

The Blue Banner

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." -- Eleanor Roosevelt

Volume 22, Number 19

The University of North Carolina at Asheville

Thurs., March 3, 1994



Staff Photo By Lat Ray

Members of Theta Chi and the African-American Student Association began their Feb. 24 meeting segregated from each other. By the end of the meeting, leaders of both organizations shook hands.

Theta Chi and AASA try to make amends

Teri Smith
Staff Writer

At a meeting of the African-American Student Association (AASA) last week, members of the Theta Chi fraternity joined hands with members of AASA during an opening ceremony in which all present paid homage to their ancestors.

The 10 members of Theta Chi attended the meeting to discuss the new direction they want to take with their organization, and asked members of AASA to begin working with them to mend the hurts of the past.

"Basically, this year, coming in, we want to have a whole different attitude toward the school, the administration, and everything," said Tommy Graham, president of Theta Chi. "We just want to try to forget everything that happened, and just try to make whatever it was better the best way we can."

"I think feelings have been hurt, and the only way I know to make things better is to work at it," Graham told members of AASA.

Theta Chi officers told those present at the meeting that they are working to

rebuild their organization through changes in membership and leadership. They asked AASA if they were moving in a direction that is good for both groups.

"When I came into this organization, there was basically one type of person in there, very conservative, rather Old South-type person," said Benjamin Leonard, secretary of Theta Chi, when asked what kind of changes the fraternity is making. "That's not to say that was a bad person, but he was bad for the fraternity because it was the only type person we were getting in."

"He was poison to us because that was the only way we were thinking," said Leonard. "We are very honestly, and I think successfully, trying to appeal to a different type of people."

"We're getting in athletes. We're getting in, I think, more liberal types of people. People who are more politically active on campus," he said. "It's a fundamental change from what we have been attracting."

In 1992, the Theta Chi fraternity was placed on probation after a racial incident occurred at an off-campus basketball game, according to Eric V. Iovacchini, vice chancellor for student affairs.

"The fraternity took voluntary responsibility for the incident as a group," said Iovacchini. "Roughly a year later, the university felt that the fraternity was in violation of that probation, so the group was suspended from operations on campus for a minimum of five years."

According to Iovacchini, the suspension means that Theta Chi fraternity cannot use university facilities, cannot receive funding from the university and cannot advertise through the usual channels.

"The university does not recognize them as a student organization," he said.

One member of AASA asked fraternity members how they felt about being thought of as an "outlaw group." "I totally reject that," said Leonard. "We are working very hard to get away from that image. The leadership from last year thought that was a good thing, but we believe that's a very negative thing."

"We are trying to get away from that through new membership and new leadership," he said. "We are trying to

See "Organization," page 8

Career Center holds last session of job strategies workshops

Alex Eastwood
Staff Writer

The Career Center at UNCA offered the second part in its four-part series of career strategies workshops last week. The workshops will continue for five more weeks, meeting every Tuesday at 3 p.m.

In four parts, covering a total of nine weeks, students learn skills in resume writing, job search strategies, interviewing, and career option exploration. The series is designed to be interactive, prompting discussion and suggestions between participants.

Last week's seminar was the second section on job search strategies. At the first section, students were encouraged to follow specific techniques for finding employment in an increasingly competitive job market.

In the second section, a brainstorming session between students and counselors paired techniques with specific short- and long-term goals defined by the students.

Those who attended worked interactively, discussing skills and goals. They offered advice, added focus, and the occasional contact in the form of a friend or relative.

Students were encouraged to talk at length about how they plan to negotiate the job market, and the counselors provided the job market realities.

"The reality of the situation is that jobs are extremely scarce," said Dale

Wachowiak, Career Center director.

But, with the right strategies, chances for employment can be greatly increased, he said.

Last week's section on job search strategies built on a job search action plan provided the week before. The counselors gave guidelines for a referral campaign as an instrumental part of the action plan.

The action plan is divided into weekly and monthly goals intended to maximize the effectiveness of the job search.

After defining a geographical area in which to conduct a search, students develop a timeline of actions to be taken, such as cold calling, contacting employment agencies, referral campaigning, and volunteering. Then these are prioritized according to an individual preference and are strictly adhered to.

In the meantime, students are told to amend and perfect their resumes and practice skills such as interviewing technique.

Of all these strategies, the referral campaign can be constantly pursued, said Ingrid Peterson, assistant director. Referral campaigning is a method of networking a student's name, skills, and job interests to those who would provide contacts for employment.

Students make a sizable list of relatives, peers, faculty, employers, important acquaintances, and professional groups through whom they can network for contacts and possible employment. Those within the network keep many notes, like full name, phone number, employer, and position.

An idea suggested by a participant was to have business cards printed to distribute to new contacts, if only providing a name, address, and telephone

number. Additional information might include degree status, job interest, or unique skills.

Part of the referral campaign involves using a technique called informational interviewing. Here, a student makes appointments with professionals in related fields to interview for advice and information on the job market.

As interviewers, students might ask for resume advice, conduct career research, or determine field trends. These "reverse" interviews can also reveal the duties of a specific job in that field and provide additional contacts.

Counselors at the Career Center warn students to avoid common job hunting errors. The most frequent mistakes, according to counselors, are poor interviewing preparation and technique.

It is essential, said Wachowiak, to do at least a bit of background research on any company approached for employment. Being prepared with enough background information can lessen "interview anxiety," said one participant.

Other common errors include poor appearance, like inappropriate dress, a weak resume, and a negative attitude about past employers.

At the end of the job search section was advice on what to do if a job cannot be secured in a reasonable amount of time. Counselors suggest additional education, moving to another area, or taking any job available for the time being.

Students can also list with a temporary agency, or provide salary-free assistance in exchange for experience and resume building. Volunteers may receive special consideration when job openings at that establishment come available.

Inside	
Opinions	2
Meeting a success	
Susan Hanley Lane	
Perspectives	3
Sinful act	
State facts	
Features	4
Photo exhibit	
Cumette Maher preview	
Sports	5
Women's basketball wins	
Track meet	
Comics	6
Falstaff	
Chaos	
Announcements	7
Job opportunities	
Events	

Organizations get involved in community service program

Robin Burris
Staff Writer

UNCA's student organizations are getting involved with the university's community service program, which is a division of the Office of Student Development.

"There's been a lot of response from organizations, more than just individual students, such as sororities and different groups on campus, but I haven't gotten that much feedback from individuals at all, but I'd like to see more of that," said Shalanda Few, community service coordinator.

"I'm looking forward to having a volunteer day soon. I have a lot of applications for volunteers, and I would love for someone to stop by and fill them out," said Few. "I have a lot of programs. I just would really be happy if some people would come by and fill them out."

One of the organizations that has been involved with community service, has been the Black Women's Coalition for Improvement (BWCI). "We decided that we didn't want to be just a regular organization. We decided it would be best to be community oriented," said Lisa Williams, member of the BWCI.

The group they have been working with has been Project Headstart said Williams. They have had fund-raisers to help the organization said Williams. Williams said that they help about 100 children.

Other organizations are also in need of volunteers. Big Brothers/Big Sisters is one of them.

"We basically have a friendship program," said Robin Myer, from the Big Brothers / Big Sisters program. The group works with kids from six to 14 years old, who are usually from single parent households, said Myer.

"We ask volunteers to get into a one-to-one relationship with the child, spend anywhere from two to four hours a week with the child, doing simple, sharing-type activities. Helping them with their homework, doing a science project together, fixing their bicycle, going fishing, things where they share their friendship more than big money entertainment type events," said Myer.

Myer said that the children mainly need attention. "When you have someone coming over that's coming over just to see them, it's very powerful for the children. It helps improve their self-esteem also by having someone develop their problem-solving abilities. As they face new challenges, they can kind of draw on the things they've learned from their big brother and big sister, and overcome those challenges in a positive sense, rather than a negative one," said Myer.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters need people who can work with a child for one year. Big Brothers/Big Sisters will provide training.

At this moment, there are not enough volunteers for all of the children that requested a big brother or big sister said Myer. There are 90 kids on a waiting list said Myer. "These are

See "Community service," page 8



Staff Photo By Lat Ray

Patty Watkins cleans up the water in Carmichael Hall.

Water filter break causes building to flood

Lizzy Pressley
News Editor

Parts of Carmichael Hall were flooded Friday afternoon after a water filter in The Blue Banner office broke releasing about 2,000 gallons of water.

Jim Efland, Physical Plant director, said the break was caused by a bad pressure reducing valve that caused the system to overload and break the casing on the water filter.

"What happened was that the pressure reducing valve apparently over the years went bad, and we hit

abnormally high pressure or something. Since that went bad, it overloaded and found the weakest point in the water system in the building, which happened to be that filter housing," said Efland.

The Physical Plant received a call about the incident on Friday afternoon. Paul Braese, building systems engineer, went to investigate.

Efland said about 25 percent of the building was flooded. The water level varied throughout that part of the building. Efland said there were two to three inches of water in the newspaper office, and about one inch of water

downstairs. "Fortunately somebody caught it, and we managed to shut the water off before it flooded the whole building," Efland said.

Physical Plant workers had already gone home by the time the incident was reported. Braese and three members of the Physical Plant housekeeping staff worked to remove the water from the building.

"For an emergency situation, I thought the group pulled together and did well," Efland said.

A new pressure reducing valve was installed on Tuesday.

Thank You

The Blue Banner would like to thank those Physical Plant workers who cleaned up after Friday's accident: Patty Watkins, John Lewis, Curt Salter, and Paul Braese.

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

Friday	Saturday
Hi 55 Lo 32	Hi 57 Lo 32