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The Blue Banner

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Serving the students of the University of North Carolina Asheville since 1982

Thursday, May 8, 1986

Colleges will face challenges in future

By David Proffitt

Colleges and universities in western North Carolina face many challenges in the coming years, and chief among those is how to deal with the decreasing number of 18- to 24-year-olds and the possible loss of some federal funds due to budget-slashing bills such as the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act.

Interviews with the presidents of several two- and four-year institutions indicate that two solutions to problems brought on by a smaller pool of applicants, decreased funding and increased costs are 1) identifying an area of strength and concentrating on developing that area and 2) doing a better marketing job to attract more students.

"We need to identify an area where we are the premier institution in the state, and possibly in the nation, and develop it," said Dr. David Brown, UNCA chancellor. He added that, for UNCA, one such strong point is the expectation that students have a strong grounding in the

liberal arts regardless of their major.

"Our four-course humanities requirement is a direct signal to schools and students of the area that they need this kind of background," said Brown.

The strengths of an institution depend, in part, upon whether it is a liberal arts or technical college.

Thus, for schools such as Asheville-Buncombe Tech and Cecil's Junior College, the strong point is not liberal arts but an emphasis on giving students personalized service in their particular field of interest. Many of those students are adults who have already graduated and are returning to school in an attempt to redirect their careers.

"We're dealing with older students, a lot of whom are taking single courses instead of a full curriculum," said Harvey Haynes, president of A-B Tech. "In addition, we've got more and more students coming to us who already have a four-year degree. Many

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FORMER GOOD TIMES STAR ESTHER ROLE describes her experiences in acting to students Tawanna Beam (L), Lisa Crawford

(Photo by Michele Samuel)
(C) and Barbie Johnson (R). Role was at UNCA last Thursday to speak and give advice to drama students.

Survey says cafeteria service is inadequate

By Julie Ball and Margaret Powell

Most students who eat in UNCA's cafeteria do not believe that the current meal plan is a good one, according to a recent Blue Banner survey.

The response was less than staggering, probably due in part to end-of-the-semester blahs and general burnout on the part of many students about the shortcomings of the current food service.

Only eight students responded to the cafeteria survey published in the April 24 issue. The Banner staff compiled the results of the unscientific questionnaire to find out what students think about the cafeteria, and how they think it could improve.

On May 8, bids for the next food service company will be opened, according to Sharyn

McDonald, Highsmith Center director. Over the summer, the administration will choose a new food service company which will begin in the fall of 1986.

The present company, Professional Food Service Management, recently asked to be released from a three year contract signed in 1984 because of "financial reasons."

According to Jack Merriman, UNCA director of PFM, the company can no longer afford to provide meals for students at the current rate of \$3.56 a day per student. He noted that PFM plans to submit a new bid on May 8 and that the new bid will be higher. A company official at the Charlotte, N.C., headquarters has said, however, "that (PFM) is not too confident of being successful (in negotiating a new deal with UNCA.)"

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Weekend Weather

The UNCA Atmospheric Science department provides this information to the campus community each week in the Blue Banner.

Thursday: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers and a high near 80.

Friday: Continued partly cloudy, turning cooler with a low in the upper 40s and a high near 75.

Saturday: Partly sunny with a chance of showers; low near 45 and a high in the upper 70s.

Sunday: Mostly sunny and warm with a low near 50 and a high near 80.