

Editorials

The Banner



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SGA needs to get its act together

UNCA has a problem. The problem is the confusion that currently surrounds the allocation of student fees by the Campus Commission. There seems to be a gross lack of organization and fair representation on the committee. There also seems to be a lack of job definition. According to the policy defining the Campus Commission, the President of the SGA is responsible for appointing the members of this committee. Is there no one who remembered to tell Rosalee about her responsibility or is the problem that this information is located in a manual that might be long and boring to read. Either way, the error is really inexcusable.

The slogan of the current SGA administration is "communication". However, it seems that SGA cannot even communicate within itself. This lack of communication is irritating for a number of reasons. The most important reason in this case is that every student on this campus is effected. All UNCA students pay student fees. These fees are divided among the organizations on campus, and yet someone who has no experience working on the Campus Commission is recruiting volunteers to make these decisions. I don't know about you, but I really don't think that sounds like the most effective and fair way to choose representatives.

Perhaps a good way to begin remedying this situation is for this SGA administration to do a little housekeeping. They should find out exactly what their responsibility is to this campus. Though it is nice to establish a "good feeling" on the campus about the organization and the university as a whole, it is also important to do the job the students elected you to do. Student Government experience is not just a resume filler -- it comes with a responsibility to the people you represent.

Should N.C. stay in the Southeast Compact?

The problem of disposing of its waste has plagued the nuclear industry for decades. Nuclear utilities produce nearly 90% of all so-called low level radioactive wastes. In 1980, as those wastes continued to pile up at reactor sites, the federal government passed the Low Level Radioactive Waste Policy Act. Amended in 1985, the act switched the burden of handling low level wastes from the generators to state governments. It gave states the option of either creating their own waste facilities, or joining regional compacts, to handle the wastes of several states collectively. In 1983, North Carolina's General Assembly voted to join the Southeast Compact, along with seven other southern states. In 1986, the Compact chose North Carolina to host the first waste repository, which is slated to receive the low level waste of all eight states for twenty years.

Based on the actions of the Compact to date, North Carolina should exercise its legal right to withdraw from the agreement, and develop plans for handling its own waste. At the heart of the

argument on staying in the Compact is the issue of fairness. A report issued by UNC-Chapel Hill Professor of Economics Mark Stegeman establishes that the entire state selection process was biased, with several of the states deliberately selecting siting criteria which would exclude themselves from first-site selection. In addition, Stegeman shows that many of the data used were inaccurate, or misrepresented current levels of waste generation. North Carolina, acting in good faith, was apparently the only state naive enough to believe the process would be based on impartial scientific data.

The Compact agreement calls for each state to take its turn as a host site, yet there are no legal guarantees that, once North Carolina serves as the southeast's dumping ground, the other states will follow suit. In fact, the Compact has so far failed to respond to demands from North Carolina that, as a good faith gesture, the second state be named before North Carolina begins accepting the region's wastes.

North Carolina's decision

to enter the Compact, which could have substantial long-range health and economic effects on our state, was made with almost no public participation. Now, we are told we must honor "our" commitment. In fact, given the failure of the Compact to operate fairly, we must insist that our leaders withdraw.

Beyond the question of fairness is that of safety. Much of the waste designated as low level is in fact extremely radioactive, containing plutonium, strontium and cesium, with half lives of hundreds, even thousands of years. If North Carolina hosts the Compact, for the next twenty years, one truck per hour will enter our state bearing this deadly cargo. The potential for accidents is tremendous. The safer alternative would be to store the wastes as close as possible to the point of generation, perhaps even on the reactor sites.

By opting to run its own facility, North Carolina can maintain control of the facility's operation, giving the state's citizens greater input into its running. So far, no thoroughly reliable

technology exists for the permanent disposal of dangerous radioactive waste. That is the crux of the problem. The 1980 Act continued the long-term federal policy of protecting the nuclear industry. Withdrawing from the Compact is a short-term solution to the problems raised by nuclear power. Long term, we must reconsider the wisdom of allowing an industry to persist which creates massive amounts of hazardous waste it cannot, or will not, handle itself. While utility stockholders reap the profits of nuclear power, the rest of us bear the costs.

Paul Gurewitz
 Staff Columnist

Editor's Note: For the rest of the semester, Columnists Paul Gurewitz and Adam Brooks will write columns on topics of their choice, however they will not run as the Far Right and the Far Left.

Letters

Halloween Carnival was well planned

I would like to address this letter to Ronald Honeycutt living in Highrise 207. I was the coordinator for the trick-or-treating part of the Halloween Carnival and as one of the numerous amount of people on and off campus that think the Carnival turned out to be a great success. The reason you and a few others only received a few children knocking at your door was through no fault of my own. We had planned for the children of Older students and Faculty members, approximately about 15-20, and the children from two orphanages, the Presbyterian

and Eliada Homes, approximately 100 children making a total of 130 children total. The reason you received only one group of four kids was because the Eliada Home children never showed up thus cutting us back to 60 children. We did have confirmation from them but they just never showed up so we had to reschedule all the trick-or-treating trips on campus. Therefore, I take no blame for some people not having as many children as I had planned. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank each and every participant in the

Carnival ranging from those giving out candy to all of the facilitators. I have received many compliments about the carnival and am looking forward to holding it again next year. I am sorry this event did not turn out to your satisfaction but, hey, that's life!

Christopher Sampson
 Sophomore Senator
 Student Government
 Association

A special thank-you

To the Faculty, Staff and Fellow Students:

A special thanks for all your prayers and comforting words.

Ralph L. Patterson
 Physics
 Junior

Banner Policies

The Banner is the University of North Carolina at Asheville's student newspaper. We publish each Thursday except during summer sessions, finals week and holiday breaks. Our office is located in Carmichael Hall, 208-A. Phone (704) 251-6586 or 251-6591.

Nothing in the editorial or opinion sections necessarily represents the position of the entire BANNER staff, the staff advisor, UNCA's Student Government Association, administration or faculty. Editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the editorial board. Letters, columns, cartoons and reviews represent only the views of their authors. The editorial board makes the final decision about what the BANNER prints. This newspaper represents a public forum for debate at UNCA.

The BANNER welcomes letters to the editor and articles, and considers them on the basis of interest, space, tastefulness, and timeliness. Letters and articles should be typed double-spaced, or printed legibly, and limited to 300 words. They should be signed with the writers name, followed by the year in school, major or other relationship to UNCA. Please include a telephone number to aid in verification. UNSIGNED LETTERS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION. All submitted articles are subject to editing. THE BANNER regrets it cannot guarantee the return of any article submitted.

Banner Deadlines

Letters to the editor	Mon 6p. m.
Classifieds	Mon 6p. m.
Announcements	Mon 6p. m.
Display Ads	Mon 1p. m.

