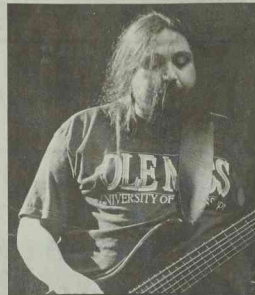


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Features

Panic fall tour plays like a 'Sex Machine'
■ see page 2

Opinions

'Let's make that stock go down'
■ see page 4

Sports

Volleyball loses to Liberty in BSCsemis
■ see page 3

Departments navigate state budget cuts

Michelle Dean
News Reporter

Campus departments and organizations received their final operating budgets for the current fiscal in late November. Before the final budgets arrived, departments calculated their spending based on projections of the funding they expected to receive.

"We had been told at the meeting of department chairs and program directors that the average academic operating budget cut would be 32 percent," said Lisa Friedenberg, psychology department chair. "There was a misunderstanding or a calculation error and the cuts were only 22 percent."

"The cut was smaller than we anticipated, but it was still a really significant cut. If you take a fifth of the operating budget out, you're going to have to make some serious changes in the way you fund things."

Academic departments pay for their own use of paper, postage, travel and even telephones, according to Friedenberg.

"I think one of the things that people don't necessarily realize is that the academic departments have to pay for everything," said Friedenberg. "We purchase paper from the university's central stores. When we Xerox, we pay per copy to printing services. We pay for chalk, postage and our telephones. So, although the university may appear

Snow days give break from books



Classes were cancelled by 11 a.m. Nov. 4, and with more winter weather expected, the last week of classes may soon be obsolete. Above, sophomore John Inglese and junior Thomas Greenwood (above left, left to right) begin work on their snowman. Senior Hollie Childers and junior Dearborn McCorkle (above right, left to right) pose with the finished product as snow continued falling on the quad.

College for seniors student arrested, small handgun found

Christina Clayton
News Reporter

UNCA public safety arrested a college for seniors student Nov. 11, first charging him with larceny and then possession and concealment of a firearm.

UNCA public safety charged Robert Bruce Frederick, 65, of Asheville with larceny, and arrested him after a student reported seeing Frederick digging up plants on campus, near Ramsey library.

After Frederick's arrest, public safety discovered a firearm inside his car, and then added possession and concealment of a firearm to Frederick's charges.

"It's frustrating. The grounds crew put a lot of themselves into their work, and the campus looks great for the manpower we have. That's because they care," said Stephen Baxley, director of facilities management and planning. "It makes the wind-out of your sails when someone comes in and dismantles what you've been working so hard to do."

After the report of suspicious activity to the dispatcher, public safety officer Steve Metcalf went to the Ramsey Library area, according to Calliendo.

"He saw that person near Zaiger Hall with what he believed to be plants," said Lou Calliendo, the director of public safety. "He did a field interview, and determined that this person did not have permission to take these plants."

Officer Metcalf was unable to comment because the case was still under investigation.

"When his vehicle was towed, they found a firearm in the vehicle," Calliendo. "It was a small caliber, I believe a .32 caliber semi-automatic pistol."

After public safety arrested and charged Frederick, Calliendo said that Frederick's car was towed and the handgun was found. He was then charged with possession of, and concealing a weapon.

"The gentlemen was cooperative throughout the whole incident," said Calliendo.

The case was still under investigation, according to Calliendo, because of past incidences of stolen landscaping materials.

"We received reports from facilities management and grounds workers several weeks in a row of larceny of landscaping materials, plants and things of that nature," said Calliendo.

Previous incidents involving stolen plants occurred in the same area, around Zaiger Hall and Ramsey Library, according to Melissa Acker, landscape director.

Acker did not know what kind of plants Frederick allegedly stole.

"In the past incidents it was pennies," said Acker.

Some may feel that property of the state belongs to them.

"There are folks who have the attitude that if it is state property it belongs to the taxpayers," said

See DEPARTMENTS Page 6

State budget cuts tighten spending campus-wide

Sara Miller
News Reporter

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postage and our telephones. So, although the university may appear to be a big storehouse of resources, academic departments are actually making purchases."

Despite the lack of concrete budget figures early in the semester, department chairs collected information from within their departments to gain a general idea about how to form spending habits, according to Friedenberg.

Until the departments received their budget figures, department chairs operated on a money-transfer system for purchases within the university.

"What we're in the process of doing right now is subtracting what we've already spent from what we were just allocated," said Friedenberg. "We had been allowed to go ahead and get the things that we needed through internal money transfers, so we have to subtract some things out and see what we have left to work with."

For some departments, budget cuts mean fewer resources and bigger classes.

"We had always hoped here that we could teach a small number of classes at a level of high quality and not teach massive numbers," said Pamela Laughon, psychology professor. "Now some of my classes are over 30. The limit is set at 25, but I can't keep people out because they need the classes. So, I always sign a lot of people in."

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-Pamela Laughon,
psychology department

Some students dislike larger class sizes.

"Staff has been cut, and I have larger classes now," said Kelly Taylor, an undeclared freshman. "It's harder for the professors to get as personal or as one-on-one as I'd like them to be."

Budget cuts forced the university to cut many classes this year, creating schedule problems and frustration among students.

"There was a class that I really wanted to take that I was very excited about and it got cancelled because of the budget," said Sarah Cleveland, a senior sociology major. "It wasn't a core course but I thought that it would have been really cool. They had to cancel it right before the semester started and I'd already had it scheduled."

Despite departmental budget cuts, the price of goods continues to rise. "We have fewer dollars this year

than last year, and last year we had fewer dollars than the year before," said Friedenberg. "Of course, nothing is getting cheaper. It has to affect something."

For department chairs like Friedenberg, the arrival of budget figures means the chairs must decide where to make cuts.

"What do I cut? Do I buy less paper? Do I let people travel to meetings less? Do I bring in fewer guest speakers? Something has to give," said Friedenberg. "It's really hard to just adopt an across the board strategy of cutting everything by the same amount. Some areas end up taking bigger hits than others."

Weighing financial priorities has led to complete cuts in some areas, according to Friedenberg.

"The area of complete cut for my department was honoraria for guest speakers," said Friedenberg. "For-

tunately, some speakers have agreed to come without compensation. The other area that is going to be hit pretty hard will be computer and software upgrades."

"Other kinds of curricular support such as films and videos won't be ordered because those are things that we can more easily do without."

Uncertainty over funding cuts for technology throughout the university caused students in several departments to speculate over the effects possible changes.

"There was fear that the computer center would cut jobs or hours," said computer lab assistant Jonathan Meadows. "They did end up closing one outlying lab, but no positions were cut."

Ramsey Library also cut several of its less used electronic databases, as well as print-media journals.

"After analyzing journal-use statistics, we realized that some journals weren't being used very much, and were costing as much as \$50 per use," said librarian Jim Kuhlman. "Some of the journals in chemistry and technology cost upwards of \$6,000 per year. So, we consulted with department faculty to cut the resources that were less of a necessity."

About \$400,000 worth of journals were cut this year according to

See BUDGET Page 6

See GUN Page 6