

THE BLUE BANNER



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The University Of North Carolina At Asheville

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UNCA student discovers pipe bomb near campus

Michelle Dean
 News Reporter

UNCA student Kenneth Bogert discovered an undetonated pipe bomb near campus on Friday, Aug. 23 while walking home from class. "I was walking my bike up the path and I stubbed my toe on it," said Bogert. "I looked down and

the end of it was sticking out of the dirt. I kicked it pretty hard a couple of times and it kind of rolled. When it finally popped out of the hole I saw it was a bomb and I pretty much ran. It's not everyday you find a bomb when you're coming back from class."

Bogert described the bomb as a steel pipe with two caps on the ends. It was about six inches long total and it had two wires coming

out of it to a nine-volt battery, according to Bogert. "I called 911 as soon as I got home," said Bogert.

The path where Bogert discovered the bomb was cleared about a year ago for students living in University Place Apartments. It begins beside the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church on Edgewood Rd. and connects directly to the University Place living complex on Barnard ave.

A 911 operator notified the Asheville Police Department (APD) of the bomb at approximately 12:30 p.m. Within minutes, the APD notified UNCA Public Safety who dispatched officers Littrell and Harris to the scene.

"We share a mutual aid agreement with the city," said Public Safety Chief Lou Caliendo. "If we need help we contact them and vice-versa," said Caliendo.

The Asheville City Bomb Squad was also dispatched to the scene where they used robotics to detonate the bomb by remote.

"It sounded like a shotgun," said Bogert. After detonation, the squad used metal detectors to comb the area for harmful debris.

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Yeager convicted of three felony charges in trial

Dearborn McCorkle
 News Reporter

Robert F. Yeager was convicted of three felony charges and sentenced on July 12 in Buncombe County Superior Court.

"I do not feel that I should offer what would be a personal opinion as to the appropriateness of Dr. Yeager's sentence. He did wrong and I respect the court's prerogative to determine the appropriate penalty for that wrong," said Chancellor James Mullen in an email.

The retired literature professor and former director of Pegasus Press was charged with three felony counts of embezzlement and five felony counts of obtaining property under false pretense.

Yeager pleaded guilty to all charges, which were consolidated into three convictions for sentencing.

Yeager's sentencing included an active term of 30 days in the Buncombe County Jail from 6 p.m. July 23 to 6 p.m. Aug. 23.

The court gave Yeager a suspended sentence (a minimum of 18 months and maximum of 24 months) contingent upon his satisfactory completion of a 36-month supervised probationary period.

In addition to the \$12,240 Yeager paid back during the internal audit and State Bureau of Investigation's criminal investigation in March 2002, Yeager was required to make \$31,649.87 in additional restitution payments to Pegasus Press, according to Clerk of Superior Court Records.

Court documents show Yeager made this payment on July 12.

"It is my understanding that Dr. Yeager retired," said Bill Sykes, UNCA's director of internal audits.

According to Lisa Honeycutt, benefits manager in UNCA's human resources department, Yeager was eligible to retire under the UNC Optional Retirement Program. After five years of service and contributing to the plan, faculty can draw a retirement benefit based on the amount of money in their account when they begin the withdrawal.

Pegasus Press and UNCA suffered \$43,889.87 in direct loss as a result of Yeager's actions, according to Clerk of Superior Court records. Of that total, \$40,844.87 was a direct loss to Pegasus Press alone. UNCA suffered a direct loss of \$3,045.

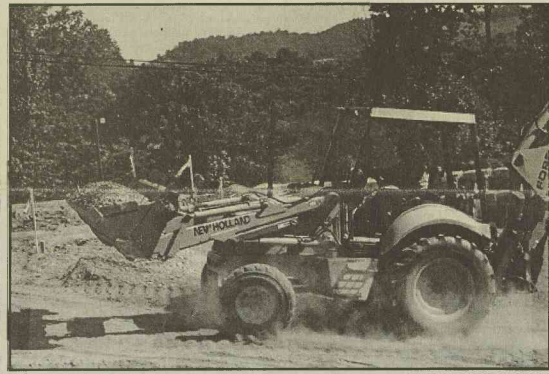
"The University expressed its views that restitution was an important part of all this," said Sykes.

"Yeager did make restitution during the trial of the direct losses as documented in the report to the University and Pegasus Press. Pegasus Press by far and away was the bigger victim of the two," said Sykes.

Mario DiCesare, founder and former director of Pegasus Press,

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Campus construction projects continue



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UNCA architects and officials plan to erect a new residence hall, student activity center and the Reuter Center. Student fees, private and state bonds will pay for the building projects, and construction will continue on campus until 2003. Later, Carmichael and Zager Halls may be renovated, and a new physical plant, science building and chemistry departments might be designed.

Architect incorporates classic Asheville design elements into new residence hall

Sara Miller
 News Reporter

Jessica Hensley
 News Reporter

The UNCA campus continues to change as construction plans give a facelift to Governor's Village, Highsmith Center and the Reuter Center.

"It takes time to go through the design process and gear up for these projects, so now, with the jobs starting to bid, you start to see the construction on campus," said Peter L. Nielsen, campus architect and director of design and construction.

With the budget woes that plague UNCA, many worry about the progression of the construction.

"The annual budget really affects operating the day to day things that happen on campus, not the capital construction at this point," said Nielsen.

The Higher Education Board appropriated \$49.9 million, which will fund much of the upcoming

construction on campus. With the exception of the Highsmith Center, other facilities, such as the new residence hall or parking decks are funded by private bonds and money generated by students, according to Nielsen.

In the past year, students have seen both construction and destruction on campus. One of the current projects underway is the construction of a new residence hall in Governor's Village. This is the first actual building structure of a group that will eventually replace all the Village dorms.

According to Nielsen, there are 80 fewer beds due to the demolition of Craig, Swain and Aycock Halls, which were built in the 1960s. The first of the new structures houses 180 beds configured in single, double and possibly larger suite-style rooms.

The new hall will take on the architectural design of Asheville landmarks, like the Grove Park Inn and the Biltmore Estate, to incorporate the different genres of campus style.

"The campus was originally done in the sixties, and as more and more

buildings were added, so were different styles of architecture. Being such a young campus, we have no real focus on design," Nielsen, a 25-year licensed architect said. "We felt like a real liberal arts university, dabbling in everything, (so) we would have a diverse scope of architectural style."

The housing department's goal is for at least half of UNCA's 3,000 students to live on campus. Now, only 1,000 occupy resident dorms, according to Nielsen. Private bonds and student fees entirely fund this project.

In close addition to the new residence hall construction, the gutted exterior of the Highsmith Center still stands.

"Why are we tearing down a building that was built in the eighties?" asked Nielsen. "You look around campus, and you figure out really quickly that there is just no other place to put a student or university center."

Stephen Baxley, director of facilities, management and planning, said the new Highsmith Center would double in size. It will go from approximately 30,000 square

feet to 75,000 upon completion. This expansion will provide better access to student services and activities.

"The old Highsmith was replaced because of the great location," said Baxley. "It is close to the dining hall, close to residence halls and close to the rest of the campus. We didn't have an opportunity to duplicate that kind of close proximity anywhere else."

The new facility will house a post office, larger bookstore, food court and extra areas for student activities, according to Baxley.

Unlike the other current projects, the Highsmith Center reconstruction uses money from the state bond.

The last current undergoing project is the Reuter Center. This new building will house the Center for Creative Retirement. "A Home to Call Their Own" has been the retired students' campaign for a new facility. The retired students have raised a little over \$3 million dollars to fund this project, according to Baxley.

"These people are very committed to their program," said Baxley.