

The Blue Banner

"Where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier." — Kettering

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Student fired for editorial comments

Steve Peake
Staff Writer

Bill Ashton reported to his job at campus security Friday to find he had been fired for writing a letter to the editor published by the *Blue Banner* the day before.

The senior literature major's letter had been in response to a published complaint by mathematics major Warren Smith, in which Smith had challenged the way campus security issues parking tickets. Until Friday, Ashton had served as campus parking enforcement supervisor.

In his letter, Ashton objected to Smith's characterization of the parking enforcement squad as "pipsqueaks with clipboards," and "zealots in the enforcement of the trivial."

Ashton wrote, "I don't know about the 'pipsqueak' business, Mr. Smith. The five of us ticket writers have the full capability of

ramming that Honda of yours up your ass." Ashton signed his letter with his job title under his name.

Warren Smith declined comment on both Ashton's letter and his firing.

Ashton said Jeff Van Slyke, chief of campus security, informed him of his termination. According to Ashton, Van Slyke said the decision to fire him came from Roy Carroll, interim chancellor.

"I got to work," said Ashton, "and Jeff told me that the chancellor had called him and told him to let me go. He said the chancellor was really mad about the letter."

Carroll confirmed Ashton's statement. "Yes, I did," said Carroll, referring to his order terminating Ashton's employment. "I did not believe that the attitude expressed in Mr. Ashton's letter was of the kind I'd expect from members of the UNCA faculty or staff."

Van Slyke expressed pain in having to fire Ashton. "It was a very difficult decision, but it was something we felt we had to do. We really like Bill down here a

lot," he said, "but we just couldn't support him on this one."

Ashton's letter prompted Van Slyke to write a response to the *Blue Banner* (page 3), in which he apologized for Ashton's remarks. In that letter, Van Slyke described Ashton's letter as "reprehensible and in poor taste."

Ashton said his dismissal is a "clear-cut" violation of his right to free speech. "If UNCA is an institution of free thought and free speech, then I should be able to express myself. My freedom of speech has been challenged."

When asked if Ashton's dismissal had infringed his rights, Carroll declined comment.

Ashton said he was fired because he is a student at UNCA.

"It's clear I've been treated like a student, like a little kid."

"I got nothing in writing from the university. I wasn't allowed to make my point, or to hear from Carroll why he was firing me. He even had Jeff Van Slyke do the dirty work. That's unprofessional."

"That may or may not be the case," said Carroll, when asked whether student employees fall under a different set of disciplinary guidelines than full-time state employees. "Mr. Ashton's assumptions on that subject may be wrong."

Andy Brantley, UNCA director of personnel and affirmative action, said Ashton was hired "at will," meaning the university can limit or terminate his employment at any time and for any reason.

"When you're talking about a temporary employee, state guidelines say there doesn't need to be a big trail of paper generated when that employee is

terminated," said Brantley.

Ashton said his dismissal also reveals a disciplinary double-standard for UNCA employees. "If I'm expected to live up to the standards of full-time state employees, then I should expect the same due process they get. Even if I was, say, an interim

chancellor, I'd expect due process."

Brantley said Ashton does have an avenue to air his grievances. Brantley suggested Ashton first meet with Van Slyke. "If he fails to resolve the problem, he could speak to [Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs] Iovachinni. If that fails, he could talk to Chancellor Carroll."

When asked if he thought Ashton could receive a fair hearing from the man who had ordered the firing in the first place, Brantley said he thought so.

Carroll said he would be glad to meet with Ashton to discuss the firing.

Ashton had written to the *Blue Banner* in response to Smith's letter. In that letter, Smith had expressed displeasure at receiving a ticket for improperly displaying his parking decal.

Ashton responded with a 600-word letter in which he called Smith a "schmuck," and "a spoiled brat who doesn't have the brains to follow directions."

Ironically, Ashton received a plaque from the security department at last spring's annual university awards ceremony. The plaque read, "For recognition of outstanding and dedicated performance to the campus security department."

"I have nothing against Security," said Ashton. "I've really enjoyed working there. I'm sorry if this whole thing has caused a lot of problems for them. I was just speaking my own mind. Is that a crime?"

UNC president donates salary

Kimberly Cooley
News Editor

C.D. Spangler, president of the North Carolina university system has donated his \$142,520 yearly salary to the 16 Universities in the system.

"My salary for the current year, set at \$142,520, has caused comment from a few editorial writers, some members of the General Assembly, and maybe from some other citizens. Because any resentment of my compensation too easily transfers to a resentment of me and of the university, I have decided to donate my salary to the 16 campuses of the University," Spangler said in a letter to Interim Chancellor Roy Carroll.

Spangler donated \$10,000 to each university in the UNC system and the decision for what it will be used for will be left up to the chancellor of each university.

"I just felt it was the right thing to do," Spangler said. "Many professors are digging in their pockets to provide what they need in their classrooms and I want to give some of that same support."

Spangler said that it was very tempting for the legislature and anyone else to say he was making too much money for what he does. "It is human nature for people to resent such a large salary from state tax revenues."

"Many citizens doubtless feel they work just as hard and just as long as I do, yet do not get such handsome rewards from the state, and that is certainly true," Spangler said.

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Sweating it out

Photo by Diane Maney

Competitors for the 1990 Run in the Gardens race turn the corner hoping to finish first.

Search team needs input

Vicki McCoy
Editor

The search committee for the new chancellor will hold a special set of open forums for students on Oct. 17 from 1:30 p.m. until 3 p.m. and again on Oct. 18 from 10:30 a.m. until noon.

Wednesday's forum will be held in the New Classroom Building (NCB) in room 038, with Thursday's forum held in NCB 012.

According to Jack Cecil, chairman of UNCA's board of trustees and the search committee, the forums will give students a chance to give their opinions on the characteristics and qualities the new chancellor should have.

"We value the students' input," he said. "Do they want a teacher, a lecturer, a fund-raiser, someone who is civic-minded? In order for

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Students discuss solutions to parking problems

LeeAnn Donnelly
Staff Writer

Despite a large number of letters recently received by the *Blue Banner* regarding the current parking situation, only a handful of students attended the Student Government Association-sponsored forum in Dante's Tuesday night.

Ten students participated as Kevan Frazier, executive assistant for internal relations of the SGA, led a discussion about campus parking problems and some possible solutions.

Frazier presented maps of the campus outlined with at least 10 proposed parking sites, as well as several blueprint designs for the sites.

Frazier said Roy Carroll, interim chancellor, wants to increase the number of parking spaces on campus by fall of 1991.

"Dr. Carroll would like for us to build at least one big lot, or a series of lots together. That would

be at least a hundred spaces," he said.

According to Frazier, current allocations for lot renovations stand at approximately \$300,000. This amount comes from a fund made up of parking-sticker fees and parking fines.

"Out of that fund comes money for maintenance of lots, roads, line painting and signs," he said.

Frazier said the \$300,000 could act as a down-payment on a two-lot arrangement, or a parking deck.

Frazier mentioned the possibility of building a parking deck to accommodate the university's ongoing growth in students, as well as in new academic buildings.

Remembering from past experiences, Frazier said parking wasn't increased to compensate for Mills Hall when it was built. Since Carroll has requested more parking facilities, Frazier says parking will grow proportionately.

"I'm glad to see the university is actually ready to make a

commitment, and is trying to pick up on something, so we don't build another set of buildings without parking areas for them," he said.

Chris Lawing, an environmental science major and an ecology club major, suggested that in order to keep the land surrounding UNCA aesthetically appealing, the university has no other choice but to expand parking "vertically, not horizontally."

He suggested building a deck over the existing terraced lot across from Ramsey Library and Carmichael Hall.

"Just go into the lot and slap a concrete deck on top of it. You won't take up any land. It's tremendously feasible," he said.

Frazier added that parking fees would have to go up to compensate for any deck built on campus.

"If we decide to go with a parking deck, we'll have to raise student and faculty parking fees to \$125 starting in the fall '91

semester," he said.

Frazier said other ways of combatting the parking problem include rescheduling the hour when humanities classes meet.

"The greatest concern is to build parking to hold students at 12 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. That is the absolute peak period on campus. There are more students at that time than at any other," he said.

Other possible parking solutions exist, said Frazier. One solution, he said, would require all freshmen to live on campus, without benefit of a car, or to limit their parking to remote areas of the campus.

Frazier expressed concern about the low number of students involved in the forum, but said the group represented the university as a whole.

"I'm very glad to have met with the ones who did come. I was glad to see the new faces. I wish we could have had a better turnout, though."

Alcohol violation policy revamped

Bonnie Phillips
Staff Writer

UNCA's alcohol violation policy has been revised to help students rather than punish them. "It's not seen so much as punitive, but it's health assistance," said Vicki Brunnick, program coordinator and counselor at the Counseling Center.

In the past, offenders of the alcohol policy had to attend an alcohol education class.

"It used to be if a student received a violation in a dorm, that they would just go to a two hour alcohol education class. Well, what if they received two or three of those? Then they'd repeat that class," said Brunnick.

The federal government has mandated that all schools have a consistent substance abuse policy. Three years ago, the Board of Governors in Chapel Hill adopted a policy for the 16 schools in the University of North Carolina system.

"As a result of that policy, we already had a student court procedure in place. So basically what we did was we took an evaluation of last year's procedure and decided that we needed to make it more of a student assistance program," said Brunnick.

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