

# Opinions

The Banner

Editorial

## We're number three!

According to a recent university survey, UNCA's freshmen have the highest incoming SAT scores since 1993. A national survey, which polled more than a million freshmen, also found that these students were more likely to be politically uninterested. Taken together, it sounds as if these new college students are turning into clones of Bill Clinton.

At least the surveys don't show that they are more likely to fall off stages, be less attentive, and be more likely to lose elections, which is what the results would have shown had Bob Dole become president.

If anything, it should make those students feel good about being middle-of-the-road. The survey actually just describes the group as a whole, but perhaps now, incoming freshmen can restart those long-dormant political aspirations that the Generation Xers tried to beat out of them in the early 90s.

Are these "youngbloods" actually smarter, or have they now mastered the standardized tests that most, if not all, colleges and universities use as a benchmark for admission? At this rate, it seems that everyone could qualify for acceptance into the Ivy League school of choice by the turn of the century.

Actually, the freshmen of UNCA should be proud. Out of the 16-member institutions of North Carolina, the incoming freshmen here rank third in GPA and SAT scores, behind only two mega-versities to the east.

With what has transpired politically over the last few years, who can blame them for becoming more cynical and less interested in politics? Unless they plan on being white, wealthy, middle-aged to Strom Thurmond-ancient, there is very little hope for much political change in the United States.

Well, don't get down. Nostradamus mentioned in one of his prophecies a man with a blue turban who is, at this very moment, planning on blowing up the very world in which our smarter freshmen inhabit.

Enjoy your university experience.

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The 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 banner@unca.edu. An on-line version of The Banner is also available at <http://www.unca.edu/banner/>

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

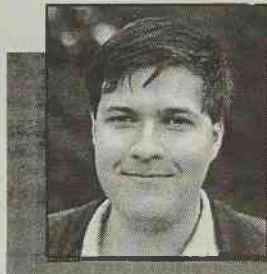
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The Banner welcomes submissions of letters and articles for publication. All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, content and length and are considered on the basis of interest, space, taste, and timeliness.

Letters should be typed, double-spaced, and should not exceed 300 words. Letters for publication should also contain the author's signature, classification, major or other relationship with UNCA. The deadline for letters is noon on Tuesday. If you have a submission, you can send it to The Banner, 208A Carmichael Hall, One University Heights, Asheville NC 28804.

The deadline for display ads and the FYI calendar is on Monday at noon. The deadline for classified ads is at noon on Tuesday.

## Parking mayhem at UNCA



James Hertsch  
columnist

Turn left on W.T. Weaver. Right on University Heights. Bear left at curve. Drive past faculty/staff, visitor, commuter parking. Stop at Highsmith crosswalk. Look left. Faculty/staff lot. Keep driving. Consider Zageir lots. Too far. University Heights Village lot? All spaces full. Turn left in front of Village. Residential spots all full. Left into upper Southridge lot. All full. Turn into hand-capped space, pull out, turn around. Drive by lower Southridge lot. Too far from dorm hall. And, to get to the rest of the residential lots, you have to drive up Division Street, onto Broadway, back onto W.T. Weaver, and up the old service entrance. . . and those spots are isolated from the rest of the campus.

If you're a resident student here at UNCA, you'll quickly find that there is no such thing as a convenient parking space. Your dream spot—in front of your dorm building, with your name on it, and an electrified fence to keep out trespassers—is about as likely as an AFC team winning the Super Bowl.

While I don't expect the electrified fence, I still have three main gripes about parking at UNCA. First, I dislike having to leave the campus and meander through outside roads to get to the "other" residential parking zone. Second,

I have serious problems with the fact that UNCA re-zoned the Mills lot along University Heights as faculty/staff. Finally, barring residential students from open parking on evenings and weekends is abominable.

Rather than simply using this space to whine about the parking situation, I interviewed Eric Iovacchini, UNCA vice-chancellor for student affairs to find out what's going on with the situation, and to ask about my three gripes.

According to Iovacchini, parking is being gradually shifted in anticipation of the new master plan: the inner ring around University Heights is being re-zoned as faculty/staff, while student parking is being pushed out toward the edges of the campus. So, what about getting from one residential lot to the other?

What I'm talking about is the fact that the new student lot behind the cafeteria, while it's nice and all, doesn't really connect up to student parking outside Governor's Village and Southridge; you have to go out and around Weaver and Broadway to get to the spaces. "Why is this?" I ask.

That didn't come up during the master planning session, Iovacchini said. Nobody really thought about it. I suppose an access road is a little much, con-

sidering the fact that the lots are pretty much segregated into lots convenient to Mills/Highrise residents, and others convenient to Village and Southridge residents. And, of course, residential students have a portion of the lots above Zageir hall. When Village residents were re-classified as commuters for parking purposes in 1995/1996, they tended to flow into the Zageir lots, according to Iovacchini. That is the best place, considering Village people are persona non grata in the Mills lot on University Heights now.

What about that lot, anyway?



Since the general move to put residential students up behind the residential buildings commenced, the Mills lot has been turned into a faculty/staff lot. I'm not too fond of that reclassification myself; seeing as how those spaces are incredibly convenient for residents like me. According to Iovacchini, those 35 spaces are more than made up for by the spaces added in construction behind the cafeteria.

OK. I don't suppose I can argue with that in terms of numbers. But, when you consider the fact that the new lots are convenient to the Mills/Highrise area, while the Mills zone is convenient to the Mills and Village residents, you're stuck with Village people moving into the less-convenient Zageir and Southridge lots, and, of course, access problems pre-

vent some students from utilizing those cafeteria lots to their fullest extent. During "open parking" hours, I can walk down those spaces and count: "Resident. Resident. Resident. Mothership. Resident. Resident. Resident." But, resident students aren't supposed to do that?

"Open parking" hours, on weekends and evenings, allow almost anybody to park almost anywhere on campus. But, according to rules, resident students are left out of this little parking bonanza. But, Iovacchini said, they've relaxed that a little bit—the figures students use their cars a little more on weekends, and the spaces aren't needed on weekends anyway, so why not let students use them?

"I would have been nice if I'd known about that earlier, just like it would have been nice if the access issue for the two residential lots had been brought up. That's what I'm worried about, really: access from point A to point B, without having to leave campus and inconvenience those poor residents along Edgewood Road or W.T. Weaver Boulevard, and without having to drive all over creation to find a space convenient to my dorm room.

And, when I think about it, when I say "resident students," all I really care about is me, and that parking space I want with the electrified fence. Since that's impossible, I'm in favor of no parking for freshmen, and special parking for seniors. . . now that I'm a senior, that is. And, when anybody, including me, grumbles about the "parking problem," he's really grumbling about only his own parking problems. Kinda makes ya think, don't it?

## There is something you can do



Pam Williams  
columnist

As I started brainstorming for this column, I shared many of my ideas with friends. When I mentioned writing about the environment and the damage we are doing, two of my friends said "Pam, please. Write about something else. Somebody's always writing about pollution, etc., etc."

Good! The more we write about our waste and destruction, the more we learn. Perhaps once we accumulate the knowledge, we can actually do something about the problems, or at least start to. So, for those of you who think you've heard enough about saving the environment, let me share with you some astounding statistics.

Each year, in the U.S. alone, 180 million gallons of motor oil is sent to landfills and/or poured down drains. That amount is equivalent to 16 Exxon Valdez spills. Waste generated in the U.S. each year would fill 145,000 miles of 10 ton garbage trucks. Folks, 145,000 miles is halfway to the moon. What are we doing? Or more appropriately, what are we not doing?

Apparently, we are not thinking or caring about our actions. We are not recycling everything we should and can recycle. We are not sharing our knowledge with each other. We are not talking about problems or solutions.

Granted, there are people who recycle and maybe you are one of them. But the question is, do you recycle everything you can? Do you buy recycled products? Are

we need change! We must first start with ourselves and then we can join forces as a group to stop poisoning the earth and her creatures. As a group, we can approach the companies who have and/or could have the technology to recycle and reuse so we don't deplete our natural resources. It's all cyclical and the change must start somewhere. Let it start with you and let it start now!

Recycle, folks and recycle everything you can. Reuse everything you can. Write to your congress people and tell them you're fed up. Write to the companies that continue to hurt the environment and tell them you're outraged at their crimes against nature. Raise hell now or we may be living in hell later.

You think me mad? Let me share with you how "mad" I really am. In the past 200 years the US has lost: 50 percent of its wetlands, 90 percent of its northwestern old-growth forests, 99 percent of its tall grass prairie, and up to 490 species of native plants and animals with another 9,000 now at risk. Each year we blacktop 1.3 million acres.

Copper, lead, mercury, nickel, tin and zinc are due to run out in roughly 50 years. And one-fifth of the water pumped from our ground water supply is non-renewable. Gas and oil as we know it will be depleted in about 35 years. This is absurd! We cannot continue to desecrate and destroy the earth and her creatures. We must strive to protect the diverse

ecosystem which remains.

The human population is growing at an alarming rate. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. has a net gain of one person every 18 seconds. As of last Sunday (Jan. 26), the human population of the U.S. was 266,608,951 at approximately 10:32 p.m., and at 10:36 p.m., the human population of the world was 5,818,109,748. With more people, we will need and use more resources. We will create more waste. We will systematically annihilate our diverse ecosystem.

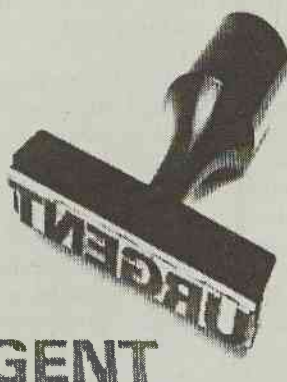
Sound extreme? I sure hope so! It sounds extreme to me, but it is going to take what seems extreme to salvage what we are presently destroying.

What do I mean, by extreme? I mean, limit families to owning no more than one car; and one house, limit the number of children a woman can birth to one, stop extending life past its natural expectancy, stop clear cutting forests, and expand federally protected lands to at least quadruple the area they encompass now.

Each individual can be a part of the solution. Demand the truth from companies that pollute. Contact environmental groups. Ask questions. Educate yourself.

If you are not sure where to start, try the internet, under environment. Watch and/or read "The Lorax," by Dr. Seuss. Reuse what you can. Recycle what you can.

If you are unclear about exactly what can and cannot be recycled, look in the yellow pages under recycling, make a phone call and ask. Find out. Enough apathy, folks. If we don't care now, what we've got will be gone. Millennium approaches.



URGENT

you aware of what can be recycled? Did you know that clothes are being made from recycled plastic milk jugs? They are. One of my friends has a rather warm jacket which looks like it's made of fleece, but in actuality is made from recycled milk jugs. Wow!

Until we do all we can, we are a part of the destruction. Companies and government feed off our ignorance. They could conserve more than they do. They could recycle more than they do. Folks,

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