

# The Blue Banner

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Striving for excellence

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## UNCA celebrates Black Heritage Month

### South African journalist speaks to students

By Kim Cooley  
Asst. News Editor

Sipho Ngcobo, a journalist from South Africa, spoke Monday in the private dining room in the first of a series of events planned for Black History Month at UNCA. Ngcobo's lecture was entitled "The Roles of Blacks in South Africa."

According to Ngcobo, many things are different for blacks in South Africa than they are here in the United States. "Black peasants have no right to ownership of land. They can only lease," Ngcobo said by leasing, families pay for the walls and the materials to build the house, but they can never own it.

Another difference between South Africa and the United

States is that the "blacks are not able to live in white residential areas. They can be jailed for up to 27 years for doing this," Ngcobo said.

In the United States, persons are able to use the freedom of speech, the right to a fair trial and the ability to speak with lawyers before speaking to the press. South Africans do not have such privileges.

According to Ngcobo, people can be jailed for six months before their trial with no access to their children, friends or lawyers. "Even if your lawyer is standing right next to you, he does not have the right to talk to you," he said.

The United States also has a juvenile court to try children under a certain age. In South Africa, they do not. According to Ngcobo, people are not put in a jail cell when jailed, they are put in a prison camp. "People share prison camps with kids as young as nine years old with no access to anyone else but the people in the camp," he said.

Americans have thousands of colleges and universities from

which to choose if they decide to continue their education. Once again, this is a difference between South Africa and the United States.

"South Africans get a most inferior education. There are 62 high schools in South Africa and not one of them had a laboratory," Ngcobo said. There are four black universities, but there is not one engineering course.

"Students study and know absolutely nothing. The employers won't hire them because they know they go a most inferior education and didn't learn anything," Ngcobo said.

In the United States, freedom of the press is guaranteed by the First Amendment. According to Ngcobo, there is no freedom of the press.

"If a policeman walks down the street and sees a newspaper with a headline he doesn't like or a bad picture, he can have all the papers in the city seized," Ngcobo said.

Ngcobo said if a journalist writes "everything," he can be sentenced to 10 years in jail, a \$10,000 fine

or both. "Writers write everything and its up to the editors to cut it," Ngcobo said. "There are a lot of brave reporters and brave editors out there."

"If the government wants to, they can send police to sit in the newsroom to watch every article printed to make sure nothing is said bad about the government," Ngcobo said.

"We are no longer fighting for sharing toilet seats or water fountains. We are past that. We fought for that in 1912, the 1920s, the 1930s and 1960s. We thought we would be above that by the 1990s, but we aren't," said Ngcobo.

According to Ngcobo, the people who are not tortured to death in jail and return to the city will find themselves struggling once again for the same things they went to

jail for in the first place. "As a country we don't know what we want most, but we will not be fooled," he said.

For more information on the events surrounding Black History month at UNCA, contact Carolyn Briggs at 251-6588.



Photo by Diane Maney

South African journalist Sipho Ngcobo speaks to students Monday.

### Environmental group gets \$40,000 in grants

By Cindy Dotson  
Staff Writer

The Environmental Protection Agency and the country's leading manufacturer of plumbing fixtures have awarded UNCA's Environmental Quality Institute a total of \$40,000 in grants.

The money will fund research on lead contamination of drinking water. This problem constitutes "the most widespread and serious public health hazard we face today," said Richard Maas, a UNCA environmental scientist and chief investigator in the current research.

UNCA's Environmental Quality Institute has been studying this problem for the past two years. The researchers have found "strong circumstantial evidence" that soft water may play an active role in causing lead to ooze from faucet fixtures, joints and pipes.

According to medical evidence,

even small amounts of lead consumed through contaminated water can cause harm to the kidneys, nervous system and red blood cells. It may even cause permanent brain damage to fetuses, infants and small children.

Donated by one of the nation's largest fixture manufacturers (who has requested anonymity), \$25,000 of the money in grants will finance research on how soft water may cause lead to leach into ground water. With this money the UNCA researchers will also examine the pH properties of water in promoting lead contamination.

"This study is being funded by a safety-conscious manufacturer who wants to know more about what might be an industry-wide problem," said Maas.

The EPA's \$15,000 grant will go to research on how effective pH and corrosion-control additives will be in keeping lead out of

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Photo by Miranda Wyatt

Let them eat cake  
Mayor Ken Michaelove officially opens the "Heart of Asheville" Ceremony downtown Thursday. Please see related story on p. 5.

### Budget cuts affect UNC system

By Vicki McCoy  
News Editor

Student Government Vice-President Chris Brown met with other student leaders from across the state to discuss budget cuts that will affect state universities.

Brown and the other leaders met with Governor Jim Martin to discuss the main causes of the cuts and how the state will try to recover. Brown said Martin gave three main reasons for the lack of funds.

"We have changed tax codes to closely represent changes with federal tax codes," Brown quoted Martin as saying. "In shifting of revenue, we (the state) lost \$170 million in revenue shortfall," he said.

Brown said one of the main causes for the loss of revenue is the capital gains tax. "The capital

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### Candidate discusses youth service

By Vicki McCoy  
News Editor

Attorney Larry Linney, currently entered in the race for one of the four North Carolina House seats from the 51st district, conducted an informal dialogue with students Feb. 1 on campus.

Sponsored by Students For America, Linney addressed the issue of the two current proposals in the U.S. Congress for some type of youth citizen service. The proposals, according to Linney, would require young people ages 18-26 to serve in some type of either civilian or military service before they would be eligible for federal aid to fund their education.

The first proposal is sponsored by the Bush Administration and calls for voluntary service, while the second, submitted by the Democratic Leadership Council, calls for mandatory service. Both programs would give each participant a voucher, not cash, as payment for service that could be used in his or her future, Linney said.

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### New minor focuses on women

By Jamie Steele  
Staff Writer

Historical events and people fit together like the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. However, much of this puzzle remains missing, according to some UNCA professors and students.

"One big giant piece of the puzzle is missing," said Robert Straub, a history and Spanish major. "Women are half of the world. You can't study just half of the world and not the other."

To address this issue, Larry Wilson, vice chancellor of Academic Affairs, is forming a task force of faculty members and students to design a minor in women's studies, said Cathy Mitchell, assistant professor of mass communication.

But what exactly is women's studies?

Women's studies is a discipline that examines women's roles and contributions in society and attempts to complete the historical puzzle, said Mitchell. "Because history is basically the study of kings and presidents who are obviously almost always men, women began to wonder where they fit in," she said.

The concept of women's studies originated in the late sixties as a part of the feminist movement,

said Pamela Nickless, associate professor of economics. "It has not been strictly a feminist venture," she said. "However, it does make women the focus."

"Interest in women's studies is predominately from women. However, there are some exceptions," said Nickless. She said

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Robert Straub

certain courses attract more men.

"Men do gain a lot by being the only one in the room," said Nickless. "This allows them to speak up for themselves."

According to Nickless, pressure from students convinced her to go to Wilson with the proposal for a minor. "The process of creating a minor is time-consuming," she said. "And without students' support and interest, it may not be worth it."

"Women's studies concerns everybody, not just feminists," said Michelle Zacks, a senior literature major.

"The courses I've taken have concentrated on the achievements

and ideas of the upper class white men," said Zacks. "That gives the impression that women don't have contributions to make to society, which is false."

"The main purpose of education is to be able to think for yourself, to analyze and interpret information. Then you are able to

form your own opinions," she said. "You can't form well-rounded opinions after looking at only one point of view."

"Any view of the world that's narrow is real dangerous," said Zacks.

All disciplines stretching from political science to literature to economics display the elite white man's point of view in history, said Nickless. "It is a legitimate view point, but the world is much more complicated."

The fact that women's studies involves all disciplines created excitement for those involved. It