

OPINIONS

Editorials

Entertainers and their salaries

One common utterance in sports discussions is complaints over how much athletes are paid. Baseball players will make as much as \$20 million a year, and that number will presumably go up this year as Barry Bonds begins taking bids on his services.

Very few people will argue that \$20 million is an exorbitant amount of money for someone who plays a game. However, the simple fact is, these people are entertainers.

Jim Carrey or Wayne Newton will generally make more money in a given year, and the careers of those entertainers can go on for 40 years, instead of the 10 to 15 an athlete might accomplish.

Obviously, this does not solve the problem, since most people would agree that Jim Carrey and Wayne Newton are overpaid. Even these entertainers are only paid relative to what their presence brings in to those who employ them.

When a studio adds Jim Carrey to a film, suddenly it might go from a projected \$10 million in revenue to \$50 million. Even if they pay \$20 million for their star, they still profit \$20 million from having him.

Sports teams are no different in this respect.

Adding a star player to a lineup, like Alex Rodriguez in Texas, will fill the stands and bring in more sales at the concession stands. Obviously, the owner of the team thinks he will profit by having this star player.

If the players did not receive the extraordinary salaries they do, the money would end up in the pockets of the owners.

While the athletes are mere millionaires, the owners are multi-billionaires. And of course, who deserves the money more? When was the last time someone went to a Atlanta Braves game to see Ted Turner?

The grim fact of athlete salaries is that a few stars are paid extraordinary amounts, while the vast majority make relatively nothing.

The Asheville Tourists just finished up their season across town, and for most of them, the million-dollar salaries will never come. For these guys, it is still just a game.

Some of them might end up making millions of dollars, but when you see a player hit a towering home run to left field, what does it really matter if they are paid \$100 a game or \$80,000?

Staff Member of the Week

Congratulations to Hollie Childers of the Sports department. Hollie is *The Blue Banner's* Staff Member of the Week.



ED FICKLE / NEWS REPORTER

The Blue Banner editorial crew (counter-clockwise from bottom): Walter Fyler, J.P. Ammons, Deleon Dendy, Sarah Wilkins, Rachel Crumpler, Emily Schell, Luke Knox, Lena Burns. Not pictured: C.J. Eland, Holly Koss, Dearborn McCorkle, Matt Deal.

Letters to the Editor

A critique against the United Nation's decision

Dear Editor:

As of October 8, I am sad to announce that the Syrian Arab Republic has become a member of the United Nations Security Council.

Before I continue, it's important to have a brief understanding of Syrian history.

I will simply highlight events in Syrian history, which for the purpose of the article, is of importance.

In February of 1982, under the government of Hafez Al-Assad, the supreme Islamic ruler of Syria, gov-

ernment forces attacked the town of Hamah after opposition forces against the Assad government had gained a foothold.

An estimated 20,000 civilians were killed by the Syrian military.

In addition, on May 15, 1974, terrorists affiliated with the Ahmed Jibril organization, a Palestinian terrorist organization supported by Syria, attacked kibbutz Ma'alot in the North of Israel, where 21 little children and four adults were killed.

I am disgusted that the United Nations voted unanimously to allow the nation of Syria, a nation which has a history of murder and terrorism, to be included in such an organization.

Syria has been allowed to sit side-by-side with nations like the United States, Canada and England, who value democracy and human life.

In President George W. Bush's

history-making speech, he stated that, "All terrorist organizations within a global reach must be targeted."

If that is the case, then how is it that a country like Syria, which harbors Hezbollah, Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, all of which are on the official United States State Department list of terrorist organizations, was accepted into the security council with minimal opposition?

I scream to the United Nations, "Wake up!" The United Nations has had a horrible history of corruption and unfair anti-Israel and anti-American bias.

However, I will say that even I was surprised to see Syria take a seat at the council. Shame on the United Nations!

Avi Mechanic
Junior, Economics

Mark Ulmer Native American Scholarship...
Ford Foundation Fellowships...
N.C. Wildlife Federation
Endowment And Education Fund...
NCAA Sports Journalism Scholarship...
National Physical Science Consortium
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Contact the financial aid office for more information on scholarships available to YOU!

ASHEVILLE AREA ARTS COUNCIL WILL HOLD CANDIDATE'S FORUM for the Asheville Mayor and City Council races in the Diana Wortham Theater at Pack Place on Thursday, October 18th, 2001 from 5:30 PM to 7 PM. The panelists and audience members will ask questions relating to the future of the arts in our community.

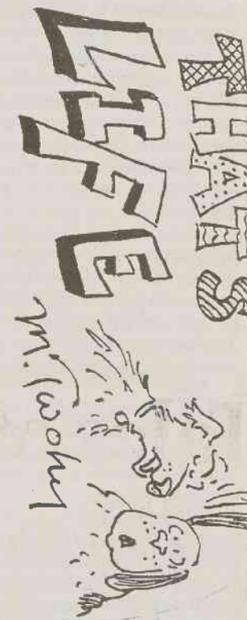
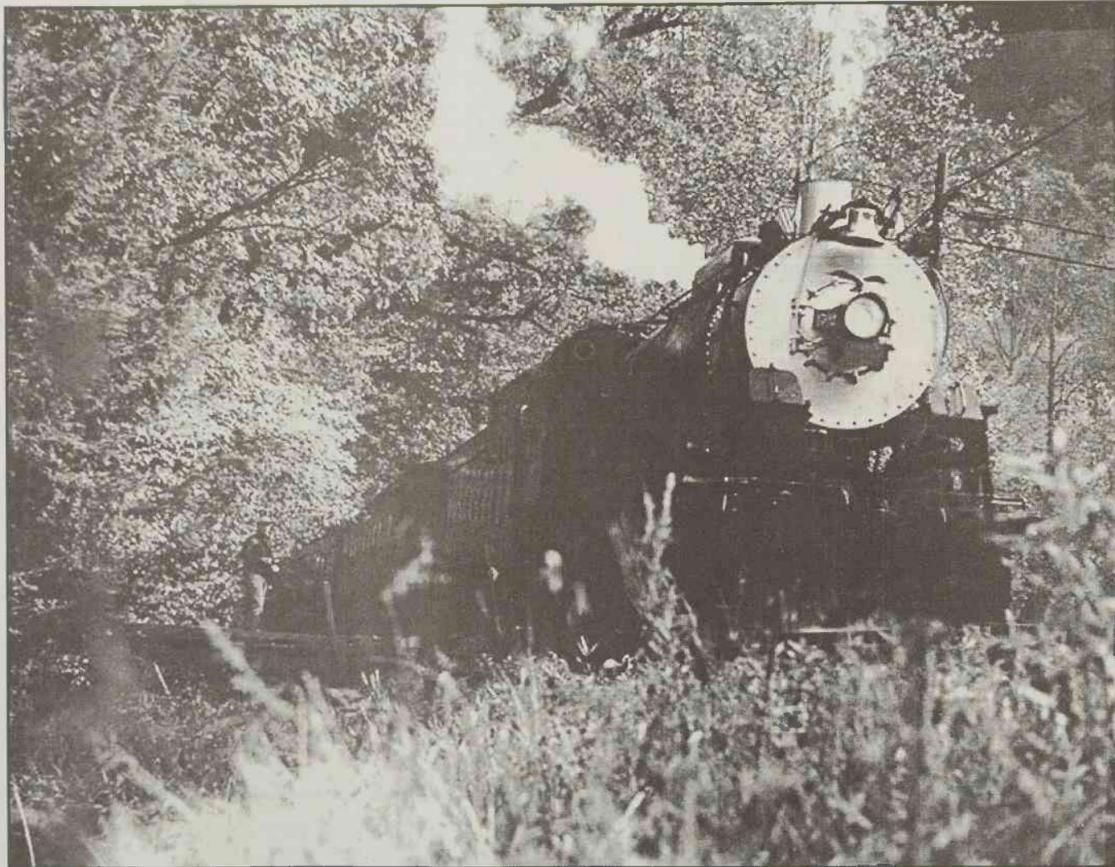


Photo contest winner



Congratulations to Ken Burns, *The Blue Banner's* photo contest winner for the week of October 18, with his photograph entitled, "Train in Fall."