

# The Banner

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## Confusion may have forced Dukakis to skip UNCA

by Maria Horton  
News Editor

Athletic Director Ed Farrell said he was irritated that the Asheville Citizen chose to present last week's conflict between scheduling Governor Michael Dukakis to speak in Justice Gymnasium or conducting a scheduled volleyball tournament as a battle between the two events.

"I was called out of a meeting by Tom Byers to see if Justice was available for Friday evening. I said yes,

Farrell said.

"There was no way to do

both, so I called (Byers) back to say no," Farrell said.

Teams from five schools were already committed to the tournament which had been planned in the Spring of '88, according to Farrell.

"I was wrong. It (tournament) was scheduled and I forgot," he said. "The problem was that I said yes and then said no in about five minutes time," Farrell

"... there was no commitment.

But I'm not saying the signals we gave them didn't confuse them."

Tom Byers

then remembered the volleyball tournament later," Farrell said.

According to Farrell, he called Byers, special assistant to the chancellor, back to say the gym was booked, but Byers had already told the local democratic headquarters it was available.

"Nona McDonald, with the local organization, called to explore the options, but there was no definite commitment," Byers said. "But I'm not saying the signals we gave them didn't confuse them."

Byers said he regretted that Dukakis did not come to speak on campus, but the situation was complicated by the short planning time involved.

"We were up against a big problem—there was only 72 hours notice," he said.

The call to check the availability of the gym came in around 4:30 p.m. Tuesday. The UNC Asheville Tournament was scheduled to begin on Friday at 3 p.m.,

said.

According to Byers, the university was working to make the campus available to Dukakis when the headquarters called back to say they were no longer interested.

"Thursday morning we were on hold for a while trying to work out our conflicts when they (Democratic Headquarters) called back to say they had chosen the Thomas Wolfe House as the site for the appearance," he said.

"It would have created hassles, but we were excited about the possibility," Byers continued.

Judy Williamson, staff member with Victory '88, who is running the Dukakis campaign, said UNCA was only one of several places under consideration.

"There was only 24 hours to come to a conclusion, so if it couldn't be resolved immediately, it was dropped from consideration," she said.



Staff Photo—Stacey Higdon

Governor Michael Dukakis and his daughter, Andrea, appeared before supporters gathered at the Thomas Wolfe Memorial Friday afternoon.

"The Boston people were the ones who made the decision."

Williamson said Dukakis had an interest in the Thomas Wolfe site, but the

party wanted to look at the university because there was concern that the other site would not hold a lot of people.

"It (Thomas Wolfe House)

had nostalgic merit, but it was a challenge type site," she said.

"We wanted to do it," Byers said. "It was too big an event not to do it, as much as we

would have hated to cancel the tournament."

"We would have made drastic changes in the

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## UNCA lacks enrollment of local Black students

by Joan Schnyder  
Editor

There are ten black students out of a total of 456 new freshmen at UNCA this year. This is the largest freshmen class ever, with the lowest number of black students since 1981.

None of these students come from Buncombe County or any of the counties surrounding it, according to a report issued by the UNCA Office of Institutional Research.

Black students make up 50 percent of the student body at Asheville High School, but none of these students enrolled at UNCA this year. One reason may be that no one went to Asheville High School to recruit students, black or white, according to Charles Lance, college counselor at Asheville High School.

"We haven't had anybody from UNCA visiting our campus and trying to recruit our students. There have been representatives from a number of other campuses, even a number of out-of-state universities, but no one from UNCA," said Lance.

"There are not very many Blacks in western North

Carolina. However, 50 percent of the students at Asheville High School are black and they are a very sharp group," he said.

"We don't know if it is that we have a bad reputation in Asheville or what, but we have a very sharp group of black students on at Asheville High. I think with some personal effort it (Asheville High) could be an in-road for good black students at UNCA."

"We do visit Asheville High School. I visited Asheville High myself last year," said Steve Wellborn, admissions officer.

"We host the Buncombe County College program in the Fall. We also pay a visit to all area high schools in the Spring," said Derwin Williams, admissions officer.

Recruiting black students is not an easy job because the competition for good black students is so great, Lance said.

Wellborn agreed with this, saying "the competition for black students is so great that to be competitive we have to re-evaluate and reassess what we are doing."

"A black student with a 900 SAT and a well-rounded

education can get into UNC-Chapel Hill or Wake Forest," said Lance.

"People seem to think that there is a difference in admission requirements for

black and white students at UNCA and that is just not true," said Wellborn.

We evaluate all students in the same way, looking primarily at their college

record and then at SAT scores, said Wellborn.

A few of the good black students I have talked with want to go to big name schools, but most are interested in the selective black schools like Howard or North Carolina A&T, said Lance.

"I would like to go to Spellman in Atlanta or Bennet in Greensboro because of their heritages. Both of these are black colleges, and I want to see what it is like to be in an all black school," Faith Dickson, a senior at Asheville High School, said.

"I have heard what it is like from my parents who went to segregated schools," she added.

"Another problem is that it isn't cool to stay at home and go to college. Most of these black students who are college-bound are the first generation of their family to go to college and they want to get away from home. That is what heroes are made of for these kids," said Lance.

"Somehow it would be great to make it so that it was cool to stay home and go to UNCA. One way of doing this is to get communication

going between students at UNCA and students at Asheville High School," Lance continued.

A number of college-bound black students from Asheville High School are expressing the desire to leave home and go to college.

"I want to go away to college for the excitement and the experience of being away from home," said Dickson.

"UNCA is too close to home. I need to get away," said Sheri Davidson, a senior at Asheville High School.

"I want to go away to school in a big city because Asheville is too small. Also I want to be farther away from my parents," said Java Wilson, a junior at Asheville High School.

"I think it is so important for good black students from Asheville to go to UNCA to keep them in the community. My concern is that our good black students will go away to college and we won't get them back," Lance said.

"Keeping them here would enable them to provide political, social and economic leadership in the Asheville Please see Blacks page 8

