

## Nation needs a third party

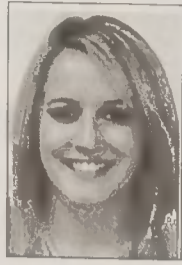
By Emily Pomeranz  
POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENT

on the ballot.

Third parties are beneficial because they attract citizens to the polls who usually have no interest in voting due to the fact that their views are not represented in the two-party system. Many N.C. legislative candidates go uncontested because a third party does not exist on the ballot. If we claim to be a democracy, it does not often come across like that. Having a third party on the ballot will increase voter turnout and give citizens the ability to have all of their views represented.

An active third party gives Republican or Democratic candidates incentive to address issues they would not have otherwise looked at. Take the Green Party, for instance, who pushes environmental issues and stresses the significance of human impact on the environment. The support for the party has increased in the past four years, and now many candidates, mainly Democrats, are altering their platform to include issues such as global warming and sustainability.

The Republican Party played on the values of the Constitution Party of the United States, an ultra-conservative, mainly evangelical Christian party that actual-



Emily Pomeranz  
Political Science Student

ly attracts a handful of voters. During the past two presidential elections, the Republican Party has gained the support of many evangelicals and other socially conservative leaders by adjusting their views. A third party brings issues to the mainstream that would not necessarily be there otherwise.

The Libertarian Party is one of the more popular parties in the United States. In 2006, 53 percent of candidates running in the North Carolina Congressional races were unopposed. If a third party were allowed on the ballot, perhaps a more competitive race would have occurred, bringing a wider variety of issues and interests. North Carolina seems to have the right atmosphere for a

Libertarian party to flourish, considering it is one of the most progressive and liberal states in the South.

Our current two-party system limits who is running and what is discussed during an election. The Democrats and Republicans have a mutual, monetary monopoly over elections, and the race in 2008 will be no different.

A moderate candidate, such as Rudy Giuliani, who claims to be a republican, but clearly holds views outside the party, will not receive the nomination from his party because he is seen as too liberal by party loyalists. So, even if he may represent the views and interests of many Americans, he will not be on the ballot because of party politics.

Many voters may not go to the polls whatsoever because their beliefs and concerns are not represented by either of the two candidates. A third party on the ballot is a step toward a real democracy. The Libertarians are working toward this goal.

It will definitely be a long time before we see a third party elect a significant number of candidates. However, giving another party a legitimate chance to change policy is a step in the right direction.

## The Big Day success shows effective student activism

By Kristen Marshall  
NEWS EDITOR



Kristen Marshall  
News Editor

Never underestimate the determination of student activists.

When flyers started announcing April 14 as "The Big Day," it was unclear just what the message was and just what this day would entail. All the students knew was UNC Asheville's chapter of the Student Global AIDS Campaign, one of the campus's most well-known and active student organizations, would co-host the event with the Hispanic Outreach for Learning and Awareness group.

As The Big Day drew closer, weather conditions forced officials of the organizations to move all activities inside. Instead of having the Quad to spread out their rummage and jewelry sales, games, bands and informational tables, they would have to cram themselves into the confines of the Highsmith Union. Here they were sure to draw considerably less attention.

Because of word of mouth, the potential for amazing music and, especially, the active work of members of the involved student organizations, 1,000 people showed up during the course of the day.

If there's one thing people know about SGAC, it is that they certainly know how to throw down and turn out attendance at their events, using good music, good food or a combination of both to draw in the crowds.

Their purpose still stands strong behind the fun and games. All the money they raise at events goes toward the Amani Children's Foundation, an organization in Kenya that provides shelter, healthcare and adoption opportunities for children orphaned by AIDS. They raised \$2,000 at this event alone, which provides two children with food, water, healthcare and shelter for a year at the foundation. Small steps are still

steps forward, and with the undeniable success of The Big Day, SGAC and HOLA prove again that it is possible to have a well-attended event and still get people to care about the issues.

With about 39.5 million people infected globally with HIV in 2006, according to UNAIDS, the issue seems too big to fathom. But if it's broken down, it becomes all the more real. HIV/AIDS is everybody's problem, and students of the SGAC organization place the responsibility of this knowledge into the hands of their peers while also taking it upon themselves to try to change the world.

The Big Day and its success are perfect examples of just what it means to be an active student on a college campus, fighting for a cause and winning over apathy.

Saturday's event should also be looked at as the model for how to organize, advertise for, and run an event. Not only did students show up, but members of the Asheville community came out as well, proving that you can never hang enough flyers around town.

SGAC and HOLA proved that student organization events are not just about our campus, but about the community in which we live.

Above all else, however, SGAC and HOLA proved Saturday that students don't have to give up their entire worlds or paychecks to save a life or make a difference. They simply have to show up.

## Administration needs to open up dialog with students

By Trevor Worden  
STAFF WRITER



Trevor Worden  
Staff Writer

Our current administration is under modifications. Under the leadership of our newly installed Chancellor Anne Ponder, UNC Asheville has a multitude of new problems.

Continuing problems are now worse than they were prior to the arrival of our new chancellor. In the next year, our administration will raise the cost to live in dorms on campus. Dorm prices could increase by \$500 or more. Convincing students to live on campus is a huge problem for UNC Asheville. Only a third of all students live on campus, according to the 2007 Student Profile Survey. More students can find cheaper living arrangements off campus, even if it means dealing with an inconvenient commute.

Affordable, comfortable and convenient living is what the campus should offer. Instead, our dorms are out-of-date and overpriced. It is obvious why so many students live off campus instead of dealing with less-than-desirable conditions on campus. Now on-campus living will be more expensive? Perfect!

In the past two semesters, tuition has increased \$200 and is promised to increase even more next year. Is anyone receiving \$200 more of an education? We are getting the same education we were last year, only now we

have to pay more for no apparent reason. We should at least know what is going on with our tuition prices, and that means it is the chancellor's responsibility to explain all details.

Once students enter an institution for a certain price, it is unfair to increase the cost of attending the university. School should remain affordable and available to those who return.

This semester, students proposed a new rock wall was proposed for student life and promptly turned down.

Ponder said school spirit is important for the student body, according to administration reports.

We should support our athletic teams, and in doing so, build a new basketball court, according to Ponder.

A third basketball court for the UNC Asheville campus was proposed, and, when students rose to support the installation of a

rock wall, administration turned their ideas down. A rock wall does not promote school spirit apparently, and student's interests are ignored when it comes to Ponder's agenda.

Speaking of school spirit, many students and faculty showed up this semester to send the women's basketball team off to the NCAA tournament. Guess who did not come to the game? Our very own school-spirited chancellor. If Ponder wants to generate a certain attitude among the student body, she must exemplify the attitude she wishes to see.

The chancellor missed several integral events this year due to her supposedly busy schedule, but her job is to be active in the student body and to be aware of what is happening.

Ponder has offered little to no assistance in the Student Government Association fiasco. Students floundered around for weeks seeking help on how to govern themselves. There was little help offered from the chancellor. It appeared as though she simply did not care at all.

The members of SGA are still striving to understand their own predicament, and most of UNC Asheville is tired of dealing with incompetent bureaucrats. The least Ponder could do is to offer some sort of guiding light.

Restructuring proved to be yet another disappointing move by

the chancellor. In an effort to consolidate and streamline UNC Asheville's facilities, Ponder inadvertently dismissed 29-year employee Maggie Weishner from her position at the counseling center. If ever Ponder made a mistake, this was it. Students in need of Weishner's counseling services raised a ruckus in an attempt to reinstate her. These poor students were attached to their counselor and became extremely distraught over her dismissal.

Not only did students act on Weishner's dismissal, but faculty began to grow anxious in fear they could be next. Dismissing a faculty member right before they receive tenure is a mistake.

It seems our school has dealt with a lot of bologna that could have been avoided had the administration taken the proper actions. Now we simply have a disgruntled student body, an uneasy faculty and a discontent chancellor.

It is time for the wrongs to be righted. Let the administration begin to take steps in the right direction, a direction in which our university will be able to grow in appeal and status.

Let the students, faculty and administration all begin to face problems with the same knowledge and understanding so things can actually get accomplished. It is time to evolve into a more efficient institution.

## Letter to the Editor

Enjoyed reading "Students get it on" article

Rebecca Taylor's letter to the editor, "Sex article personally offends," regarding Meredith Wagner-Hoehn's article, "Students get it on, campus style" was well-written; however, every article does not need to thrive on the voice of an expert. It is essential sometimes to just allow students to be heard.

For those who know him, Raj Bowers-Racine, junior sociology student quoted in the article, has some important things to say, as we all do. The risqué article evidently pushed boundaries, but it was fun, and I enjoyed having my own boundaries pushed.

An individual vehemently standing up for what he or she believes in always carries strength of character and integrity, which I admire

in Bowers-Racine. It tends to be a common practice to put up boundaries separating us from others of different values, beliefs or practices, and it takes work and a conscious effort to refrain from being judgmental.

It requires strength and discipline to get over the "politician" in our minds.

Refraining from being judgmental is a struggle that I face. I find, as I am judging, I am merely sewing with one hand while unstitching with the other.

I wanted to judge Taylor because I thought, in her letter, she was judging the people that wrote the article, but then I realized then I would also be judging.

Lia Mandelbaum  
Junior psychology student

## Weekend Forecast

FORECASTED WEEKLY BY JAKE CROUCH AND SARAH DAVIS

### Thursday

64°

Rain likely with isolated thunderstorms. 60 percent chance of rain.

40°

Rain early, then clearing. North winds 5-10 mph. 60 percent chance of rain.

### Friday

65°

Mostly sunny. Light and variable winds.

42°

Mostly clear. Calm winds.

### Saturday

70°

Warmer.

Mostly sunny.

45°

Clear.

### Sunday

75°

Sunny.

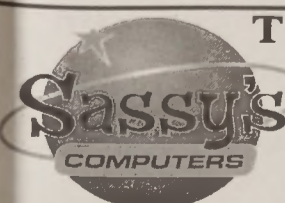
50°

Mostly clear.

### Thinking of buying a New Computer?

7 Reasons to buy from Sassy's instead of the BIG CHAIN Stores or off the INTERNET

- 1) You will not speak to someone in India when you have a problem.
- 2) Microsoft & A+ Certified Technicians.
- 3) You are helping your local economy.
- 4) We will Custom Hand Build your PC.
- 5) We are a well-established local business.
- 6) We give you all of your Software with your computer.
- 7) We have Competitive Pricing.



1457 Merrimon Ave.  
Suite 100

www.sassys.com



### CLASSIFIED ADS

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent, 8 blocks south of downtown Asheville. Large living room, den, kitchen with refrigerator and stove, deck, off-street parking. One and 1/2 bathrooms. \$750/month plus utilities. Available immediately but will hold till mid-May. One year lease. Call 502-500-7655.

Asheville Sitters & Nannies Needed!  
Large group of professional parents need child care. Transportation, child care experience, & CPR/BLS recommended. Sporadic care, part time, full time needed. Call or email Vanessa: 828-277-6221  
vanessab@avlcsurgeons.com

YOU can have better relationships!  
We can help!  
Relationship Readings using The Cards of Destiny System with Joseph and Sarah Elizabeth Malinak. Student rate: \$75.  
Call today to schedule your one-hour session!  
828-645-0999

To post a CLASSIFIED or WANTED AD e-mail: banner@unca.edu