

Inside IN FOCUS

New law gives Boone more say in campus projects

JUSTIN BOULMAY
Senior Staff Writer

A new bill passed by the North Carolina General Assembly over the summer will soon change the way Appalachian State University manages construction projects.

The bill was introduced in 2003 but was ratified and passed this summer.

It takes effect Oct. 1 and gives local governments greater authority in local zoning for construction projects on university campuses.

Director of Design and Construction Dr. Clyde D. Robbins said the Town of Boone already has authority

over zoning for buildings designed for business or residence use.

The new law gives the town jurisdiction over projects such as parking lots and playing fields.

"This change in the statutes gives the Town of Boone jurisdiction over all those things also," Robbins said. "That was passed very quietly and without anybody knowing about it."

Robbins said the university was opposed to the bill. "We were opposed to it because we feel that it adds an extra bureaucratic layer to the development and it's time-consuming, but most importantly it becomes politicized," he said.



Robbins

Helm said the bill would hinder, not help, construction projects.

"I feel that the more rules we have and the more bodies we have to get approval from, the more complex the construction project," she said.

Planning Director for the Town of Boone John E. Spear said he doesn't expect the law to change the way

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New Crossroads location



John Bethune | The Appalachian
Ann M. Boschini, a junior English major in secondary education, fixes a Chai Latte in the new Crossroads location in the Whitewater room.

SGA reaching out to campus

ANNA OAKES
Staff Writer

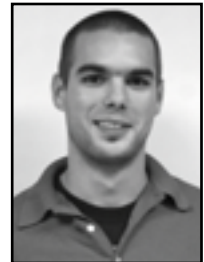
The Student Government Association will employ various strategies in reaching out to the campus population this year.

As part of "Operation Outreach," SGA plans to send senators to meet with as many university clubs and organizations as possible. In addition, SGA will place table-toppers in campus dining facilities and plans to revive the SGA newsletter.

"This isn't a constituency program," SGA Vice President Nick V. Albu said. "This is ... a program to get a general sense of students' views on various issues."

The concept behind contacting clubs and organizations is that these groups are already formed and thus are an easy means of contact, Albu said. Students involved in campus organizations tend to be

more interested students, he said.



Albu

"Hopefully reaching out to organizations will ultimately lead to not only more ideas, but better ideas," Albu said.

First, SGA will contact every club and organization, including athletic teams and freshman seminar classes, through the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (CSIL) e-mail newsletter, Albu said.

SGA Liaison Director Leila H. Ghannad started this process several days ago, she said.

In the e-mail, SGA asks any organization that would like an SGA senator to speak with them to contact SGA. After a couple weeks, if a club has not responded, Ghannad will follow-up with a phone call to that club, she said.

After a club responds, Ghannad will assign a senator to meet with that club. Senators will give an outlined 25-minute presentation to their assigned organization and complete their presentations by a deadline, Albu said.

Senators will discuss the history of SGA, its current endeavors, and ask for students' opinions on campus issues,

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Southern Universities-Master's Public

1. James Madison University
2. The Citadel
3. University of Mary Washington
4. Appalachian State University
5. College of Charleston
6. Murray State University
7. UNC-Wilmington
8. UNC-Charlotte
9. Winthrop University
10. Mississippi University for Women

Source: U.S. News & World Report

Appalachian still in top 5

JENNIFER SCHNEIDER
Staff Writer

Appalachian State University once again ranks as one of the top public universities in the South.

According to U.S. News and World Report magazine's annual America's Best Colleges issue, Appalachian places fourth among public, master's degree granting universities in the South behind James Madison University, The Citadel and Mary Washington University. The university also lands eleventh out of the Southern private

and public universities.

"I think it's great public relations for this university," associate communications professor Dr. Janice Pope said. "We know that we are a good university and a lot of people in North Carolina know we are a good university, but it's always nice to get that recognition and for people outside of the state to know that."

Since the rankings began in 1986, Appalachian has consistently been placed in the top 15 Southern universities.

The rankings were based

on universities' academic reputations, commitment to instruction, alumni giving, class size, graduation and retention rates.

"It is so important to us because it takes what for 100 years was a small, regional, growing, changing institution and it puts you on the national scene," Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Development Cindy A. Wallace said.

"It is kind of a mirror showing, alright Appalachian, this is what you are doing well, but this is where

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Off-campus meal plan available

Restaurants in town now accept meal cards

JASON SECREST
Staff Writer

Appalachian State University students have more variety in their meal plan with the Off-Campus Dining Network.

Off-Campus Dining Network is a company not connected with Appalachian State that hopes to provide students with a more flexible meal plan to restaurants in Boone.

Appalachian State is now one of 33 universities where the company offers off-campus meal plans for the surrounding area.

The Appalachian Off-Campus meal plan has already grown to include 22 restaurants and serves hundreds of

students in only its first year in Boone.

Participating restaurants include Black Cat Burrito, Red Onion Cafe, Golden Corral and Dominos Pizza.

Students receive a meal card, which can be used at any of the participating restaurants, and both dine-in and delivery options are available.

Cade Lemcke, vice president of marketing for OCDN, said the plan enhances students' meal options by providing more diversity. "What if a student doesn't feel like roast beef and potatoes?" Lemcke said.

Now those students have another option. "We are extremely excited about our growth here in the ASU market with the Appalachian Off-Campus Meal Plan," Lemcke said.

Lemcke said students have been asking for an off-campus meal plan. Students were not satisfied with the

traditional college campus meal plans, he said.

Ron Dubberly, Director of Food Services at Appalachian State, said the off-campus meal plan has had no effect on sales in dining halls on campus.

Roughly 1,000 Appalachian State students who live off campus still have meal plans on campus in large part to convenience and price, he said.

Dubberly said he is going to wait and see what happens as far as making changes due to the off-campus meal plan.

Lemcke said a disadvantage with traditional college meal plans is the "missed meal factor," or students skipping prepaid meals. The traditional college meal plan is set up in such a way that when a student misses a meal, that money is wasted. Ken Schwenke, founder

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Three hit-and-runs occur

LORI FOX
Staff Writer

The Stadium Drive Parking Lot has been host to at least three reported misdemeanor offenses. Over the course of three days in the last week three hit-and-runs occurred, leaving significant damage to cars parked in the Stadium Lot.

A hit-and-run is a criminal offense categorized as a misdemeanor. The punishment for a hit and run can range from high fines to prison time.

According to the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles, a hit and run resulting in property damage will accumulate four points on a N.C. driver's license.

Legally, if a person hits a parked car, that person must attempt to locate the owner of the vehicle. If the owner cannot be found, a name

and phone number must be left or the police need to be contacted.

Failure to abide by these rules can result in a conviction.

Why do so many people fail to report this type of traffic violation?

"Maybe it's because they think there's not much damage when they back out of a parking space and hit another vehicle," Maj. Larry Foster of the Appalachian State University Police De-

partment said.

Despite increasing traffic problems in the area, there is no definite cause as to the recent number of hit-and-runs.

"[Hit-and-runs] happen quite frequently all over campus," Foster said.

Sophomore advertising major Benjamin A. Walker was a recent victim of hit and run crime in the Kingswood Apartment complex on King Street. He'll have to pay a \$500 deductible to his insurance company in order to have damages fixed.

"I was angry at the fact that I would have to pay for something that someone else did," Walker said.

For victims of hit-and-run crime, there is an option that can aid in finding the offender.

If there is paint left on

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John Bethune | The Appalachian
The poster sale had to restrict posters that could be sold.

Marley, Scarface, 'Saints' banned

CRYSTAL GENES
Staff Writer

Posters of reggae legend Bob Marley smoking marijuana, Al Pacino's "Scarface" character with cocaine and numerous other novelty posters depicting illegal drug use and violence will not be sold at future poster sales in Plemmons Student Union on the campus of Appalachian State University.

Director of Student Programs Dave L. Robertson requested that certain posters be removed from last week's Beyond The Wall poster sale after Nick V. Albu, vice president of the Student Government Association (SGA), e-mailed him to express concerns about the subject matter.

"As a representative of SGA I did realize that posters were being sold that conflicted with the university's policy on drugs and alcohol. As an elected member of SGA, it is my duty to report concerns to appropriate administration," Albu said.

All posters with images of illegal drugs were removed last Tuesday morning. In addition, any poster on display that depicted violence, such as one advertising "Boondock Saints," was removed.

Robertson said alcohol-related posters were allowed

to remain because alcohol is a legal substance for those over 21 years of age.

Robertson admitted that he had never shopped at the sale or looked through the books, and was unaware of the types of posters being sold.

"This is not any attempt at censoring what students choose to buy or display in their dorm room or their apartments. But there is an issue of whether the university should be selling some of those things, and to me it was clear that we shouldn't be selling anything that depicts illegal activity. That's a terrible mixed message and I applaud SGA for bringing it to our attention," Robertson said.

"I regret that I didn't know about it earlier."

Tanya Frey, a Beyond The Wall employee from Pennsylvania, said many schools often limit what can be sold or displayed.

"Students here seem to be more into the arts. A lot of our novelty posters weren't going as well anyway," Frey said.

"We comply with the rules. We're here to serve the students. I take whatever restrictions I'm given, and that's what I have to go with. It's not really my

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AppalCART hopes to keep same schedule
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ENTERTAINMENT



Carter Brothers Band returns to Boone
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SPORTS



Football campaign begins Saturday at Division 1-A Wyoming
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ONLINE

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- ◆ Review of last weekend's hit 'Hero'

WEATHER

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Low 57° F
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