

Banner Briefs

Elizabeth Dole may run for presidential nomination

Former Senator and presidential candidate Bob Dole said there is a possibility that his wife, Elizabeth Dole, will run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2000, while speaking to a group of 200 students at Western Carolina University Tuesday afternoon.

Christmas officially returns to Cuba

The Communist Party in Cuba has recommended that Dec. 25 be a permanent holiday in Cuba. Christmas was an official holiday until 1969, when the government argued that holidays interfered with harvest. The government also canceled the New Year's Day holiday. The New Year's Day holiday soon returned, but Christmas was a workday until recently. The government granted a Christmas holiday last year as a one-time favor when Pope John Paul II visited, but didn't declare it permanent until this year.

N.C. schools are getting safer

North Carolina public schools are getting safer. During the 1997-98 school year, reports of students carrying drugs, guns, and other weapons, or assaulting school employees dropped for the third consecutive year.

Supreme Court rules on privacy

The Supreme Court decided Tuesday that people who visit someone's house for a short time don't have the same protection against a police search as the residents. An overnight guest may claim protection of the Fourth Amendment, but one who is only a temporary guest, present with the consent of the resident, may not.

Issues forum discusses best-selling book

UNCA Alumnus Lanny Haas, a specialist in human resource management and internationally recognized speaker, will discuss the best-selling book by Steven Covey, "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 7 in Laurel Forum.

Cambridge study abroad program holds info session

The Cambridge Fellows Program will have an information meeting on Dec. 8 in Laurel Forum. The program will take approximately 20 UNCA students to study in Cambridge, England for a month this summer. Participating students can receive credit for Arts 310 or Humanities 324. David Peifer, assistant professor of mathematics, will be available to answer

Commission visits to review funding

By Mat Peery
Staff Writer

Representatives from the North Carolina Advisory Budget Commission came to campus Monday to meet with the administration and discuss UNCA's use of current and future state funds.

Chancellor Patsy Reed welcomed the group and expressed gratitude on behalf of the university for funding appropriated during the state's budget session. UNCA "is appreciative of funding" from the state, Reed said.

Reed detailed how the monies for various projects around campus are being used and said she felt the members of the assembled group were "partners in supporting education in North Carolina." She added that she wanted the administration to be "good stewards of funds given to UNCA."

Funds to create a four-year engi-

neering program through distance education with N.C. State, expand UNCA's fiber optic network system, and begin the renovation of the Highsmith University Center were included in the budget.

UNCA requested \$12 million in state funding for Highsmith renovations, and in the state's recently passed budget, legislators committed an initial \$1 million to the project.

Highsmith was built in 1982, when only 400 students lived on campus and less than 30 student organizations existed.

According to university fact sheets, the residential population will exceed 1,000 and more than 80 student organizations will operate in the 1999-2000 school year. In addition, 630 students of the Asheville Graduate Center and more than 900 members of the College for Seniors use "campus facilities each year," according to a fact sheet.

Reed said that the university needs to have a "bustling, exciting, and

interesting" student center so that students could enjoy a better campus atmosphere.

"We have already recognized what a vibrant campus this can be and how important" the proposed renovations are to UNCA, said Reed.

The recently installed fiber optic network system was also mentioned as a necessary improvement to the university.

Reed said that the system will be expanded and the goal "is for everyone who has a desk on campus" to have an Internet connection so "they can get out into the world."

The state budget also included money to start a four-year engineering program that will allow students in the area a chance to earn a degree without having to go to N.C. State. In the current 2+2 Program, students spend their first two years at UNCA before moving on to N.C. State to finish their degrees.

Reed said she felt that this was the best option for UNCA because of the university's status as a liberal

arts school. Beginning a self-contained engineering program here at UNCA would not be feasible for many reasons, Reed said.

Reed said that this program was more economical than trying to begin a program at UNCA, because starting up an engineering program can cost as much as \$50 million. The new degree will take advantage of technological advances in distance learning, Reed said.

"It is N.C. State's program, but it is offered on this campus and can be taken in the evening by people who hold full-time jobs," said Reed.

In the meeting, Reed said some of UNCA's strong points as a small liberal arts university are low class sizes and a high number of full professors. UNCA "does not have any teaching assistants," Reed said.

With a low class size, students and professors get to know each other better, which is different from larger universities and is particularly important for this school, Reed said.

"I wanted to give you a picture of the kind of university we are," Reed said to the group.

UNCA's appearance in both "The Fiske Guide to Colleges" and "The Princeton Review's 'The Best 311 Colleges'" was another item Reed mentioned. "There are around 4,000 (colleges) in the United States, so that 311 cut is good company," Reed said.

Reed said UNCA's "national accolades" are due to the university "having a niche" with regard to class sizes and its emphasis on providing an affordable liberal arts education at a state school.

The Advisory Budget Commission visits state agencies regularly to determine needs for the next biennium. The Commission is a bipartisan group formed from members of the North Carolina House of Representatives and Senate.

Sara Jones contributed to this article

Faithful fan

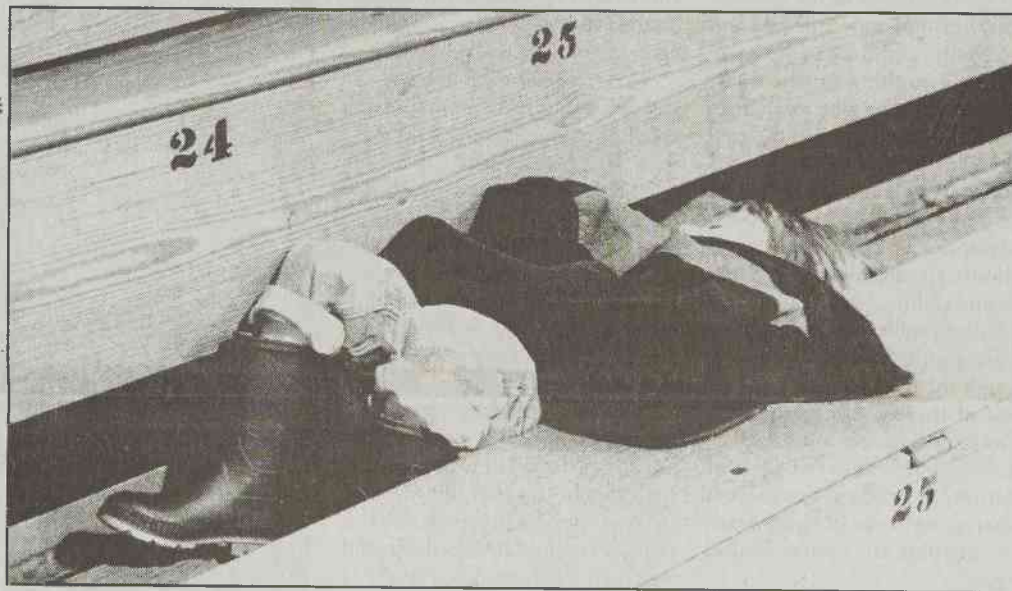


PHOTO BY SCOT WARING

A fan endures the exciting and the not-so-exciting moments during the Big South Conference Volleyball Tournament hosted at UNCA Nov. 20 and 21.

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The referendum was supposed to determine if a mandate existed among students to implement such a policy at UNCA. Jones said that part of the information he lacked regarded the proper course to take in order to make the policy active, should the students wish to enact the proposed code. The student referendum has not yet been rescheduled. "There's red tape attached to a lot of this," said Jones.

Parking shortages have been another source for concern among students this semester, and SGA responded by passing a resolution to open several spots to residential students at certain times.

Fifteen residential parking spots were opened in Lot 9A following the passage of a bill by the SGA.

Those spots are located across from Zager Hall and are designated as residential spaces from 4 p.m. until 10 a.m. daily. Because these spots have been approved as residential during those times, any appeals "will be taken care of," said Donaldson. "We've set it up with them so that if they do forget" and ticket during the time when the spots are open to residents, the ticket will be countermanded, Donaldson said.

An ad-hoc committee was created by an SGA resolution to take up the issue of childcare on campus. UNCA currently has no system that would take care of a student's child while that student attends class.

SGA has been working on this issue for the past year. Currently, the SGA committee has no chair, although Donaldson said that one will be appointed soon.

A playground area included in the proposed renovations to the Highsmith University Center was

planned before SGA began advocating a childcare program, said Tiffany Drummond, senior senator. That playground, when completed, would not offer childcare, but would be an unstaffed area where parents could watch their children play between classes.

The SGA's childcare initiative may be merged somehow with the playground area in Highsmith, said Drummond.

The creation of six task forces that will be used to gauge student concerns in each of the six student constituencies has also been an SGA priority. Each classification of students is an SGA constituency, and the other two are comprised of residential students and commuter students.

Surveys for members of the freshman class have been finished and will be sent out to freshman students soon, and other surveys will be sent out next semester, said Donaldson.

"We are planning on really pushing forward (with the task forces)," said Donaldson. He also said that he felt that student government could become more effective if more stu-

dents were involved in the process.

A bill was also passed to create a "media commission" that would hold any student publications accountable if they receive any money from student fees.

A media commission "would help to encourage a higher standard of professionalism and objectivity in these publications that are produced at students' expense," said Jones.

"It is probably going to happen next year, and not in the spring. The thinking behind that is that there needs to be a separate commission to help hold our publications accountable," said Jones.

Jones said that money for student publications, including *The Banner*, the SGA's *Issues Forum*, *HEADWATERS*, and organizational newsletters comes from student fees distributed through Campus Commission should be subject to review by a commission that would be part of the Campus Commission.

The idea for the media commission came from a conversation with a faculty member who said that such a commission existed at a college he attended, said Jones.



I think you misunderstood when I said "Wear a nice suit to court".

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alcohol intervention, that is fine. I just don't like having my name involved in this incident."

"Charles has come up to us," said Wilson. "He said he has no problem with me and never mentioned me and Matt to public safety, and he doesn't understand why we're in trouble. That's what gets me. I don't see how they can punish us. I've typed two appeals now, but I don't think (the University Conduct Board) is considering them."

Schabel said Hobday and Jordan's involvement was much more serious.

Wilson said Jordan and Hobday are getting more criticism about the incident than he and Matt.

"People have to realize these guys have feelings too. They make mistakes and are getting hurt by all of this," said Wilson.

Hobday said he received harassment from other students after the story was released.

"The first day or two, we got phone calls," said Hobday. "People just got drunk and decided to call and harass us."

According to Schabel, Jordan agreed to replace his bookbag. "He hasn't given me a new bookbag yet. It is way past the Nov. 20 deadline," said Schabel.

Jordan declined comment on the incident and the consequences of his behavior.

Hobday said he has not had any contact with Schabel since the incident occurred.

"I was told not to (by the conduct

board)," said Hobday. "I have no reason to talk to him. I just don't want him to get any wrong impressions of anything else."

The investigation report filed with public safety reported that Hobday exposed himself in the Mills Hall dorm room.

"I really don't know where that came from," said Hobday. "I don't remember doing that, and nobody else saw it. The girls in the room said the same thing."

Wilson said he did not see any type of indecent exposure in the room that evening.

"I did not see him do anything like expose his genitals in the room I was in," said Wilson.

However, Schabel maintains that the exposure did take place.

"I swear he exposed his penis to me and tried to shove my face in his groin area," said Schabel. Schabel added that one of the girls apparently saw what happened in the room because she said that he did not have to put up with Hobday's behavior.

"David was required to sit out of one of the track meets," said Wilson.

The registrar's office confirmed class enrollment for next semester for everyone involved except Jordan.

Hobday said he regrets ever approaching Schabel in the study room that evening.

"Looking back on it, we shouldn't have talked to him at all," said Hobday. "He was sitting there by himself and we were just trying to be nice and friendly to him. I have nothing against him."



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