

The Blue Banner

"The best way to secure future happiness is to be as happy as is rightfully possible today." - Charles W. Eliot

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Students and faculty propose list of alternatives to Botanical Gardens lot Wilson says many parking lots are available, but students refuse to use them

Alex Eastwood
Staff Writer

After weeks of petitions and discussion about the location of additional parking on the UNCA campus, members of Student Government Association (SGA) and Gary Miller, director of environmental studies, have devised a list of alternatives to the proposed lot slated to border the Botanical Gardens. The list was delivered to Interim Chancellor Larry Wilson last week at a campus and community meeting in an attempt to preserve the integrity of the gardens, said Miller.

"I am open to suggestions, any suggestions," said Wilson. "My main concern is to provide safe and reasonably proximate parking for students and members of the community who attend university events."

Wilson again mentioned the lot beside the church on Edgewood Road as an example of unused parking space that students know about, but seem to refuse to utilize. A student reported that he had never heard about the lot, and had been here for four years. Wilson assured the group at the meeting that the location of that lot had been heavily advertised.

The current campus map distributed by the administration indicates all the available parking spaces on campus. The lot Wilson described is clearly marked, however, as faculty/staff parking.

Miller made a presentation of the list of this and other alternatives at last week's SGA meeting. "I'm trained as a botanist, and I was trained as an

ecologist at Chapel Hill," he said.

"The Botanical Gardens is enormously rich in its biological botanical heritage, and the idea that we would be willing to invade, that we would even consider allowing for a reduction or incursion, or the addition of runoff, the addition of eroded materials, the addition of oil slicks, litter, of raising the decibel level of noise to ruin the aesthetic experience, I find outrageous, not only as a biologist, but as a member of this faculty and a member of the citizenry of these parts of the state," said Miller.

Miller then proceeded to offer options that were less environmentally destructive than the proposed lot in the gardens. Many would have much less impact on the environment, he said, and some would represent no negative impact on the environment. Wilson denied, however, being open to the suggestion of banning freshman parking.

"We certainly could ban freshman parking," said Miller. "I had the opportunity to speak with a group of prospective freshman, and I asked them if UNCA banning freshman parking would alter their decision to attend this university."

"Not a single student said that banning parking would have any effect on their decision to attend any university," he said. "There obviously have to be exceptions for those who work and for handicapped students."

"The administration believes we will lose freshman," said Miller. "There are literally hundreds of universities that ban freshman parking, and they're not losing freshman. They're not going under."

"There has been no data acquired at UNCA on this subject," he said. "I say, let's try it for a year and see what happens, and then we can make a decision based on scientific evidence."

Miller had other alternatives, although he admits banning freshman parking is his preferred option. "There are also a number of other areas that can be utilized for parking," he said.

"We could pave the lot down on Division Street that is now a gravel lot," he said. "We could commit the new dorm residents and Physical Plant personnel to park there, thereby opening the area behind the Physical Plant for main campus parking."

Miller also suggested building a third tier onto the lot beside Charmichael Hall and Rhodes Hall. "That lot is already two-tiered," he said. "It could easily be converted into three by building a lot level with the top lot and over the lower lot. We could put well in excess of 100 students there."

Wilson's favorite option, he says, is to build a parking deck over the lot behind Highsmith Center. Miller agrees that parking decks are an important consideration. "We have the highest athletic fee charges in the entire University of North Carolina system at \$280 a year," said Miller. "I'm not exactly sure it's worth that."

"I suggest we reduce the fees by \$40, and apply it to parking fees, and build a modified deck. Wilson had countered the idea of parking decks at earlier meetings by claiming that some student might not want to pay the excess fees," Miller said. He also suggested spreading classes out more throughout the day, so that most classes don't fall between 9 a.m. and noon. This has been requested of professors before, he said, with little response in action.

"All I know is that we have to prevent the destruction of one of the most valuable resources we have," said Miller. "In my mind, we are dealing with botanical libraries down there [in the gardens]," he said.

Physics major awarded NASA scholarship

Robin Burris
Staff Writer

A UNCA physics major will be participating in the NASA Goddard summer program. Junior Deborah Hart will attend the Summer Institute on Atmospheric and Hydrospheric Sciences this summer at the University of Maryland.

Hart said that 170 people applied, but only 14 were chosen. "I was really shocked to get this internship. I kind of applied to it just to practice writing my resume," said Hart.

"I wanted to go, but I didn't really think I was going to. I'd figured, well, I don't have enough experience. I haven't had enough physics courses. I really didn't think I had a chance," said Hart.

Hart said she found out about the program through the Society of Physics Students. Hart said that she believes many students don't apply for scholarships and internships because

they may feel they do not have a chance.

Hart also said she hoped more students will apply. The programs can help them decide if this particular field is for them, according to Hart.

Hart said that there will be lectures given by NASA Goddard scientists. At the end of the first week, the program director will "try to assign you, more or less, according to your interests. Whichever one of the scientists is doing research that seems the most interesting to you," said Hart. She said she will be mainly assisting the scientists with their work.

"It's a real good chance for me to see what people do and to actually get your hands in there and do it yourself, so you can get some idea of what you'd really like to do," said Hart. At the end of the program, Hart said she will prepare a presentation based on her work.

Hart said she became interested in physics after working with electronics in the Navy. She was in the Navy for six years. She said she came to UNCA as a psychology major, but after taking an astronomy course, she decided to

major in physics.

"It just seemed like the thing to do," said Hart.

"I was just really attracted to it, and my love for electronics helped," said Hart.

Hart said UNCA's physics department is wonderful.

"They've been very inspirational. They're all really helpful. They make everything understandable. They don't intimidate anybody," said Hart. For three semesters Hart has worked as a lab assistant for the physics of light and the physics of sound classes. Hart said she's enjoying her work.

"They're really fun classes. It's all demonstration, so that's really great," said Hart.

Hart also attended a women in science conference April 7 and 8. The conference was held in Nashville, Tenn.

"It was kind of fun to talk to that many women in science in one room because we don't very often get to do that. I think, right now, in the physics department, we have two women physics majors," said Hart.

Planting New Life



Staff Photo By Annemarie Riley

Students helped perform outdoor projects as part of GreenFest on April 20-21.

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Hi 80 Lo 57 Hi 76 Lo 53

Weather Report courtesy of the National Weather Service

UNCA Atmospheric Science Department offers updated forecasts through the 24 hour Weatherline... 251-6435

Students seeking summer employment should begin looking for jobs soon

Kevin Ellis
Staff Writer

With school ending in just a matter of weeks, now is the time for students to start looking for summer jobs, says Jim McMahan, the Asheville office manager of the North Carolina Employment Security Commission. Wait too long, and the job market traditionally tightens, meaning more people are seeking fewer jobs.

"It's going to be important for students to get out early because later in the summer is when manufacturing plants traditionally slow down," McMahan said. "If they wait until June they may find themselves competing against experienced workers."

With an unemployment rate of 3.6 percent for Buncombe County in March, employers are finding a scarce available work force, McMahan said. A low unemployment rate traditionally benefits job-seekers since fewer people are actively out looking for available jobs. Analysts with the Employment Security Commission consider 5 percent unemployment a near full-employment situation.

"Historically, the best opportunities for students have been in the tourism-related industry, and, in this area, that gives students a lot of potential

employment opportunities," McMahan said. Students will likely be able to find employment in restaurants, motels or hotels, or working at landscaping at resorts and golf courses, he added.

The problem for some will be the pay. Service-related jobs usually start at around \$5 per hour, McMahan said.

"You're really fortunate if you can land something that pays well," he said. "Construction work should be available in this area, and it pays a little better, but a lot of people don't want to work construction because of the heavy work."

For some college students, a summer job means gaining work experience in their academic field. Unfortunately, those jobs are few and far between for most, McMahan said.

"You almost need to have some inside connection to get those because they're very rare," McMahan said. "We have little white-collar work available. We just don't see a lot of those."

The lack of white-collar, professional jobs also means trouble for graduates looking to stay in the Asheville area, McMahan said.

"Graduates will have a pretty tough time competing," McMahan said. "With management down-sizing, there are a lot more white collar workers out there looking for jobs. We're really feeling it locally, although it's a problem across the

Speaker compares Holocaust to child abuse

Rebekah Stivers
Staff Writer

The Center for Jewish Studies hosted a speaker from Emory University Monday in the Owen Conference Center. The talk, which was given by Judaic scholar David Blumenthal, was titled "The Angry Psalms," and was the Center's 1994 Phyllis Freed Sollod Memorial Lecture.

Blumenthal, who has done extensive research on the Jewish tradition and culture surrounding the Holocaust, spoke on his work, relating survivors of child abuse to survivors of the Holocaust. He reviewed material from several sources, but focused primarily on his most recent book, *Facing the Abusing God: A Theology of Protest*.

"We are tormented by the sheer 'facticity' of the Holocaust," said Blumenthal. "We have been sickened by the tragedy of the Holocaust—by the sheer enormity, by the hatred, by the anti-Semitism of it. We have been oppressed by the cruelty. We have been oppressed by the indifference," he said. He said that, though it has been 50 years since the Holocaust, the Jewish Community is only now beginning to address "some of the real spiritual questions" stemming from the tragedy.

He said there have been three generations of Jews "and serious Christians" who have been "haunted" by the Holocaust. This includes those who have survived it, those who have remembered it, and those who have family and friends who were involved.

"If we have been victims of the Holocaust... who was the perpetrator?" he said. "It is a very tough thought to think." He said this is an important question challenged by Jews—"Where was God?" Blumenthal said his recent book re-evaluates the Psalms in "our post-Holocaust reality."

Blumenthal suggested three options for explaining where God was at the time of the Holocaust. He said that either God was punishing the Jews, or that He was not part of the Holocaust, that it was human choice and action which brought about the occurrence of this event. Blumenthal said he did not accept either of these explanations, since the tradition of Jews involves seeing God as a continuing active part of their history.

"[The Holocaust] was surely human fault as well," he said, "but it was not only our fault."

Blumenthal said a third option was to say that God "was hiding God's face" from Jewish history at this time. He said this question must be answered both

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