

Opinions

The Blue Banner

Editorial

Spring elicits hope

Well, spring is, if not here, at least close, and students of all types are feeling the crush. Spring break is for many, a well-deserved break that will, we hope, rejuvenate and rekindle, and revive flagging energy, tired souls and discouraged hearts.

Amid all the irritating stuff, there are several things that stand out to us. For one, at the master plan meeting, Alyn Pruett said the land between Division Street and Broadway is too small to put a building or a ball field on. The church that was on the property has been demolished, after the university paid around \$750,000 for the land. And now the land is too small for anything.

Ask it along with us: "Why?" We don't get it.

These may be downers, or uppers, depending on your political persuasions, but Bob Dole swept Tuesday's primaries, leaving all other candidates in the dust. Dick Lugar, who has had barely any success to speak of, dropped out of the race, followed by Lamar Alexander, who has surged and sputtered alternately.

However, Jack Kemp has "come out" for Steve Forbes, giving his campaign a much-needed boost. Forbes has been flagging since the Arizona primary. He has also promised to consider appointing Alan Keyes as chairman of the Republican National Committee if he is elected, which is probably Forbes' kowtowing to religious conservatives.

Keyes is still in the race, though not for much longer if he keeps on the hunger strike he started when he wasn't invited to the debate in South Carolina.

And just think, only eight more months of this! It seems like pregnancy would be easier, and less obnoxious.

On a completely different topic, we would like to extend our sympathy to the men's basketball team, who reached the semi-finals of the Big South Tournament, only to be defeated in a heartbreaking game. The men had a good season, going on the longest winning streak of the previous seasons.

There have been some good moments in the past weeks, such as the beautifully sunny, warm days in recent memory, when students lounged like sleepy cats in the sunshine on the quad or on the library steps.

Other good things about the past weeks were the multitude of interesting events all over campus such as John Amos' performance last week of "Halley's Comet," or the Kandinsky Trio and Connie Regan-Blake's story-telling.

We hope your spring break provides many more pleasant moments that will lighten your spirits and remind you of the joy that comes from this most interesting life.

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Letters must be typed, double-spaced, and must not exceed 300 words. Letters for publication must also contain the author's signature, classification, major or other relationship with UNCA.

The deadline for letters and classifieds is noon on Tuesday. If you have a submission, you can send it to:

The Blue Banner
208A Carmichael Hall
One University Heights
Asheville NC 28804

The Top 10 for your Spring Break

David Nanney

Columnist

David Letterman and Spring Break. You may wonder what they have in common. It's simple — I love them both. David Letterman's "Late Show" is one of the greatest shows on television today. And who hasn't been looking forward to Spring Break since January? Both, in their own intrinsic way, can provide entertainment for the open mind.

So, from the home office, here are the Top Ten Suggestions of things to do during Spring Break.

10. *Follow Hootie and the Blowfish on Tour — Try to find out which one is Hootie* — I really liked the Blowholes when they first hit the music scene. Since their inception, radio stations have overplayed their songs to the point of disgust.

Then they win a Grammy. Now we'll hear them for another year, several hundred times per day.

9. *Try to make yourself more weird* — We all know UNCA has become "Diversity University." What I must wonder is how far will this go? With the multitude of ostentatious hair colors seen on campus, one might think Dennis Rodman has his own UNCA fan club.

8. *Prepare for NCUR 10* — On April 18 through 20, over 1800 students will descend on our campus for the Tenth Annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research. This program was founded by our fine university in 1987, and celebrates its tenth anniversary back where it all began.

This conference provides a chance for UNCA to show off to students and faculty from virtually around the country. Interested in more information? Get in touch with the office on campus. It will be well worth the time you invest. Their email address is NCUR10 on the VAX. You

can also volunteer to help with the conference.

7. *Go to a beach--Daytona, Myrtle, or Baywatch--* The world needs more babes in bikinis, fornication, and alcohol consumption. What I need more than anything is a tan! Even high-intensity mercury-vapor lights cause my skin to crawl.

6. *Travel for job interviews (graduating seniors only)* — If you are not counting, we are just over two months from graduation.

5. *Dates* — Well, I guess this applies to some. I'm still banking on Claudia Schiffer dumping one David for another (Copperfield for Nanney).

4. *Blood-sucking professors prepare for war* — An entire week of solace only means most professors will return with renewed vengeance on us, the students. I can't wait.

3. *Figure out why Spring Break occurs before the beginning of Spring* — We actually observe Spring Break a week before the

official start of Spring. Sounds to me as if UNCA had something to do with original planning.

2. *Complete school work* — Spring Break offers a perfect opportunity to get ahead in our studies. Other opportunities include finishing that paper due in April, studying for Senior Comps, studying for upcoming tests, writing "Letters to the Editor" of *The Blue Banner* (not an obvious plug). WRONG!

It's much more fun to veggerate in front of the TV, eating potato chips and watching professional wrestling!

And the number one suggestion of things to do during Spring Break: *REST! REST! REST!* — We still have seven more weeks of torture to survive!

It's not over until the fat lady sings, and Roseanne is just warming up.

Be safe over Spring Break. Come back alive!

Overexposed absurdity

John Edwards

Columnist

Initially I'd planned to dedicate this week's column to discussing Pat Buchanan. After having seen Theatre UNCA's production of "Lysistrata," however, I felt the drama department was deserving of, well, *exposure*.

Given the absurdity of the costuming of "Lysistrata," I'm sure many of us can still relate to Mr. Buchanan just the same.

The Greek playwright Aristophanes didn't have to defend himself from unChrist-like Christian prejudice in 450 B.C.E.

What makes "Lysistrata" timeless is its theme regarding the absurdity of war — something leaders from Charlemagne to Tricky Dick Nixon could have learned from, particularly if the women of their time had protested war.

(Actually, some college women did protest Nixon's war, and classmates were gunned down for it. Pat Buchanan had a hand in writing Nixon's speech justifying the slaying of students exercising their First Amendment rights.)

Theatre UNCA's "Lysistrata" was the first North American production of Ranjit Bolt's adaptation.

The music was composed by Morris Hubbard, adjunct instructor with UNCA's music department.

My own belief in the justification for artistic freedom was reinforced upon overhearing that a "friend of the theater" had donated \$1000 to Theatre UNCA after having seen the play.

(The athletic department

should be so lucky.)

The anonymous "friend" had said, "This is the kind of theater UNCA should be doing." Angela Seymour, assistant professor of drama, elaborated on just what this "friend" meant: "Academic theater is the only place you can take chances. If you're going to fail, fail big. Because in the real world, if you fail, you end up flipping hamburgers."

Seymour designed the sexually suggestive costumes. "I wanted something titillating, but not graphic," she said. "I saw the women's underwear as armor. The underwear is what keeps the woman from being touched physically."

She wanted "Lysistrata" to be "more than nudity and fake genitals." She said it was deliberate that the nudity depicted was absurd; that the breasts were obviously rounded pillow-like accessories, and the phalluses were colored terry cloth-covered foam costuming.

"We all know what breasts look like... (the costuming) didn't have to be pornographic," she said.

Mick Walker, who was cast as the Magistrate, said working with such absurd costuming during rehearsals "was weird at first... It was a real novelty." In this regard Seymour praised the cast. "They were very professional," she said.

Walker said the concern of the cast was "choreography, mask work and acting." He

also said, "(Director) Pat Snoyer led our characters in a general direction, and was liberal in allowing us to go with our own creative impulse."

Rehearsals began the first week after the semester began, with UNCA's Connie Schrader as choreographer.

Brett Doar, who appeared in three different roles, said the main focus of the rehearsals "was the dance of the thing."

He said Schrader stressed "the persona" and introduced the cast to techniques which "stylized" each

character. "I focused on what part of the body I led with... which part of the body was prominent at the moment," said Doar.

Susan Sertain, cast as the Corinthian, said there were times when she thought, "Oh, my gosh! I can't do that..." but then "let go and just started doing it."

She said her favorite scene was "the fight scene. Everyone completely let go. It had a choreographed beginning," she said, "but we choreographed most of it as we played. This is why 'Lysistrata' had 'that fun feeling.'"

Walker said that all wasn't so fun, though. "My sword handle broke," he said, "and it kept swinging in-between my legs... as if the huge phallus wasn't enough" to contend with.

This occurred during a performance and there wasn't anything he could do but keep his hand on the sword handle.

"It was a little distracting," he said.

Like most theater productions, a lot of hard work went into making "Lysistrata" enjoyable for the audience.

Tashah Thompson, who performed the role of Myrrhina, said, "This is a very technical-oriented theater," and third and fourth year drama students "work and live in the theater pretty much" while preparing for such a production.

Most of the actors/actresses serve multiple roles as stage or technical crew members as well.

For about six weeks, these dedicated students spent the day constructing the set, props and costuming, then evenings they rehearsed — even on Saturdays.

The upper-classmen "are teaching as well as doing," Thompson said. Doar, a junior, said he invested as much as three to four hours a day, in addition to his other classes totaling 13 semester hours.

Seymour, hesitant to single out any one student, praised Hector Fernandez for his "brilliant" work on creating the masks worn by the cast.

"It took an awful lot of foreknowledge" for him to create the masks. The technical crew was "fantastic," she added.

When asked how the First Amendment could be applied to "Lysistrata," Scott Weisenberger, who performed the role of Kinesias, said, "All I know is people paid money to see it."

It probably wouldn't surprise anyone who saw "Lysistrata" that the featured condom-ents at the cast party were phallic-shaped doughnuts.

