

The Blue Banner

Volume XVI, Number 4

Striving for excellence

February 15, 1990



Photo by Miranda Wyatt

Helping the homeless

Nathan Fyock, right, collects money for the homeless from Leon Harrison. This project was sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega

Mullen speaks out about Mandela

By Vicki McCoy
News Editor

The release of jailed civil-rights activist Nelson Mandela brings immediate effects to the students and governments of both South Africa and the United States, according to Dwight Mullen, assistant vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Mullen, who taught at Ahmadabello University in Nigeria, Africa, said there is one main effect students in the United States can expect from the recent developments in South Africa.

"Students pressured the government and private businesses to divest. They aimed their sanctions at the governmental sector," Mullen said. "If there is a happy ending to all this it is that South Africa would offer opportunities for students and faculty to study abroad."

Mullen said the current political climate in South Africa is evidence that changes can occur without violence. "Folks should be elated. This is a major victory," he said. "But it is hard to say whether this is a big change or whether it is just to pacify the black Africans."

According to Mullen, Mandela's release is a signal that the government might be ready to negotiate with the African National Congress and the United Democratic Front, parties in South Africa's government. However, Mullen said the two parties have said they would not negotiate until the state of emergency is lifted.

"The police have an unlimited amount of control during a state of emergency. They can arrest folk without any reason or warning," Mullen said.

According to Mullen, there are several questions that could surface during any negotiations.

These include the representation of black Africans in the government, the issue of a new Constitution, and individual rights.

Mullen also outlined two laws that are "pillars" for apartheid. The first is the Group Areas Act which controls the distribution of land in South Africa. "87 percent of the land legally belongs to the whites," he said. "But there are 28 million blacks and only about 5 to 6 million whites."

The second, according to Mullen, is the Internal Security Act, which gives the police the power to arrest and detain people indefinitely.

"Whatever comes out of the negotiations on these issues will determine the everyday lives of the people," he said.

Mullen said the changes for the white community in South Africa are both threatening and

Please see Mullen, page 12

Corporate support increases by 48 percent

By Jamie Steele
Staff Writer

"Private giving is what provides for the margin of excellence in education," said Alex Miller, director of development at UNCA.

Last November, 25 volunteers from Asheville-area businesses raised a portion of the financial support in UNCA's Annual Fund corporate campaign. This 30-day campaign raised \$50,000, a 48 percent increase over last year's total.

This money will primarily support student scholarships and services for which the state does not provide funds, said Miller.

"We're just delighted at this increase in corporate support," said Ernest Ferguson, senior vice president for corporate banking at Wachovia Bank and Trust and UNCA's corporate campaign chairman.

"It shows that the corporate community recognizes and appreciates the valuable contributions UNCA makes to their businesses and to the community, state and nation," said

Ferguson.

Miller said many students may not know or understand what the Annual Fund and the corporate campaign are.

"The Annual Fund is the umbrella term that is used to describe the fundraising activities for the university," he said. "And the corporate campaign is only a part of this."

According to Miller, the Annual Fund consists of:

- < leadership gifts raised by the Foundation Board and Board of Trustees
- < funds from the community raised by the corporate campaign
- < funds supporting athletics raised by the Bulldog Society Task Force
- < funds from the Alumni Association phonathon
- < funds raised by Friends of the Library, the Arts, the Theater and Music
- < funds from the parents' committee, which is currently in "the embryonic stages."

"The state of North Carolina and taxes provide the majority of the

Please see Support, page 12



Photo by Miranda Wyatt

Devilish sweetheart

This little devil brightened someone's Valentine's Day.

Gun pulled on student

By Kim Cooley
Asst. News Editor

Campus security is currently investigating an incident involving a gun being pulled on a student Feb. 4 at 12:30 a.m., according to UNCA's campus security.

According to Security Chief, Jeff Van Slyke, a group of non-student black males were loitering between the entrances of the Highsmith center and Mills Hall approximately 12:30 a.m. harassing a female student.

Michael Bailey, who lives in Mills Hall, said the people were harassing his roommate's girlfriend. He and several of his friends went outside to see what was going on, he said. "We walked outside and there were about five black guys and some words were exchanged. The next thing I knew there was a gun in my face."

Bailey said at the time words were beginning to be exchanged "that what was five black guys turned into 25. They started coming from inside the Highsmith center and around by the side door."

Campus security officers then came out of the Highsmith Center where the AASA dance was being

held. Bailey said when the officers walked out of the Highsmith center, one of the guys said, "put the up. Let's go."

After the R.A. on duty in Mills Hall radioed the disturbance to campus security officers, the officers searched and could not find any suspects. They also could not get a definite description of the suspect, according to Van Slyke.

"About 30 minutes after the incident occurred, we began stopping every car leaving the Highrise parking lot," Van Slyke said.

Security officers stopped a car with a person who seemed to fit the description of the suspect. In the car they found two homemade, axe-handle nightsticks. "One nightstick was in the trunk and one was on the front seat. There was also an empty gun holster in the glove compartment of the car," Van Slyke said.

Charles Louis Pickets, 21, of Asheville was arrested for carrying weapons on school grounds, according to Van Slyke.

Pickets has not been charged for the incident involving Bailey. "He has been banned from campus permanently and if he comes back he will be arrested for trespassing," Van Slyke said.

Professor declares candidacy

By Jackie Gasperson
Staff Writer

Roger T. Smith, an Asheville attorney and UNCA adjunct professor, recently filed for the District Court bench currently held by Judge Peter L. Roda. Both men are Democrats.

Smith, 35, is only the second person to challenge a sitting judge. He has practiced law in Asheville for over 10 years and is also a professor of environmental law at UNCA.

"I've been interested in the environment for a long time," Smith said. "When I was in law school, I founded the Environmental Law Society at Pepperdine. Teaching environmental law just sort of happened."

Smith earned a degree in political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and received his law degree from Pepperdine University School of Law in Malibu, Calif.

Becoming a judge is just one more step in his overall goal to help people, said Smith.

"Since I was in 8th grade, I knew I wanted to help people, and being a lawyer is my way of doing so," said Smith. "All I can promise to do is to follow the law and be impartial and fair to everybody."

Active in civil affairs, Smith is on the board of directors for the Irene Wortham Center and Irene Wortham Residential Center. He is president of the UNCA Chorus, serves on the Dispute Resolution Committee of the N.C. Bar Association and is a past member of the ethics committee.

He serves on Asheville's Tree Greenway Commission and is on the board of trustees of the WNC Nature Society. He is also the chairman of the Wenoca Group of the Sierra Club.

He is a member of the Asheville Optimist Club and the former president of Santa Pal. He is listed in the fifth edition of "Who's Who in American Law" in 1987-1988.

Smith, who has taught environmental law at UNCA for two semesters, hopes to continue teaching if he is elected to the judgeship.

"I don't know how officials at the university would feel about it, [a professor being a judge], but I would like to continue teaching," said Smith. "I'll probably budget my time a whole lot better than I do now."

In his spare time, Smith said he likes to play volleyball and is currently playing in a city league. He also said he likes hiking and other outdoor activities. Smith said he also spends much of his time caring for his four-year-old son.

When asked what advice he would give about a career in environmental law, Smith said a person needs to concentrate on the environment and take as many classes on environmental law as possible.

"Environmental law is a very technical area. There are a lot of people specializing in the field, and there is tough competition," Smith said.

Smith said there are jobs working with large corporations, the government and the private sector.

Smith said his candidate for District Court judge was a goal for



Smith

many lawyers.

"Most every lawyer has this ambition, and this seemed to be the right time for me. [If elected], I'll make the best decisions I can," said Smith. Although Smith does have a general law practice, he concentrates in domestic, criminal and personal injury law.

Inside

George Bush in Columbia	2	Tennis teams rebuild	7
Wendell's Window	3	Top 25 college basketball teams	7
Profile: Board of Trustees	4	Students start production company	8
SAT task force	4	Vinyl Opinion	9
Gay/Lesbian support group	5	Life in Hell	10
Lady Bulldogs second in conference	6	Robotman	10
		Healthbeat	12