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Campus Police advance weaponry

New handguns and shotguns allotted for officers

By Kristen Marshall
STAFF WRITER

Campus Police recently purchased new equipment, including two new shotguns, in order to protect and serve the UNCA campus.

"It was to better equip the department," said Steve Lewis, director of Campus Police.

The North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission issued a grant of around \$24,000 to UNCA Campus Police last year, which they used to purchase the weapons. The Commission administers over \$30 million in grants to justice programs all over the state, according to Lewis.

Two Remington Model 870 pump-action shotguns now sit between the front seats in two of the Campus Police vehicles.

"An advantage of the shotgun is its longer range," Lewis said. "Every new officer who's come through basic law enforcement training has trained with a shotgun."

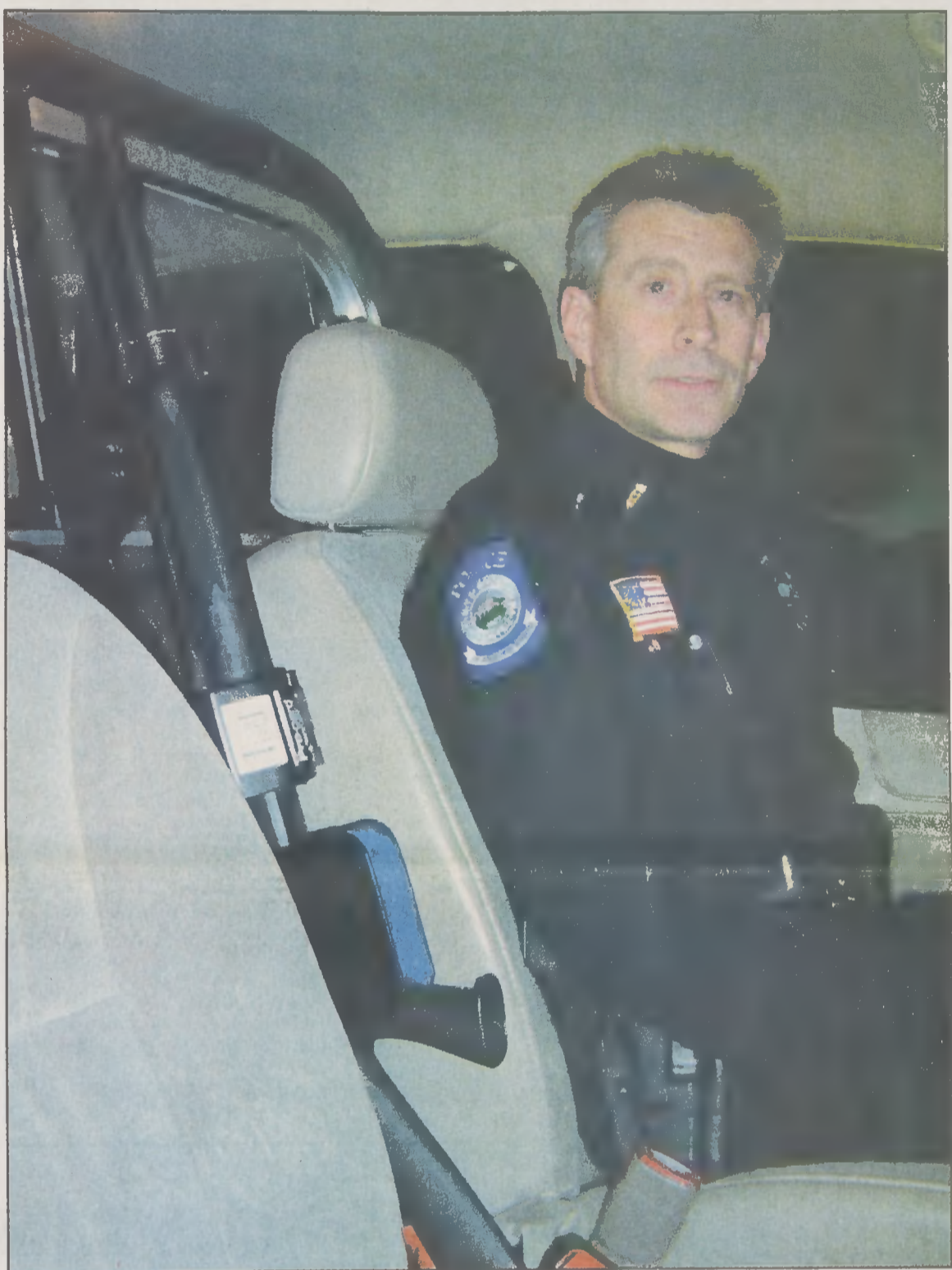
Each officer also received a new handgun, a .40-caliber Glock 22.

"To my knowledge, we were the last agency in Buncombe County that did not furnish the officers their handguns," Lewis said. "The officer had to buy his or her own gun. That creates training problems when everything's not standardized."

The department also purchased a recording device, to keep track of radio transmissions and telephone calls. Funds from a different account also allowed them to purchase bullet-proof vests, which each officer now wears at all times.

"A lot of those things, handguns, shotguns and vests, are items that we certainly hope we'll never have to use," Lewis said. "Every day that goes by that we don't have to use them, we're very, very thankful."

There were no seriously violent crimes that occurred last year on campus, and in the past three years, there has only been one forcible sex offense, according to the Campus Security Statistics sur-



BRIAN DAVIS - PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Campus Police received a grant from the North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission last year, with which they purchased new handguns and shotguns. Two Remington Model 870 pump-action shotguns, like the one shown above, are now located in two of the Campus Police vehicles.

vey, an annual report of all offenses committed on UNCA's campus.

Ideally, there are at least three officers on campus during each 12-hour shift. There are currently 11 officers on staff, but a new officer and sergeant are in the process of joining the department, accord-

ing to Lewis.

The bulk of offenses reported are property offenses, like larceny and breaking and entering motor vehicles.

The second most common offense is underage drinking, according to Lewis.

Most students consider UNCA a safe campus and are not afraid of living here.

"I think this is an extremely safe campus," said Emily Jones, freshman student. "Where I come from, it really isn't a safe environment, so I'm used to having to lock my

doors. I know people here who leave for class who don't even lock their doors."

The new weaponry the Campus Police now have has shaken some students who were not aware of the new weapons, according to Amanda Meyers, senior art student.

"They already carry handguns in their holsters," Meyers said. "What is the point of having two types of guns when this is a relatively safe campus?"

Freshman student Meredith Wagner-Hoehn agrees.

"It doesn't make sense. I can understand why they would need some sort of weapons, but I'm not sure if they would need guns in general," Wagner-Hoehn said. "I think having multiple guns is a little over the top."

For the younger officers in the department, it is an on-going struggle to be taken seriously by the student body.

When it comes to making charges, some students do not think Campus Police has the right to issue citations and make arrests, according to Lewis.

"Most of us who have been here for awhile have grown accustomed to that, being called security rather than police," Lewis said.

A lot has changed in the past decade as far as the safety of the campus is concerned.

"When I started in 1995 as a security officer, day shift officers did not carry weapons, but evening shift officers and night shift officers did," Lewis said.

The number of security phones on campus has increased, as well, jumping to about 12 from only four in a few years.

"Since they are real police, they should be armed as such," said junior Roland Crandall, junior student. "People aren't yelling and screaming about normal cops having shotguns. I don't see what the problem is with Campus Police being armed as real policemen because that's what they are."

Some students have never experienced anything to cause them to feel threatened on campus and think Campus Police is going overboard to protect students, according to Meyers.

"There's no fence around UNCA," Lewis said. "Most of the things that have the capability to happen in downtown Asheville have the capability to happen here."

New halls cause issues

By David Hodges
STAFF WRITER

The UNCA campus is undergoing major renovations, thanks to the Higher Education Bond Referendum, which donated \$50.2 million in voter-approved funds.

"I think that it's nice that we are getting some new buildings on campus," said Lillian Byers, senior French student. "Most of the buildings have gotten pretty old, and new ones will help the campus to look more attractive."

New Hall is the next building scheduled to open, as construction was completed in January.

The \$5.5 million project will house the history, foreign languages, philosophy and humanities departments.

The largest of the construction projects is the Zeis Science and Multimedia Building.

The building is named for Asheville businessman Steve Zeis, who donated \$3 million to UNCA, the largest private gift in the history of the university.

The new four-story building is expected to feature state-of-the-art technologies.

It will hold 44 teaching and research labs, 36 offices, a computer lab and two multimedia lab classrooms. It will also house the chemistry, biology and multimedia arts and sciences departments.

The on-campus construction creates some transportation and parking problems for both students and faculty members.

"I have noticed that it seems to take a lot longer to find an open parking space since the construction started, especially late in the morning and early in the afternoon," said Amanda Lusky, junior philosophy student. "You just can't seem to find a spot that is anywhere close to where you need to be."

Koslen reminded students that Campus Operations has made significant efforts to limit the inconvenience to both students and faculty.

"We tried to save as many parking spots as we could," Koslen said. "We have also doubled the amount of bus transportation on campus to help students. Asheville Transit buses now pass through campus two times an hour, and they have printed new maps and schedules that will help students with transportation."

With the parking situation expected to continue for at least another year, Koslen pointed out that the problem is not as significant as it seems.

"The problem that I think many students have is that they now have a longer walk to get where they are going," Koslen said. "Still, there are consistently 125 to 150 unused parking spots everyday, and that includes faculty, resident and commuter spots."

Koslen recommended that those with parking problems look for spaces in the lesser-used lots.

"There are always open commuter spots in lot F," Koslen said. "There are also open resident spaces in lot A and faculty spaces in lot 11. These are lots that people may want to check in the future."

Seniors experience reality check

With the 'real world' approaching seniors face added stress

By M.R. Vincent
STAFF WRITER

As the needle of the real world nears the collegiate-buffered bubble of UNCA's graduating seniors, many of them wonder if they will rise or fall.

"On the one hand, I'm graduating," said Max Cooper, senior photography student. "But on the other hand, I have an exhibition to plan. And on the other hand I'm worrying about life after college. That's three hands. I don't have three hands."

Conveniently located on campus, the counseling center serves as one place a stressed-out senior can visit.

The many brochures, pamphlets and flyers found there assure one

that stress plays a normal part in college life since college is such a transitional period for some people.

The reality of that transition can really hit home when one's college career draws to a close.

"Transition and change is stressful, even when it's positive, and even for people who know what is next for them," said Maggie Weshner, director of UNCA's Counseling Center.

Weshner compared graduates from college to other positive events that create stressors in one's life, such as marriage or moving into a new home.

"College was more stressful the closer I got to graduation," said Erica Richards, UNCA alumna. "Sometimes I wanted to just quit. But I kept trekking through it because some part of me realized I was very close to accomplishing something very big."

The stress is referred to by many as "senior stress" and harbors somewhat of a varied nature.

Many times, a senior searches

for the right words to express these muddled emotions, however, finding these words may prove elusive, according to Weshner.

Continual exposure to stress can comprise the immune system, according to Weshner.

This can compound the stressful feelings, feelings which end up having an effect on the body.

Some students deal with stress by ignoring it.

By the time graduation nears student's lives and schedules are the most busy and hectic they have ever been.

Some students simply stop going to class, ignore other responsibilities and sleep irregularly, even throughout the day.

Other students sometimes give up hours of sleep for hours of study.

Still, other students self-medicate themselves, potentially using alternative or unhealthy substances.

SEE STRESS PAGE 10

Students voice opinions about Chartwells at Food Committee Meeting

By Anna Lee
STAFF WRITER

Students showed up with criticism, praise, advice and questions for Chartwells Dining Services at a Food Committee Meeting on Jan. 26.

Dining Services is continually evolving, according to Director Danny Dawkins, who led the meeting's discussion.

"Part of what lifestyle dining is, is what we have to change. We have to add, because we know that after you've seen the same thing like eight weeks in a row, you've got to have something else," Dawkins said.

Dining Services will make many of these changes as a direct result of students' criticisms, according to Dawkins.

"We took a lot of the things students were asking for last semester and put them in this semes-

ter," Dawkins said.

Dining Services is also doing renovations, according to Dawkins.

"We have money set aside for the next four years, and we have more money set aside for the health and wellness initiative that's going to take place in year four of our contract. So, it's going to come to around 1.4 million dollars," Dawkins said.

Chartwells is trying to be more socially conscious, according to Dawkins.

"Every one of our coffees is organic, fair trade and shade-grown," Dawkins said. "All (coffee) proceeds go back to children in the coffee-growing countries."

Students attended the meeting with various issues.

"I was diagnosed with diabetes

SEE DINING PAGE 10