

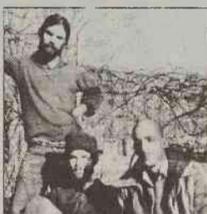
The Blue Banner

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Features



The Slip combines jazz and funk to create a unique sound

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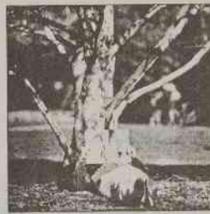
Sports



Volleyball defeats Gardner-Webb University in final home game

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Opinions



Student group looks at uses for bond money. By Candice Carr

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Students question U.S. race

Political science department holds presidential forum Nov. 14

Keith Cromwell
Staff Writer

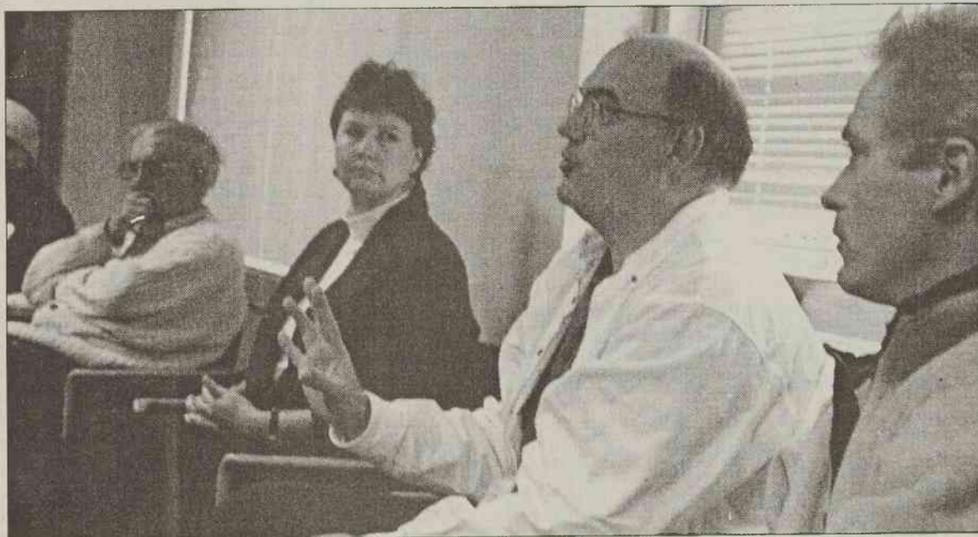


PHOTO BY WALTER FYLER

Linda Cornett, instructor of political science, William Sabo, professor of political science, and Mark Gibney, Belk professor of humanities, discuss the presidential stalemate.

UNCA students, faculty and staff discussed the current presidential controversy, the Electoral College and its relationship to the popular vote Nov. 14 at a political science gathering. The presidential race was still undecided Nov. 15.

"What should happen is (Dem. candidate) Al Gore should concede now," said Gene Rainey, professor of political science. "I voted for Gore. I think he is the best man, but he is turning off voters."

Currently, Gore leads the election in the popular vote with some 49,261,654 votes, leaving Republican candidate Governor George W. Bush with 49,044,716. In terms of electoral votes, Bush has 246 and Gore has 260, both short of the 270 needed to win, according to William Sabo, professor of political science.

"The candidate who gets the most popular votes in each state, gets all the electoral votes. There are only two minor exceptions, Maine and Nebraska, who allocate electoral votes to congressional districts," said Sabo. "(This system) was designed because the founders did not trust the voters to figure out what was going on, and, therefore, make a right choice."

While the election was been over for more than a week, the results in New Mexico, Oregon and Florida are too close to call, according to Linda Cornett, instructor of political science. In Iowa and Wisconsin, fewer than 5,000 voters separate the two candidates.

"While the race is too close to call (in the three states), it's clear that Florida is the pivotal state," said Cornett. "With New Mexico having five electoral votes and Oregon having seven, neither candidates would be able to pull it off (with just those two states)."

Many students said they did not understand the principles behind the Electoral

College, as well as the many legal concepts involved in this election. Students said this discussion was very successful, and answered questions they had about the election.

"I really enjoyed the meeting (and talking) about the fine details in this election that I did not know much about," said Mari Anne Thompson, a senior chemistry major. "I really appreciated some of the history offered by Sabo."

One of the points brought up by students at the discussion was that they would like to get rid of the Electoral College. According to Mark Gibney, professor of political science, that would require an amendment to our

constitution, which is not a very easy process to go about.

In order for the amendment to pass both halves of Congress must, by a two-thirds majority in each, have to approve it. Once Congress passes the amendment, it must be approved by three-fourths of states, according to Gibney.

"I would be in favor of getting rid of it," said Gibney. "When this dies down, I would imagine all the interest (to get rid of the Electoral College) would also die down until a situation like this comes up again."

Apart from the difficulty of amending the Constitution, turning to a nationwide popular vote to pick a presi-

dent would leave people from smaller states worried about being ignored altogether by candidates who choose to campaign exclusively in the populous regions, according to The Associated Press.

"If we did away with the Electoral College, an awful lot of states would never get a visit from a presidential candidate," said Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

President Bill Clinton said he hopes the dispute does not lead to a presidency crippled by controversy.

"I think it is too soon to say

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UNCA creates child care site

Sanna Raza
Staff Writer

Students, faculty and staff in need of child care can now contact the Babysitter Connection, a Web site that is part of a long-term process to have on-campus child care.

"There is definitely a need," said Alison Penland, a senior literature major. "A lot of (students) have to leave their kid with a parent when they go to class. It is hard to get schooling if you have to juggle with that."

The BC is primarily a list of 25 e-mail addresses and available times of students who are willing to baby-sit, according to Dara Jones, an undeclared sophomore.

"We match up the child-care list with people who need child care and come to the Web site. Most of us will hook up

with parents who want child care, meet them and start working for them," said Jones. "Then, you get a few parents who you are comfortable with (and stay with them)."

The students will be trained in babysitting so parents know their children are in good care, according to Maggie Smith, UNCA director of child and family services.

"There is a standard child-care training that folks in the community can go through to become substitutes in child-care agencies in Asheville," said Smith. "It is a seven-hour training. They also check fingerprints (and give) tuberculosis shots. We are actually looking to condense (training) to four or five hours for UNCA students, and Cardiopulmonary



PHOTO BY JUSTIN MECKES

Maggie Smith, director of child and family services, gives students information.

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Union organizer addresses rights

Kay Alton
Staff Writer

Around 25 people gathered to learn the effects of globalization on Southern workers from Saladin Muhammad, an organizer for the United Electrical Workers' Union 150 Public Service Workers Union and Black Workers for Justice.

"I was impressed and inspired by Muhammad's talk, because unions not only empower workers in the workplace, but also serve to educate the workforce on issues that affect their lives and the world around them," said Candice Carr, a junior ecology major and co-chair of Active Students for a Healthy Environment.

"There is the whole issue of access on campus," said the member. "We have had students who have had real challenges getting into (Rhoades-Robinson Hall) from the back. They have repeatedly asked for handicap doors."

Several disabled students were disappointed they could not attend the school dance that took place on the gymnasium floor, which is not accessible to students in wheelchairs, according to the mem-

munication major and member of Student Labor Action Coalition, a student group at UNCA supporting workers' rights to unionize.

"Workers in the UNCA system are saying we need a union. Our union's position is that there are some damn laws we are not going to honor anyway, and this should be the role of the working class," said Muhammad.

Workers at UNCA will have to decide to either succumb to the laws or challenge them as a statement of power, with workers providing that power. This is the goal of the UE 150 union on campuses, according to

Mohammad. "It is difficult because N.C. has legislation which prohibits state employees from collective bargaining, which is one of the most instrumental

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Students call for change in teaching styles

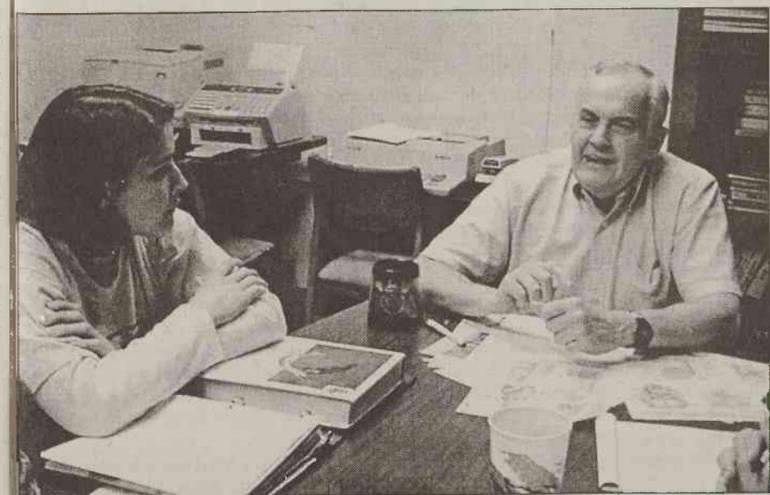


PHOTO BY WALTER FYLER

Several students and faculty said they want the overall teaching process enhanced at UNCA.

Rachel Crumpler
Staff Writer

Different teaching styles should be used to improve the overall learning process at UNCA, according to Equal

Access, a group on campus open to anyone interested in physical or learning disabilities. However, some students on campus feel classes should not be changed, and buildings should not be altered to cater to disabled students.

Teachers should "not baby the (disabled) students," said

Travis Brown, a junior computer science major. "That will give them a false reality about what the world is really like."

Disabled students do not want to be singled out, according to a member of Equal Access who wishes to remain unnamed. They believe new teaching styles, such as group

assignments and videos, will help the whole class, not just students with learning disabilities.

"We are not asking for special treatment. We are asking to reach our potential as individuals," said the member. "Not all students learn the same way. When teachers have the mindset to work with disabled students, they are actually enhancing education for everyone in that classroom."

For example, not all students learn orally. According to the member, teachers should use visual aids to add to their lessons.

"Some people understand concepts much more easily if they are in visual form rather than written or spoken form," the member said. "If someone lectures (and teaches) with all words, then those of us who learn visually are lost."

Catherine Whitlock, lecturer in mathematics, said she recognized that students all have different learning styles. She tries to accommodate students as long as she completes the allotted amount of material per semester.

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