

Opinions

The Blue
Banner

Editorial

The year in review

Here's our tribute to this year and all it meant to us. Anne, our sports editor, remembers this year as the continued search for sleep. She is still a member of the athletic department, despite all the controversy with the department that got printed. Hopefully Jennifer Thurston, the new sports editor and the reporter who broke the big story, will be able to perform her duties without any death threats.

William, the features editor, will be memorialized for his famous "wear a condom (when you're having sex)" public service announcement. His determination to get the work f**k on his page every week will stand as perhaps his greatest accomplishment. Renee Slaydon, our new features editor, will probably graduate to some bigger bad words. If she does, we'll hope she uses them grammatically.

Jeannie Peek, our copy editor, will be known for her gymnastic abilities and the frank manner in which she discussed, well, almost everything. We wish her the best of luck as she joins the real world, and we don't mean that MTV show. This funky monkey is for you. It is our hope that Jeanette Webb, our new copy editor, will grasp Jeannie's knowledge of feminism.

And speaking of Jeanette, she was our photo editor for this semester. She is best known for skipping editorial board meetings after a long night at Gatsby's (ha ha). It is our fervent desire that her replacement, Michael J. "Del" DeLorm, will perform his duties without acquiring any new nicknames. Rumor has it that he will soon change his name to "The Photo Editor Formerly Known as Del."

Karen Brinson, our advertising manager, will forever be remembered for clogging in the Banner office and arguing politics with Cathy, our editor-in-chief. Hell, she argued almost everything with Cathy, and most of our ears are still ringing. Hopefully, our new ad gal, Wendy McKinney, will contribute as much to our staff as Karen did. She definitely has the fashion sense to do so.

Speaking of the chief, Cathy is best remembered for trying to keep Andrea from putting that same word William loves on the front page. And, if you read the paper last semester, you know that she failed. Since she'll be keeping her position next year, we can all look forward to more editorials on the greatness of Pat Buchanan.

Then there's Andrea, our opinionated news editor, who does a wicked "funky monkey" and is known for her complete openness about everything. She will be replaced by Michael Taylor, whose sneaky barbs and great hair are almost as entertaining as Andrea.

Ok, so that's it. And to all those great people who write irate letters in response to our bitchy editorials, we look forward to irritating you even more next semester. Take care of each other!

Editorial Board

Catherine Elniff	Editor-in-Chief
Andrea Lawson	News Editor
William Davis	Features Editor
Anne Kuester	Sports Editor
Jeannie Peek	Copy Editor
Jeanette Webb	Photo Editor

Staff

Kenneth Corn, Shawn Culbertson, Marissa DeBlasio, Nick Foster, Troy Martin, Wendy McKinney, Susan Sertain, Denise Sizemore, Michael Taylor, Jennifer Thurston, Christine Treadaway, Jack Walsh	
Karen Brinson	Advertising Manager
Marissa DeBlasio	Business Manager
Greg Burrus	Circulation Manager

Mark West, faculty advisor

The Blue Banner is the student newspaper of the University of North Carolina at Asheville. We publish each Thursday except during summer sessions, final exam weeks and holiday breaks. Our offices are located in Carmichael Hall, Room 208-A. Our telephone number is (704) 251-6586. Our campus e-mail address is UNCAVX::BANNER.

Nothing in our editorial or opinions sections necessarily reflects the opinion of the entire Blue Banner editorial board, the faculty advisor, or the university faculty, administration or staff.

Unsigned editorials reflect the opinion of a majority of the Blue Banner editorial board. Letters, columns, cartoons and reviews represent only the opinions of their respective authors.

The Blue Banner welcomes submissions of letters and articles for publication. All submissions are subject to editing and are considered on the basis of interest, space, taste, and timeliness.

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

Would you name a urinal after this man?

David Nanney

Columnist

All fun things must end. As you read this column, as I know everyone does, you must know my college career only has two days remaining. I may have complained a bunch about different things while on this campus, but I truly have enjoyed my four-year tenure at UNC-Asheville. As I depart, I feel a part of me will remain on campus, just as I take a part of this university with me (noticed any signs missing?). In recognition of my legacy at UNCA, I feel the staff and faculty should go the extra mile to pay tribute to me. Therefore, in this my final column, I propose the naming of a campus building after me.

As always, I never interject ideas without including complete instructions on how to accomplish a particular feat. Since I voiced many criticisms against the athletics department, it would only be proper to call the new gym "Dave 'The Athletic Supporter' Center." Also, going beyond my written word, I've been forced to watch this damn construction from day one. If you do not believe me, call for a free tour. I have experienced digging, grading, jackhammering at 6:30 a.m., banging, beating, slamming, screaming, cursing. . . sorry, the latter two were my responses to the aforementioned items. In retribution for my pain and suf-

fering, and my kind words toward the athletics department, the new gym will forever be called "Dave 'The Athletic Supporter' Center."

Probably not going to happen, right? Maybe my goals are too lofty. Well, what's next? I know — the cafeteria! I wrote about how horrible the food tastes, while I listened to hundreds of fellow students echo the same sentiments. I don't know that the situation has improved, but at least I aired Marriott's dirty laundry (or, in their case, dirty dishes). Therefore, I propose, instead of calling our eating facility "The Caf," call it "Dave's Central Perk." I would love to co-star in anything with Jennifer Aniston! She can be my friend any time!

Why do I have the feeling Marriott won't follow through with my request? It's possible my ideas are still amongst the clouds. Instead of an entire building, I submit that just one room should bear my name. Early last semester I ragged the Human Agonies department about giving 21-year-old students a seating chart for Humanities lectures. Although this practice may still continue, it's stupid. Maybe Anthony Coyne, Laurence Dorr, et al. cannot find a place to sit on their own, but I, along with many other students, can find a seat without any assistance. So, let's rename Lipinsky 125, where I experi-

enced four semesters of verbal death, "Dave's Torture Hall." Certainly this request could be granted with little heartache and effort.

Unfortunately, it will fall on deaf ears. What next? Modems! Hopefully starting next fall, students will be able to enjoy faster and better modem connections to the campus. Along with that, the outdated VAX becomes worm food as the Computer Center buries it in the technological graveyard.

Current and new students will enjoy connecting to a UNIX box as opposed to that other piece of crap. Name something computer-related after me — "The Dave Modem Pool." This idea won't even require a sign. Just make sure when someone logs onto campus via a modem, they see that they are connected through "The Dave Modem Pool."

That will never happen because someone must type those words into a computer. If it requires work on this campus, it will never be completed. I finally thought of something very simple, which will garner respect for my name. If *The Blue Banner* ever decides to begin printing singles' ads, headline the page with "Dave is Single Forever, but YOU Shouldn't Be."

This will kill two birds with one stone. Not only does it take into account my dismal love life (which isn't any better), it also alludes to another earlier column about misleading singles'

ads. I like this idea, but it just doesn't seem as flashy as an entire building.

I give up. No one at this university would even name a damned urinal after me. I'd have to pay some female to write "For a good time call Dave" in the ladies water closet. Right now I feel like a younger Rodney Dangerfield. I don't get no respect at all!

Very briefly on a serious note, I want to say thanks. I could fill an entire paper with warm regards to many people who have helped me along the way, but I do want to mention a few: Mom, Dad, O. J. Simpson, the Budweiser frogs. You've all been wonderful, and "I love you, man!" As I told the Chancellor last week, and have mentioned to others, if I had to start again today with the entire process of finding the "right" college, I'd pick UNCA.

For all the bad things that might occur around here, I think it's great place. The kids especially enjoy the water rides.

Dr. Brotak, Dr. Heimbach, Dr. Huang, Mr. Quinlan: Thanks for weather knowledge that will help me the remainder of my life. And, thanks to YOU, the reader. You make this worthwhile; you make this enjoyable; you make my butt hurt for sitting so much! And, my eyes are in constant pain for staring at a computer screen. I see a workman's comp lawsuit in the near future!

God Bless Everyone!

Need-based versus race-based scholarships

James Hertsch

Columnist

Does anybody ever look around this campus?

Does anybody actually look at the people around here?

Statistics aside, it doesn't take a sociological genius to figure out that this campus isn't exactly filled with a rainbow of races and colors.

On the other hand, we've got a group of students joining up to put an end to the Minority Presence Grants on this campus, with their central contention being that these grants are a violation of their civil rights.

I wonder if these people closed their eyes when they joined up on this legal complaint. In an ideal world, we wouldn't have any minority-based grants at all.

In an ideal world, there would be no discrimination between races, and we would have a happy multicultural society.

Of course, in an ideal world, the Serbs, Croats, and Muslims in Bosnia would sit down and play nice, Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy would truly exist, and somebody would cancel "Roseanne."

The fact is, in spite of the progress that's been made in the last few years, formerly oppressed minorities still do need a helping hand some-

times.

About the helping hand: there is a bit of a Catch-22 there. The whole point of minority-based scholarships is to give financial aid to people who need it.

However, we find that the people who tend to go to college are middle class folks, not the poor, needy many. The question here: Are the scholarships truly helping those who need it?

According to numbers graciously provided by the Office of Institutional Research, the average family income of people on Minority Presence Scholarships is \$32,092 per year—hardly upper class, but hardly poor either.

However, the numbers also report that, on average, a student receiving such aid comes from a household of four, where financing somebody's education, plus regular living expenses, can put a significant burden on Ye Olde Family Income. Also, according to these numbers, the average grant is \$906, with a total of \$14,500 awarded overall.

We're not exactly talking about robbing the bank here. We also seem to be approximately targeting a group that needs the money, regardless of social factors involved.

Additionally, we need to remember that UNCA is not just

a school—ideally, the student body will come together to form a community, preferably one that's a microcosm of where we'll live out there, in the real world.

And, yes, there will be people out there whose skin color, and culture, and views, don't necessarily mesh with the majority. And, yes, we'll need to learn how to deal with that.

There are predominately black colleges out there that offer minority-based scholarships—to whites. A majority. Affirmative action in action, people. Trying to build a community. Hmmm . . . not exactly a math problem here.

Now, back to the lawsuit. According to the *Banner* article, the lawsuit alleges that the race-based scholarships are a form of "cash payment" to minority students. Well, yeah, they are.

So is every other form of financial aid. The whole point behind a financial aid package is to help out somebody who needs it, and to try to draw a student with a seed of excellence to the school in question, via, yes, savings in the form of "cash payments" towards tuition.

The lawsuit itself, in my eyes, is almost groundless—it's just another example of using the law as a convenient blindfold to hide themselves from societal problems.

But, there is some merit here. We can't keep race-based schol-

arships going forever—at some point, we're going to have to acknowledge that we can no longer provide scholarships to people based solely on race.

The solution, in my opinion, is to phase in need-based scholarships. At some point, there will be equality between races. Someday, in spite of the rhetoric that bleeding-heart liberals try to spoon-feed us, advantage will be conferred on people, not by race, but by economic status. Period.

Right now, at this moment, we are more or less getting the money to people who need it. At this moment in time, there still is discrimination in the workplace, in the schools, in communities.

And what I'm afraid of is that the scholarships that are reserved for X group or Y group may end up going to members of the group who probably don't need it.

After all, the folks who tend to go to college do come from middle-class or wealthiest families.

For people who don't need these scholarships to receive them would be intolerable.

So at some point, we need to cut these cords. At some point, we're going to need to shift to a purely need-based scholarship award—to make sure that the people who need the money are getting it.