

# The Banner

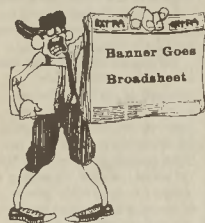


Volume XI, Number 8

Proudly serving the UNCA community since 1982

October 29, 1987

## A new look



This week marks the first week of a broadsheet format for the Banner. With this new format, the Banner hopes to better serve the UNCA community. A broadsheet will allow us to include more news and information for students, faculty and members of the UNCA community. We are looking for input about the new format, and we hope students will offer suggestions so we can better improve the content and appearance of the paper.

## News in brief

### Phi Beta Sigma integrates

TUSCALOOSA, ALA (CPS)—Phi Beta Sigma, a traditionally black fraternity, has for the first time in 140 years become integrated. The University of Alabama fraternity inducted Mark Brafford, a white student from Florida, into the house two weeks ago.

### Women buy more condoms

(CPS)—The University of Omaha's health center says that women students are reportedly a lot more interested in the campus condom craze than men. The health center has sold only 12 condoms since August, and all have been to women, said Nurse Ruth Hanon.

### Reagan program criticized

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CPS)—The Reagan administration has formed a new college loan for students, but critics say the Income Contingent Loan (ICL) is a "bad deal" for students. The ICL is designed to let students repay their college loans according to how much they earn after leaving school.

### SMU football to return

DALLAS, TEX. (CPS)—Southern Methodist University has decided to "play ball" again, but it won't be until 1989. The University's football program was in jeopardy when it became involved in a "pay for play" scandal. The NCAA banned SMU from playing during 1987.

### Dropouts earn less

WASHINGTON, D.C. (CPS)—It pays to graduate from college. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that college students who graduate earn an average of \$672 more a month than students who drop out of college before graduating.

## Inside . . .

There is both contentment and confusion among UNCA faculty members about the merit pay system under which they operate. Some feel that the system detracts from actual in-class teaching, while others see the system as working effectively.

No matter the opinion, however, there seems to be one general consensus: improvements could be made in the merit pay process. (See story on Page 3).

## Weather

Friday:	Increasing cloudiness. Morning lows in the low to mid 30s. Afternoon highs around 60.
Saturday:	Variable cloudiness with a slight chance of a shower. Morning lows in the upper 30s. Afternoon highs in the mid 50s.
Sunday:	Partly cloudy, breezy and chilly. Morning lows around 30. Afternoon highs around 50.

The UNCA Atmospheric Science department provides this information to the campus community weekly in the Banner. The 24-hour weatherline service is also available at 251-6435.

## Some Departments exceed guidelines for maximum number of required hours

By Julie Tilka  
Staff Writer

Several academic departments at UNCA exceed the limit of a maximum credit guideline set for major requirements, resulting in questions about the university's status as a liberal arts institution.

"It's a tough problem, sorting it out, deciding what belongs in the undergraduate level and what doesn't," said Paul Sweeney, chairman of the UNCA's Academic Policies Committee, which regulates course curriculum and changes.

"We (UNCA) don't really know where we are" in terms of whether UNCA is strictly a liberal arts university or a university that makes exceptions to meet demands by the public sec-

tor by adding, for instance, career-oriented programs, Sweeney said.

UNCA general education requirements were changed in the fall of 1986, essentially adding an average of 12 hours. The requirements now range from 50-58 credits, whereas they had, previously, ranged from 35-47 credits.

Most majors that require more than 120 credit hours specify in their course description that the students may not be able to finish in four years.

Sweeney said the 60-credit guideline is only that -- a guideline -- not a rule. But, he added, when a department exceeds the limit, "you can be guaranteed that that department chairman will be asked why they are requiring so many hours."

Chemistry, communications, art,

management and computer science are some of the departments that have topped the guideline's limit. While some of the departments have succeeded in reducing the number of hours required, other departments remain up to 30 credits over.

The chemistry department, for example, exceeds the 60-credit guideline in its bachelor of science degree with a concentration in clinical chemistry.

The increase in the general education requirements essentially squeezed out the number of elective courses available to students, according to Dr. Dexter Squibb, chemistry department chairman.

"I'm in favor of the liberal arts program," said Squibb, but "I might package it a little differently."

He added that he felt that

"General education requirements should be cut back some to allow more electives."

Squibb said he felt that the department did not have a problem meeting the guideline until the general education requirements were raised.

Meeting American Chemical Society accreditation is one reason for the high number of required hours for the bachelor of science degrees in chemistry.

Squibb defended the accreditation. He said a degree from an accredited department is recognized around the country, and it is the preferred degree for students striving to be professional chemists or who plan on continu-

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## Professor sued for libel

By Julie Ball  
Editor

An Asheville police officer filed a libel suit last week against UNCA professor Dr. David Hopes.

In the suit, officer Edward Michael Hahn alleges that David Brendan Hopes damaged his reputation by mailing anonymous letters to his place of work.

The suit also alleges that Hopes damaged Hahn's reputation by mailing an anonymous letter to President Ronald Reagan.

The libel action was filed Oct. 21 in Buncombe County Superior Court. No specific amount of damages is requested in the suit, but Hahn is asking for both compensatory and punitive damages.

This past summer, Hopes pleaded guilty to five misdemeanor counts of mailing anonymous letters and received a suspended sentence. He was also fined \$100 and court costs and was ordered to perform 50 hours of community service.

Hopes declined to comment on the suit.

According to the suit, the letters contained several allegations about Hahn which were received by his employers and which damaged his reputation.

Four of the five letters contained the following allegations, according to the suit:

1) An Oct. 11, 1986 letter alleged that Hahn might have the AIDS virus and suggested that he be tested for the disease.

2) A Nov. 17, 1986 letter also stated that the officer could be carrying the AIDS virus.

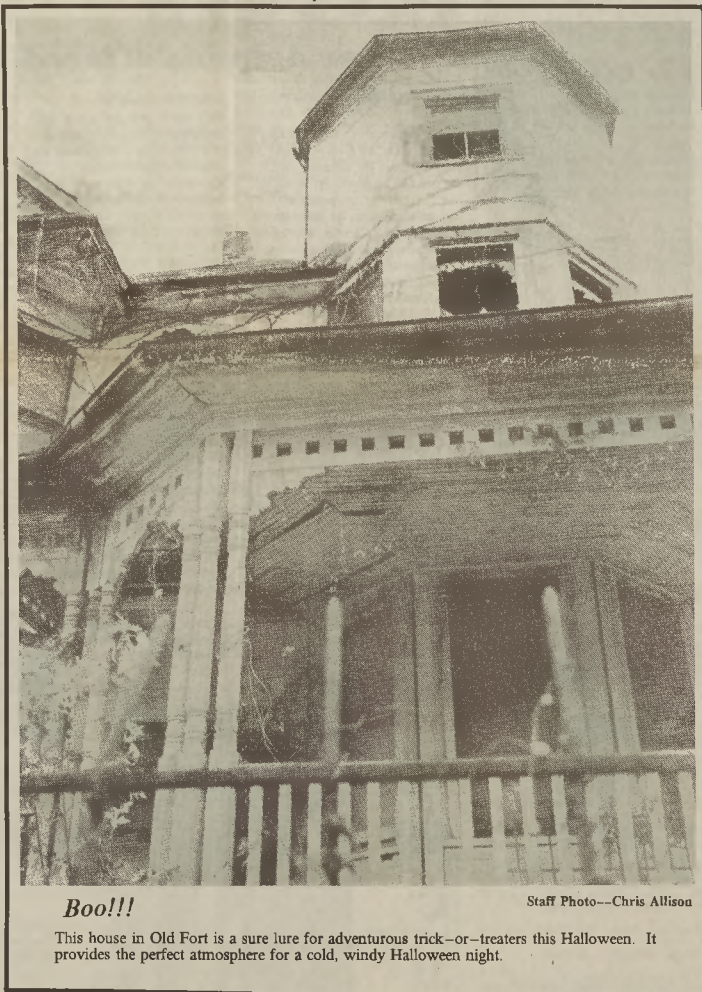
3) A Dec. 10, 1986 letter included explicit photos of nude males engaging in sex acts along with the question, "Does this bring back memories?"

4) A Dec. 19, 1986 letter directed to the personnel department of Sears (where Hahn worked as a security guard) alleged that Hahn could be carrying the AIDS virus and that he should be tested for the disease.

The letters were signed "Craig" and were all sent to the Asheville Police Department, except the Dec. 19 letter, according to the suit.

The suit also alleges that Hopes sent an anonymous letter to President Reagan on March 25, 1987. According to the suit, the letter read, "I have been a police

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Boo!!!

This house in Old Fort is a sure lure for adventurous trick-or-treaters this Halloween. It provides the perfect atmosphere for a cold, windy Halloween night.

Staff Photo—Chris Allison

## First in a series

## AIDStask force dispels myths

By Michele Samuel  
Managing Editor

Getting AIDS from holding hands is just one of the myths that the UNCA AIDS Task force must work to dispel.

"Education is the key as far as AIDS is concerned," said Dr. Eric Peyeriz, member of the task force and director of UNCA health services.

"There are a lot of misconceptions about AIDS," he said.

"There is no cure for AIDS, and there is no vaccine to pre-

vent AIDS," according to the report by C. Everett Koop, the U.S. Surgeon General.

The Red Cross reported that you can't get the AIDS virus from casual contact or nonsexual contact.

"This means that you can't catch AIDS from a cough, a sneeze, a handshake, or a hug. Nor can you catch it from the food you eat, no matter who prepared or served that food," added a Red Cross report.

The Surgeon General reported that AIDS has not been

contracted from swimming pools, toilets or household furniture.

"There are no known cases of AIDS transmission by insects, such as mosquitoes. Dogs, cats and domestic animals are not a source of infection from AIDS. And, although the AIDS virus has been found in tears and saliva, no instance of transmission from these body fluids has been re-

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