

# Letters

## Brotak's 'jihad' amusing

Editor, the Blue Banner,

No two readers are likely to agree on which is the funniest point made so far in Dr. Brotak's continuing "jihad." My own favorite is the silly and condescending claim that the offspring of the "working class" are fit only for vocational training and that the emphasis on the liberal arts at UNCA has led to an invasion of ivy-league type students.

I do agree that some important steps taken on this campus have as their aim the improvement of the university's image more than the improvement of teaching and learning, and that should concern everyone. But one of the programs Dr. Brotak mentioned in his letter of Dec. 4, the humanities intern program, does not belong in this category.

As one of the participants in it, and one who argued for its creation, let me make clear that its only aim is to improve the teaching of students in the humanities courses.

Our belief is that faculty teach their classes better the more prepared they are. Humanities makes unique demands on its faculty, since, as an

interdisciplinary course, it always includes much material which is outside the disciplinary background of any one teacher.

I have spent my own semester as an intern in Humanities 214 in studying the texts of the course and reading widely outside the syllabus (reading that I have time to do because of the release from class and from marking papers), in meeting with more knowledgeable colleagues, and in hearing and thinking about the lectures. I am positive that I will teach Humanities 214 better for this experience.

The humanities intern program has nothing to do with improving the image of UNCA; if that were its aim, the one modest article in the student newspaper would hardly repay the (actually very moderate) cost.

One of the aims of a liberal education is to learn to make intelligent discriminations and argue rationally, an ability less widespread than it should be.

Dr. Merritt Moseley  
Literature

## Brotak's bitter, says student

Editor, the Blue Banner,

Dr. Brotak's letter in last week's needs to be tempered with the knowledge that these are the sour grapes that grew out of one teacher's perceived slap in the face and his beef with the administration. Still, Brotak made some points that need to be addressed.

Brotak and the management department chairman Dr. Hollingsworth (who recently announced his resignation) think the school should divert more funding toward professorial programs. While the administration claims the money problems are due to rapid growth and inadequate state funding, Brotak claims the professorial programs are not getting funds because the administration overestimated this year's enrollment, a mistake which cost UNCA \$100,000 and many courses.

This suggests some sort of disinformation program by Chancellor David Brown and I just don't buy it.

Part of the problem, claims Brotak, is putting money into projects such as the Board of Visitors and the Chancellor's Colloquium. Brotak is correct in saying these programs are geared to improve the image of the

school. What could possibly be wrong with that?

Growth is nice, but quality growth seems to be the desired end. In order to substantially increase the school's size, admission standards would have to go way down, and no one wants that. In order to attract more high-quality students, UNCA needs a quality image.

That's the reason for these projects (which are not funded from the academic budget), and I don't believe many faculty could be added for the price tag on these programs.

"Pumping money" into the humanities in a school which advertises its liberal arts emphasis doesn't seem like a misallocation of funds to me.

Could it be that Brotak just didn't like being passed up as program director and having someone hired to be his boss? The same year he was tenured, he began his quarrel with the administration.

I may be wrong, but I don't recall hearing about any of this until it was announced that someone other than Brotak had been offered the position of Atmospheric Sciences director.

West Tucker  
Communications  
Junior

## Next time, try to present both sides

Editor, the Blue Banner,

The Nov. 13 "Corner Comments" section of the "Banner" was a typical representation of the grotesquely liberal slant this newspaper carries.

The topic was the censorship of albums and the influence lyrics have on behavior. Opinions from six students were presented, all of which felt lyrics in songs do not have a detrimental influence. One student was quoted as saying "a lot of church groups get carried away with things like that."

Furthermore, "censorship," a word which carries a negative connotation,

was placed cleverly just before the word "conservative." In the first place, no one is screaming to censor lyrics, but to have a warning and the lyrics themselves printed on the cover. Also, the largest group supporting this movement consists primarily of concerned parents -- not church groups.

Finally, I'm sure you could have found people with differing opinions than those you printed. Please try to present both sides of an issue when polling students.

Tom Dennison  
Sophomore  
Political Science

## Spring schedule change unfair

Editor, the Blue Banner,

We are writing in response to the schedule change which was rudely brought to our attention the morning of pre-registration. According to the first schedule that we received at fall registration, spring classes were to begin Jan. 19.

However, when attending early registration on Nov. 11, we were made aware of this inconsiderate change. To our surprise, classes will begin meeting on Jan. 14.

The administration should be more sensitive to the reality that students plan Christmas breaks in accordance with airline regulations and subsequent price increases. Not only is the break shorter than the fall calendar would

suggest, it's length is not at all consistent with past years.

Our gripe is not necessarily with the duration of the holiday, but rather with last minute changes, at least from the standpoint of the traveler. In addition to planning for school, the student must operate around the airline regulations and restrictions as well as subsequent fare increases.

We feel confident that we speak for the majority of the student body when requesting more foresight and consideration with matters regarding scheduling changes. Any thought, or preferably action, would be greatly appreciated.

Dan David  
Junior  
Psychology

Melinda Morse  
Freshman  
Unclassified

## Foreign languages teach much

Editor, the Blue Banner,

We should thank Mr. Grizzle for his timely column on German. It appeared just two days after an editorial in the "Asheville Citizen" reminded us that one reason Americans have so much trouble competing in international markets is that we know so little about other countries.

The new foreign language requirement at UNCA was passed by the faculty senate in part to familiarize students with other countries. Learning a foreign language gives us much more than the ability to communicate with a person in another country; it broadens one's perspective, and in doing so enables us to see that our way of speaking and living is only

one of many. By learning another language we learn something about ourselves.

I am afraid many Americans who go to Germany with the attitudes Grizzle spoofs do indeed follow his advice and avoid conversations with Germans. And that's a terrible shame--there is so much that can be learned from interacting with people from another culture.

One of the greatest joys of teaching German here in the United States is to see American students get excited about the German language, as I did, and to give them the chance to get to know another culture and enrich their lives.

Dr. Charlotte Goedsche  
Foreign Languages, German