A bullet sent by an unknown person was found in an envelope in the Math Building, Sept. 28, following the receipt of a letter containing a death threat Aug. 31. The threat was not addressed to a specific person, said UNA police Chief Bob Pastula.

UNA police have a few suspects, Pastula said.

After the letter was received, a math professor contacted police with the name of a possible suspect, according to the official police report. The possible suspect had failed several math classes and exhibited behavior that gave the professor the impression that he or she had a

Officials from the Department of Residence Life and the Department of Housing announced Thurs. Sept. 27 during the weekly SGA Senate meeting that they have finalized some of the exemptions for their new first-time, full-time freshman live-on requirement.

Students who are married or have children will be exempt from the requirement, officials said. Additionally, students in a certain age range or students who have served or currently serve in the military will be excluded as well. Also, officials are looking at exempting students living inside of a 30-, 40- or 50-mile radius from campus, officials

Police investigate threat letter sent to Math Department

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At A Glance

- Police have leads in case
- Patrols on campus stepped up
- Cameras being bid out for parking deck
- Officials still building case

News.............2A
Images..........4A
Viewpoints.....7A
Life.............1B
Sports..........5B
Extra...........8B

A night at Arx Mortis... 4A&5A

Volume # 81, Issue # 7  www.FlorAla.net  Student newspaper of the University of North Alabama

Police chief admits error in reporting alleged rape

UNA police Chief Bob Pastula said he should have reported an alleged rape on campus earlier than he did. The incident was reported in the late afternoon of Sept. 26, and a campus alert did not go out until late afternoon of Sept. 28.

“That was an error in thinking,” he said. “I probably should have released something earlier. I was trying to gather more information instead of less because of the 15-hour time lapse (between the crime and when it was reported).”

An alleged sexual assault occurred between 12:30 a.m. and 1 a.m. Sept. 26 in the campus parking deck, according to a campus-wide email sent the afternoon of Sept. 28 from Pastula. However, Pastula later confirmed that the incident was alleged rape.

Pastula said he released the alert to campus two days after the event because he thought it would be better to gather more information first.

However, a full police report is not necessary to send out a LionAlert, Pastula said.

Pastula confirmed the incident was an alleged rape, but said the official police report documented it as sexual assault. But when The Flor-Ala requested the document, the charge was listed as

See RAPE, page 5A

Civil Wars play sold-out show

The Civil Wars played to a sold-out Norton Auditorium Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. The Grammy-award winning duo kicked off the night by going straight into their “Tip of My Tongue.”

“This has to be one of my favorite concerts ever because it is only two blocks from my house; don’t get any ideas,” said John Paul White after finishing the group’s first song.

White, the male half of the duo, is a former UNA student and alumna of the Department of Entertainment Industry.

See WARS, page 8B

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See THREAT, page 5A

Officials announce live-on requirement exemptions

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See EXEMPT, page 5A

The Flor-Ala

UNA SOCCER TO HOST PINK GAME Sports 5B

Oct. 4, 2012

NORTH HOLLOW

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See WARS, page 8B

Residence Life

Officials announce live-on requirement exemptions

JOSH SKAGGS

Executive Editor
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See EXEMPT, page 5A

A night at Arx Mortis... 4A&5A

This week’s paper
ALUMNI

Where are they now?

• A look at the promising alumni of years past

BY THE STEELMAN
Online Editor
bsteelman@una.edu

Each year, a group of graduating seniors is chosen by faculty and staff members to receive the Promising Alumni award. Recipients are chosen based upon promise in their chosen academic field, as well as their campus involvement, according to UNA’s alumni website.

Since 1994, almost 200 students have received the award, according to the alumni website.

Some have gone on to graduate school, some have gotten internships that turned into jobs and some have just gone on to work at jobs that they love.

Lucy Berry, former executive editor of The Flor-Ala and 2011 recipient of the award, has done the latter.

“I started working at The Decatur Daily two days after graduation,” Berry said. “I’m a business and general assignment reporter.”

If you put yourself out there and are willing to move—if you can be brave enough, you can achieve it.

WINN BREWER

Berry, who is from Decatur, said being close to home with her job was an important factor, as she is currently planning a November wedding with her fiancé Charlie De Buty.

While coming back to Florence was always part of his plan, 2006 Promising Alumni award recipient Jonathan Fleming said he’s been across the country and back before coming home again. Fleming is spending his first semester as an assistant professor in the geography department.

“I moved to California and worked as a product engineer for Esri, one of the biggest geography software companies in the world,” Fleming said.

Fleming said that after his time in California, he moved to Mississippi to work on his master’s at Mississippi State University. Fleming also received his Ph.D. while at MSU.

After interning for Congressman Parker Griffith in Washington, D.C., the summer after graduation, 2008 award recipient Will Hodges received his master’s in advertising and public relations from UNA.

See ALUMNI, page 3A

CAMPUS SAFETY

Officials shop for surveillance cameras

MATT WILSON
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UNA officials said they are currently working on adding surveillance cameras across campus, including the parking deck where an alleged rape occurred last week.

The alleged rape occurred early in the morning hours of Sept. 26 near the breezeway area that connects Floyd Science Building and Stevens Hall to the parking deck, according to the official incident report.

A man was also arrested on the morning of Sept. 24 for allegedly exposing himself in the stairwell of the parking deck. John Cameron Crouch, 21, was later booked into Lauderdale County Detention Center and charged with public lewdness.

These two recent crimes come after an incident during the spring semester when a UNA student was approaching her car in the parking deck and was forced at gunpoint to drive to a nearby ATM and retrieve money for the perpetrator.

UNA police Chief RobertPastula said his officers patrol the campus regularly.

“We have officers patrolling the campus constantly,” Pastula said. “They make a run through the parking deck at least once per hour.”

Pastula said two companies have recently been contacted to survey the campus and give the university a quote for the services of installing surveillance equipment.

“A company called Sharp Communication came about two weeks ago,” Pastula said. “Another company through Graybar came yesterday (Sept. 27) and gave us a quote.”

Sharp Communication Inc. is a company based out of Huntsville that specializes in GPS tracking, security surveillance systems and wireless networking.

Recent crimes reported in the parking deck have spurred students and officials to consider the effectiveness of having cameras in the deck. Officials are in negotiations with several companies to obtain cameras to increase campus safety.

Danny Anyan with Sharp Communication Inc. said a project like installing surveillance cameras in most locations around campus would take about two months. Anyan said they only quoted UNA for two of its buildings so far but that those two buildings alone would cost approximately $45,100.

UNA student Alexandra O’Steensaid these recent crimes are bothersome.

“I don’t feel like these kinds of things happen that often on our campus or in our town really,” O’Steensaid. “But having surveillance cameras around campus probably would deter future incidents like this from happening.”

O’Steensaid she feels university officials definitely want students to be safe.

“I think the people in charge want students to be safe; I mean, without us, they wouldn’t have a job,” O’Steensaid.

“Maybe they just never thought about really needing cameras everywhere for us to be safe.”

Career fair to bring 20 employers

BEN ELLIOTT
Student Writer
telliott@una.edu

UNA’s Career Fair will gather various organizations to Banquet Hall B in the GUC Oct. 9 from noon to 5 p.m. for students to meet potential employers.

Students will have an opportunity to meet with some of the major employers from around the state, such as Intergraph, Sherwin-Williams, the United States Space and Rocket Center and more.

“We’ve invited approximately 500 companies from this area, the Nashville area, from Atlanta and various other companies students had suggested,” said Jennifer Smith, UNA career development coordinator.

The event will allow students—especially seniors — to start networking with the important employers that might lead to a career.

Career Services has more than 20 employers participating in this year’s career fair, somewhat fewer than years past.

“We don’t have as many registered employers (as we would like to see),” Smith said. “Some of the employers are not attending as many career fairs as they have in the past.”

But Smith said the employers who could not attend assured that they had prior arrangements at other career fairs.

“It was good to hear that some of (the employers) said that they would love to come but that they had a conflict,” Smith said.

Many employers were attending other career fairs at the same time and could not spare anyone for UNA’s fair, which showed that participation has not slowed down due to the economy, officials said.

Smith said any students who are attending the career fair should come prepared.

“The first thing would be to dress professionally,” Smith said. “Your first impressions are very important when
The campus crime logs — available on sexual assault, but sexual assault is not the same thing.”

I don’t spend the entire night yelling out expletives (I am sure my mother would not be proud). For some reason my staff threw me into the front of the line because I am their “fearless leader.” This is a load of crap, because I was scared the entire time.

I would highly suggest anyone who wants to get a little scare in before Halloween drive out to Killen to go.

The bullet mailed to the department was a .44 magnum armor-piercing round, according to the police report.

Pastula said he has been speaking to participants, these ghoulish volunteers were fantastic.

optional enrollment to the interdisciplinary studies program.

There’s something to be said about a haunted attraction that can make a certain college newspaper’s executive editor squeal like a little girl when the lights are turned on, the mechanical workings of the animatronic creatures are in plain sight and the monsters are just having dress rehearsal.

The attraction’s design plays with common fears — narrow pathways for the claustrophobic, absurdly long hallways for the agoraphobic and enough twists and turns to disorient and bewilder even brazen skeptics (who need to light up, anyway).

Arx Mortis has been a delightfully frightening experience both times I’ve been.

From a murderer running through standing water in the pitch black to a slow crawling in the rafters and jumping down to scare participants, these ghoulish volunteers were fantastic.

The Flor-Ala staff went on their first night, and the haunted attraction wasn’t even in full swing, but the actors still got several scares in. Arx Mortis definitely set the mood for Halloween.

Arx Mortis is always the first night, and the attraction has been a great way to break out of your comfort zone.

I pride myself on being fearless, but Arx Mortis caused me to scream from surprise so much, I needed a lozenge after.

Even when we went through the “lights-on” and I use that term lightly — tour, I was freaking out around each corner of the impressively decorated rooms.

Going through Covington Clinic, I saw some amazing animatronics, terrifying actors, and I use that term lightly.

As we made our way through the Covington Clinic and Miner’s Hill, we formed into a conga line of fear, holding hands as we bravely the scariness.

I can’t wait to go back after all the actors have had more training – at least I think I can’t.

Cameras are best for students.

Officials are still working on the age requirement, but Mitchell and Jacques said the requirement should be for students who are 17 to 20.

Jacques said, for example, that a student living in Lawrenceburg, Tenn. Drives approximately 80-52 miles both ways and 402 miles a week. That same student spends approximately $925 in gas a semester and 114 minutes a day on the road commuting to campus.

We have done a lot of research with this,” said Director of Residence Life Kevin Jacques. “We have benchmarked the university to every school in the state of Alabama and the Ohio Valley Conference.

Jacques and Director of Housing Audrey Mitchell were on hand to answer any questions students had about the newly announced requirement.

If the cameras are well-maintained and placed with clear view to areas where activity is likely, then they can have a deterrent value,” he said. “Research has shown that places that store cameras in locations where shoppers can see them have a decreased in loss to theft.”

The bullets were mailed to the department.

“There wasn’t a change,” Pastula said. “Rape and sexual assault are the same thing.”

According to Title 13A, Article 4, of the Code of Alabama, rape is a type of sexual assault, but sexual assault is not a crime someone can be charged with. The campus crime logs — available on the UNA police website — identify the alleged rape as sexual assault, while the official police report identifies it as first-degree rape.

“I don’t take these things at all lightly,” said David Shields, UNA vice president of student affairs. “I don’t want one person on campus to think that sexual assault is minimal or that it has been marginalized.”

No suspects have been identified, but UNA police have a few leads, Pastula said.

“We’re still not even sure it happened in the deck,” he said. “We have a few leads from people who were on campus at the time, but we don’t have anything concrete yet.”

I’ve had camera companies in here working with us. We have done a lot of research with this,” said Director of Residence Life Kevin Jacques. “We have benchmarked the university to every school in the state of Alabama and the Ohio Valley Conference.

Jacques and Director of Housing Audrey Mitchell were on hand to answer any questions students had about the newly announced requirement.

We have a few leads from people who were on campus at the time, but we don’t have anything concrete yet,” Pastula said.

Thieves said they believe the alleged rape occurred near the breezeway that connects Stevens Hall and Floyd Science Building to the parking deck. Details are still unclear to UNA police, Pastula said.

“We’re still not clear on exactly what occurred that night,” he said. “We know the victim was leaving the library, but, from what I gather, the incident occurred not in the deck, but close to it.”

Two UNA officers were on duty at the time of the alleged rape, Pastula said.

The victim, a female UNA student, reported the alleged rape later in the afternoon Sept. 26, and, according to the email, UNA police are investigating the incident.

The student was walking from the breezeway to the parking deck when a man allegedly grabbed her backpack and forced her into the corner of the parking deck and raped her.

Pastula said he has been speaking with camera companies about buying cameras for the parking deck and other parts of campus, but he said cameras would not deter much crime.

“I’ve had camera companies in here for the last month, so that ball is rolling,” he said. “But cameras are really more of an investigative tool. Typically, they don’t deter (crimes).”

Cameras were in the original plans for the parking deck but were cut to save money on the final project costs, according to Times Daily articles from 2002. The issues of security and cameras in the deck have been raised since 2002, when members of the UNA community expressed concern about multiple crimes in the deck in stories published in the Times Daily.

Cameras can deter some crimes, said Craig Robertson, professor of sociology and director of the professional and interdisciplinary studies program.

“If the cameras are well-maintained and placed with clear view to areas where activity is likely, then they can have a deterrent value,” he said. “Research has shown that places that store cameras in locations where shoppers can
Administrators plan for university’s future, create strategic plan

RYAN PAINE
Student Writer
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Over the course of the next year, university officials will commence the development of a new strategic plan, with the assistance and input of faculty, staff, students and the administration.

“A strategic plan helps an institution think about the future, prepare for the future and put itself in the best position possible to be ready for what’s down the road,” said David Shields, vice president for student affairs.

“Our quality enhancement plan will be one way we move toward distinguishing UNA, and its implementation will move us closer to that aspirational goal,” said President Bill Cale.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO? WHAT DO WE WANT TO LOOK LIKE IN FIVE YEARS?

The university’s last strategic plan (2007 to 2012) will conclude Dec. 31 this year. Among its many accomplishments are plans for a new science building, the black box theater and the new Academic Commons Building currently in construction, officials said.

“The plan we are now under, soon to be revised, set clear direction for us in improving our approach to campus diversity, to revising all aspects of our international programming, to our campus building plan (by way of a new campus master plan) and to our programs in student life,” said President Bill Cale via email.

“Where do we want to go? What do we want to look like in five years?”

Students speak out about recent crimes on campus, safety concerns

BLYTHE STEELMAN
Online Editor
bsteeleman@una.edu

Following the recent string of crimes reported to campus police, safety and security are on the minds of students, as evidenced by social media comments on Facebook and Twitter.

Vice President for Student Affairs David Shields and UNA police Chief Bob Pastula said student safety is at the top of the list of priorities for administrators at UNA.

“Safety and security are a primary concern on our campus,” Shields said during an open forum Oct. 9.

David McCreary, a senior, said he doesn’t feel safe on campus anymore.

“When things like this happen, it creates an urgency for all of us,” he said.

“We want to know why this is happening and how we can prevent it,” Pastula said.

UNA police Chief Bob Pastula and Vice President for Student Affairs David Shields speak as Librarian Doris McDaniel listens during campus forums the Division of Student Affairs hosted after a student was reportedly raped in the parking deck.

Police chief, vice president meet with campus community during public forums

UNA police have introduced over the last three years, said David Shields, UNA vice president for student affairs.

“They’re new officers and put themselves in the best possible position to be ready for what’s down the road,” said David Shields, vice president for student affairs.

“In response to recent increased crime on campus, UNA officials held four open forums to address safety and security concerns to the UNA community.”

The purpose of the forums was to inform the campus about safety measures UNA police have introduced over the last three years, said David Shields, UNA vice president for student affairs.

“We’ve gone to 12-hour shifts to increase controls; I don’t know,” McCreary said. “I don’t exactly what needs to change. It’s here.”

“At the time the first crime happened, apparently something isn’t right,” McCreary said.

“Maybe we need to add more patrols; I don’t know,” McCreary said. “I just want to know exactly what’s going on and why no one is fixing it.”

Senior Will Whaley said he went to school in Memphis before transferring to UNA, and he said he’s shocked by the crime here.

“I’ve never seen this kind of crime on campus before,” Whaley said. “I went to school in Memphis and it was never like it here.”

Whaley said he feels like the university’s response is too slow.

“At a Glance

• 12 new reserve officers hired
• More officers in parking deck from 6 p.m. until 12 a.m.
• Dispatch center running by end of November
• Students should call 911 in case of emergency

See PLAN, page 5A

See FORUM, page 5A

Students speak out about recent crimes on campus, safety concerns

See STUDENTS, page 5A

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See STUDENTS, page 5A
**UNIVERSITY POLICE STEP UP PATROLS FOLLOWING RECENT CRIMES**

**What students are saying on Twitter:**

- *Bridget Jackson* @btragon14
  3 Oct
  how about instead of giving me parking tickets because there are no spots on campus you go catch the rapist that's on the loose.
  ![image]
  Expand

- *Brittney Grumbles* @Brty_Lyn
  4 Oct
  A bullet to Math Department? Thanks for making me find out on the news #UNA #I feel much safer now #UNAProblems #UNAProblems
  ![image]
  Expand

- *David Johnson* @David_Jackson
  6 Oct
  UNA students need to take a stand against this crime on OUR campus. We should have a sit-in until we see some results with safety
  on campus
  ![image]
  Expand

- *Dane Trettel* @GR17_Dane_Train
  6 Oct
  No one is going to even come to class if they don’t feel safe doing it.
  #ExcusedAbsent #UNA
  ![image]
  Expand

- *Butter B Charm* @butterburcham
  6 Oct
  being paranoid and on the constant lookout for these armed robbers
  #suspects #UNAproblems
  ![image]
  Expand

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**STUDENTS, continued from page 1A**

University doesn’t have its priorities in order.

“Instead of worrying about parking, they need to be worrying about campus safety,” Whaley said. Amanda Frazier, a junior, said her fears about safety and security extend beyond the campus.

“I don’t feel safe on campus because they’re not doing anything to implement security measures,” Frazier said. “But it’s not strictly the campus. I don’t feel safe in Florence, period, with everything that’s happened on campus and the university police force has doubled the size of the force and said they don’t cost the university much money because they work on a volunteer basis.

Recently, UNA police have created new investigative positions, Pastula said.

“I’ve created an investigator’s position and, more recently, in response to the recent events, a sexual crime investigator who is specially trained,” he said. Shields said the recent addition of reserve officers, who train for seven to eight months, has doubled the size of the force and said they don’t cost the university much money because they work on a volunteer basis.

“Recently, we had 12 reserve officers trained, and they’re out there assisting us right now,” he said. “They’ll be officially joining our ranks soon.”

Pastula said he has arranged for more security in the parking deck, citing officers who will patrol the deck from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. A new 24-hour dispatch center will open in late November or early December, Pastula said.

“We will be opening a new dispatch center, which will be manned 24 hours a day,” he said. “And we have blue phones located throughout campus — about 70 phones, with five on each level of the parking deck.”

Pastula said students should call 911 for campus emergencies and 765-HELP for non-emergencies. A sign displaying the numbers 765-HELP and 765-HELP will be hung outside the university police station soon, he said.

Shields and Pastula encouraged students to take advantage of campus safety resources, such as the Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol and the Rape Aggression Defense courses offered on campus.

“Saturday (Oct. 13) is the last class of this year, and new ones will start in January,” he said. “Because they aren’t usually well-attended, we only offer them once a quarter, but if demand goes up, we’ll create more classes.”

Shields said campus will be safer with the help of students.

“We have 7,000 people a day on campus,” he said. “If we can employ 7,000 eyes, we have a better opportunity to respond to security issues.”

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**FORUM, continued from page 1A**

creasre our coverage and have three officers on duty at most times,” he said. “We moved to a more centrally located area of campus to increase our visibility. We also offer bike patrols, Segways and officers patrolling on foot.”

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**PLAN, continued from page 1A**

email. Some of the things students can expect to see featured in the new university strategic plan are new residence halls, the completion of a new science building, plans for Floyd Science Building’s second life, new partnerships between academics and student affairs, a new “university success initiative” to aid in retaining students through graduation, programs to aid in preparing incoming students for collegiate life, enrollment increases and the expansion of on-campus programs and services for students, in addition to a possible move to Division I.

“We can’t do all things,” Shields said. “We don’t have the resources to do everything. So we have to strategically look at what key things will help our institution to grow, to remain strong, to distinguish ourselves as an institution, to support our students and to make the in-class and out-of-class experience for students top-notch.”

Cale said the university still had more to do in the way of ensuring students’ academic success but pointed to the creation of a University Success Center as work progress toward this end.

Also, he said the university will rely on a “comprehensive fundraising campaign as part of the next plan.”

Through this campaign, the administration hopes to decide what new building projects UNA needs.

“Our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) will be one way we move toward distinguishing UNA, and its implementation will move us closer to that aspirational goal,” Cale said.

Shields said the new strategic plan will be reviewed every year to ensure its goals and initiatives align with the interests and realities of the university. In effect, the plan will become a “living document,” something that guides UNA’s progress as a whole, he said.

“Destiny is going to come,” Shields said. “The future’s coming. We have the opportunity, through a strategic plan, to chart out destiny or have our destiny chart us. I think the next 10, 15, 20 years of this institution are going to be very, very exciting years.”

“UNA is in a very, very good position to become a stronger institution. We have an outstanding faculty, a tremendous staff — our student body is active and growing, we have a strong connection to our community, and we have a lot of friends and donors and supporters. President Cale, the administration, along with the faculty, staff and students, has laid a good foundation on which to build.”