," said Chancellor Jim Mullen in an e-mail.

Joe Feagin, a civil rights expert

and graduate research professor of sociology at the University of Florida, gave the lecture. The lecture was based on Feagin's study of African American students' experiences on predominately white college campuses, published in his book, *The Agony of Education: Black Students at White Colleges and Universities*.

"Racism is still a fundamental issue (in America)," said Feagin. "Although it is declining, it's still apparent in society."

The lecture centered on the re-

search statistics from college surveys concerning racism. Feagin and his graduate students conducted the research.

"(Our research) revealed that most white people who were polled held stereotypical views of people of (certain ethnic backgrounds)," said Feagin.

Discrimination is widespread and systematic, according to Feagin.

"In 3,800 test audits in 25 cities, African American people trying to rent (homes) faced discrimination 50 percent of the time, and black

home-seekers faced discrimination 59 percent of the time," said Feagin.

Feagin presented other surveys he and his students have conducted that showed how African, Latin and Asian Americans encountered workplace discrimination, according to Feagin's lecture.

"In Los Angeles, a survey of 1,000 black workers found six in 10 encountered workplace discrimination, and eight in 10 with college degrees faced discrimination," said

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