



Sports

Women's basketball defeats Elon, men's beats Liberty.

See page 6

The Banner

Features

MacDowell and Walters present "Love Letters" Feb. 14.

See page 4



Volume 31 Issue 3

February 17, 2000

Recent childcare survey makes progress

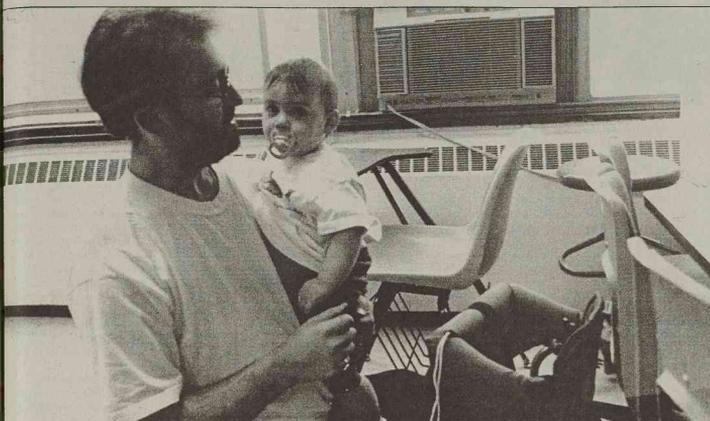


PHOTO BY JASON GRAHAM

Sam Kaplan, professor of mathematics, holds his son, Abe, 13 months, during an exam review for one of his classes.

By Davon Heath
Staff Writer

A recent survey resulted in proposals to solve UNCA's childcare dilemma, according to the chancellor.

"I don't want somebody to drop out of college because they can't deal with childcare needs," said Chancellor James Mullen. "We're going to address the issue of childcare, and do it in a meaningful way. I'm committed to really do that."

Based on the results of the Dec.

1999 childcare survey, there are 126 people with an immediate need for childcare, and 249 people who have expressed an interest in the issue.

"For a significant number of (students), childcare is a priority," said Mullen. "I think we have an obligation, in a way that is fiscally ac-

countable, to try to help people make the most of their experience here."

For short-term solutions to UNCA's childcare needs, the childcare committee proposed: developing a relationship with Buncombe County Child Care Referral Services, a YWCA-administered preschool program for three-to-five year-old children, a student government-sponsored Babysitter's Club, collaboration with the city's newly opened Little Bear Childcare Center, and evening programs for children.

Ideally, this package would be implemented by next fall, certainly by this time next year, according to Mullen.

"Part of the problem that we have here is that we have an issue that has taken too long to get addressed,"

said Mullen. "I don't want to be sitting here in a couple years having this same conversation. I (would not) have done my job."

"I intend to move the short-term solutions along into the planning process, getting dollar figures attached to them," said Mullen.

The long-term recommendations made by the childcare committee include appointing an administrative designee to run the childcare program and the ultimate solution is an on-campus childcare facility, according to the committee's report.

There will also be continuing consultation with nearby child and family centers, as well as, the pursuing of funding opportunities, according to the report.

"The long-term ultimate goal is to have a place on this campus as a childcare facility. That's going to take some time," said Mullen. "These (temporary) solutions can have a real, positive impact while we're headed towards the ultimate solution."

With the short-term proposals, there will not be a huge budget outlay, according to Mullen.

"I don't see anything in the committee's report that requires an increase in (student) fees," said Mullen. "I want to move forward, and I don't think we need to do it in a way that would require a new fee."

"It would certainly help parents trying to further their education, yet I don't know if it's the other students responsibility to pay for it," said Marilyn Anderson, sophomore sociology major.

The committee and the chancellor are in agreement that a childcare designee is needed as an important component in getting these programs going. According to Mullen, he is anticipating naming someone for that position within the next few months.

"I think what we have to do is start small (and) try to get as much as we can for that position within the next few months."

"Part of that is to try to institute the whole package of options," said Sarah Bumgarner, professor of eco-

nomics and co-chair of the UNCA childcare committee.

"This chancellor, more than any other, understands that meeting the childcare concerns is key to meeting his goals of diversity and helping people stay in school," said Bumgarner.

Other schools such as Appalachian State University, Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have childcare services, according to Bumgarner. Childcare is provided at many universities nationwide.

"I think the fact that (the chancellor) has young kids makes him understand the demand as well as the need of a working family," said Bumgarner.

Childcare is significant need that has been demonstrated for a long time, according to Mullen.

"I have two children, and I have struggled with childcare the entire time I've been at UNCA," said Meredith Tassin, a senior accounting major. "Lots of times people need to bring kids (to class). It's disturbing."

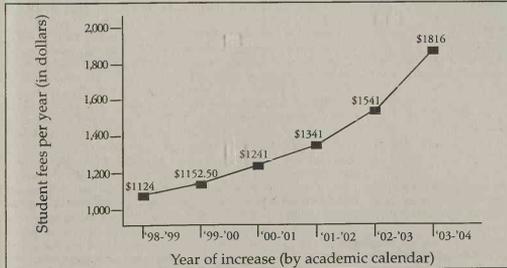
The short-term proposals outlined by the childcare committee will not meet all the needs for all the children immediately, according to Maggie Smith, recreation department and childcare committee member. This is a way to start fulfilling the need.

"I know a couple (of) people that don't think they can go to college because they have a child," said Steve Seider, a sophomore business management major. "Anything that will help the kids here, I'm all for it. Anything we can do to help somebody at school."

The Student Government Association, along with the childcare committee, are sponsoring a Babysitter's Club, according to Jennifer Fuller, a senior sociology major and member of the childcare

See PROPOSAL page 8

Students face possible \$575 fee increase



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION BY EMMA JONES

By Kathryn Krouse
Staff Writer

Raising funds to compensate for this year's flooding could increase student fees by \$575, according to a recent UNC system proposal. "I don't think they should make students pay more money (since) we already pay enough money as it is," said Megan Fazekas, an undeclared freshman.

The statewide proposal would raise \$750 million for building construction. However, over \$6 billion is needed to complete all the projects needed for N.C. public universities, according to Tom Byers, special assistant to the chancellor.

The fee increase, if accepted, will begin in the fall semester of 2000-2001, according to Eric Iovacchini, vice chancellor for stu-

dent affairs.

The three year plan, asks for a \$100 increase the first year, \$200 in the second, and another \$275 in the third year, totaling an overall increase of \$575, according to Byers.

"Whether (the proposal) will come out of the legislature in that form is still unknown," said Byers. After the flood in eastern N.C. last fall, a large amount of money went to flood relief and reconstruction from the state budget, according to Byers.

With the state having to deal with cleanup from the flood, "it would not be possible to take care of all university building needs through tax-generated revenues," said Byers in an e-mail. "Hence, the plan (is) to have students, through fees, bear part of the cost, (with) the taxpayers picking up the other part."

Chances for the proposal to go through depend on votes from the UNC Board of Governors

and a planned 50-50 match from taxpayers, according to Iovacchini.

The money collected by the fee increase will go to a larger state fund, according to Iovacchini. The money will then be distributed to universities based on need and size, according to Byers.

The fee increase, if approved, will not necessarily decrease after three years, according to Byers. The increase most likely will sustain until the state reaches the amount of funds needed.

"Theoretically, that fee goes away someday," said Iovacchini, "I believe it will take longer than three years. The fees are to be phased in over three years, but will remain (for) around 20 years."

"I feel it's not a bad increase, but I wish they wouldn't," said John Haynes, an undeclared freshman.

See FEE page 8

UNCA celebrates Black History Month

By Alison Watson
Staff Writer

Black History Month at UNCA is attempting to bring the cultural accomplishments and contributions of African-Americans to attention, according to a representative of the celebration.

"Black History Month is important in that it raises the level of awareness to people as a whole," said Octavia Wright, coordinator of multicultural student programs. "Diversity issues impact everyone. Black History Month is not just for blacks."

The celebration is filled with workshops and events open to everyone on campus and in the community. The events lined up have been sponsored and created by the multicultural student programs and many other student and departmental organizations.

Students "should take advantage of the opportunity to learn about" black history, said Wright. "This is eyeopening information. Challenge yourself."



PHOTO BY WALTER FLYLER

Sonji Anderson, a performer, celebrates Black History Month.

See HISTORY page 8