

Another pat on the back

Leaders often get caught in no-man's-land. If things go well, they get some of the credit; if things go badly, they get all of the blame.

We've had some controversy on campus this semester about the general direction UNCA should take: Are we emphasizing the importance of a liberal arts curriculum too much? Is it wrong to pour money into the humanities program when almost every department needs additional professors and money? Should we ask that Carolyn Frady, Chancellor David Brown's secretary, deliver Brown's head to us on a platter?

In the "Banner's" opinion, the liberal arts approach is important both to the nature of this institution and in the education of today's college student. Every department on every campus in the nation would undoubtedly welcome additional funding; a lack of money is nothing new anywhere.

The "scientific side" of this campus, represented by Rhoades Science and part of Owen Hall, deserves increased funding. There's no doubt that those programs are important to UNCA and the community. But we should not shortchange the liberal arts curriculum in order to find a few more dollars.

Furthermore, Chancellor Brown's work and personal convictions have benefitted UNCA in many areas. He established "thrust" areas in humanities, health promotions and undergraduate research. He believes UNCA ought to try to achieve a nationwide reputation for excellence, which is a worthy goal.

He established the Chancellor's Colloquium and the Board of Visitors (which are funded by private donations and grants), and he was instrumental in organizing an economic summit designed to study western North Carolina and take a look at this area's economic future. These are, in part, public relations moves, but anything which enhances UNCA's image ultimately benefits us all.

And just take a look around. UNCA will have more classroom and library space, and a bigger academic budget will undoubtedly accompany the new buildings.

Four months after Chancellor Brown took the oath of office, the "Banner's" editorial proclaimed, "Our new chancellor deserves a pat on the back." We still feel the same way.

The Blue Banner

EditorDavid Proffitt
 Business Manager.....Tony McKinney
 News EditorScott Luckadoo
 Assistant News Editor.....Margaret Powell
 Sports Editor.....Chris Allison
 Assistant Sports Editor.....Geoff Cabe
 Entertainment Editor.....Michele Samuel
 Assistant Entertainment Editor.....Julie Ball
 Photography Editor.....Casey Baluss
 Advertising Manager.....Chuck Spanbauer
 Circulation Manager.....Michele Samuel
 Advisor.....Greg Lisby

STAFF

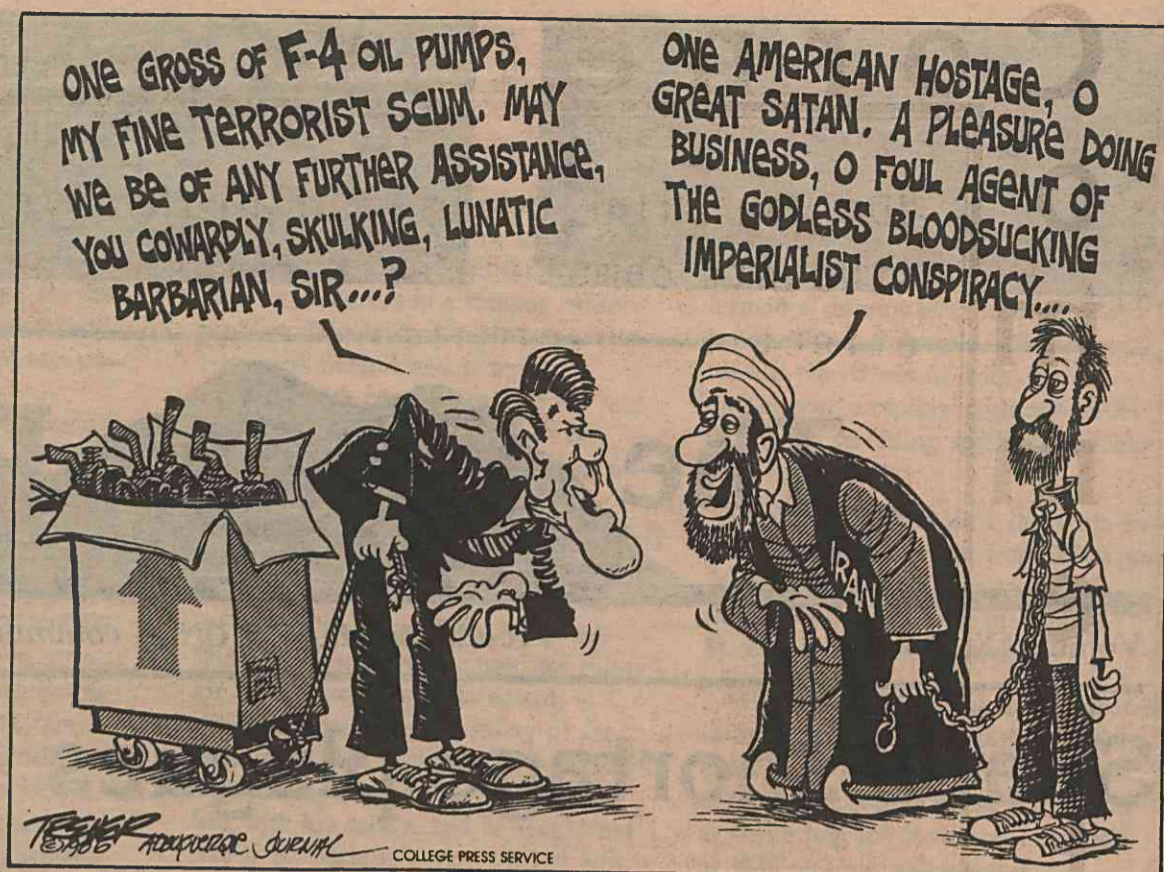
WRITERS: Monica Bonikowski, John Coutlakis, Tracy Fagan, Ken Hardy, Linda Kroeger, Jackie Young, Angela Pickelsimer, Libby Ramsey, Kelly Smith, Julie Tilka,
 PHOTOGRAPHERS: Lizzy Love, John Patterson, Sarah Gottfried, Tom Edwards, Melanie Floyd, Jonna McGrath.
 AD REPRESENTATIVES: Tim Truitt, Denise Patton, Jackie Young.

The BLUE BANNER is the University of North Carolina at Asheville student newspaper. We publish each Thursday except during summer sessions, finals week, and holiday breaks. Our office is located in Carmichael Hall, 208-A. Phone: (704) 251-6586 or 251-6591.

Nothing in the editorial or opinion sections necessarily represents the position of the entire BANNER staff, the staff advisor, UNCA's Student Government Association, administration, or faculty. Editorials represent the opinion of a majority of the editorial board. Letters, columns, cartoons and reviews represent only the views of their authors. The editorial board makes the final decision about what the BANNER prints. This newspaper represents a public forum for debate at UNCA.

The BANNER welcomes letters to the editor and articles, and considers them for publication on the basis of interest, space, tastefulness and timeliness. Letters and articles should be typed double-spaced, or printed legibly, and limited to 300 words. They should be signed with the writer's name, followed by year in school, major, or other relationship to UNCA. Please include a telephone number to aid in verification. UNSIGNED LETTERS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION. All submitted articles are subject to editing. The BANNER regrets it cannot guarantee the return of any article submitted. Deadline for submission is Monday, 6 p.m.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: The BANNER's subscription rate is \$6 per semester or \$12 per year. Send subscriptions to Circulation Manager, Carmichael Hall, 1 University Hts., UNCA, Asheville, NC, 28804-3299.



German on 30 words per day, or less

By Ralph Grizzle
 Guest Columnist

German is a perplexing language, to say the least. A person who has not studied German can form no idea of what a confounded language it is. I have devoted upwards of three years to the study of the German language and have concluded that it is absolutely no use to try and master an exception-to-the-rule-ridden language.

Therefore, instead of offering a comprehensive traveller's guide to everyday German expressions, I have elected to provide, in detail, the alternative of avoiding particular situations in order to avoid conversation.

First of all, go to the toilet before you get off the plane. This is an important first step and will spare you the embarrassment of winding up in all sorts of other places which "bath" refers to. For instance, if you were to make a word translation of "Where is the bathroom?" the reply would direct you to a) a room for bathing, b) a public spa or c) a city on the Rhine, depending on which is the handiest for the native German speaker. And kidneys, as you know, are not very forgiving for misinterpretations of the language.

Secondly, make sure you arrive in Germany in the morning. This is to avoid complication, if nothing else. If you arrive at any other time of day, you're in trouble.

I will demonstrate. Let's say you've just landed for the first time in Frankfurt. You've followed Step Number One and you disembark the plane. You are met by a German customs agent who says, "Guten Morgen!" It is very seldom the case that German customs agents are in a good enough mood to acknowledge the visitor in this way, but just for argument's sake let's pretend that he is in a cheerful mood, since on that particular day it is not raining in Germany.

"Guten morgen" so closely resembles its English counterpart that it could hardly be mistaken for anything else. Even if you reply in the worst possible German, "Goot morning!" you will most likely be understood by the speaker. Any other time of day you will experience difficulty: "Guten nachmittag" is "Good afternoon"; "Guten tag" is "Good day"; and "Guten abend" is "Good evening." So as a general rule, try to meet people in the morning or not at all.

When you do meet a native German speaker, it is important that you spit on him. I do not mean this to sound in any way degrading, but it is important to note that German is a guttural language. If you intend to imitate a native German speaker, it is necessary that you begin the word formation near the rear of the throat and as far down as possible; in fact, the deeper, the better.

After you have loaded up with a phrase, you should send it on its way with strength and vigor, completely ignoring who is standing in front of you or what consequences they may suffer. It is an insult to the language not to spit.

While these rules may help the hardier traveler, it is my belief that you can travel through Germany without uttering a single word of German, with the exception of "damit," with the emphasis on the first syllable instead of the second. The key is to avoid situations which require you to speak.

When walking around a city, always look up. To avoid conversation, eat at McDonald's where Big Mac translates the same in any language. Make it a point to socialize only with U.S. military personnel and avoid invitations to dinners and parties hosted by Germans.

While there may be instances where you will have to flip through a phrase book to find an expression, you'll find that most of the time you can avoid it. In the event that all else fails, lock yourself up in your hotel room for the entire stay. After all, why trouble yourself with learning a language that promises nothing but heartaches? Simply avoid it.