

# editorial

## Many changes this year

Many changes have occurred on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Asheville this semester. The most obvious addition is the high-rise dormitory and student center complex. Another more subtle addition is the weekly campus newspaper called Kaleidoscope.

The name Kaleidoscope was chosen because it implies something that is constantly changing and showing many different views. We plan to have news and feature stories in this publication that will be continuously different and informative.

The principle of the kaleidoscope instrument is a mirror image of an actual design creating a completely symmetrical picture. The Kaleidoscope newspaper is designed to reflect the life of the UNCA community.

The staff is an even mixture of dormitory and commuter students. This mixture provides a balance of on and off campus news.

Participation in the writing or production of Kaleidoscope is not restricted to journalism or communications majors. Such majors as business management, advertising and art can obtain practical business experience by working with the budget and advertising department.

Anyone who has any information or news to contribute may do so by stopping by the office of Kaleidoscope located in the Carmichael Humanities Building, room 230.

The weekly format allows more persons to become involved with the newspaper and also provides more immediate coverage than the former monthly format. More space is available for broader coverage of sports and entertainment.

The campus newspaper is financed by the student fees paid with tuition and should be designed to meet the needs of the students. The cooperation and encouragement of the student body is the best way to make a great campus newspaper.

To help the staff improve and develop the new publication, the readers can provide feedback by writing letters to the editor explaining exactly what they want to see in their newspaper.

We plan to offer a free classifieds section where the students and faculty can advertise their wares without posting signs all over the campus on bulletin boards. In many newspapers the classifieds section is the most read part of the entire publication.

We hope these changes will be just the beginning of a tradition of respectable news reporting on the campus of UNCA.

David **levin**

## Story behind the new name

They could have chosen to name it *The UNCA Times*, or possibly *The Student Record*. One instructor suggested, "You could have named it *George*." Despite all the advice that could be given at this point, the campus has a new paper and the paper has a new name, *Kaleidoscope*.

*Kaleidoscope* will be a return to the straight news format originally used several years ago when the paper was called *The Ridgerunner*. There are not many people left on campus that still remember that paper which stopped publication around six years ago. Information about student publications is somewhat obscure due to the lack of an archives for these past issues. In contrast its successor, *The Rag and Bone Shop*, is still quite fresh in the memories of returning students.

When asked about the differences between *Kaleidoscope* and *The Rag and Bone Shop*, editor Allison Decker-Whitt said, "Toward the end of publication *The Rag and Bone Shop* had become more of a literary magazine and was published once a month, not leaving much opportuni-

ty for current news stories. Also some people felt that its appeal had become a little narrow and did not speak to a wide enough age group. Our aims for *Kaleidoscope* are first, to inform the students of the news that will be affecting them on and off campus, and second, to offer a workshop experience for the journalism students who will be responsible for production of the paper."

Of the students that were asked about their expectations for the new campus paper, most commented on the need for coverage of relevant issues. As one returning student said, "There are a lot of things happening on the state and city level that could be affecting this place but you might never read about them in *The Citizen Times*."

Voting issues in the upcoming state elections were another frequently mentioned concern of students. "I think it's the responsibility of the paper to let people know how the candidates and the people in office are going to be voting on things like funding for education," said another student.

Marla **hardee**

## Can obscenity

## be defined?

Hemingway, Huxley, Salinger, Steinbeck and Vonnegut are just a few writers who touched the world with their literary classics. Books such as *Catcher in the Rye* and *Of Mice and Men* deal with the hardships which others have faced. Reading such novels may help us learn to deal with real-life situations, to better understand ourselves, and to be more open minded.

Some clergymen and other moralistic citizens in American communities are trying to ban these and other great novels from public libraries. Recently, "Sixty Minutes" aired an investigative segment about banning attempts in Virginia. The main argument is that the language and subject matter in some books, such as Sidney Sheldon's *Bloodline*, lead to the moral corruption of our youth. In attempting to ban these books, they impose their definition of obscenity on everyone else.

Obscenity is not an easy word to define; what is considered obscene to one person may not be to another. The United States Supreme Court has not even been able to set a definite standard for obscenity. If the Supreme Court cannot say what is obscene, how can only a small percentage of our population define obscenity for every other individual? Censorship and book banning deny the right to free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Perhaps if these concerned citizens would read the entire novels, instead of selected passages,

they might better understand the authors' purpose. *Catcher in the Rye*, a novel heavily criticized, deals with a 16 year-old New Yorker, Holden Caulfield, whom society has forced to grow up too quickly. Many readers identify with him and are not offended by his language. It is not the object of their concentration. Instead, they read such a book for its literary value and the universality of Holden's experience.

Book banning will never hide the literary themes, such as sex, violence, and religious doubt, which prevail in modern life. Ironically, the banning of books has increased interest and more people have read books which have been banned in the past. Reading these novels is similar to eating the forbidden fruit. Because it was forbidden it has become more appealing to them. Censorship will only encourage people to read such novels for their controversial content. Reading a book merely to find the questionable parts wastes valuable literature.

We should challenge groups who try to deny the right of freedom of the press. This can be done by supporting the libraries and other organizations who are attempting to stop censorship.

The communists of Russia and the fascists of Nazi Germany burned and censored books. Do we really want to have our speech and literature controlled?

### Kaleidoscope

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