



Giving is Great!: Phlebotomist Kitty Broermann and UNCA student Scott Alexander appear to enjoy contributing their time and blood at the Student Government Association sponsored blood drive, held in the Lipinsky Building, Oct. 18. The Red Cross collected 85 units from the 98 UNCA students who signed up to donate. Two student organizations, the Pi Lambda Phi fraternity and the Mud 500 Club, received \$25 each from the SGA for tying in the highest contributing organization contest. Last April, 91 students donated 81 pints of blood to the organization. The SGA plans to bring the Bloodmobile to the campus again next spring, says SGA President Ken Cagle.

Photo by Pam Walker

Kaleidoscope

Serving The Students Of The University of North Carolina at Asheville since 1982

Volume 3, Number 10

Thursday, October 27, 1983

WCUNCA?

Merger matter viewed as madness

By Lee Hinebaugh and Anna Paulette Witt

The 1983 fall semester may be remembered in UNCA history as "The Autumn of the Merger Madness."

However, the three-year debate over the advisability of UNCA and Western Carolina University merging to form one institution seems to be nearing an end.

UNC President William Friday addressed the issue Oct. 14, in a speech to the University of North Carolina Board of Governors at their October meeting which took place in Cullowhee.

Friday said the advisory committee which he set up to study the situation of higher education in Western North Carolina; and to particularly review the relationship between UNCA and WCU, recently submitted to him its recommendations.

"I intend to follow closely the recommendations of the committee," Friday said.

However, Friday said he has not yet made his final decision about the merger and the future relationship between the two institutions. He said he wants to think the issue through a bit more and will issue a report concerning it in the near future.

The three members of the president's advisory committee spent one and one-half days on each campus in September conferring with administration, faculty and concerned citizens.

Two ex-UNC chancellors, Dr. Dean Colvard of UNC-Charlotte; and Dr. James Ferguson, of UNC-Greensboro; and Southern Regional Education Board member Dr. Winfred Godwin composed the committee.

Their recommendations include, according to Dr. Laurence Dorr, UNCA vice chancellor for academic affairs:

• **Setting up a combined graduate center in Asheville.**

• **Quickly dispensing with any overlap in curriculum between UNCA and WCU programs in**

Asheville.

• **Forgetting any merger of the two institutions.**

Friday indicated that he plans to go ahead with the graduate center and a committee is studying plans for it, said Ken Cagle, UNCA SGA president.

Cagle attended the meeting in Cullowhee and said he plans to attend the next board of governor's session Nov. 11 in Chapel Hill.

Friday promised to give a full report of the committee's findings at this session.

UNCA is pleased with the committee's proposals this far, said Dorr.

"Funding for graduate programs will be given directly to the center which will then reimburse UNCA for the use of its facilities as well as pay graduate faculty salaries," said Dorr.

Dorr said that presently UNCA receives a token amount from WCU for electricity, heat, grounds maintenance, etc.

"The graduate center

will probably begin functioning as soon as a director is chosen for it," said Dorr. He said this might be as soon as July.

The center will administer all graduate level courses taught at UNCA by WCU. It will also be in charge of the North Carolina State graduate engineering program being taught at UNCA, Dorr said.

He also said that the center will administer any future UNCA graduate programs. However, he said that there are no plans to begin any UNCA graduate programs at this time.

Dorr said that some courses are presently being taught on UNCA's campus by both UNCA and WCU.

However, Harry Ramsey, assistant to the WCU chancellor for WCU programs in Asheville, said he is not aware of any current overlap in classes.

The committee said that in its opinion any merger between UNCA and WCU would be impractical, said Dorr.

Many, if not all the UNCA faculty seem to agree. However, although several of them consented to talk to *Kaleidoscope's* reporter about the issue, they nearly all said their names could not be included with their comments because the administration asked them to not discuss the issue.

"If I was tenured and did not have to fear for my continued employment at this institution you could attribute these statements to me by name," said one professor.

"However, the administration has made it very clear in previous meetings that the faculty is to remain silent on this matter."

"The most important issue raised by the proposed merger is that it would sacrifice academic quality at UNCA," said one professor.

Another professor said that "a merger of the two universities would concretely detriment UNCA graduates in

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