

OPINIONS

Editorials

Shall we dance this year?

Hoops season has rolled back around again for UNCA. From a distance, the 2001-2002 UNCA men's basketball team looks like they have a shot at contending for the Big South Conference Championship and a spot in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament. Or simply just, "The Big Dance."

Without a doubt, this would be a huge feat, seeing as how the Bulldogs have never experienced a trip to National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament.

Although at times, we have come close.

In his second year, Head Coach Eddie Biedenbach almost took UNCA to the promised land back during the 1997-98 season.

After cruising their way to a 19-8 record and the Big South Conference regular season championship, Biedenbach and his charges had the inside track to an invitation to "The Big Dance."

Yet, the dream season came to an end when a last second fadeaway jumper in the championship game of the Big South Conference tournament landed Radford University in the field of 64 instead of the Bulldogs.

However, the Radford Highlanders might have done UNCA a favor because they were ones playing the role of sacrificial lamb to the Duke Blue Devils.

UNCA would once again return to the title game in the 1999-2000 season, only to fall to a talented group of players from Winthrop University.

For another year, it looks as if Winthrop University is the team to beat. However, the 'Dogs aren't too shabby either. With the arrival of a talented group of freshmen, as well as an experienced core of players returning from the 15-13 team last year, UNCA is picked by some to challenge Winthrop University for Big South supremacy. *Street & Smith's*, a college basketball publication, has already picked the Bulldogs third in the preseason.

The time has come. As the Bulldogs lace up their sneakers and step on to the hardwood in hopes of chasing a Big South Conference title and March Madness dreams, fans will sit back and ask themselves one lingering question. "Will we be John Elway, or the Buffalo Bills?"

Preventing thefts on campus

In light of the recent vehicular thefts on UNCA's campus and the ongoing construction, students should be even more vigilant and cautious in protecting their belongings.

Four individuals, one allegedly a UNCA student, apparently broke into seven different automobiles and stole radios, CD players and cell phones.

This is probably just the beginning. A few years ago, when UNCA was entrenched in construction, the number of thefts increased from five in 1997 to 54 in 1998.

The construction occurring around campus was the main reason behind the increase, according to Jerry Adams, public safety investigator in a Sept. 1999 *Blue Banner* article.

The construction companies were responsible for their own security, and the companies were being slack, according to Adams in the article.

"A lot of buildings were being left open that shouldn't have been," said Adams in the article. The companies "were not doing what they were supposed to do, so therefore, it resulted in a lot of stuff being taken."

Residents of Governor's Village recently received a memo that said doors to the buildings will have to be propped open for a select amount of time.

The new construction companies should learn from previous mistakes and take the proper precautions.

Public safety also needs to increase their patrol of construction sites to ensure the protection of students' property.

However, even if this should occur, students are ultimately responsible for their belongings. Through the use of common sense, a huge leap in thefts can be avoided.

Staff Member of the Week

Congratulations to Sachie Godwin of the features department. Sachie is *The Blue Banner's* Staff Member of the Week for Oct. 25.

Solutions to an ongoing issue



Justus D'Addario

Columnist

I was chillin' before class yesterday when a conversation hopped across me...

"Yeah, has that guy got his ass kicked yet?"

The comment was made concerning a recent *Blue Banner* article, which expressed an individual's viewpoint. Obviously, the person making the comment didn't appreciate this expression. As most things do, this made me think.

Is it OK for someone to exercise their right to free speech when it hurts others? Why do we say hurtful things or judge certain things as hurtful? What are the effects of these actions of speech?

Personally, I have a habit of cussing, just for the hell of it you could say. I'm improving a little, I guess. Maybe it's an attempt at making my mediocre life more interesting.

Yelling or even having a strong hold on a position for that matter, is a surefire way to spark excitement of some kind. Isn't that all we want?

I'm just sitting here listening to the wind blow through the chimes, watching sunbeams and shadows of leaves dance on my paper, and that line was definitely the highlight of my day, and this article.

More questions.

Why do we need so much drama? We fear that we will get enough attention being positive, kind people. Maybe if we were all nice to each other, everything would be too damn boring. Why do I ask so many questions? Why did I even write this?

Oh yeah. Back to the top.

One person says something that supports war and killing (maybe by maxing out while others kill for them), and another who proposes peace wants that guy to suffer pain for his point of view.

This reminds me of the movie "Seven," and the seventh deadly sin of wrath. Sorry to spoil the end, but the psychopath (who is extremely intelligent, yet suffers severe mental pain) works it out so that "the good guy" will carry out the last sin

of wrath. I strongly recommend checking this one out, folks.

We are doing this right now. We fulfill the wishes of terrorists, and support stereotypes of America as ignorant and despotic with our random bombing campaign and rhetoric. As Josh Day said last week, "the true enemy hides in caves in the desert."

Yes, our Special Forces are obviously looking in those deep dark caves right now. Talk about metaphors. Lets use our Special Forces to check out the caves in ourselves we haven't looked in for a while. Our awareness lights the way.

When we get to the root, we can see clearly that the anger invoked by ignorant statements, such as terrorist acts, or just plain being derogatory, is the sought after effect. Generally, we want company. When we are suffering, we want others to suffer, too.

Now, we can ignore our suffering as we have done for the previous few thousand years, or we can seek

it out and as Belle Hooks suggests, work on "loving our blackness."

Ignorance, the ability to commit evil, and fear in all of us. There are some very simple things we can do to change this.

Let's get to the roots now. After all, that's what radical really means.

I know we can stop judging others and ourselves with these painful value systems, but everyone has to join in together. Pick your head up and read the signs.

There are people right here with you, right now who are willing to help.

We all want to be happy and free from suffering, but first we must recognize that deep down, we really are in pain even though there might be a smile on our face.

The faster we become responsible for our own minds and actions, the faster we be chillin' free from suffering.

I hope we do this soon, so I can cease with these hypocritical articles.

"Maybe if we were all nice to each other, everything would be too damn boring."

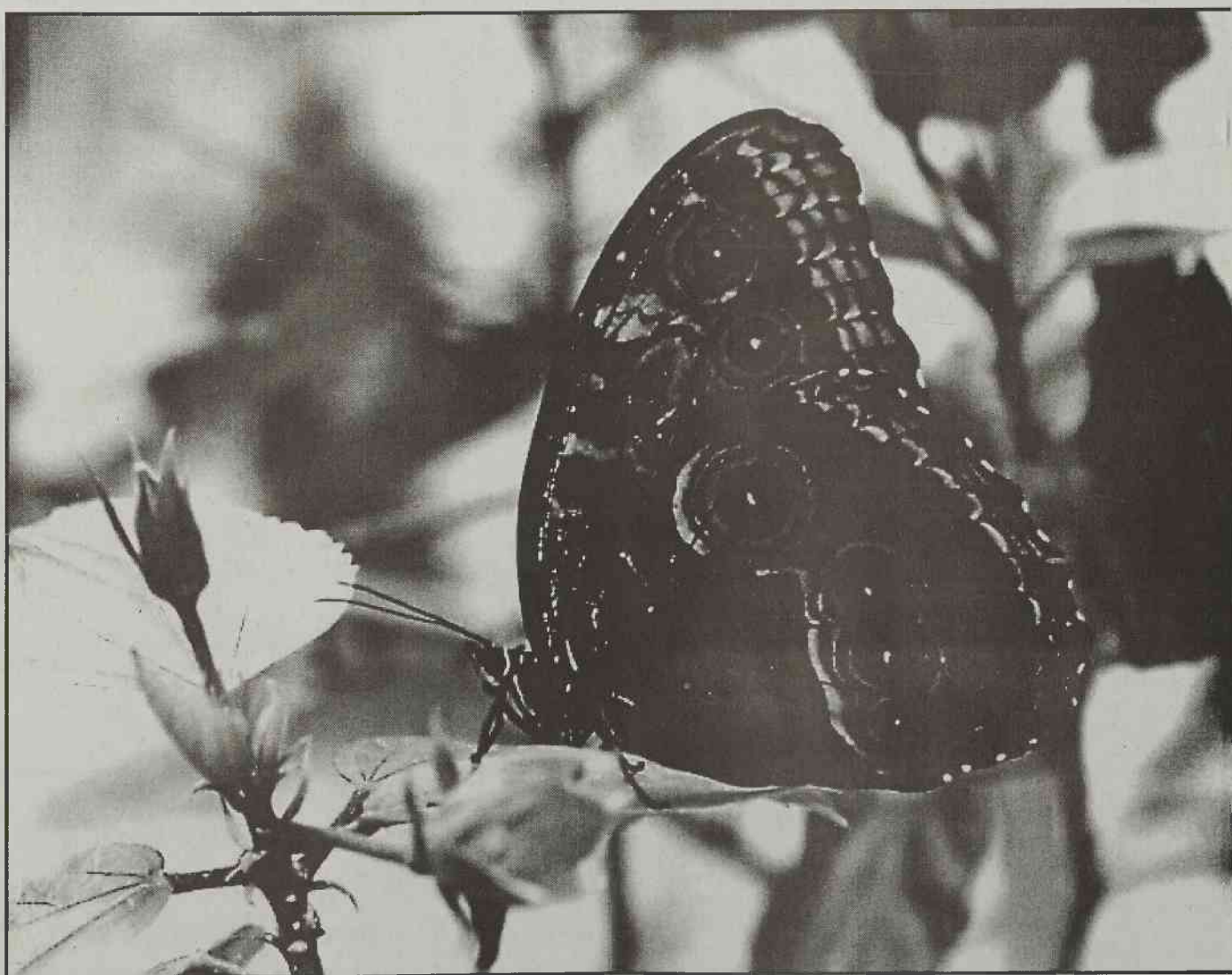
FIFTH ANNUAL JINGLE BELL WALK/RUN TO CURE ARTHRITIS

On November 4th runners and walkers of all ages will don holiday costumes, put silver bells on their shoes and take to the streets of UNCA, taking steps to cure arthritis. To register for the event, please call 1-800-883-8806. The registration fee is \$25 in advance or \$30 on November 4th. For more information contact Kevin Plate at 1-800-883-8806 or kplate@arthritis.org.

Headwaters ~

UNCA's creative arts magazine, is accepting entries in music, prose, poetry, art and drama from faculty and students for the 2001 edition. Pick up a submission form and drop off entries in the boxes in the Literature or Music Department, or at the Headwaters office in Karpen 240. For more info, contact Caroline Mann, Editor, at 251-6730 or creative@bulldog.unca.edu

Photo contest winner



Congratulations to Jennifer Packard, *The Blue Banner's* photo contest winner for the week of October 18, with her untitled photograph of a butterfly on a leaf.