

THE BLUE BANNER

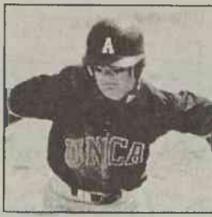
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"Our Freedom to Disagree," by Kevin Rollins

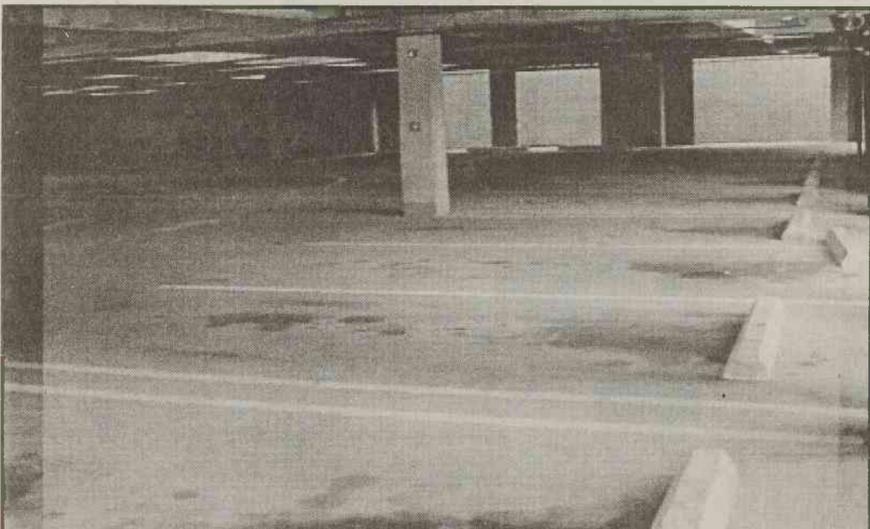
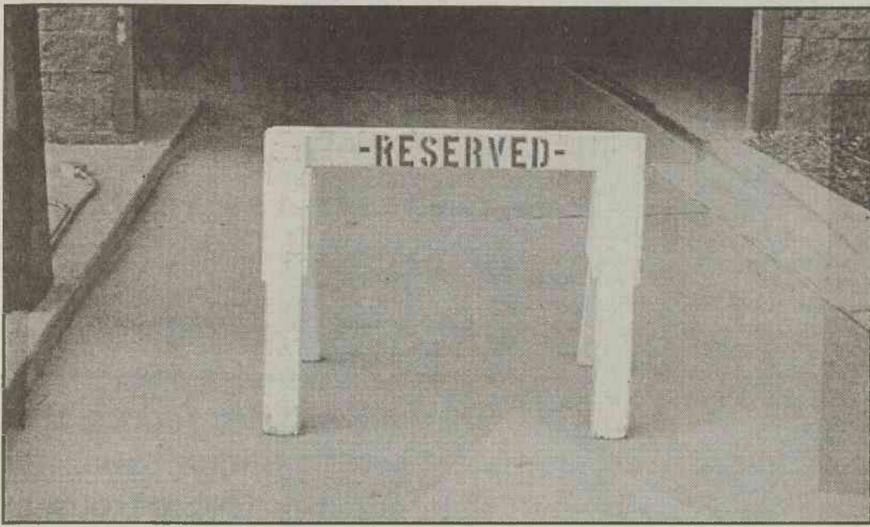
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Volume 33 Issue 9

The University Of North Carolina At Asheville

April 5, 2001

UNCA Parking Deck Closes



WALTER FYLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The closing of the parking deck outside of the dining hall affects not only students, but also dining hall employees.

Keith Cromwell
Investigative Reporter

UNCA officials plan to close both levels of the parking deck under the cafeteria due to construction to renovate the upper-level section. Level two of the parking deck will house student organizations and the bookstore until the completion of the new Highsmith Center in 2004.

"It would be a safety factor for us to stay in the building, and it costs more money to move us around," said Sharyn McDonald Groh, director of student development.

The second level of the parking deck will be closed permanently. However, the lower level will close temporarily until renovations of the upper level are complete in October.

"We need to close both levels (of the parking deck) to add some columns on the first level to support the added load on the second level," said Ronald Reagan, university architect.

UNCA will lose about 45 spaces on each level of the parking deck, according to Reagan. However, UNCA is building a parking deck across from Zagier hall with about 48 spaces for residential student parking.

"We are building the other parking deck because we knew we would have to close the parking deck under the cafeteria," said Reagan.

There is no place on campus to put all the people and organizations in the center now, ac-

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Survey Reveals Financial Aid Concerns

Thad Eckard
News Reporter

A recent survey of incoming UNCA students indicates that of new transfer students, 22 percent said that finding money to pay for college was a major concern. Half of all new freshmen said paying for school caused them some concern.

Chancellor Jim Mullen recently said the planned tuition increase will "hold harmless" students who already receive financial aid.

"It's misleading to say we will not be affected," said Nikki Young, a senior biology major. "If they are going to increase tuition, they need to increase grants rather than give students more loans, because that doesn't help people in the long run."

However, students who receive their primary financial aid in loans will pay back whatever they must borrow to cover the \$150 per semester tuition increase Mullen supports.

Last year's Student Government Association unanimously approved the tuition increase.

"I'm tired of SGA being robots for the administration and supporting the administration," said Matt Deal, a senior classics major. "I feel as if I do not have an advocate. No one wants to support a financially strug-

gling student, and I'm tired of it." Margaret Goodson, a junior art major, said she did not qualify for any grants, so all her financial aid came in the form of loans.

"I know I will graduate with debt, but I don't like thinking about it. It's depressing," said Goodson.

Of new transfer students who receive financial aid, 42 percent get their help in loans. Of new freshmen who receive financial aid, 39 percent receive loans, according to institutional research statistics.

"Perhaps some athletic funds could be diverted to recruiting people from socio-economically deprived backgrounds," said Seth Smith, a senior philosophy major.

The typical new student comes from a family that makes \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year. Of these students, 67 percent have at least one parent with a four-year college degree.

"I'd rather not disclose my parent's income, but both my parents never pursued any education beyond high school," said Jason Miller, a senior history major and SGA senator. "I don't doubt the statistics. That's why I think it's a sad commentary on the static nature of socio-economic classes in our country."

The North Carolina Department

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Black Feminist Author Visits UNCA

bell hooks hosts a workshop and lecture in Asheville

Claire O'Brien
News Reporter

Feminist author bell hooks spoke to a large crowd on March 30. UNCA students who attended the presentation said they were largely receptive to hooks.

"She's bringing up a lot of beautiful issues that really need to be widespread," said Andi Lombardo, a sophomore sociology major. "What I heard was love and justice and how they are hand in hand. She's very revolutionary."

Hooks spoke in the Lipinsky Hall auditorium on the evening of March 30, and hosted a workshop March 31.

Hooks has written numerous books and articles since 1981, when she first became prominent via her book "Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism."

Hooks taught at Oberlin College as well as New York's City College. Although best known for her writings, hooks has also provided sev-

eral interviews with magazines.

"I thought it was very informative," said Jamal Mullen, an undeclared sophomore, on hooks' presentation. Mullen added that he had heard of hooks before she came to UNCA.

"She brought an insight as far as how the civil rights movement didn't really accomplish everything that it set out to be," said Stephen Catherwood, an undeclared junior. "Everything that it set out to be was kind of lost. The ideals were lost."

Hooks made a strong point when she said that because black people are making more money and are accepted as free now, many people don't see the oppression and institutionalized racism, according to Catherwood.

Hooks was born under the name of Gloria Jean Watkins, but changed her name to that of her great-grandmother.

She lowercased the name, and made it prominent in feminist theory circles, according to the Web site, altculture.com.

Some of hooks' works include col-

"What I heard was love and justice, and how they are hand in hand. She's very revolutionary."

-Andi Lombardo
Sophomore, Sociology

umns for the *Shambhala Sun*, a Buddhist publication and articles with titles such as "Misogyny, Gansta Rap and *The Piano*," according to the Web site.

Her book "Ain't I a Woman" was ranked as "one of the 20 most important women's books of the last 20 years" by *Publisher's Weekly*, according to the Web site.

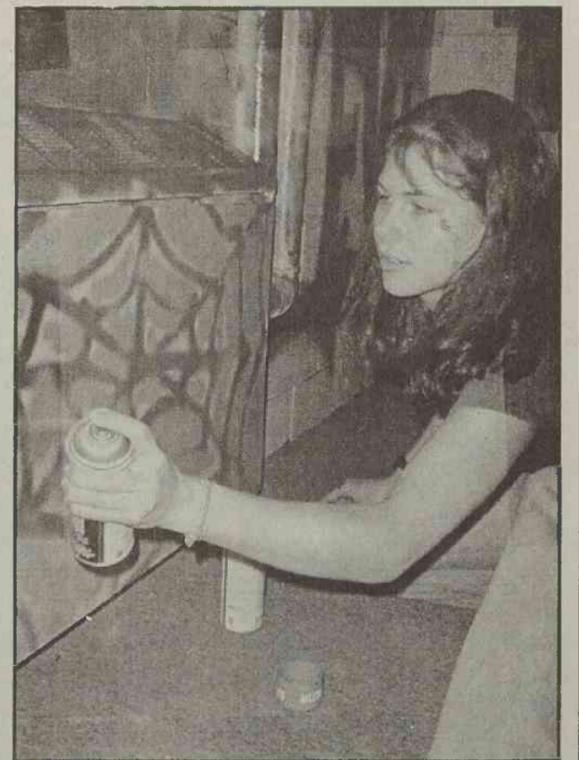
Hooks spoke for nearly two hours March 30, addressing both her previous writings and some of her more recent publications.

The audience was comprised of many UNCA students and faculty, but also included several Asheville High School students and Western Carolina University students.



PHOTO COURTESY OF bell hooks
bell hooks said she plans to return to Asheville in a year.

Permitted Graffiti



WALTER FYLER/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stephanie Rodevick, a sophomore education major, spray paints Swain Hall before the building is torn down.