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The Blue Banner

Volume 25, Number 12

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

November 21, 1996

UNCA ATHLETICS UNDER SCRUTINY BY NATIONAL AGENCIES

University taking measures to balance athletics

Jennifer Thurston
Sports Editor

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) has found UNCA in violation of the federal gender equity statute, Title IX. In a report received and signed by the Chancellor on Oct. 24, the OCR cited UNCA as "not equally effectively accommodating the interests and abilities of its female students" because of past practices of the athletics department.

The OCR found UNCA's athletic practices inequitable in six areas: travel, coaching, publicity, medical services, recruitment, and support services. UNCA must correct the disparities before the end of the 1996-97 athletic season, and has already corrected some of them in anticipation of the investigation.

Additionally, in order to achieve gender equity in satisfaction of Title IX regulations, UNCA will change the proportionality of student athletes by gender to reflect the overall student body. Currently, the full-time student body is 55 percent female and 45 percent male, while 43 percent of athletes are female and 57 percent of athletes are male. As many as 15 male athletes could be cut while 30 females are added.

Tom Cochran, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, said the coaching staff and administration are committed to achieving gender equity at UNCA. "They see the success of the athletics department as more important than the success of their (individual) programs," Cochran said. "What we're going to try and do is increase participation rates for women's sports and cap men's sports. So, in some ways, sports

are going to be hindered because ... not a lot of women will walk on and play. For scholarships, they'll play. That's not a problem. But it's not the culture for women to walk onto teams in college."

Cochran said that achieving proportionality with the student body was a two-year project. "If I had my druthers, I'd add a women's sport," he said. "But right now I don't have a solution for how to come up with \$80,000 to add that sport."

The athletics department will need additional funding to achieve equity, however. "I don't see this year's budget being specifically impacted except in the area of scholarships," said Cochran. "Because we need to pay more scholarship dollars to women, we're probably seeing a \$30,000 increase."

This year, UNCA has budgeted \$306,757 for male athletic scholarships and \$301,621 for female athletic scholarships.

While achieving proportionality is an acceptable means of satisfying the Office of Civil Rights' requirements for gender equity, there have been several federal court cases involving other universities where proportionality has been thrown out.

In a case involving Louisiana State University in January of this year, a federal judge ruled that measuring equity by proportionality was based on the inaccurate assumption that interest and ability to play sports was equal between men and women. Louisiana State was also found in violation of Title IX statutes, according to a report in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

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Division I status on hold until summer, says Cochran

Alex Self
Staff Writer

UNCA's athletics department came under review last week by a National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) committee who examined whether or not the university would receive certification as a Division I school. The review committee said a final ruling on the issue would not be handed down until mid-summer, according to reports.

UNCA has been preparing for the visit since last spring when a faculty-staff peer review council, called the NCAA Certification Steering Committee, was created to identify problem areas in the athletics department with regards to equity, fiscal integrity, academic integrity, and governance and rules compliance, according to earlier reports in *The Blue Banner*.

Even though the reviewers from the NCAA were not the ones who would make the final decision, some members of the Steering Committee were "disappointed" that the delegates did not give them some sort of indication of what their recommendation would be to the Certification Committee.

"We all realized that this was a longer process than just this group (the reviewers) coming on campus and giving us a decision," said Keith Krumpke, the chair of the equity subcommittee.

"The actual (certification) committee had to make the final decision, but we were hoping they would let us know what their recommendation to that committee was going to be."

The university, however, must wait until summer for a decision. The reason for the delay, according to the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Tom Cochran, is because the NCAA's agenda is full until their spring meeting.

"They have a meeting scheduled for February, (but) that agenda is already booked," said Cochran. "We don't get on the agenda until (spring)."

The delegates from the NCAA did give the Steering Committee some suggestions for improvement, but none of them came as a surprise, since they mostly mirrored the faculty-staff self-study findings, said Krumpke.

"I certainly was not surprised by any of the recommendations," Krumpke said. "They were right in line with what the individual subcommittees and the Steering Committee had concluded from our self-study."

The reason the reviewers had so little additional input was because the self-study was an exhaustive search that left no "stones unturned," said Krumpke.

"We (the Steering Committee) were very critical in our analysis," Krumpke said. "We looked at all aspects of the athletic department, and we've

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"Miss A Meal" program to aid the less fortunate misses with many students

Monica Williams
Staff Writer

Several UNCA students are opting to go hungry to help families who are less fortunate by giving up a meal from their meal plan, according to a member of one of the sponsoring organizations. However, some students are wishing they hadn't made the decision to donate.

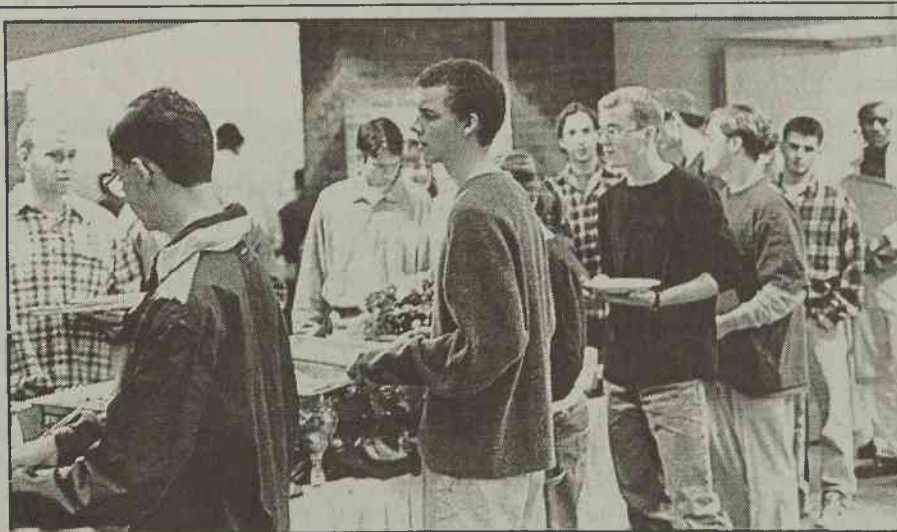
"I gave up my meal, but I am kind of wishing that I hadn't," said junior J.P. El-Rif. "I really need my meal on Thursday. However, I don't use all of my meals every week. I think there are between five or seven (meals) that I don't use. I would gladly give up one of those to help the amnesty people."

The "Miss A Meal" drive, sponsored by Marriott and Alpha Phi Omega, will donate the food to the Manna Food Bank.

According to sophomore Gwen Slaughter, treasurer of Alpha Phi

Omega, Marriott chose one meal on one day for students to give up for a good reason.

"Marriott usually buys more food for the dinner meal, and it is easier to keep it at one meal so they can have a specific number that they are working with, rather than several different numbers from breakfast and lunch," said Slaughter. "They (Marriott) spend more money on dinner than on breakfast or lunch, with breakfast being the cheapest. They will use the money that they were to spend on people



Although popular with many students, the "Miss A Meal" plan is missing with others.

Photo by Michael Taylor

who aren't eating to buy food in bulk for Manna."

Some students said they refused to give up their meal on several grounds despite the cause.

"Plus, I am paying \$900 for a meal plan, and they want me to give one of them up? Half the time you can't even get into the cafeteria without your ID. There are a whole lot of

things that go with this." Some students expressed that giving up their meal was a simple way to give to others.

"The 'Miss A Meal' drive is for a very good cause," said junior Andy Folds. "I want to help families."

"On Thursdays, classes are an hour and fifteen minutes long, and I have them back to back from 9:25 a.m. until 5:45 p.m. Then, when you think about it, who the heck wants to eat the cafeteria food? I have no choice.

"I signed up to give my meal because I think that it is a good thing to help feed a family," said junior Vince Krieger. "I am glad to help support other people who are less fortunate than myself."

The "Miss A Meal" drive has been successful, exceeding the goals the organizers had originally hoped for.

"The goal was 300 and we currently have 314 names, but we should get more," said freshman Kristin Kuhlman, a member of Alpha Phi Omega.

According to senior Chris Jones, the vice president of membership for Alpha Phi Omega, the "Miss A Meal"

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Photo courtesy of Jim Neel

Archbishop's daughter speaks at UNCA

Aimee Campbell
Staff Writer

An internationally renowned speaker brought to campus by the political science department spoke last Monday for nearly an hour about the role of the church in social and political change in South Africa. Naomi Tutu, daughter of South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, made an appearance at Laurel Forum.

According to Dan Henderson of the political science department, turnout at the lecture was high.

"The department was ecstatic about the enthusiasm and response to Ms. Tutu's visit," said Henderson. "We counted over 80 persons in attendance in the crowd."

One student commented that the event was under advertised.

"I thought this was highly under advertised for such a prominent person to come and speak," said senior John Allison. "I think to hear Naomi Tutu speak, a lot of

people think 'Oh, that's Desmond Tutu's daughter,' but she is very much an intellectual and a civil liberties leader in her own right.

"Desmond Tutu made the Tutu name, but Naomi is carrying it on to the fullest extent," Allison continued.

One of the issues Tutu addressed was the role of the church in support of apartheid.

"I think it is important, as a South African, when we talk about our religion, and talk about being Christian, that we are aware of the role that Christianity has played in oppression as well as in movements for liberation," said Tutu.

"In South Africa, Christianity did not come to apartheid. Apartheid came through Christianity," Tutu continued.

Allison said he found parallels in the African and

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