September 28, 2000

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The Blue Banner

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Perspectives

Taking a look at political impact on the environment

An environmental viewpoint



In the 1996 election year, only 20 percent of college-aged persons chose to vote. As students, our voice for leadership is synonymous with our choice of candidate.

Many issues are at the forefront of discussion between candidates and parties.

For those with an environmental concern for our country and the Earth during the next election term, there are several issues to consider. What is the candidate's environmental record? Where are the candidate's environmental priorities? What are some of the proposals being issued?

George W. Bush, Al Gore, and Ralph Nader, the two top nation-



Environmental Columnist

Green Party candidate, all have environmental records worthy of examination.

Summer Starling

There is an undeniable trend of conservatism and environmental irresponsibility being linked together. This is especially evident when taking a look at Bush.

Bush, the Republican candidate, has an environmental record that has been described as "spotty at best." While serving as governor of Texas, the state has reached one of the worst air pollution levels in the nation.

In response to this, Bush has claimed to have taken action by ending longstanding exemptions factories and plants have from newer ally ranked contenders and the Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA) standards. This event is re- the direct cost of Texas air quality, ferred to as a factory being 'grandfathered in." In total, 832 pollution-producing plants are noncompliant with regulations. Instead of enforcing regulation, Bush is relying on corporate volunteers to initiate clean air. As of today, only 24 of the 832 facilities much brighter than that of his priare in compliance with pollutionreduction regulations under Bush's administration in Texas.

This clearly demonstrates a lack of environmental leadership, as well as a direct apathy for government environmental organizations. Air pollution in Texas correlates

with fuel emission standards for automobile manufacturers as well. As gas prices soar, General Motors (GM), one of Bush's largest monetary campaign contributors, becomes worried about stricter emission standards.

However, they need not worry if Bush is elected. GM's top lobbyist, Andrew Card, is co-chair of the Republican convention. This ensures GM's and other corporate eco-friendly fuels. Also, providing

perhaps America's air quality, if Bush is elected to office. Al Gore, the Democratic candidate, has demonstrated slight environmental concern within his campaign. The outlook for his concern and subsequent action appears mary competition.

Claiming his top environmental issue as global warming, Gore has big promises for environmentalists. Leading the Clinton administration to ratify the Kyoto global warming treaty, aimed at reducing global pollution caused by the greenhouseeffect, Gore has since aspired elsewhere.

He favors strong protections for endangered species, blocking oildrilling efforts in the Alaska Wildlife Refuge (of which Bush is in favor), and providing more money for cleaning up toxic waste sites. Gore also proposes to invest \$125 billion over a ten-year period to modernize power plants and create sponsors' protection and interest at tax incentives to ecologically

minded corporations and requiring that international trade treaties meet "tough environmental standards" are in Gore's public campaign persona.

Despite all of Gore's high hopes, his history is spotted with many empty promises.

There have been reports of Gore implementing some kind of public event as deterrence from administrative responsibility toward global warming. For example, investigations have alleged that the Gore staff orchestrated an attack on atmospheric scientist Fred Singer. This attack falsely accredited Singer with dismissing global warming as an urgent issue, lessening the pressure for Gore to uphold his creeds about the issue.

Gore also has connections with "big oil" like Bush, approving oil company mergers without very much scrutiny. But Gore does comes out environmentally cleaner and more promising than Bush.

There is however, another option. For one compelled to vote for the environment, Ralph Nader is a prime third option.

On issues ranging from logging on public lands to energy, Nader has a solid environmental record and innovative ideas about the environmental future of America. Nader argues that corporate interests have used the World Trade vironment, unfolds.

Organization (WTO) to undermine legislative measures taken for the environment, such as Gore's Kyoto global warming treaty. Renegotiating global trade treaties in order to assure a raise in environmental standards is among Nader's top priorities.

In response to Gore and Bush's auto-related negligence, Nader proposes to help Congress eliminate subsidies for fossil fuels and encourage and support automobile manufacturers to build energy-efficient cars.

His equation for our growing air pollution dilemma is threefold. Administration needs to adopt a punitive, uncompromising agenda for polluters, emission standards must be strengthened and further funding and research are needed to promote increased use of renewable energy sources.

Instead of Gore's style of approach to global warming, Nader would choose to focus on American-generated automobile emissions. As researched by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Nader would implement a greenhouse gas emissions reduction of 50-70 percent in order to keep the global climate sustained at its current levels. To whom student votes are given will be a decisive factor as the next chapter of our nation, and our en-

Tolerance a viewpoint, not an act

e of the s former v is more than a ers-thatpened, replace ore cor-

ive been Whenever I tell people that I think ancellor America ought to legalize mariby it evjuana, they assume that I must be a ve some pothead. Why would I care about marijuana if I didn't want to use it? I'm not a pothead. I don't smoke dope. I have never smoked dope. I ications don't want to smoke dope. But, if you want to get high, you should be onnaires able to without going to prison. As n would long as what you are doing is non-

ate and violent, and doesn't infringe on mediate anyone else's person or property, it is your business. I will not impose rovides my preferences on you.

modate them. Tolerance is not

something that you do, its something you don't do.

You don't kill, maim, harass, injure or imprison people you disagree with. Tolerance is not acceptance. Tolerance is having your own views and values, and letting other people do the same.

Tolerance is leaving people alone. First, think about who you are, physically, mentally, spiritually, politically, ethnically, socially and so on. Next, think of every possibility imaginable for each of those

have to tolerate.

them, hate them or laugh at them. You just can't step on them.

You even have to put up with the ones that you don't like, like the Neo-Nazis, Pat Buchanan, people who wear fur and even people who say the N-word.

They aren't pleasant, and they aren't going to win a beauty contest, but they all must be tolerated, even if you don't like it and even if it is not politically correct.

They might not like what you have to say, either. No law should tell people that they have to love everyone. No law should ask you to bring someone you hate into your disastrous and final conclusions. home or business.

"Wait a minute," you say. "Businore things like race, sexual orien-

throw things at pedestrians and bi-

cyclists from his vehicle, step out of

next vehicle you'll be riding in is an

To the people at public safety,

ticketing at 7 a.m. and noon does

nothing to curb the tide of com-

muters. All that this accomplishes

is to punish residents who cannot

find parking because no free spaces

exist, unless you are willing to drive

to Ethiopia, home of the mythical

To the frat boys and jocks who

refer to female freshmen as

'freshmeat," if I ever hear you say

that, I shall snap off your cajones

To the idiots who stand in front of

the cafeteria and heckle those pass-

ersby who refuse their religious pro-

paganda, we are terribly sorry that

you collection plate has been empty

the past few Sundays, but heckling

people does not draw them to your

To the people who think it is a

good thing to put in a new driveway

to campus, I agree with putting in a

new driveway, as soon as we get the

money to fix Highsmith, rebuild

the Village, add more lampposts,

fund the physics department, ven-

tilate the chemistry labs, save the

whales and nuke the hippies. No,

wait. I still wouldn't agree with it.

and boil them in motor oil.

resident overflow lot.

cause.

ambulance.

desire to shop does not outweigh You are free to enjoy them, ignore the shopkeeper's right to be a discriminating racist/sexist/homophobic super-bigot when it comes to his property. It is a horrible business strategy to hire anyone other than the best qualified, and an even worse strategy to turn away customers, but if someone wants to drive their business straight into the ground, it's their choice.

What else are people allowed to destroy, other than their businesses? They can destroy themselves. Drugs, overeating, poor money management, unsafe sex, mountain climbing and riding a bicycle without a helmet can all lead to Still, though, people have the right

to fail and get hurt and get sick and nesses shouldn't be required to ig- die. You have to tolerate people whom you believe are unwise.

The Blue Banner Staff

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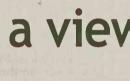
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Kevin Rollins Columnist



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lleyball

elped in ng them hat they trol over person ishment eiving at ter own

is in our us will liferation of idiots, I have just finhaving a ished "Liam's List of Fall 2000 Idihis perots. To everyone who treats the cafetedisease ria (and the people who work there) compre-

like it exists solely to please and placate you, let me tell you now that until you have been in the dishroom up to your elbows in other people's leftover food gunk, on your feet for 13 hours out of the day, you have no right to even

whimper about the fact that you

To the professors with attendance

policies, this is college. We students

come here because we want to learn.

If we don't show up to your classes,

a matter of fact (given your lec-

have to eat there.

otgun to tention is clear nstabil-

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ty. This,

lown to

doctors

ice their

l in the

don't bug us about it. Fail us on our lack of merit, not on the fact that we are sick, tired or already know ature, all this stuff. CA. To the professor who bans food and drink in his class, in no way is n on a coffee mug, a cough drop or cafarpen eteria leftovers interfering with how well students learn in your class. As,

seem to think that tolerance is something everyone else does to accom-

possible combination of those possibilities. Those are the people you

It is called tolerance. Many people categories. Then, think of every tation, age, looks and physical and mental health?"

Nope. Your need for a job or either. That's tolerance.

You can't tell people what's best for them, and they can't tell you,

The all-purpose idiot list for fall 200

while it was being built. To the people who rip down post-

that car for five minutes and the ers that express beliefs you do not agree with, you and I both know that you only do it because you can't stand the truth. Maybe, someday, you will have a belief system that you have enough faith in that you are not threatened by different ideas

> To the athletic director who thinks that pumping more money into our already over-funded athletic department will help it, you just had the former president of the NCAA tell you that there is a slim to none chance of making this program work. Take the hint. If you really want the students to get behind you on this, try adding a football team. Oh wait, that's right, we don't have the facilities to do so. That NCAA guy said something about that, too.

To the people at public safety who are "helping" students protect themselves by entering their rooms, this dramatic effect of leaving notes seems to be just a sneaky way of getting into a student's dorm room without having to let them know about room inspection.

If you recognize yourself on this list, please take steps to remove yourself from it. If you are not on this list, congratulations. If you are on this list and do not recognize it, prepare to be on the next List of Idiots.

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The Blue 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 Karpen Hall, room 244

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

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The Blue Banner reserves the right to reject any advertisement on the basis of content or space availability. Advertisements represent only the interests of the paying contributors.

The Blue 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, single-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 Blue Banner, Karpen 244, One University Heights, Asheville N.C. 28804.

The deadline for display ads and the FYI calendar is Monday at 2 p.m. Classified ads are due at 5 p.m. on Monday.

Due to the sudden and large proawake

someone will find out what it is. "Hey, I'm trying to see my friend

don't care. You'd have more of a chance of getting votes if you were a shrunken monkey head. By throwing up posters and chalk drawings, all you are doing is advertising that you are an idiot in thinking that SGA does anything important. To the idiot (and his friends) who

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Liam Bryan

Columnist

To everyone that bashes Microsoft, if you are so much smarter and better than they are, why aren't you

To the person who decided to

To those running for SGA, we

Plus, no one would be able to get find it entertaining to shout at and onto campus for three to seven years

tures) it might keep your students

that rich?

keep Governor's Village locked 24 hours a day, that policy does not keep the Village safe. Rather, it makes people more inclined to ask for (and give) the code. Think about it. A resident always has to type in the code, making it more likely that here, but I don't know the code. Can you let me in?" Sure, if it's daylight. Don't see why not.