

The Blue Banner

Volume XVI, Number 6

Striving for Excellence

March 1, 1990

Three candidates run for SGA president

By Vicki McCoy
News Editor

Student Government Association elections will be held March 5-6, and three students currently holding SGA offices are running for president.

Chris Dobson, John Schoultz and Amy Thompson are the three candidates.

Dobson, a junior senator, is a business major who feels that the SGA needs to play a more important role in the affairs of UNCA.

"I feel we need strong leadership now that UNCA is growing," he said. "I am going to push for more important things. Sometimes we get involved in the rules and the legislation, so the more important things get left out."

Dobson is also a member of the Student Affairs Committee of SGA. As a member, Dobson said he has been committed to improving the weekends here at UNCA. Dobson said he feels the students need more activities to choose from on the weekends.

Dobson has also been trying to get a better variety of food for the cafeteria and an effective escort service. Dobson also said he is trying to find a solution to UNCA's parking problems.

"I am trying my best to do something about the parking," he said. "I think we need to keep on them (the administration) constantly so they will come up with some solutions."

Dobson also voted for the new alarm system that was just installed in the highrise.

"I live in the highrise, and we need high standard equipment that just won't go off whenever, but that will go off in case of a real fire," Dobson said.

With the planning of the new residence hall on campus, Dobson said he would like to see it placed closer to the Highsmith Center. The administration has considered placing the new dorm behind the school where the tennis courts are now located.

"I would like to see the new dorm moved closer to the other dorms to promote a community atmosphere," he said.

If elected, Dobson said he wants to push for lowering the humanities requirements. Dobson said he feels the requirements may discourage people from applying to and attending UNCA.



Dobson

Dobson also said he would like to encourage the administration to consider putting cable television in the dorms.

A business major, Dobson participates in other activities other than student government. He plays intramural basketball and



Schoultz

football and runs track. He is also a member of the Political Science Association.

"I feel we need strong leadership that will stand above and beyond the rest," he said.

John Schoultz is another candidate seeking the office of



Thompson

president.

A political science major, Schoultz is currently the attorney general for student court. He has held the position for almost two years.

According to Schoultz, he has

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Black History Month concludes with Kwanza

By Scarlet Bell
Editor

UNCA's observance of Black Heritage Month concluded on Feb. 28 with a celebration of Kwanza, an African holiday traditionally celebrated the week after Christmas, said Carolyn Briggs, director of multicultural student affairs.

"It's almost like Thanksgiving, because it's like giving thanks for the crops, your family, your friends and everything you have," Briggs said.

"But, what we do is celebrate Kwanza in February (during Black Heritage Month) since we are not here after Christmas," she added.

In preparation for the Kwanza celebration, Briggs organized a special feast of traditionally African dishes by checking out

books on African cuisine.

Briggs said she was pleased with the response to the African meal.

"I think it was wonderful. I think they did a good job, and it seems like everybody's going back and getting seconds, so I think it really turned out well," she said.

Some of the African dishes students enjoyed during Kwanza included the Liberian dish of Sweet Potato Puffs, the Tanzanian dish of Fried Cabbage, and the Ethiopian dish of Yemisar Salatta, a vegetarian lentil dinner.

In addition, cafeteria chefs prepared Bootjehredie (a bean stew from Capetown, South Africa), Chinchin (a sweet, fried pastry dessert), and Maacouda with Potatoes (a mixture of mashed potatoes and sour cream and chives, baked in an oven).

While diners in the cafeteria ate their African meals, they were entertained by The Steel Drum

Symphonette, a band from Charlotte, N.C. whose specialty is Caribbean music produced from steel drums.

The band played songs such as George Gershwin's "Summertime," and Jimmy Buffet's "Margaritaville," but with a Caribbean flavor.

Band member Jim Boyce, who was born in Barbados and has lived in Trinidad, said he has performed with artists such as Barbara Mandrell, Liberace and Mike Douglas. He has also performed for former president Ronald Reagan.

Fellow band member Sonja Smith, who has eight years experience playing steel instruments, had just returned from California, where she worked with agents close to pop superstar Michael Jackson.

"I was in Los Angeles for about

two weeks working for people affiliated with Michael Jackson's management, but I didn't tour with him," she said.

Smith's mother, Betty Grier, also plays in the band.

"To be perfectly honest, I had to keep my kids busy to keep them out of the streets, so I enrolled them in steel drum classes. While spending long hours waiting for them while they were taking classes, I decided I'd take some classes myself," she said.

Reflecting on the success of this year's Black Heritage Month, Briggs said, "I think it could have been more successful, because I think more people could have been involved as far as coming to the events. I don't think enough people participated the way they should have, and I'm not sure why that is."



Jim Boyce plays drums in Highsmith Center for Black Heritage Month. Photo by Diane Maney

Highsmith expansion causes fee increase

By Angela Minor
Staff Writer

Due to the proposed Highsmith Center expansion, students will see an increase of around \$180 a year to their student fees, according to information provided for the Highsmith Center expansion committee.

According to Sharyn McDonald, Highsmith Center director, student fees will provide all of the money for the center. "It's the only way we can do this," said McDonald. "We want to expand the building and create more space to create more community."

The final decision on the amount of increase has not yet been determined, though the increase is inevitable, according to Arthur Foley, vice chancellor of finance.

The university will borrow the money for the expansion, then repay the loan from the student fee increase, which will affect students for the next 15 to 25 years, said Foley.

The former Vice Chancellor of Finance William H. Pott officially approved the increase to fund the expansion.

"Three million isn't going to take care of all of the needs we have for the building," McDonald said. She has hopes of a second phase of expansion later. According to Foley, this phase will probably mean a second increase in student fees several years in the future.

The expansion proposal calls for an increase in dining service space, including more kitchens and remodeling of the dining hall. "There are going to be more

"The bad part will be the construction phase. People will have to adjust to construction around Highsmith Center. This building will have to stay open during the construction."

McDonald

residential halls and we need additional dining areas and kitchens to accommodate them," said McDonald.

In addition, the expansion will include enlargement of the snack bar and the addition of a small performance stage inside the snack bar.

McDonald says the expansion will also include the addition of more, and better, lounge space.

She says the lounge space currently in the lobby is not enough.

The expansion committee, made up of students, faculty and staff, is also considering establishing a mail service in the Highsmith Center, according to McDonald.

The committee is discussing two options. Both include putting student mailboxes in the Highsmith Center. The debate is

whether to just have the resident student boxes in the center or to include commuter student boxes also and have all mail picked up in the Highsmith Center. McDonald says the idea in choosing the second option is to continue that feeling of community.

The expansion will also include an increase in student organization space. This expansion will include office space for all organizations on campus and additional meeting rooms.

The Board of Trustees is now making the final decision on the architect for this project. Construction will begin in April 1991, with completion scheduled for August 1992.

McDonald says the expansion will not entail adding a second

floor to the existing building.

"The building was not originally built to go up above," said McDonald.

According to McDonald, the likely direction of the expansion will be toward University Heights in the area of the steps leading from the main road to the Highsmith Center.

"The bad part will be the construction phase. People will have to adjust to construction around this building," said McDonald.

"This building has to stay open during the construction," said McDonald. She says part of the responsibility of the architects will be to accommodate student traffic into the Highsmith Center during the construction.

Brantley hired as personnel director

By Jackie Gasperson
Staff Writer

Officials at UNCA appointed Anthony G. "Andy" Brantley to the position of personnel director last month.

In taking this new position, Brantley is responsible for personnel administration, staff development and recruiting, employee relations, benefits and state personnel policy.

"As personnel director, I oversee all staffing activities for anyone working on campus, with the exception of faculty. Those are handled through the vice chancellor of academic affairs' office, but that still roughly leaves about 350 positions to oversee," said Brantley.

Brantley is also responsible for basic counseling of employees, employee assistance programs and

taking disciplinary action, such as dismissal.

"Hopefully that is something (dismissal), I won't have to deal with often, but those are the employment-type issues that come through me," said Brantley.

In order to keep up with state personnel policies, Brantley has to determine whether positions at UNCA follow the rest of the state.

"In order to find this out I have to see, for example, if a secretary that has worked three years at UNC-Chapel Hill is at the same status as a secretary who has worked the same amount of time here at UNCA," said Brantley.

Also, as personnel director, Brantley is responsible for developing an affirmative action plan.

"I'm responsible for actually coming up with our affirmative action plan, and setting our affirmative action goals, in order



Brantley

to make sure that we are in compliance, since we have to follow federal regulations," said Brantley.

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Pickens to face charges

By Kim Cooley
Asst. News Editor

Charles Louis Pickens, 21, of Asheville who was arrested for carrying weapons on campus Feb. 4 did not show up for his court case Feb. 23, according to UNCA security officers.

Pickens was stopped in the Highrise parking lot around 1:00 a.m. on Feb. 4 after a gun had been pulled on a student between the Highsmith Center and Mills Hall. Security began stopping all cars leaving the University in hopes of capturing the person with the gun.

When stopped, Pickens had two homemade, axe-handle nightsticks, according to Jeff Van Slyke, UNCA Chief of Security. "One nightstick was in the trunk and one was on the front seat."

The judge issued a bench

warrant for Pickens arrest after he did not show up for court, according to Van Slyke. Along with the charge of carrying weapons on campus, Pickens has another charge of carrying a concealed weapon and two reckless driving charges against, plus a failure to appear charge on him at this time.

"Pickens won't be allowed to make bond before his next court date. He will remain in jail until that date to make sure he shows up," Van Slyke said.

In another case not related to the Pickens case, Kathleen Abby, 18, who lives in the Highrise, room 415, pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana. Abby was arrested Oct. 11 for possession of marijuana and released under a \$400 bond. She was sentenced Friday to community service which has to be completed by Sept. of 1990, according to security officials.