

# Perspectives

## Letters to the Editor

### Stubbs' message 'reprehensible'

Dear Editor,

Mr. Stubbs, as a Christian and a feminist, I was deeply disgusted by your letter to *The Banner* in last week's issue. The Creator may have designed women and men's "very natures to act, respond, and think in different ways." Does this mean that men should sexually assault women? Does this mean that our society should hold up a standard of female beauty that is both unhealthy and unnatural? Does this mean that women should be considered mindless, frivolous playthings? Does this mean that a woman with a God-given gift for political leadership or a man with a God-given gift for child-rearing should deny his/her gift for the fear of being considered "abnormal?" Does this mean that women should not possess the same economic, political, and social rights as men? No, Mr. Stubbs. The answer is a resounding no. Feminists fight against these evils to make the world a better place for all of us. For you to suggest that women who join "the equality bandwagon" and carry out this struggle are acting unnaturally and in violation of God's design is, at best, grossly presumptuous and, at worst, morally reprehensible.

Sharon Baggett  
Freshman, undeclared

### Reader 'moved' to write

Dear Editor,

I have never before felt moved to write *The Banner* and air my opinions, but Berry Stubbs' idiocy has finally gotten the better of me, and I feel I must respond to his ridiculous letter on feminism published last week.

What I would like to know, first and foremost, is why should anyone believe you when you say that, "an authority, higher than yours and my say-so, decreed that men and women were, in fact, equal in one sense, but not interchangeable," and that women should be content

with the "different gifts, roles, and functions" allotted them? As far as I am concerned, Mr. Stubbs, you are not God's mouthpiece, and you have no more right than anyone else to tell me that my life choices are limited because I wasn't "designed" for certain roles.

It is true that men and women are different, but the kind of differences you hold so dear require women and men to limit the scopes of their aspirations and accomplishments for the sake of stereotypes which only maintain the status quo, the painful, debilitating gap that exists between men and women, and the deluded fantasies of closed-minded, repressed people such as yourself.

It seems to me that you are not the champion of repressed womanhood you would have others to believe, but, in fact, you align yourself with the authority that works so hard to preserve stereotypical gender roles in our society and perpetuate the second-class status of women. By your reasoning, the sexist structure designed by our patriarchal society is the only way and—hold on—the work of God as well.

Cybele Phillips  
Senior, art

### Title inappropriate

Dear Editor,

I'm glad that "Campus Pastor" Berry Stubbs has somehow discovered that men and women are not exactly the same. But I must wonder just where he found this startling bit of information. I was completely confused by his references to racism and Nazi Germany and their arguments "for such particular social understandings." (Did Hitler invent feminism? Is Strom Thurmond a feminist?) I considered taking up the authority argument to point out that the "designer of genders"—evolution—probably didn't have men like him in mind when the idea of two sexes for purposes of reproductive purposes was thought up, but then I thought, "Why bother?" Evolution is kind of like gravity; you can take it or leave it, and if you don't want

to believe in either, then it's no affair of mine.

I found Stubbs' question, "What is your source of authority?" offensive in the utmost. Not so much because of the arrogance it implies, or the hypocrisy, or even the plain old ignorance. I found it offensive because of "Campus Pastor" Berry Stubbs' title. Who exactly made him "Campus Pastor," and do we really have an official "Campus Pastor" at UNCA. Are we paying him? If any part of my fees went to his paycheck, I expect a refund, with interest. If not, then I think he should quit being so arrogant as to claim to represent me (as a member of the campus community) in any way, shape, or form.

I don't go around calling myself "Campus Atheist" just because of my beliefs. Maybe I should though.

Joshua Welch  
Senior, German

### Thanks for support

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the faculty/staff members and students here at UNCA for their kind words and support during my six-month leave of absence due to my personal battle with cancer. I would especially like to thank those who contributed sick leave to me and those in personnel and other administrative offices that worked with me to see that I returned to my position as a campus police officer. I have worked as an officer at UNCA for over five years, and I can honestly say that I have enjoyed working here very much. This is mainly due to my relationships with my fellow officers and office staff and the kind and caring attitudes that I have received from many faculty and staff members. UNCA is a great place to work, and I feel fortunate to be a part of the campus community. I really did not realize how much I liked it here until I was away from it for six months. I plan to resume my duties as a campus police officer full-time very soon, and, even though I am not sure of what lies ahead for me in

the future, I thank God for another day of life. Thank you.

Jerry Adams  
Department of Public Safety

### Congratulations to Homecoming

Dear Editor,

I want to congratulate the student organizations that sponsored Homecoming. They did an outstanding job. Many may not realize how much planning and organizing these student groups did to make certain the weekend was a success.

As a member of the alumni association, I was pleased to see so many students and alumni at all of the events. It was exciting to see the campus buzzing with so much energy. My friends and I always enjoy coming "home" and reliving our college experiences. I hope everyone had a good time and will want to come "home" year after year.

Again, congratulations and thanks to all those who made Homecoming 1997 a huge success.

Renee Rallos  
UNCA Class of 1993

### The Banner made a mistake

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to address the unintentional misrepresentation I received in last week's *Banner* article covering the new student conduct process. In that article, I was misquoted as questioning the structure of the system and the responsibility of certain individuals in it. While there may be room for minor adjustments, I am still highly in favor of the new process and the students and staff members who oversee it.

As a former justice of the old student court and a member of the task force which recommended the new conduct process, I am very familiar with both systems. I am very much in support of the current process because I believe it serves

students best. In designing the current system, the student/staff task force made it clear, for the first year, the system needed to be flexible to refinement. The case discussed in *The Banner* article has certainly identified some potential areas for fine-tuning. I am confident that the dialogue, which has already begun, will address these matters in a manner which further strengthens the system.

If there are any questions, comments, or suggestions concerning the conduct committee and its development, I can be reached at the Student Government Office at 251-6685, or by e-mail at samariaca@unca.edu.

Sergio Mariaca  
Student Body President

### There are answers in motor scooters

Dear Editor,

I yearn for the good old days when I could ride my motor-scooter all around the campus and always find a place to park. I could even park right outside my classroom and also at the entrance to the library.

But no more. It's understandable that rules have to be made about this kind of traffic. However, with the increased use of automobiles (does everybody have one?), we are having to search for a parking space, and the university has to spend more money to build more parking lots for this present group of affluent students.

But, wouldn't it be easier if more were encouraged to discard their automobile and use a motor scooter? They cost a lot less than a car, and they can travel at a top speed of 35 mph.

Think of all the benefits we could enjoy: no need to build more parking lots remote from our classrooms, easy accessibility to parking spaces, tremendous savings in costs of cars, gasoline, etc.

Just a thought.

Charles Cunningham  
College for Seniors

### Long-term rewards important

Dear Editor,

In Dr. Bell's excellent letter published earlier this semester, he pointed out that the data provided in *The Banner's* article on starting salaries did not reflect lifelong earning potential and should not be given serious weight in selecting a major.

Because he was contrasting earnings for economic majors with earnings for accounting majors, he suggested that we send an accompanying letter to point out that UNCA's accounting graduates have access to a more technical subject within a liberal arts environment.

Short term rewards are not nearly as important as long term rewards. Selecting a major for no better reason than because it offers immediate access to employment ignores the reality that the first job is almost never the last career choice, that having a job is not the same as having meaningful work, and that many interesting jobs are not discipline specific.

Within the context of a liberal arts university, we who teach accounting try to impress upon our students that the education we are giving them is no more than a framework upon which they will build. Furthermore, accounting majors learn that skills of critical and analytical thinking are very appropriately applied to issues of career development.

Our graduates have used their degrees to follow traditional careers in accounting and to follow other interests that are far from traditional. While we are delighted with students who have gone on to become partners in CPA firms, we are also delighted with our grads who have run not-for-profits, become chefs, and developed entrepreneurial interests.

Students should declare majors where their interests lie, then use analytical skills and creative thinking to discover pathways to satisfying employment.

Members of the Faculty Who Teach Accounting

# The prostate really does look like a valentine



Dave Barry  
columnist

You can say what you want about us newspaper journalists.

You can say that we are atheistic, liberal, family-hating, snake-worshipping, communist perverts.

You can say that we dress like the character Ratso in the 1969 movie "Midnight Cowboy" and apparently have our hair styled by angry wrens.

But the one thing you can't say about us is that we don't admit our mistakes.

Yes, we have made some "doozies." Everyone remembers the famous 1948 picture of Harry Truman holding a copy of *The Chicago Tribune* with a huge front-page headline declaring "Dewey defeats Truman." But what people don't remember is that the very next day, *The Tribune* corrected that error with a front-page headline declar-

ing "Dewey defeats Coolidge."

That is the high standard of accuracy to which we hold ourselves. And that is why, today, I want to correct a statement that I made in a recent column about a police officer in a Finnish city called Espoo who invented a harpoon for cars.

In that column, I stated that Finland is also known as "Norway." Shortly thereafter, I received dozens of letters, and do you know what they said? That's right: I may have already won \$10 million!

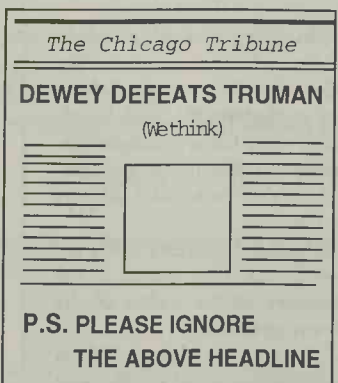
But I also received a lot of letters, some of them quite angry in tone, stating that Finland is not also known as "Norway."

A typical statement came from Patty Young, who wrote: "Though Finland and Norway are both within Europe, they are two individual countries." Another writer,

Elisabeth Natti, noted that "Finland was the only foreign country that paid off its World War I debt to the United States."

She also took issue with my suggestion that the civic motto of Espoo should be "The City That Sounds Like A Person Spitting." She states that "there is no 'Pe' sound in the Finnish alphabet," and therefore "Espoo" is pronounced "Es-Boo."

So, I wish to sincerely apologize and issue the following corrections:



1. Finland is not also known as "Norway." Finland is, in fact, also known as "Sweden."

2. The civic motto of Espoo should be "The City That Sounds Like A

Person Barfing."

3. None of this should be construed in any way as a criticism of Neil Diamond.

Now that we've cleared that up, let's get to the real purpose of this column, which is an alarming medical discovery that was made during Valentine Season by alert reader S. Scott Hanan, M.D., a family practitioner who apparently has (1) access to medical research materials and (2) a lot of spare time.

Dr. Hanan's discovery, which he backs up with six pages of diagrams from medical books, is that—prepare to be shocked—the human heart is not shaped like the valentine-style "heart" that is used in candy boxes, cartoons, tattoos, and the signatures of women named Brandi.

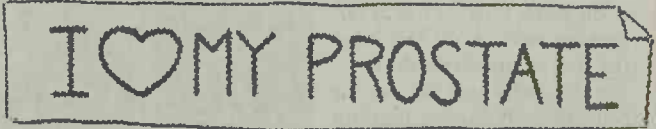
By way of proof, Dr. Hanan sent a medical diagram of a human heart. It looks like a member of the molusk family. Right next to this diagram, for comparison purposes, Dr. Hanan who notes, "I am a medical doctor, and therefore more than qualified to comment on such matters," has drawn a standard valentine "heart" and written "I don't think so!" And that is not all. Dr. Hanan has also reviewed the medical literature to see if any human

organ is shaped like a valentine. He found one: it is the prostate gland. He enclosed several prostate diagrams, and there can be no medical doubt: it's a dead ringer.

This discovery has major implications, and not just for people who play bridge ("I bid three prostates"). It also means that there are thousands, perhaps millions, of hairy

men walking around with the word "Mom" tattooed on a picture of a prostate gland. But the biggest impact has to be on the greeting-card industry, which I imagine will have to recall the billions of prostate cards it has sold over the years.

In an effort to gauge the extent of this crisis, I called the Hallmark greeting-card company, which is located in Missouri (also known as "Kansas"). I spoke with spokesperson Allison Novela and told her about the heart/prostate situation. She checked into it, and, a short



time later, she called back to read this statement, which I am not making up: "The doctor is correct about the shape of the human heart. However, Hallmark decided to sacrifice accuracy for sales after the poor performance of the following verse: 'Valentine, I'd follow you clear 'cross state,'

"For you hold the key to my prostate."

So, that settles that. All that remains to be done now is for whoever is in charge of these things to send Dr. Hanan his Nobel Prize and a large cash award. Speaking of which, I have this important announcement for those nations that have not yet paid off their World War I debts to the United States: it's not too late! Send the money to me, and I assure you that will be the end of it.