

The Blue Banner

"Men their rights and nothing more; women their rights and nothing less." -- Susan B. Anthony

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Student Government Association approves Mud 500 Club constitution, senator resigns

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Staff Writers

The Student Government Association (SGA) approved the Mud 500 Club's (M5C) constitution on Nov. 3, five weeks after it was first presented for confirmation. The constitution approval prompted the resignation of at least one student senator.

Eight senators voted to approve the constitution, three voted against it, five abstained from voting and two were absent, according to Gerard Moses, vice president of SGA.

Denise Tomlinson was one of the senators who opposed passing the constitution. She verbally resigned from the SGA at the Nov. 3 meeting and submitted a letter of resignation this week.

"My understanding is their purpose is to promote brotherhood," said Tomlinson. "My opinion is that they promote brotherhood through drinking in large quantities."

"The approval of their constitution leads to the fact that they could get funding from the campus commission," said Tomlinson. "I don't want my money going to buy their beer."

"Based on things I had heard from my constituents and from personal experience with some of the members, I just didn't think that was something I wanted represented on this campus," said Tomlinson.

"The role of the SGA is to make sure that an organization's constitution goes by the university guidelines for organizational constitutions," said Mary Bullman, president of SGA.

In her letter of resignation, Tomlinson wrote, "I feel that the Senate has a

responsibility to be informed on issues... We were told to ignore what we know and go solely by the M5C constitution. I based my opinion not on their constitution, but on prior knowledge. Since interpretation of our constitution is not promoted and since we are discouraged from using prior knowledge, I do not feel that I can perform my duty as senator and feel the need to resign."

"We submitted the same constitution that had been approved last year," said Michael Sigmon, M5C president. "Some members of this SGA were really nit-picking, and they asked us to make changes. We did that and it passed."

"The first constitution they submitted wasn't well written," said Tomlinson. "I knew that it left out some of the things they did, and I also thought it could include some elements of hazing which is against university policy."

The purpose of the M5C is "to create a social organization that promote the ideals of brotherhood (sisterhood), social service, and commitment to the community among the student body of UNCA," according to Sigmon.

"The club functions as an alternative to Greek social organizations that may require more money for membership," said Roy Masters, a member since 1991. "We are the oldest campus organization at UNCA."

"Dues each semester run not more than \$50," said Michael Sigmon, president of M5C. "That is much less than a fraternity or a sorority."

"We volunteer time and service to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization in Asheville," said Masters. "We are also active in the Alumni phone-a-thon and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowl-a-Thon," said Masters.

This week the organization worked with the UNCA Development Office at

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M5C members engage in confrontation with members of women's soccer team

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Players from the UNCA women's soccer team reportedly were confronted by members of the Mud 500 Club when they attempted to paint a soccer ball and their jersey numbers on a rock located near the track, according to a member of the team.

According to the soccer players, the idea came from seeing a soccer ball painted on wood and displayed on a hillside at Tusculum College.

"We planned to paint the rock as a tribute to our last home game," said the player. "We were expecting a large turn-out of fans."

"Two members of M5C came down while we were painting it. They were really mad at first, but we talked to them and calmed them down," said the player.

After some discussion the soccer players thought they had negotiated

a deal to leave their painting on the rock until after the game the next day, according to the player.

"We were in the process of painting the rock when about six of the brothers came down and started yelling at us," said the player. "They were really angry and seemed to be drunk."

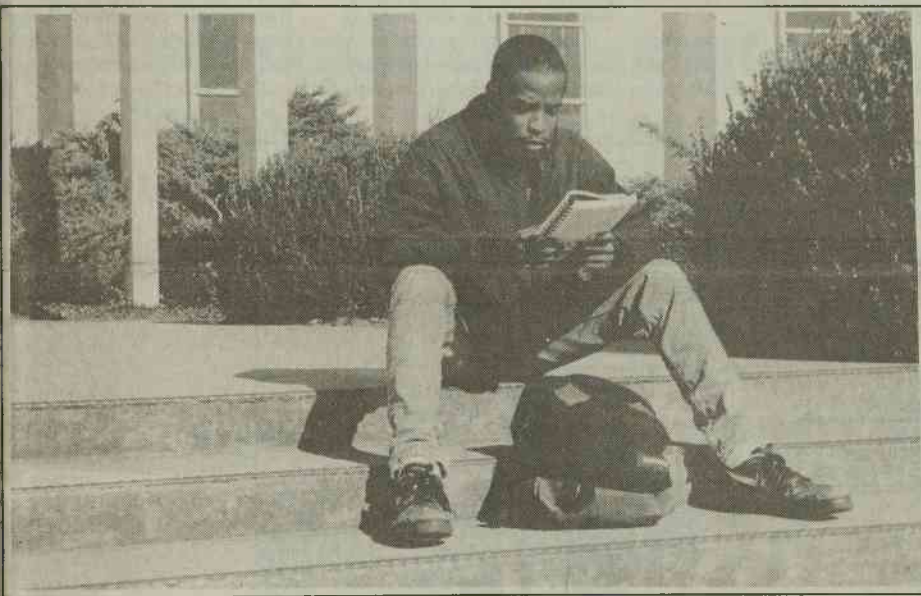
"In a way we felt threatened," she said. "We all left because we didn't know what they would do."

Michael Sigmon, vice president of M5C, confirmed that the soccer team painted over the rock on the evening of Oct. 22.

"A group did paint over the rock and the Mud approached them about it," said Roy Masters, a member of M5C.

"The rock is a traditional meeting place for the Mud and it is sort of an icon of the Mud on campus," said Masters.

"They basically painted over the rock and some words were exchanged," said Sigmon. "We repainted the rock that night."



Staff Photo By Stacy Whitworth

Hitting the books

A UNCA student spends time studying in front of the library.

Voters approve \$310 million bond

Kent Thompson
Staff Writer

On Nov. 2, North Carolina voters approved a \$310 million university improvement bond.

The money will be invested in North Carolina's 16-campus university, the nation's oldest state university system, and other university affiliated organizations.

UNCA will receive over \$5.4 million for a physical education building, and nearly \$4 million to begin the first phase of construction on a conference center.

"I think it will be great, and I am anxious for the projects to get started," said Eric Iovacchini, UNCA vice chancellor for student affairs.

The physical education building will connect to the existing Justice Gym, and will house 3 multi-purpose basketball courts, said Iovacchini.

"It's a facility that we desperately need, and it's a facility that will add a whole different dimension to campus life," Iovacchini said.

The facility will also house racquetball courts, a new weight room, classrooms, offices, a health and fitness testing lab, and an indoor running track that will be located above the basketball courts.

"The new facility will take some of the classroom and intramural pressure off of the one basketball court that we have now," Iovacchini said.

The bond money will cover the entire cost of the new building, but will not include the renovation of the old gymnasium.

"There is about another \$2 million worth of renovation we would like to do in old Justice Gym," Iovacchini said.

According to Arthur Foley, UNCA vice chancellor for financial affairs, construction of the physical education

building is scheduled to begin in the summer of 1994, and the projected completion date is fall 1996.

The bond money will only cover the initial phase of the conference center project, which is scheduled to begin construction in the summer of 1994. The projected completion date of phase 1 of the project is in the fall of 1995, Foley said.

In addition to a conference center, the facility will be used for university public-service activities, and will house the North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement.

The conference center will be located on Lookout Mountain, behind the UNCA campus, and phase 1 of the construction project will include things like utilities and road construction, Iovacchini said.

"The money will start the

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Weather Report

The forecast calls for a mild weekend with highs in the mid-60s on Friday and Saturday. Friday's low will be 44, Saturday's low will be 48.

Weather Report courtesy of the National Weather Service
UNCA Atmospheric Science Department offers updated forecasts through the 24 hour Weatherline...251-6435

Williams receives award

Suzanne Edney
Staff Writer

Nancy Williams, assistant director of housing and residence life, received the North Carolina State Employees Governor's Award for Excellence.

"It's wonderful. It's an honor to be the youngest recipient. One of the folks told me I was the youngest this year, maybe one of the youngest he could remember," she said.

Out of all state employees who are eligible, up to 10 are chosen. Nominations are considered at the agency level.

"I think one of the neatest things about the governor's award is that it came on the heels of such a difficult year for me," Williams said.

The agency makes a recommendation. This nomination joins others in a final pool.

After the committee looks over them, they discuss the contributions each candidate has made.

A written nomination is sent to a committee, and they discuss the contributions made by every nominee.

"There were some people who really made dramatic improvement in the quality of life in North Carolina. It's really neat to be in that class of folks," Williams said.

Williams is responsible for all parts of residence life.

She selects, supervises, and trains resident assistants and directors.

She also gives workshops.

"It doesn't feel like work. I think one of the things that makes me a dedicated employee is that I really love my job. It doesn't feel like 'Oh, I've been at the

factory all day," she said.

On a typical day she is in contact with at least 40 students.

"There's such a variety. I mean, it's never ever dull. It's a very high energy office, a lot of traffic," said Williams.

She solves problems, refers student to the counseling center, plans activities, and handles discipline.

"We're just a clearing house of every sort of issue in the world," she said.

Her motto is, "If it's important to students it's important to me," said Williams.

She emphasizes to the students, when in doubt call.

As an assistant director, she's on call all the time.

"They know that their feelings are important to us," she said.

"This past Saturday I had four calls before 8 a.m. in the morning. That was unusual because we had a trip going out," she said.

"I like most all our students. I especially like folks that are from this area, that's no secret. Anybody that knows me, knows I think they are a real neglected majority here on campus," said Williams.

She has been here for seven years. She is married and has a 3-year-old child.

Williams said she is very committed to nontraditional students and to single parents because she knows how hard it is to juggle all of her roles.

She has an undergraduate degree in psychology from Mars Hill, and a graduate degree in counseling from Western Carolina University.

She is working on her doctorate.

"This past year has been personally one of the most difficult years I've ever had," she said.



Staff Photo By Amy Eddins

Nancy Williams received the North Carolina State Employees Governor's Award for Excellence. Williams is the assistant director of housing.