

# Editorials

## The Blue Banner



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### Violating our trust

This week a local school teacher received a 50-year prison sentence for various sex offenses involving one of his male students. He faces more charges involving four female students.

Throughout the trial Keith White maintained his innocence. A respected teacher, the trial divided the community. But when the verdict was in, White was found guilty on all counts.

Growing up, we all are taught to respect our teachers. They hold a position of great trust. Burdened with the responsibility of educating the future leaders of America, teachers are often the unsung heroes of society.

That is why it is so appalling when a teacher violates the trust of not only his students, but of the entire community. The newspapers are full of similar horror stories occurring across the nation.

Priests, Scout leaders, or close relatives are often in the news for taking indecent liberties with our children. And for every one that is found out, it is most likely twice as many will get away with their hideous crimes.

What should be done about these offenders? We can try and treat them for their sickness. We can lock them away for a few years until the prison population increases and they must be paroled to make room for incoming inmates. The success of either method in preventing future atrocities is unclear.

Perhaps the best defense is to educate our young. Teach them what is acceptable and non-acceptable contact. Teach them to tell someone they trust when someone attempts those unacceptable behaviors. But even this most likely will not stop a molester.

It would make a dismal future if we have to instill fear and mistrust into our children to protect them, but the sad fact is that there are more Keith Whites out there. And they have the trust of our children.

### Blue Banner Policies

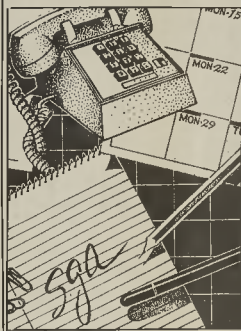
The Blue Banner is the University of North Carolina at Asheville's student newspaper. We publish each Thursday except during summer sessions, finals week and holiday breaks. Our office is located in Carmichael Hall, 208-A. The telephone numbers are (704) 251-6586 and 251-6591.

Nothing in the editorial or opinion sections necessarily represents the position of the entire newspaper 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 Blue Banner prints. This newspaper represents a public forum for debate at UNCA. The Blue Banner welcomes letters to the editor and articles, and considers them on the basis of interest, space, taste and timeliness. Letters and articles should be typed, double-spaced or printed legibly and limited to 300 words.

They should be signed with the writer's 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 Blue Banner regrets it cannot guarantee the return of any articles submitted.

### From the SGA



An essential part of the Student Senate are the ongoing committees. These committees are where the Student Senate discovers the needs and desires of the student body so that action can be taken. The committees are open to every student of UNCA and your participation is highly encouraged. Below is a list of all the committees and what they are currently working on. If any of these topics interest you, feel free to contact the committee chairs and get involved.

The Aesthetics Committee was founded a year ago to provide student input on all matters concerning the physical facilities on campus. This includes renovations, new construction, and environmental concerns. The committee is now working on a Unified Bulletin Board Use Policy,

cable TV, the development of new parking areas, and Earth Day. The committee also has student representatives on committees for the new dorm, the Highsmith Center Expansion, new campus lighting, the Justice Center addition and the Parking Commission.

#### Kevan Frazier - Chair

The Public Relations Committee is set up to inform the UNCA Community about issues that SGA is involved in. PR is currently working to inform students about their rights as members of this campus. Look for posters in the near future explaining what rights we have as students.

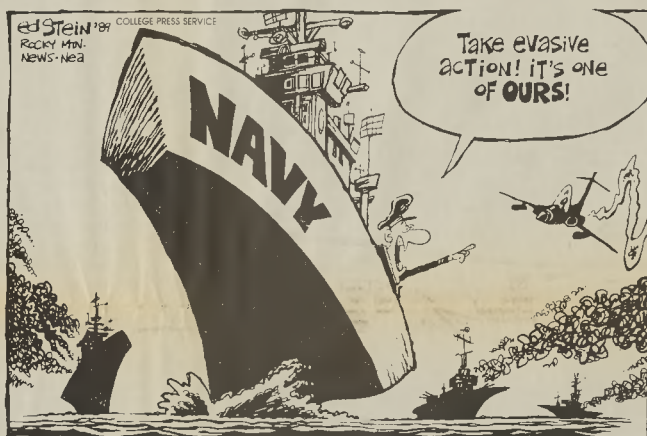
#### Roland Leatherwood - Chair

Any complaint or concern that you as a student has can be brought to the Student Affairs Committee.

This committee is concerned with the overall experience of being a student at UNCA and how this experience can be improved. Student Affairs is now working on furthering the input that students have on the various policies and rules that are made on campus. Its important that students are included in developing the rules that will govern them. The committee is also working on creating a Safety Escort Service and the establishment of a new area for social gatherings.

#### Josh Bernstein - Co-Chair

Terry Dryman - Co-Chair  
 You are highly encouraged to attend any of these meetings. Just check The Blue Banner and outside the SGA Office in Highsmith Center #39 for committee meeting times. Remember the door is always open.



Q: Which person most deserves a "training wage" until he masters the complexities of his job?



## Letters

### Pro Choice?

Dear Editor,

You're pro what? Choice? Choice to do what? Destroy. Destroy what? "Potential life"?

If it's only potential, it would be like a seed before it's planted. But this seed has not only been planted, it has also sprouted, even though it is still out of sight. That's what makes it easy for some to kill it. And what makes it convenient is that many of us enjoy 'planting,' but only a few want 'plants.'

Some of us go to great

lengths to protect trees and birds. Rightly so. 'Not a sparrow falls without your heavenly Father.' But are not the children worth more than many sparrows?

Almost every defense you can make for killing the 'sprout' before it sees the light of day would justify killing it afterward. Look at how little self-awareness the newborn have. How far back can you yourself remember? My grandad's crew boss, I'm told, looked at me and said, 'He dunno he livin' do ee?' Fetus destroyers don't often like to hear such sentiments. It reminds them of how close feticide the infanticide really are.

You try to make those

who disagree with you look like they want every poor girl who destroys her unborn child put in jail. The pagan mind has always twisted any logical or spiritual appeal that makes it feel guilty. The real issue is whether taxpayers will be forced to pay for what they believe to be murder.

Why do you also accuse believers in the sanctity of life of placing responsibility solely on the woman? That can only be the product of a slanderous or deceived imagination. In the first and most celebrated case of excommunication for fornication in the Church, it was the male who was called in question for 'having his father's wife!'

If you allege that either male or female can copulate outside wedlock and escape fearful spiritual consequences related to the guilt (a psychic damage), you reveal that you have hopped onto a shallow, currently popular bandwagon.

Finally, who is 'we'? Is it Scarlet? Michael? Vicki? Kassi? All the way down to Mark? Among the eleven on your masthead can we not find one who objects to the choice to destroy?

Bill Thurman  
 Professor  
 Classics,  
 Ancient History

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