

EDITORIAL

Miller's dumping deplored

It's happened again--another mini coup d'etat in the UNCA student government. Another vice president is gone.

When one considers that no UNCA SGA vice president has remained in office throughout his or her entire term for at least the last three years, one begins to wonder about the stability of our student government.

Since talk of the recent ouster began, things have become increasingly messy in UNCA SGA. Officers are taking sides; factions are developing. Some are quitting or threatening to quit. Others ought to quit.

They ought to quit, because they also are as guilty of rule infractions as the dismissed vice president. He failed (by one one-thousandth of a point) to maintain the required 2.0 grade point average. Others have failed to adhere to other rules.

For example: The SGA by-laws state that senators will be expelled from office who fail to put in at least five hours per week SGA office time, or who have two unexcused absences from regular Senate meetings. Several current senators are guilty of breaking these rules.

As ousted vice president Doug Miller said, "Everyone has been eating out of the cookie jar. I just happen to be the one caught with my hand in it."

Miller may have eaten a cookie or two by failing to get that thousandth of a point, but he has also done a lot to make SGA a valuable campus institution. He is probably the one person most responsible for the SGA computer system and its electronic intercampus hookup. He is also responsible for bringing back an annual to UNCA this year.

Since Miller's rule infraction is so minor; since he seems to have been faithfully performing his duties; since SGA President Ken Cagle last year ran on a ticket against Miller; and since Cagle seems to be choosing to enforce only those rules that would allow him to evict Miller; one is forced to wonder if the real cause for Miller's dismissal is not personal animosity rather than policy.

Whatever the reason, **The Blue Banner** decries this renewed snow of conflict in SGA. Are we to be forever subjected to student leaders who spend more of their time fighting among themselves than they spend accomplishing those duties for which they receive a portion of our student fees?



Dave Summers for the OREGON SENTINEL

IN YOUR OPINION

Another apology called for

Dear Editor:

The previous issue of **The Blue Banner** carried an opinion column by Phil Ross attacking the Humanities 414 staff for showing the film "US vs. USSR: Who's A-head?" and for permitting the filmmaker, Gary Krane, to answer students' questions after the presentation. Ross accused both Krane and the Humanities faculty of "bias," "blatantly political" conduct of the class, "ax-grinding," and failing to give "objective instruction." These are serious charges. They are also false.

The issues with which this film deals--the defense budget, US military strategy, and Soviet-American relations--are controversial. It is not the objective of Humanities 414 to shelter students from controversial topics. However, the film is not politically partisan or factually inaccurate. It attempts to assess the **current** status of the east-west military balance and, therefore, it focuses on the policies of the incumbent president. Ronald Reagan is allowed to present his ideas on military and foreign policy in his own words. The clips from Reagan speeches are short, but they do convey his positions accurately.

Each of the president's arguments is then refuted by the testimony of what Ross chooses to call "purported military experts"--namely several of the generals, admirals and CIA chiefs, mostly registered Republicans, who have served in the American defense establishment for many years. The views expressed by these men reflect those of the mainstream of western specialists in Soviet military affairs. If the juxtaposition of Reagan's views with those of various military, CIA and academic experts casts the president in a bad light, it is not the result of propagandistic filmmaking, but of his tendency to reject their professional expertise and to base policy on his own stereotype of Soviet-American confrontation.

Moreover, both the film and the speaker emphasized that "Russia-baiting" as an electoral ploy is not limited to one party. Republicans and Democrats alike regularly engage in "crisis mongering." As the film points out, phoney "missile gaps" and "windows of vulnerability" seem to materialize before every election. Similarly, "news" of Soviet superiority always seems to break just before congressional hearings on the Pentagon budget. Kennedy did it; Reagan does it.

The humanities are supposed to cultivate a critical, inquiring mind. A liberal education should enable citizens to search out the facts behind the vague and pious-sounding rhetoric of their leaders. It is the goal of education to develop, in the words of Neil Postman, a "built-in crap detector." The faculty of Humanities 414 seem to be doing just that. An apology is called for, however; Ross should apologize to the 414 staff for impugning their integrity and objectivity.

Signed,
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THE BLUE BANNER is the University of North Carolina at Asheville student newspaper. We publish each Wednesday except during summer sessions, finals week, and holiday breaks. Office: Carmichael Humanities Building, 208-A. Phone: (704) 258-6586 or 258-6591.

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The BANNER welcomes letters to the editor and articles, and considers them for publication on the basis of interest, space, tastefulness and timeliness. Letters and articles should be typed double-spaced, or printed legibly. They should be signed with the writer's name followed by year in school, major or other relationship to UNCA. Please include a telephone number to aid in verification.

All submitted articles or letters are subject to editing. The BANNER regrets it cannot guarantee the return of any article submitted. Deadline for submissions is Friday noon.

Witness to a 'mind crime'

Dear Editor:

I witnessed a crime on Saturday night at the UNCA theatre. I witnessed a mind crime. The thought police were out in grand style. At intermission of the play "Children of a Lesser God" the students of a certain boarding school were herded out of the theatre by their administrators. The highschoolers were not permitted to see the Second Act and to make up their minds about the characters and events in the play.

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