

Kaleidoscope

servicing the students of the University of North Carolina at Asheville

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UNCA track removal issue still running hot

By Elise Henshaw

Controversy continues to grow over the proposed removal of the UNCA track and the installation of a multi-purpose outdoor recreational facility.

Dr. Russ Reynolds, athletic committee chairman, says, "The decision to destroy the track, made solely by the administration and the director of athletics without consulting the athletic committee, not only will deprive both present and future students of ever having a track team, but it will also deprive these students of ever participating in a scientific physical fitness program."

Another faculty member expressing concern over the proposal is Dr. Ileana Grams of the philosophy department. She says the UNCA track "is the best in the area and the only soft surface track. There is no way we would ever get such a good surface again." Grams agrees with Ed Harris that "we need more playing fields," and that from his viewpoint as athletic director, this is probably the best plan. However, she adds, "Although the decision might seem correct now, I'm not sure the factors will be weighted the same way in three years. We need to look into the future."

Grams says she believes the most important consideration is to determine who the recreational facilities are primarily designed to serve. "If it is only the dorm students, then the plan is probably the right one. If we wish to serve the whole university community, I would have doubts. And if our concern is the present and future university community and the whole Asheville community, then the decision tips in favor of the track."

Dr. Walter Boland of the sociology department and former chairman of the athletic committee, says he does not believe intercollegiate baseball will catch on at UNCA. "If this is one of the primary reasons for destruction of the track, then I would have reservations." Boland feels the two lane track provided for in Harris' proposal is not comparable. "The track needs to be four, five or six lanes."

Another important consideration says Boland is that "the track is one of the best public relations assets the university has. Approximately 50 to 100 joggers from all over use the track daily. If the track is destroyed, the support base of the university in the larger community will be weakened appreciably."

Grams also sees a problem with the two lane track. When the weather is good, the number of runners using the track, "can create traffic jams." She emphasizes that the track is used seven days a week, year-around, no matter what the weather.

Grams and Reynolds both believe the Kellogg Foundation Award to UNCA of \$592,000 to develop a health promotions program is of great significance in the decision on the fate of the track. Says Reynolds, "With the award now a reality, and with the accompanying programs in health and physical fitness, the regulation track is a necessary facility that should be saved. Our students, both the ones on campus now and the ones who will be here in years to come, should have a scientifically devised facility to train and test a physically fit body if they want to."

"The only way you can really test people for cardiovascular fitness is by having them run either one and one half miles or 12 minutes over a measured distance," says Grams. "If you don't have a measured flat surface, you cannot do fitness testing."

Dr. William Bruce, director of the health promotions program, says he hopes through the program "to encourage running and other life long exercise. Running is a superb cardiovascular exercise. It can become a life long sport for many women and men. We will be doing some fitness testing as part of the class."

"We have ten percent of the American public involved in running. We could easily have ten percent or more of our student body running, many of them every day. This would be as many as 150 runners a day. The campus needs to expect this." Bruce says there is a definite need for a running facility on campus. However, for his purposes, he could utilize the track in the Harris proposal.

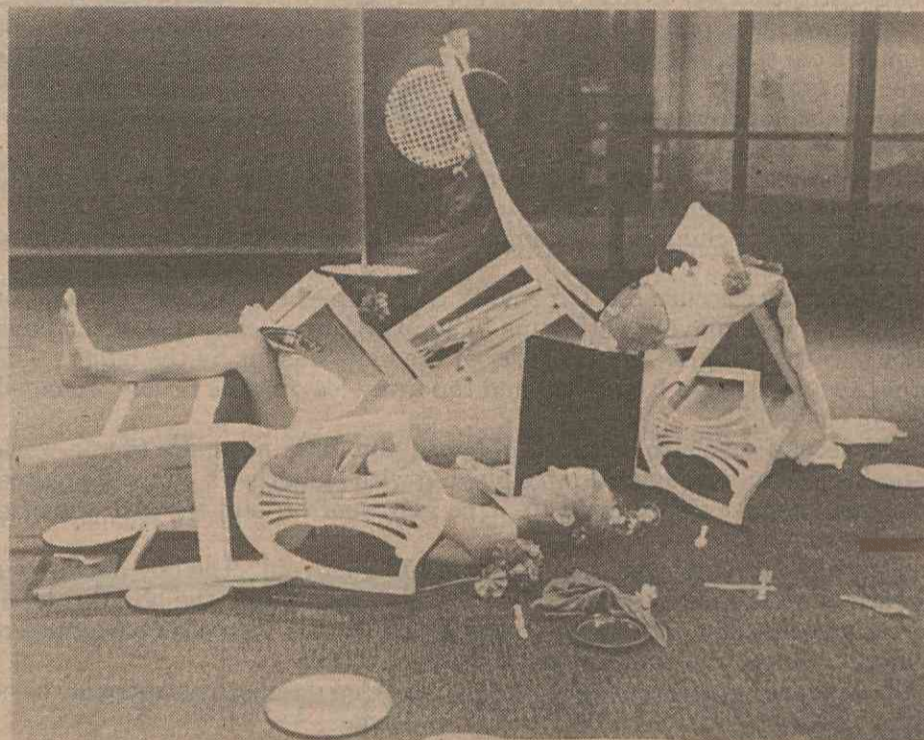
Several students questioned about the proposal favored the idea of intercollegiate baseball on the UNCA campus. Freshmen David Britt and Kileen Justice said they thought the new facility was a good idea and that they would attend baseball games. Britt said he believes the proposed cross country track program will be successful as "there are a number of students from local high schools who have run cross country."

Marty Johnson, a junior, says he feels most people would like to see a

baseball team on campus. "I wouldn't mind seeing some good baseball games. I love baseball." Johnson said the track is in bad shape and that he recently hurt his ankle running on the track.

Junior, Helen Hipps says, "We need more facilities to serve the number of students we have." She agrees with Harris that "there is no other place" to locate the proposed facility.

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No, this is not a scene from the "Mad Tea Party." It is a scene from "The Dinner Party, one of the dance/theater pieces the Marcia Plevin Productions Dance Company will present Nov. 20 at 8 p.m. in Lipinsky Auditorium. See related story page 6.

Kaleidoscope open house

The staff of the *Kaleidoscope* invites all UNCA students, faculty, and personnel to an open house Nov. 22 and 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the newspaper office, CH230.

The office is open Monday for anyone interested in seeing how and where the newspaper is produced. Tuesday's open house is especially for those students interested in working on the *Kaleidoscope* next semester, or taking the Publications Workshop for credit.

Allison Whitt, editor, said, "We want to have the opportunity to have the office open so students can come in and see how the *Kaleidoscope* functions."

Whitt, along with staff members, will be present to answer any questions pertaining to the newspaper. All suggestions and comments concerning the *Kaleidoscope* are also welcome.

The staff will demonstrate layout and paste-up of the newspaper, and reporters and editors will answer any questions anyone may have concerning their jobs on the *Kaleidoscope*.

The *Kaleidoscope* needs writers, photographers and advertising salespeople for next semester. Anyone interested in working in any of these areas is urged to attend the open house. Refreshments will be served Monday.

There will not be a Nov. 25 issue of the *Kaleidoscope* because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The staff wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

