

# editorial

## SGA needs support

For the past two weeks, SGA has been running an ad in the Banner asking for candidates for SGA offices, including president and vice president. The spirit of these ads is designed to get people involved with student government and with campus life in general.

In addition to SGA promotion of the upcoming elections, the Banner plans to sponsor a debate among those seeking SGA offices. Although no time or place has been decided on, all students will have an opportunity to find out what each candidate stands for—if they stand for anything at all.

This debate is designed to determine how each candidate feels about issues affecting UNCA students, including General Education requirements, the Creative Retirement Center, the space shortage — and yes, parking.

In the past, students have complained that they don't vote in SGA elections because they don't know who the candidates are or what they stand for. The whole purpose of the debate is to change this. It is designed to provide an opportunity for students to make an intelligent choice for student government offices.

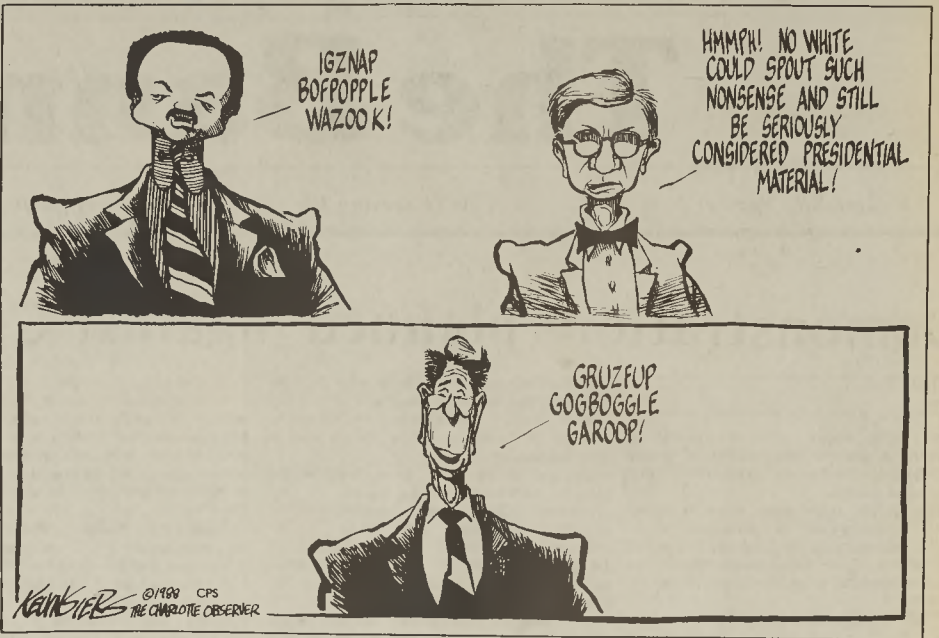
Too often, because of apathy and lack of interest, UNCA students have elected individuals to various SGA offices who did not want to try to solve any problems or change things. Instead, these students were involved in SGA only for the purpose of writing a more impressive resume.

Oftentimes, students have run for office unopposed without ever having to defend or explain their positions on campus issues. They have been elected and then done absolutely nothing.

As a result of this, a handful of students will complain about the lack of impact of SGA and the inability of SGA to get things done for the students. But, if students don't get involved in the election process, do they really have a right to complain?

Unless all students actively participate in the selection of the next SGA officers, then SGA cannot be an effective and vocal representative of the students' views.

Students should choose individuals who will represent their views actively and effectively, and the best way to find out who the right students for the job are is to come to this debate and try to make an intelligent choice.



## letters

### Student defends CIA recruiting

Editor, the Banner

I was appalled when I read last week's editorial concerning the Central Intelligence Agency. I recollected myself after realizing that this kind of nonsense was normal for the Banner.

What is the big deal with the CIA coming on campus to recruit students? If your personal values do not let you accept the CIA recruiting on campus, you shouldn't put down the Career Center for providing

possible career opportunities for students. I'm thankful for the opportunity to have an interview with the Central Intelligence Agency. And I'm not going to let someone's highly biased opinion get in my way.

You claimed that the job description "international affairs/information collection" was misleading. You are the one who misled the readers by not listing the many other opportunities in the CIA other than "spying." By the way, one

would only be considered a spy if he or she was giving classified information of the United States to another country or organization.

Have you ever been overseas? If you have, the reason you're still alive might be from the CIA gathering enough information on a possible terrorist attack and stopping it before it amounted to anything. This happens all the time.

How could you say today's government in Nicaragua was freely elected by the people?

Before there were contra guerrillas, there were Sandanista guerrillas. And they've toppled the government with the weapons from the Soviet Union via Cuba. And this very day Nicaragua is economically unstable and the people want change.

Anything less than an apology to the Career Center and the students that benefit from it would be unacceptable.

Tom Nye  
Sociology

### Argument offered for remedial math

Editor, the Banner

I would like to respond to the article in the Feb. 11 issue written by Professor Jack Wilson. In this article, he encouraged the removal of remedial mathematics from the UNCA curriculum. He indicated that if instructors expected immediate high level mathematical performance when the students entered college, the students would most likely perform at the expected level rather than having to use the remedial mathematical class to boost their skills.

While I agree that in some instances expectations do play a part in a person's performance, I must argue that this is not a valid reason for abolishing the basic math courses. I would like to present some reasons why I think these basic math courses have a definite importance to a significant number of present and future UNCA students.

First of all, UNCA has a lot of returning older students who have in many cases been away from math and math classes for years. How can you possibly expect such a student to

perform at the same mathematical level as a younger student who has just completed math courses? However, many of these students do quite well after having taken these refresher courses.

Additionally, some students may not have had the same advantages in their math training. An inferior algebra teacher, for instance, in high school is less likely to produce superior algebra students than a more positive, effective teacher might.

Another important consideration is that some

people do not learn mathematics as easily as others do. This doesn't mean that they are or will be unsuccessful students in their field of study. They may possess many outstanding abilities in areas other than mathematics. Many times the basic mathematics courses enable these types of persons to take the required math (courses) with more confidence and ability.

JoyceAnn Jones  
Psychology

### Champion should clean up river

Editor, the Banner

I am truly weary of the propaganda being disseminated by Champion supporters. Champion paper has been fouling the air and water of Western North Carolina for eighty years, and it's time they ceased.

Even environmentalists are showing a lack of conviction by agreeing to compromise with this greedy multinational in order to protect the livelihood of a small group of single interest folks in Haywood

County. I say the hell with that!

By what right does Champion and its employees lay claim to a river and a region, exploiting the bounty of God's resources, reaping tremendous private profits and pumping the waste into the pigeon river, as if it were a personal sewer.

I firmly believe in a move toward a nature-centered paradigm for this planet. The techno-scientific death machine the Western World is perpetuating is leading us all into oblivion. Man is a small,

insignificant iota from a cosmic point of view but a tremendously voracious and destructive one. If we are to stop turning this beautiful sphere into a vast desolation, we must begin making decisions from the standpoint of Mother Earth.

Humanity is a teeming parasitic mass on a once totally self-sustaining planet. If in our self-centered greed, with our wanton plundering of God's treasures, acts of ecological desecration and pollution on a global scale, we have not

already set in motion forces that will bring all life to a close, then we soon will.

How small and pathetic we are with our talk of regional economics and employment statistics, in the shadow of mountains that have stood for billions of years. Who does Champion International think they are? Clean up the river or close the hell down!

Jay S. Gertz  
Library Staff

### Politics determined General Ed requirements

Editor, the Banner

Dr. Dorr's written criticism of my General Education proposal is welcome change. When he was vice chancellor, he tried to fire me as director of the atmospheric sciences program for voicing my opinions.

Dr. Dorr referred to the

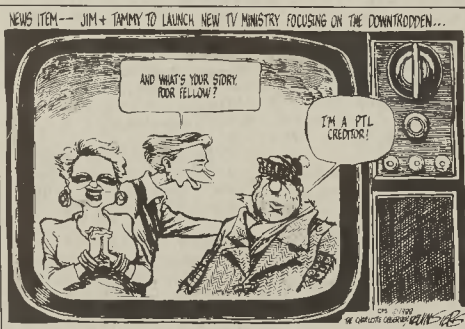
open hearings we had on General Education three years ago including those held in the Rhoades Science Building. In fact, we had several meetings on General Education culminating in a vote by the entire natural science faculty. We voted a clear two-thirds majority for a proposal for the natural science requirement

which we science teachers felt was best for students here. Then the Faculty Senate completely ignored what we recommended and put in their own proposal.

This was typical of how the current General Education requirements were set. Campus politics were the only deciding-factor. Never were the best

interests of the students considered. Unfortunately, this has become a tradition at UNCA.

Edward Brotak  
Associate Professor  
of Atmospheric Sciences



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The BANNER welcomes letters to the editor and articles, and considers them 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.

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