

## The Blue Banner's View

# This Valentine's Day, put your money where your heart is

Valentine's Day conjures up dozens of images of hearts, chocolates, Cupids and roses, but one thing seem lacking from the holiday: Originality.

Every Valentine's Day, men and women pack restaurants and consume gratuitous amounts of chocolate. Credit cards get maxed out and wallets get emptied, often for things that won't be around tomorrow, except maybe in the love handles.

Instead of embracing the romantic spirit of the holiday, couples bicker about where to eat, what to do and how much to spend. Finding thoughtful and personal ways to express love often means picking a greeting card, where the thinking has been done for you.

Valentine's Day is so riddled with clichés, even being jaded has become cliché.

Instead of spending money, couples should invest time and thought into making the day something special. Scrapbooks, mix CDs and love letters have value impossible to price. All of these gifts involve actually knowing someone and trying to figure out what makes them truly happy, something Hallmark and Godiva can never do.

Finding things to say to the ones we love should not be difficult, and yet it often is. We worry about being rejected or saying the wrong thing. Not everyone is a born poet or a hopeless romantic.

But speaking from the heart is something every individual needs more practice at doing. Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to cast all inhibitions to the side and tell your partner how you truly feel. Odd are, if you are speaking from the heart, you will say the right thing.

# University seeks to limit effects of budget cuts

As the student body president, I am privy to many facets of the campus and its differing constituencies. Typically, there are many responses to any given scenario or obstacle that may arise to challenge our university. These variations are explained by the different interest groups at our school.

Such diversity puts UNC Asheville in a better place to deal with the current economic climate than most. Students remain insulated from the majority of the effects of the recent belt-tightening at the university. The looming beast of the poor economy can easily seem to be nothing more than a distant fairy tale, and yet it is real.

Those in need are all around us, from the administrators who are working to cut 6 percent out of a shoestring budget to the non-traditional student next to you laid off from work. This caused the university to determine its core essentials and caused others to consider whether further education is still possible.

You can reach out to both groups and to many others in the larger Asheville community who are not as fortunate as some. We can increase our level of appreciation and respect for the university.

Preserve lab equipment with the understanding that it won't be so easily replaceable; when in the computer labs, print double sided and only what you really need; when coming to school on these cold winter mornings see if you can carpool with a neighbor; go to the Key Center to volunteer to help others. And when you see some way that you think the school could save money, let me know. We have already put some great student-initiated ideas into action and researched new ones as part of



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undergraduate research.

The administration wants to shelter you from the cuts so that you may focus on continuing your education, but they do not experience their policies the way you do. If you start to feel the pinch of a decreased budget, let me know so we can see what aspects of this campus are the most important to the students.

Beyond ensuring the success of UNCA, you must also ensure your own success. With the tight job market, it is imperative that you have a plan for when you graduate. Whether it is further insulating yourself by going into higher education, joining the Peace Corps or going directly into a career, have a plan. To help you determine the best plan for you and turn this potential into a reality, the university provides you with vast resources in the Career Center.

No matter your situation, know that you have a community of support around you and that you are not alone. Though we are a smaller school without the history of some other colleges, we are a school built for difficult times. As an institution equipped with the creativity and ingenuity of so many great minds, this time of hardship will only make us strong and more focused on our mission to maintain the standard of excellence in public liberal arts education.

## The BLUE BANNER Editorial Board

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The Blue Banner is UNC Asheville's student newspaper. We publish each Thursday except during summer sessions, finals week and holiday breaks. Our office is located in Karpen Hall 019.

The Blue Banner is a designated forum for free speech and welcomes letters to the editor, considering them on basis of interest, space and timeliness. Letters and articles should be e-mailed to banner@unca.edu. They should be signed with the writer's name, followed by year in school, major or other relationship to UNCA. Include a telephone number to aid in verification. All articles are subject to editing.

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