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# The Blue Banner

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## New rules and regs slow financial aid process

By John Coutlakis  
Staff writer

Applying for financial aid has caused many students to experience frustration and anxiety this semester at UNCA. Student representatives from nine UNC institutions went to Washington, D.C., last week to voice their concerns with legislators about a problem that has hit campuses nationwide.

Athena Fox, executive assistant to the student government president at UNCA, joined representatives from eight other campuses of the UNC system in a meeting with members of Congress and the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) last Thursday to discuss their concerns.

The problem stems from a change by the federal government this year in the application process.

In the past, the federal government selectively used a "validation" process for financial aid applications, said Carolyn McElrath, UNCA director of financial aid.

Validation was a process of confirmation requiring specific financial information about students seeking Pell Grants.

This year the process is "verification" and requires information from all students seeking financial aid, according to McElrath.

The DOE cracked down on all aid programs after it determined that the system was not distributing the Pell Grant

funds efficiently.

"Last year a quality control study was done (nationwide) on the Pell Grant program. It was determined that 25 percent of Pell Grants that were processed, were processed on erroneous statements. This was unacceptable to the government," McElrath said.

Verification on all applications requires statements on 14 items, including Social Security benefits, child support income, unemployment benefits, capital gains and untaxed dividends, she continued.

This is a very time consuming process and if the government finds an error in the statements, it notifies UNCA and the student.

"If the government finds an error in the income statements, the student will have to undergo verification. He will have to make corrections on his aid application.

"We are not supposed to award any money at all when corrections are still pending. If we had to go back and ask someone for a statement on child support or a tax return that they didn't submit, we are in a bind," McElrath said.

The forms for the initial application are difficult enough, but adding to this backlog are the correction forms which are also troublesome for the staff, she said.

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Staff photo—Tom Edwards

### Karate Kid III?

Lisa Franklin (L) tries her hand(s) with instructor Jeanne Ye. The WNC Karate Academy recently offered free self defense classes to women.

## Most Broadway residents will have to relocate

By Julie Tilka  
Staff writer

The upcoming widening of Broadway, which will provide a grand entrance for UNCA, will force 14 families, 11 businesses and one church to abandon their homesites.

While those will have to relocate, others will lose parts of their property.

Currently, UNCA awaits a December report by the state Department of Transportation (DOT) to give the go-ahead on funds for the widening

project.

If the DOT receives the funds, right of way purchasing can begin in 1988 and 1989.

The proposed project will widen Broadway to multilanes from U.S. 19 & 23 to I-240 at Merrimon Avenue. The project will cost an estimated \$6 million.

"When we get the construction plans, we contact the people being displaced about financial assistance

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