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Weekend Weather: Partly cloudy and warm. Highs near 70, lows in the 40s.

# The Blue BANNER

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

April 25, 1996

## UNC-TV films UNCA students join in lawsuit over constitutionality of minority grants

### segment on UNCA

Susan Sertain  
Staff Writer

A film crew from UNC-TV filmed on campus Monday and Tuesday for a program to be aired on "North Carolina Now."

"We are very excited and very pleased that this is happening," said Merianne Epstein, director of public information.

The program will focus on the 16 campuses in the UNCA system. Epstein said she thought the program would air some time after commencement.

The project began with many phone discussions between Patti Meredith, a production assistant at UNC-TV and the producer of this assignment, and Epstein to discuss what is unique about UNCA.

The day of the shooting, Epstein and Meredith met again "to re-discuss and make sure I understood the university's focus and to get the message that UNC-Asheville wants to tell," Meredith said.

Meredith consulted the public information staff, the administration, and students concerning what qualities make UNCA different from the other campuses, said Epstein.

"Merianne has done an incredible job of organizing everything for us, making our job easy," said Meredith.

"What we have collectively, UNCA and UNC-TV, decided is to focus on the undergraduate research and to highlight the NCUR-10 conference, which is very exciting for us to have here. It's a prestigious, well-regarded conference and we started it, so it is very exciting," Epstein said.

The segment will open with some footage of NCUR-10, said Epstein. These shots were taken April 18, by a video shooter from the UNC-TV crew and will be edited in.

The regular crew could not be here for NCUR-10 because they were filming the UNC-Wilmington campus, Epstein said.

There is no overall name for the show, said Meredith. "These four-minute segments will air separately on 'North Carolina Now,' our show that is on weeknights at 7:30 pm. Each month we highlight a different campus," Meredith said.

Once all the footage is shot and put together, they will decide on a name, she said.

They began setting up Monday in the Red Oak room in Ramsey Library to film Chancellor Reed.

"We want everyone across the state to understand the great resource we have in the university system and how they work together to provide different opportunities," said Meredith.

"At Winston-Salem our focus was on their health program. We just came back from Wilmington where we learned a lot about their new marine science research center," said Meredith.

The film package of UNCA will include the role of the undergraduate research student, the liberal arts mission, and the humanities program. It

UNC-TV cont. on pg. 8

Kenneth Corn  
Staff Writer

Three students from UNCA, along with students from four other state universities, filed a complaint against C. D. Spangler, president of the University of North Carolina, and the chancellors of the 16 universities on March 11. The complaint states that Minority Presence Grants are a violation of the fourteenth amendment. The complaint wants the court to declare these grants unconstitutional. The complaint names Robbie Combs, Jeffrey Greer, and Joshua Littlejohn from UNCA as plaintiffs. "Scholarships and grants should not be awarded based on race," said Combs. Combs

said he could not make any further comments on the complaint.

The complaint also names Chancellor Reed as a defendant, because UNCA is one of the universities that has a predominantly white student population and awards minority grants. She said she could not make any comments on the complaint at this time.

Nathanael Pendley, counsel for the plaintiffs, wrote the complaint and submitted it to the district federal court in Winston-Salem. The complaint states that because the plaintiffs are white they are "excluded from competing for or receiving Minority Presence Grants" because their schools are predominantly white institutions.

This renders them "ineligible to receive a government benefit based solely on their race."

The complaint states that the plaintiffs want the court to declare the Minority Presence Grant Program unconstitutional. The plaintiffs are asking for the defendants to stop awarding these grants "in a manner that excludes the plaintiffs from consideration." The complaint also states that the court should order "the defendants to pay all the costs and legal fees incurred by the plaintiffs in securing their rights."

According to the complaint, the university system created "what can loosely be described as a 'financial aid' program" in an "aggressive effort

to increase black enrollment" at predominantly white schools. "These cash payments were gifts" to encourage black students to attend the schools and were "not offered to black students attending the predominantly black institutions."

The complaint calls the grant program an attempt "to manipulate the racial makeup" of the predominantly white schools, and calls the grants "cash payments to black students to entice them to attend" these schools.

According to Adrian Tatum, president of the African-American student association, the grants are not "gifts" or "cash payments" to get black stu-

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## UNCA professor wins excellence award for teaching

Christine Treadaway  
Staff Writer

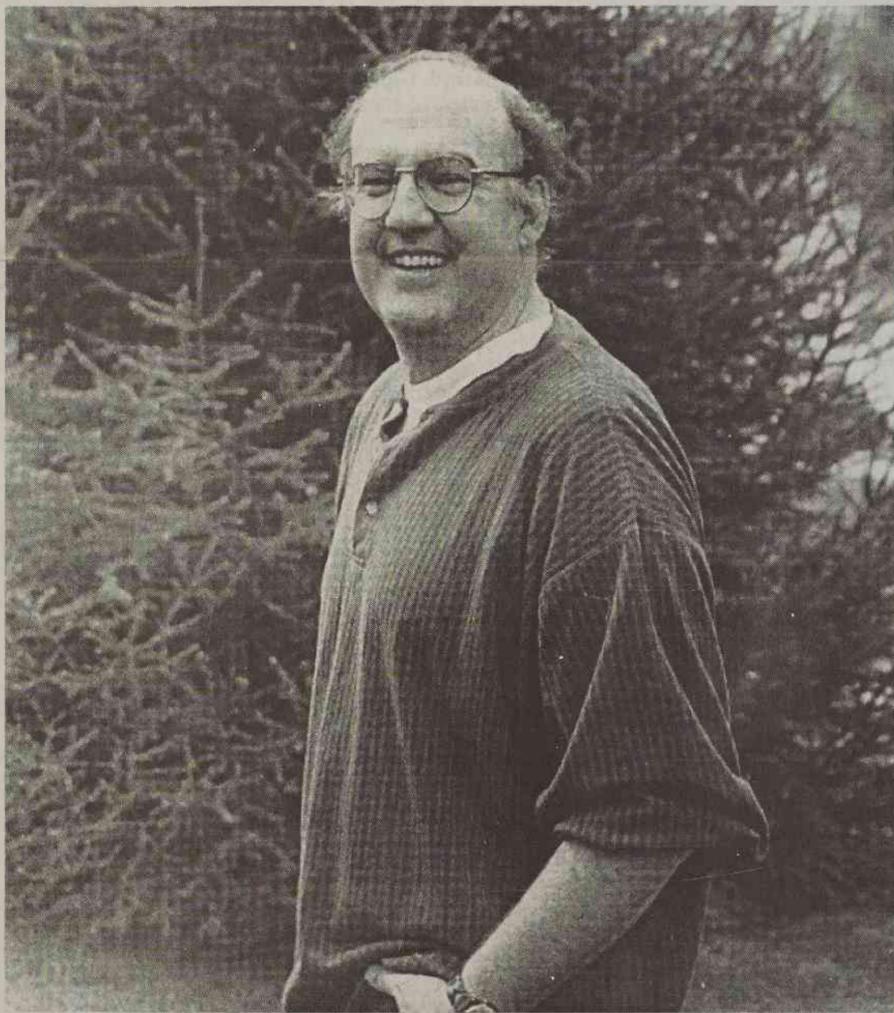


Photo by Michael Taylor

William Sabo, associate professor of political science, won the Award for Teaching Excellence on April 12 in Chapel Hill. The award was established in 1994 and is given to a tenured faculty member from each of the 16 institutions that make up the University of North Carolina system.

The Board of Governors of the 16 campus University of North Carolina system recognized teachers on April 12 with the second annual Awards for Excellence in Teaching in Chapel Hill.

The recipient of this award from UNCA was William A. Sabo, associate professor of political science.

"It's always nice to be recognized. The problem is trying to live up to it," said Sabo. "It's such an impressive thing, it's hard to accept that one person should deserve this. I rationalize it by sort of accepting it on behalf of all the other people around here who are equally good or better."

The awards were presented by Board of Governors Chairman D. Samuel Neill and UNC President C.D. Spangler Jr. at a luncheon held at the George Watts Hill Alumni Center in Chapel Hill. Each of the 16 faculty recipients were awarded a bronze medallion and a \$7500 cash prize.

The winners represented an array of academic disciplines and were nominated by special committees on their home campuses and selected by the Board of Governors Committee on Teaching Awards, co-chaired by F. Edward Broadwell Jr. of Asheville and Bert Collins of Durham.

This award was established in April 1994 to underscore the importance of teaching and to reward good teaching across the university system. It is given annually to a tenured faculty member from each UNC campus. In order to qualify for the Award for Excellence in Teaching, faculty must have taught at their present institution for at least seven years and no one may receive the award more than once, according to a press release.

Sabo has been a UNCA faculty member since 1979. According to a UNCA press release, he has become known for his unwavering demand for excellence, as well as the passion and inten-

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## Service fraternity, community groups raise money for March of Dimes

Denise Sizemore  
Staff Writer

Alpha Phi Omega will participate in the March of Dimes/Buncombe County WalkAmerica to be held April 27 at the City/County Plaza.

"March of Dimes is an organization that funds research for birth defects and helps families that have children born with defects," said Cristina Alonso, service vice president of Alpha Phi Omega.

"We have brainstorming sessions at the beginning of every semester as to what service projects we want to get involved with," she said. "March of Dimes WalkAmerica was one of the

things we decided we wanted to do."

Alonso said Alpha Phi Omega decided on the March of Dimes as a service project for two reasons. One reason is because the members of Alpha Phi Omega thought it was a great cause, she said.

The other reason, according to Alonso, is the fellowship and brotherhood WalkAmerica fosters. "We really have to pull together to work for it," said Alonso. "We also wanted to get the campus community involved."

"They (WalkAmerica) also have teams that walk," she said. TeamWalk is the special segment of WalkAmerica for companies, clubs, schools, and

other organizations.

"In the Asheville area, there are over 100 organizations or companies that are taking part in TeamWalk," said Alonso.

Each participant who walks in the event pays a \$5 registration fee. Participants are encouraged to collect a minimum of \$100. This entitles the participants to a WalkAmerica T-shirt.

Each walker will receive free refreshments at the checkpoints. The checkpoints for the Buncombe County WalkAmerica include the Reid Center, Asheville Junior High, Montford Park, UNCA, McDonalds, Grove Park, and the City/County Plaza. The

checkpoint is a rest, refreshment, and communications stop.

Alonso said members of Alpha Phi Omega are very excited about WalkAmerica. "We've done various things on campus (for WalkAmerica). We're really glad because we feel that we've gotten a lot of support from other organizations and the campus community," she said.

"We had a sneaker sale in front of the cafe and raised \$140. We also held a fundraiser at Skate-A-Round and raised \$217.50," she said. Alpha Phi Omega also has a coin drive on cam-

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