

THE BLUE BANNER

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF KARRIGAN MONK
KMONK@UNCA.EDU

MANAGING EDITOR LARISA KARR
LKARR@UNCA.EDU

NEWS EDITOR MAGGIE HADDOCK
MHADDOCK@UNCA.EDU

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR KATIE DEVOE
KDEVOE@UNCA.EDU

A&F EDITOR SARAH SHADBURNE
SSHADBUR@UNCA.EDU

OPINION EDITOR SAMANTHA SAVERY
SSAVERY@UNCA.EDU

SPORTS EDITOR EMILY SPIES
ESPIES@UNCA.EDU

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR BRYCE ALBERGHINI
BALBERGH@UNCA.EDU

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR SARAH FORSHEY
SFORSHEY@UNCA.EDU

COPY DESK CHIEF REBECCA ANDREWS
RANDREWS@UNCA.EDU

ADVERTISING MANAGER KATIE RITCHIE
KRITCHIE@UNCA.EDU

ADVERTISING MANAGER PHILLIP WYATT
PWYATT@UNCA.EDU

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER ELIZABETH WALKER
EWALKER@UNCA.EDU

FACULTY ADVISER MICHAEL GOUGE
MGOUGE@UNCA.EDU

323-338-0527

The Blue Banner is UNC Asheville's student newspaper. We publish each Tuesday 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 emailed to the editor-in-chief or the appropriate section editor. Letters should include the writer's name, year in school, and major or other relationship to UNCA. Include a phone number to aid in verification. All articles are subject to editing.

EDITORIAL

SAFE INJECTION SITES NEEDED IN WESTERN NC

With 42,000 opioid-related deaths in 2016 according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Americans ask what can and should be done to combat the opioid crisis that does not seem to be declining. Some United States cities are finally beginning to look at the issue through the influence of other countries who face the same dilemma.

Nine countries, including Canada, have implemented ways to provide safe, or supervised, injection sites for users. These locations provide a place for those addicted to opioids to use under the supervision of trained medical staff. These staff are able to administer the life-saving drug naloxone in the event of an overdose in addition to offering recovery program resources.

Furthermore, these facilities provide clean needles and properly dispose used needles. This in turn reduces the transmission of intravenously transmitted diseases, such as HIV and hepatitis.

According to *The New York Times*, cities that support these sites see

dramatically positive results. No deaths have been reported in any of the 90 locations worldwide and the people using the sites were more likely to seek treatment. Unsurprisingly, the U.S. is slow to catch on to these benefits.

In the 1980s, Switzerland opened up clinics for heroin addicts and health authorities were shocked when a number of people higher than the numbers projected showed up to the centers. As a result, addiction in the country dramatically decreased, according to the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health. In 2016, France opened up its first drug room for addicts to inject in in Paris.

While several U.S. cities currently plan to open these sites, including Philadelphia and San Francisco, the Trump administration hopes to stop the efforts through federal law override, according to *The New York Times*. But with such astounding results, there is hope the American people will fight for effective opioid treatment, recovery and regulation beyond alienation.

RETRACTION ON BROWN HALL ARTICLE

The editorial board of *The Blue Banner* would like to apologize for the publishing of the story on complaints of Brown Hall in last week's issue. As the student voice of UNC Asheville, we strive to make all student voices heard, even if those voices are criticizing the university itself. In our zealously to make voices heard, we acted irresponsibly as journalists and portrayed Brown Hall in an unfair manner. We did not give them an opportunity to comment on the allegations against them and for that we humbly apologize. As such, we are retracting the information and quotes in the article. We now understand that one cannot simply label something as opinion and consider it exempt from fair and balanced reporting. Our deepest apologies to anyone who may have been harmed in any way with the publication of this story.