



Sounding Board

Send Letters To:
The Blue Banner
208 Carmichael Hall
UNCAVX::BANNER

Group expresses frustrations with column

As a group of students who were on the pre-orientation backpacking trip with Summer Browning before she fell to her death, we wish to address the insensitive nature of the article, "Listening: A crucial thing concerning rules," published in the last issue of *The Blue Banner*. We seek to express why this article prompted hurt, anger, and resentment.

It is devoid of compassion and conveys a callous and emotionally detached pragmatism which exacerbates the grief of those who knew the person, Summer Browning, and who still mourn for the loss of her life and the grief of her parents and those closest to her.

From the very first sentence, the article is written in poor taste to the point of being cruel. A tragedy such as this, especially concerning the traumatic circumstances of Summer's death, should not have served as the basis for creative writing. There is something particularly bitter about using certain phrases, such as the first and last sentences found in the previous article, for their emotional quality and, in actuality, being untouched by a true sense of tragedy.

We want to express that Summer was a kind, beautiful person, not an example. We hate to see her death used as a platform for opinions rooted in a cynical fascination with natural laws and for a tidbit expressing dissatisfaction with the tenderness of

the U.S. prison system. It all seems very trivial.

Also, the condescension found in last week's article was so inappropriate. One aspect of tragedy which so unsettles people near it is that it makes them realize, "That could have been me." How many of us have always been cautious? It is unfair for the author to have written, "...at some point in our lives we must learn to let our ears and intelligence connect to form a mental fence called common sense."

This statement has implications which cast a shadow on Summer and does not allow for the complexities of human nature which we all share: why we are moved to do the things we do? We should not reduce this tragedy merely to a case of not listening as last week's article suggests. It would be near-sighted.

We want to add that it is difficult to see the constructive aim of last week's article in that a tragedy of this nature automatically serves as its own warning and need not be rehearsed, especially in the manner in which it was.

We also want to address the issue of the powerful nature of the written word and stress the influence and responsibility that lies in the hands of a newspaper staff. Not only can the written word be as aggressive as the spoken word, it can be read again and again, bringing back initial reactions.

With this in mind, we question if the author of the article would be so quick

to verbally express these opinions to anyone who knew Summer Browning or who had been through a similar experience (Summer's parents for example). We do not think the author is really so cold and are willing to believe that any hurt caused was unintentional. Perhaps writing a column in a newspaper provides a false sense of the impersonal.

In closing, we feel that you have used your medium irresponsibly and are asking for a future commitment on the part of *The Blue Banner* for intentionally in deciding what is printed, a careful weighing of the purpose, benefit, or necessity (or lack thereof) of articles and the implications, positive and negative, of publishing them.

We would view an acknowledgement of the poor judgement shown in allowing last week's article to be printed as a step toward the intentionality we are requesting.

- Meredith Miller
- Erin Pritchard
- Brenda Erikson
- David Bardsley
- Conrad D. Shirk
- Alexis Kieft
- Karen Engelke
- Greg Boswell
- Evelyn McPhail
- Philip Parsons
- Jesse Richards
- Kirsten Morris
- Eric Horton
- Karla McCorkle
- Kim Shankle
- John Rhyne
- Claire Biggerstaff
- Joyce Cacka
- Matt Smith
- Duncan Quinn
- Brad Noel
- Laura Hayes
- Daniel Posselt

Ex-employee releases facts concerning UNCA security

As a former employee of the Parking Enforcement Division of the Public Safety Department (I think that's what the name of the department this week), I would like to get a few things off my chest. First of all, I would like to point something out. Some of you received tickets last year that were written by personnel that do not work for the Public Safety Department (such as Health Services and the Physical Plant); these tickets often had initials under the "issued by" box on the ticket. If you get tickets like this, be sure to fight them. They are invalid according to rules and regulations; the rules clearly state that "officers or employees of the

Public Safety Department shall issue citations for violations of these regulations."

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who supported the work that I did. I also would like to make it clear that this is not a letter meant to "trash" the whole department. The department does have some very competent and dedicated officers. I encourage students, faculty, and staff to voice their opinions on this ridiculous parking situation. I especially encourage you to talk to the director of the department (the best way to find him is running around the campus). I'm sure the director would point out that I have a bad attitude because he "doesn't

want to hear any negative feedback."

I resigned my position from the department on April 29, 1993, because I felt that the student employees of the department were being treated unfairly. I think that the director needs a reminder that his student employees brought in his precious parking revenue. I hope that everyone dissatisfied with the parking situation will voice their opinions on this subject. Some people on this campus need to be told that this is not a utopia.

Kevin Shuck
Senior

Former security employee unhappy over job termination

I am writing to inform the campus community that as of August 31, my employment at the campus security office was terminated. Some of you may know me, as I worked for the parking enforcement division for nearly three years. I was informed by director Van Slyke that my attitude was not in line with his ideology, consequently, he and his "office manager" Diane Williamson felt they needed to dismiss me. This despite the fact that I have written over 1,000 citations every semester I was employed by Mr. Van Slyke.

It is unfortunate that parking anarchy must once again permeate the campus because of Mr. Van Slyke's shortsightedness and sudden need to purge his office of all skilled and trained parking enforcement personnel. (As an aside, I must mention that I had served as training officer in the division.)

Mr. Van Slyke will tell you that I was dismissed because I have an "attitude problem." This is to say, I did not worship the ground he walked on, an unwritten job requirement. It is sad that the same man who had presented me

with outstanding service awards a year earlier could be so underhanded as to let me go home for the summer, out of state, with the assumption that I would be employed by his department in the fall. It is sad to see a department filled with good people that could really be an asset to the campus community "handcuffed" by their director. All in all, it is just sad, really sad.

Joe Martin
Senior
Economics

UNCA administration changes disturbing

In the two weeks since this semester began, I have heard more disturbing news about changes in the University of North Carolina at Asheville than I had ever imagined possible. The first was news of the resignation of Chancellor Schuman. Even more disturbing was the reason behind his decision, as stated last week in *The Blue Banner*, "Recent conversations with UNC President C.D. Spangler make it clear that my vision for the University of North Carolina at Asheville...do not conform to his expectations."

This vision of a small public liberal arts university is the main reason I chose UNCA as the school where I intended to pursue my undergraduate degree. It seems, from all I have read and heard, that President Spangler's vision of UNCA is one of expansion. This expansion can come only at the sacrifice of our education. My second surprise goes along with the expansion theory but almost distresses me more than the idea of

unreasonable growth. At the first UNCA Ambassadors meeting of the year, we were told that the Board of Trustees intends to make on-campus housing mandatory for freshmen. First of all, where would we put 400-plus students—when our new residence hall is to be 114-beds and at the moment we don't have the space on campus for all of the students who want to be here now? Also, where would mandatory freshman housing leave the non-traditional aged students, students with children, or students who simply cannot afford to live on campus? UNCA is a public school, there should be no restrictions on our ability to come to school, but at the same time we should not be forced to sacrifice the quality of the education promised to us as students before choosing to enter this institution.

Heather Quinn
Sophomore
Political Science

Student: Column judged death

Listen Susan. Listen to the disturbing sounds of an accident; a cracking branch - brief silence - then a breaking noise and a panicked cry for help. Listen to the shocked siren in the air as her friends hear of her death.

Listen to the anguish of a mother crying at the loss of her only child.

Can you hear it, Susan? Do you feel it in your soul?

No, I don't think you can. You weren't there.

She was a beautiful person. We strive to protect her memory because memories are so delicate.

In reverence we remember her name. In ignorance you judged her death. How could you?

Matt Smith
Freshman



collegiate camouflage

S L E P P O T S E R F O X Y T
M E C O X N U D T S L O D X S
A A A O E T A B A R C E O O U
R N G T N M R O B I M R C R B
T O A L A S B A O E V I O T P
I P T G B A I T R O T D N W O
A T E P I L T D P V Y O A Y E
L S R D M S R E E T A G N X N
L U V E S E A X I R E F E O A
A R N E T S T V T N A O I R T
W T R D E V I A C E P T L P N
S U B M F R O Y E F A C I O N
D R E S P A N X Y V N A L O T
S N O M M U S Y O T A E V A N
T H E S I H C N A R F C R O W

Can you find the hidden legal terms?

- ABATE
- ACT OF GOD
- AGENCY
- ARBITRATION
- BAILMENT
- CAVEAT EMPTOR
- CONSIDERATION
- DAMAGES
- DEED
- DURESS
- EASEMENT
- ESCROW
- ESTOPPEL
- FELON
- FRANCHISE
- LIEN
- MARTIAL LAW
- NOVATION
- PATENT
- PRIVITY
- PROBATE
- PROOF
- PROXY
- REMEDY
- SUBPOENA
- SUMMONS
- TORT
- TRUST

