

editorial

Macing avoidable

By now I guess we have all heard about the fight and the use of Mace by UNCA security guards to control the situation at Saturday's UNCA-Mars Hill basketball game. Actually we have probably heard so much about this incident that some of us are sick of hearing about it.

But the evolution of this incident needs to be discussed so that, in the future, we can learn from our mistakes.

First, the UNCA administration should have realized that the UNCA-Mars Hill clash is **not** just like any other game. The two teams hate one another. The media and the coaches have done their best to fire that rivalry -- there is nothing wrong with that -- as long as you take the facts into consideration when you are planning the security for the contest.

There were three security guards hired for the game (most games have one or two). That is just not enough. Two of the three guards were stationed in the tight corner near the bleachers next to the Mars Hill bench, the other was patrolling upstairs. Why? Placed in that situation who can say that they wouldn't have resorted to the use of Mace, a readily available over-the-counter eye irritant, to control the situation.

Why doesn't the Asheville Police Department or the Buncombe County Sheriff's Dept. provide some sort of free security for UNCA's basketball games, especially the contests with such a strong rivalry? With the history of violence in the the UNCA-Mars Hill games, the case can certainly be made that, potentially, the public is in danger and has a right to be protected.

Lastly, we were lucky. The altercation between the two teams could have become a full-scale riot between the UNCA fans and the Mars Hill contingent, who had attended the game in large numbers. Such a turn of events would probably have resulted in injury to many of the innocent spectators, which included scores of children from the Asheville Recreation Department Youth Basketball program.

We hope that UNCA students attending the next game at Mars Hill, Feb. 9, remember the potential is there for a more violent clash involving larger numbers.

Kaleidoscope

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letters

Editor,

Did you ever notice that the editor of the **Kaleidoscope** is not a resident in one of our residence halls? Did you ever notice that he doesn't bother to discuss any of the "so-called" problems within these facilities with any of the Residence Life Staff? Did you ever notice that all his remarks toward the Residence Life Program are negative?

Granted, good reporting covers both sides of an issue, but all I have seen is one side. What a deceptive way of presenting a situation.

While our facilities and programs are not without their problems, we have a good, solid program, diversity among our residents, a growing Residence Hall Association and a dedicated staff. As an editor, Mr. Riddle seems dedicated to seeing that we don't.

The Residence Life Program endeavors to provide residents with more than just a place to sleep. We feel that the residence halls should be conducive to studying, and should teach residents how to get along with each other. Because most resident students spend about 80 percent of their time in the residence halls, we feel it is necessary to reach out to them. And so we do.

On an average, there is one Resident Assistant for every 25 residents. These RA's are much more than hall monitors. Each RA plans and holds one social program and one educational program per semester. Each RA is required to take a class on how to deal with student needs. Each RA takes turns on being "on call" in case of emergency. Each RA is required to attend staff training sessions and weekly staff meetings. Each RA is required to be accessible to his/her residents. In short, each RA is a

resource person for his/her residents. (Incidentally, each RA is also a student!)

We demand a lot from our staff and we get it. They are an outstanding group of young adults who have proven that they are leaders. More important, however, is the fact that they really care about the residents in our buildings.

The **Kaleidoscope** could do much to aid our staff in reaching its goals. I wish the editor would make an effort to do just that.

Sincerely,
Tom Steele

Head Resident

P.S. Did you ever notice how some people like to cause problems, while others are working to solve them?

The first step in finding solutions is pointing out the problems. We gave one side of the story in an editorial, not a news article. You have just given the other side. Now the door is open for possible solutions.

- Editor

To the Editor:

I write this letter because I felt that it is time to bring some positive points concerning the food service to light. Believe it or not, the food service is moving forward, and has gotten much better over the past few years. Sure, we make mistakes, but do you remember the old cafeteria? Not only the atmosphere has changed, but the food has improved, too.

Traditionally, students will complain about cafeteria food. I feel they should consider this -- where can you get three (3) meals a day (all you can eat) for \$4.67 per day? It is a good deal! I am aware of the fact that students get tired of eating three meals a day, seven days a week in the same place -- I would get tired too. We

schedule special dinners to help break the monotony. We are constantly bring new equipment into service -- e.g. ice cream machine, stereo, hot chocolate machine, microwave, etc. In fact, we are in the process of getting information on installing an indoor charcoal grill. With this, we could prepare steak, chicken and ribs right next to the serving line for dinner. We could also serve hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch everyday as well as the other two entrees.

Most of the information I get about student complaints is from the Food Committee, but very few people show up to voice their opinions. I have gotten to know a good number of resident students in my one and a half years here. Several of them have passed along to me their ideas on what they like and dislike. I also find out about many misconceptions the students have through my wife who is a student here. She has overheard various conversations between students concerning their complaints of powdered eggs, powdered milk, etc. These ideas are false! I would like to say that I am always available to individuals to talk about why we do or don't do certain things. I am always eager to hear suggestions on ways to make the cafeteria a better place to eat.

I close by saying that I truly care about the cafeteria and about the students' opinions of the food service. I hope that more people will express these opinions to me. I also hope that the students will begin to acknowledge the positive aspects of the food service instead of always the negative.

Sincerely,
Bill Flynn

Dining Service Director