

Opinion

Requirements are valuable

Editor, the Blue Banner

I was disappointed by the tone and the disjointed reasoning of last week's editorial, "Politics Hurt Education." Though it seemed to me that you never demonstrated any harm to education, I will address myself to two other points.

1) The assertion that "the General Education requirements are a political pie to be divided among the politically astute in the university," combined with the assumption that the interests of the faculty (always grasping) are at odds with the interests of the students, is discouraging.

So young, and yet so cynical. Actually the faculty members who made the recommendations for revised general education requirements did so in the honest belief that these would be educationally valuable for UNCA students. There are educational objectives beyond ease of scheduling and single-minded devotion to a major, and it is the responsibility of the faculty to consider these, too.

2) Worse is your argument that, because some majors require large

numbers of courses, somehow the general education requirements are to blame for students' not having electives. The university has its own mission, apart from the vocational agendas of individual majors; this is a liberal arts institution, and breadth and depth of liberal education are a university-wide concern. Why not ask why the management department requires 64 hours of its major? Or why the management department has not adjusted its distribution requirements to harmonize with the general education requirements, as the Communications major did?

The faculty senate has a policy, now honored in the breach as much as in the observance limiting the number of hours which may be required in any major. Why doesn't the Banner look into which majors exceed the limit, and ask why? And then place the responsibility for tight scheduling and few electives where it belongs.

Merritt Moseley
Associate Professor of Literature

SGA Speaks

Beginning this week, the Blue Banner is graciously allotting a column to the Student Government. The purpose of the weekly column (called SGA Speaks) is to inform the student body about issues and problems facing the university. To eliminate unfair representation, each senator will write an article.

Initially, I would like to thank the Blue Banner staff for giving space to Student Government. They are providing a tremendous service to the student body.

Student Government, like every organization, faces many challenges and obstacles. One major concern of ours is visibility or the lack thereof. The majority of students have little inclination of what the SGA is about. In these columns, we hope to rectify that problem.

SGA is comprised of a legislative branch consisting of 16 senators and the vice-president; an executive branch with the president, vice-president, treasurer, executive assistant and election commissioner; and a judicial branch consisting of an attorney general, a public defender's office, and a seven member court

with a clerk. The group derives its power for a detailed Constitution and judicial code. Its sole purpose is to serve the students, acting as a liaison between the students and the administration.

Unfortunately, this mission has often gotten off track in the past. It is my intent and the intent of the entire SGA to refocus ourselves. We have begun to channel many of the student body's ideas and problems to the administration. Obviously, the process is slow, but they are responding.

As a result of these new doors being opened, the student government is asking for more student input. I am confident that the apathetic attitude in the past is changing. Because the SGA represents all students, it's your responsibility to voice your concerns. We hold open meetings every Monday at 4:30 p.m. in room 37 of the Highsmith Center. The topics are unlimited, and we urge your participation. Again, many thanks to the Blue Banner.

Bill Pfeiffer
SGA Vice President

C o r n e r o m m e n t s

How has the AIDS crisis affected your sexual activity and/or outlook?



"I am concerned over it. I am concerned about the people who are not necessarily sexually active but those who contract it through transfusions and hospitals. I would hope that those who are sexually active would practice safe sex."

JoAnn Grunwell
Senior
Literature



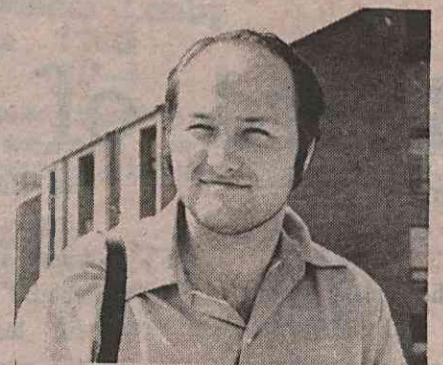
"It has affected my outlook in that I am more aware of the risks you take -- and the people you associate with."

Lynn Harlan
Senior
History



"It hasn't affected my sexual activity. It's a homosexual disease, and I hold homosexuals responsible."

Brett Crosley
Freshman
Biology



"It has made me stick to Biblical principles more, belief in manogamy and not sleeping around."

John Bakan
Junior
Music

Photos and interviews
by Crystal Smith