

## Inside

### SPORTS

# Arrest made, drugs may be involved in McClure murder

**BRAD NORMAN**  
Senior Staff Writer

The Watauga County Sheriff's Office and the State Bureau of Investigation have arrested a prime suspect in connection with the murder of Appalachian State University student Joseph W. McClure.

Marty Lee Thompson Jr. was arrested in Durham late Wednesday night.

Thompson is charged with first-degree murder. Thompson is not an Appalachian State student.

Thompson made his first court appearance Thursday morning.

Judge Kyle Austin appointed Town of Boone At-

torney Jeff Hedrick to handle Thompson's defense.

Thompson did not address the court Thursday.

According to court docu-

ments, McClure was allegedly going to meet

a man named Lee

(Thompson's middle

name) the night he was

killed.

Court documents also

show that Thompson said

he was with McClure on the

night of his murder.

Thompson said he came to Boone intending to buy a "substantial amount" of marijuana from McClure.

Thompson told police officers he and McClure used cocaine at McClure's apartment before leaving to buy marijuana.

According to court documents, Thompson said he let McClure out of his car to go buy marijuana and McClure told Thompson to wait for him at his apartment.

Thompson said he waited at McClure's apartment for an hour but McClure never came back.

Both Thompson and McClure have had previous encounters with law enforcement.

According to the Avery County Clerk of Court office, McClure was convicted of driving while impaired Nov. 8, 2001.

McClure also faced drug allegations, but a charge of less than an ounce of marijuana possession was dismissed.

The Watauga County Clerk of Court office shows Thompson was convicted March 4 for possessions of a schedule VI controlled substance.

Thompson was convicted again in June for possession and conspiracy to sell a schedule II controlled substance.

A probable cause statement, written by Watauga County Sheriff's Depart-

ment Capt. Brian Tolbert, said Thompson's record also includes charges of armed robbery, assault and assault with a deadly weapon.

Thompson is being held in Watauga County Jail with no bond set at this time.

The Appalachian community was shaken by McClure's murder.

Sheriff's deputies found McClure's body on the shoulder of a gravel road around 11 p.m. Oct. 21.

McClure was a senior recreation management major and was scheduled to graduate in December.

Appalachian State's Dean of Students Susie L. Greene said a table with flowers and a guest book will be available

in Plemmons Student Union for those wishing to honor McClure's memory.

Greene also said McClure will be celebrated along with other former Appalachian students who have lost their lives.

The ceremony is held during Family Day every fall.

"This is not specifically just for Joey, it's for all the students that we lost and it has been held for the last 15 years," Greene said. "We remember the students and Joey will certainly be part of it."

Thompson's second court appearance was held this morning but no information was available as of press time.



ASU train to the playoffs derailed for good versus Chattanooga  
Sports, Page 5

### OPINION



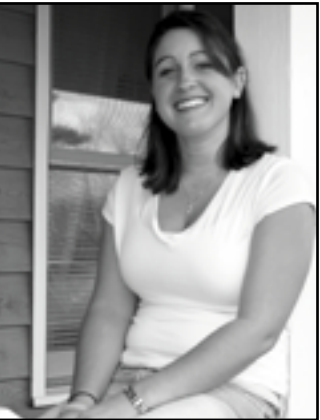
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### ENTERTAINMENT



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### WEATHER



Partly Cloudy

High 71° F  
Low 55° F

Your detailed forecast, Page 2

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## State inspection for new bookstore pushed back

### Solarium may open Monday

**JUSTIN BOULMAY**  
Senior Staff Writer

A state inspection scheduled for the University Bookstore this Thursday and Friday may be postponed.

Director of Design and Construction Dr. Clyde D. Robbins said the architect failed to submit all the necessary paperwork to the state last week after having three weeks to prepare. If the paperwork isn't ready by tomorrow, the state will not inspect the bookstore this week.

The university hoped the Solarium could be inspected at the same time as the bookstore. If it passes, the Solarium could open next Monday.

"There's no reason why the state can't inspect the Solarium at the same time," Robbins said.

A state inspection for the Solarium was scheduled for Oct. 25 but was postponed after the facility failed its electrical inspection.

"It was postponed because the electrical inspector from the Department of Insurance found some problems with the electrical installation, minor [problems], with the floor boxes and did not pass the Solarium for full occupancy,"

**Construction Updates**

**University Bookstore- Late November**

**Solarium- awaiting inspection**

**Rankin Science Hall- Spring 2005**

**Student Recreation Center- December 2005**

**White Residence Hall- July or August 2005**

Source: Dr. Clyde D. Robbins, Director of Design and Construction

Robbins said. The floor boxes on the stage were higher than they should have been, and could have been hazardous for anyone on stage. Robbins

said the problem was fixed yesterday.

The university will begin moving materials over to the Bookstore today, regardless of whether an inspection

takes place this week. "You don't have to have beneficial occupancy to move," he said.

The University Bookstore passed the electrical inspection, and Robbins said he's confident the state inspection will also go well.

"I'm pretty confident that we'll pass and we'll be on the move starting to move books in," Robbins said.

After the inspection, it will take at least three weeks to finish relocating into the new facility before it can open, Robbins said.

In the past, the lack of a set opening date has hindered the office of student programs from finalizing plans  
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## Poster restrictions gone, Administration backs SGA

**ANNA OAKES**  
Staff Writer

The Appalachian State University administration agreed to support the Student Government Association's (SGA) recent legislation on poster sales last week.

In August, Director of Student Programs Dave L. Robertson removed posters depicting marijuana, cocaine and violence from the Beyond the Wall poster sale in Plemmons Student Union.

Robertson said these posters were in conflict with university policy on drugs and alcohol.

SGA passed a resolution supporting the preservation of longstanding guidelines regarding third party poster sales at Appalachian State University with a vote of 31-8 Oct. 12.

"[The administration has] voted to support [SGA's] resolution," Vice Chancellor for Student Development Cindy A. Wallace said.

Wallace said the decision was made after discussions with Robertson and Chancellor Kenneth E. Peacock. Peacock heartily supported the SGA legislation, Wallace said.

"You can expect at the next

Beyond the Wall poster sale this January that the market will determine the content," SGA President Miriam N. Makhyoun said.

The inclusion of the censored posters in the poster sale indicates trust in Appalachian students to make the right decisions for themselves, Makhyoun said.

At a comprehensive university, it is important to put all ideas on the table for discussion, Makhyoun said.

"I continue to be impressed by the efforts of this administration at putting students first and quality in everything done thus far," Makhy-

oun said. "This is proof that [SGA] can be a very effective organization when we come together for debate and find solutions."



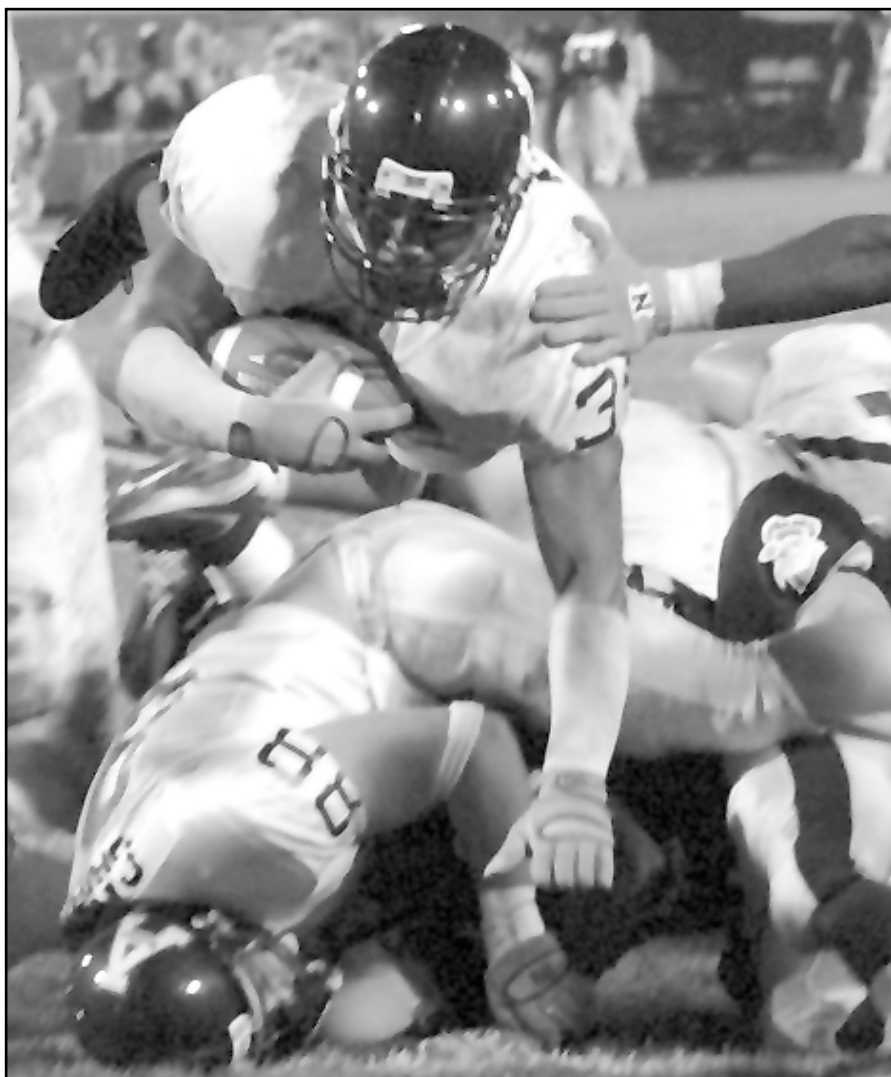
**Wallace**  
Roberts said he called him to explain her decision. "We will continue having poster sales as we always have with the poster com-

pany selecting what posters to sell," Robertson said. "The profits will continue to support the Appalachian Artist's Collection, which includes paintings and sculptures by Appalachian's finest art students."

Senator Amanda G. Zeddy authored the SGA poster sale legislation.

"I decided to work on this piece of legislation after speaking to many students, including our campus chapter of the [American Civil Liberties Union] (ACLU)," Zeddy said. "We are college  
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### A train comes off tracks



**Alan Atwater plunges over the goal line against Chattonooga late in the second quarter. Atwater rushed for 82 yards in a losing effort.**

Hugh Kellenberger | The Appalachian

## Locker larcenies on the rise

**JENNIFER SCHNEIDER**  
Staff Writer

An outbreak of larcenies has struck the Appalachian State University campus the past couple of months.

Since Sept. 5, University Police Chief Gunther E. Doerr says there have been 12 separate incidents of lockers in the Quinn Recreation Center, Mt. Mitchell Fitness Center, Broome-Kirk Health and Physical Education Building and Broyhill Music Center having been entered and items removed.

Lockers both secured and unsecured have been vandalized.

"Someone who is able to get into a locker with a pair of bolt-cutters and cut a lock, that basically means that whatever is in there is not secure. If I were working out, at this point, I would be careful about what I brought with me," Doerr said.

The usual items stolen include money, wallets, cell phones and car keys.

Although there have not been any vehicle thefts due to the gym larcenies there have been cars broken into. University police are work-

ing hard to find the person(s) responsible for the larcenies.

Doerr said they are checking the history of ID cards swiped at each location around the time of the break-ins.

The perpetrator seems to be a student since guest passes were not recorded as being used at the time of the larcenies, Director of University Recreation Joe R. Carter said.

"It is always a concern though when you allow folks to bring guests in that aren't students that may take advantage of your system," he said.

University police have also had the opportunity to set up stakeouts at some of the locations but no concrete evidence has been found.

"The University Police have really worked well with us in trying to get officers in the building at times, walking the facility and trying to be more aware of it," Carter said.

Recently Boone police reported that someone had cashed a check at a local bank that may have been stolen. University police

obtained a picture of the individual but still do not have enough evidence to make an arrest.

Male locker rooms are the main targets of the campus gyms but in other locations like the Broyhill Music Center every locker is vulnerable.

"We have alerted the student population of this building of the event and the need for them to be very cautious and very weary of what goes on in the building," Assistant Dean of School of Music Dr. Jay C. Jackson said.

Signs are posted at all locations and students are warned to reconsider what they keep in the lockers.

"The locker rooms are small in nature, so for somebody to actually get in there and take chance to vandalize they either have to be stupid or brave because someone could walk right in and you can see the whole locker room when you walk in," said. "It's really disturbing that we can't get this person nailed down," Carter said.

Anyone with information concerning the larcenies is urged to contact the University police at 262-2150 or Crimestoppers at 262-4555.