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Feb 16,
1995

The Blue

BANNER

"We're not involved in censorship. We have different values than the ones on MTV. Ours are higher." --Jim Broich, mayor of Sleepy Eye, Minn., 1994

WEATHER: Variable cloudiness with showers possible on Saturday. Mostly sunny and cooler on Sunday. Highs in upper 40s. Lows in lower 30s.

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STUDENTS FEEL SNOWED UNDER BY UNIVERSITY POLICY

Andrea Lawson
Staff Writer

Last week's winter weather left many students angry and confused regarding UNCA's snow policy.

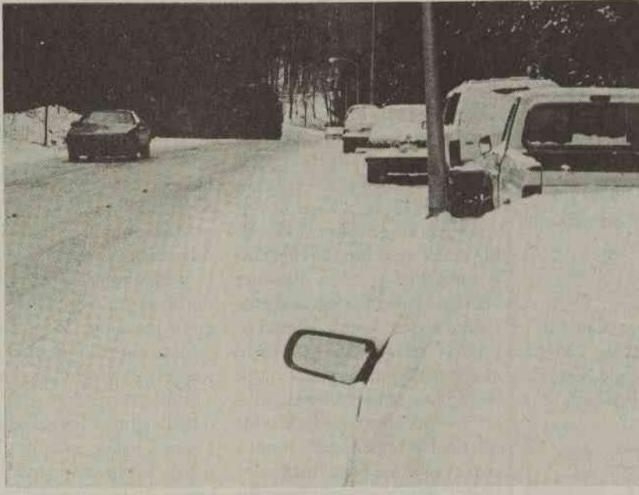
"It's dangerous to drive, especially for a lot of commuter students [who] come from Black Mountain and places like that, where they live on secondary roads that aren't going to be cleared," said Allison Landers, a major in atmospheric sciences. "If the [school] buses aren't running, then the school should be closed, because commuters aren't going to be able to get by any easier."

Larry Wilson, vice chancellor for academic affairs, is the person responsible for deciding if the school will close due to bad weather.

"It's not a lightly-made decision, I can assure you," said Wilson. "My basic premise is that we're open every day and only close when we have adverse conditions, and I mean really serious conditions."

Wilson said that he determines whether or not the university will be open by driving on local roads to see if they are safe for student travel.

"What I do is get up very early in the morning and drive around on a route I have," said Wilson. "It's about 30 miles or so of city streets, county roads, and interstate. Contrary to what people think, I don't have a four-wheel drive vehicle. I drive a 1982 Pontiac. I figure if it's safe for that car, it's safe for other vehicles."



An unexpected snowfall caught students off guard last week and left some cars stranded on campus.
Photo by Lat Ray

Wilson said that all state employees are required to come to school on snow days, unless the state offices in Raleigh close. However, Wilson said that students who feel that roads are too dangerous in their areas should call the department office and explain their situation. According to Wilson, university policy includes a forgiveness policy to excuse those absences.

"We don't want to threaten either students or faculty," said Wilson. "We have some students who come from some pretty hard-to-get places. You're always worried if people are going to be in a dangerous situation. That's when they have to utilize some of their own judgment. Students should always call in to the department and let the secretary know that their judgment for their particular location is that it is too dangerous. Faculty members should all know that it's supposed to be an excused absence."

Last Tuesday night's bad weather caught many

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Open Door Brings Students Face To Face With Chancellor

Chris Small
Staff Writer

UNCA Chancellor Patsy B. Reed will begin offering open office hours in March for any students interested in meeting with her to exchange ideas. The suggestion for this idea came from the UNCA Student Government Association (SGA), and was agreed upon by Reed.

"I'm very happy to respond to the request for open office hours," said Reed.

Reed said that she has always had an open door policy for students, and she will have no set agenda for her meetings with students.

"I would assume that there will be concerns, that there will be suggestions and ideas for activities or changes," said Reed. "It's an open agenda. I have no agenda. It's just to listen to other people."

Some students have specific concerns they want addressed.

"I would like to sit down and ask her [the chancellor] why our professors have been instructed to only give a certain number of A's, B's, C's, etc.," said Amy Cannon, a mass communication major.

Cannon said she has had a Humanities professor tell the class that if he did not give a certain number of C's, he could lose his tenure.

"We, as students, have been told this is because our grades are too high as a student body, so I would like to ask her why we are being punished for being good students," said Cannon.

Another student, Angela Mahdi, a political science major, already schedules appointments with Reed.

"I would definitely use it [the open office hours] and take advantage of her willingness to listen," said Mahdi.

"People in powerful positions, in general, are not always willing to listen to the people who put them there."

There is a state-wide movement through the student organizations to be sure that there are good communications with the chancellors, said Reed.

The State Association of Student Governments is an organization made up of representatives from all 16 universities in the North Carolina University system. Its purpose is to try to represent the problems of students in all the schools.

Denise Tomlinson, executive for external relations and a vice president for SGA, returned from the state meeting in Raleigh, where she presented her idea for an open office hour policy.

Tomlinson said that a round table discussion, within the SGA, led to talking about a resolution to have one office hour a week for students to meet

with the chancellor.

"I wanted to make it easier for students to discuss their concerns with the chancellor," said Tomlinson.

"Chancellor Reed was completely open and optimistic about the idea, and she set up times right away."

Reed hopes the exchange of ideas and personal contact with students will increase her awareness of students' needs.

"I think it's important that a university be a place where people are comfortable being with one another," said Reed.

"Being a liberal arts institution, and a public institution, we need to be able to exchange ideas readily. Certainly, that exists across campus in many places and perhaps, this policy is just an extension of that."

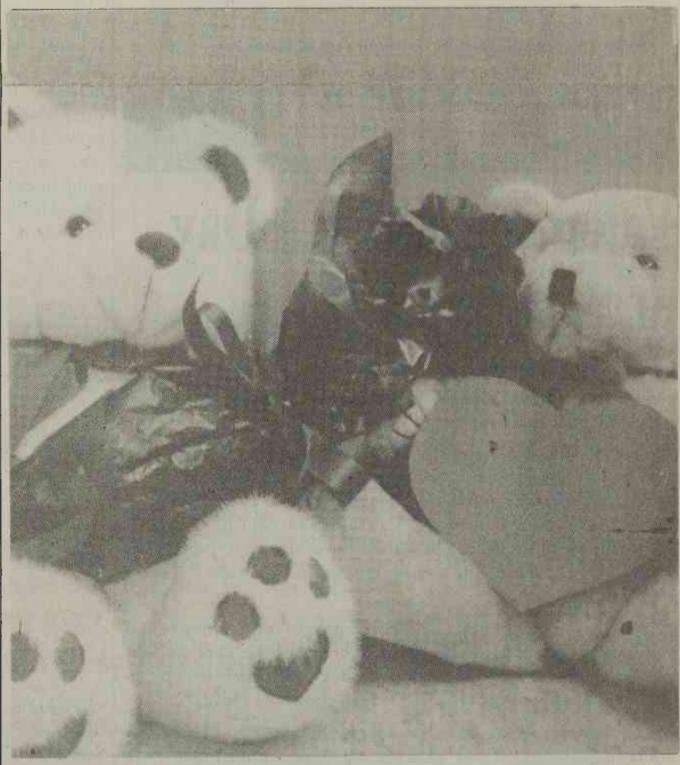
Except for times when Reed is out of town or unavailable, she thinks that this program will be ongoing.

"My interest in students is ongoing, so I suspect that my interest in talking with students will be ongoing," said Reed.

"Typically, what I will do if a problem is brought to me, will be to try to involve those close to the problem to work it out," said Reed.

"If there is something that is a major concern, and it can be worked out otherwise, I would encourage students to do that, but I would be very happy to talk with them too, if they need to."

Bears offered as gifts.



Two rare Scottish Highland Teddy Bears were offered as gifts on St. Valentine's Day. The two bears were abducted from an Three Stooges film festival and sold into slavery.

Photo by Christy King

Proposed Student Surveys Give University's "Customers" A Voice

Will Rothschild
Staff Writer

Spurred by student complaints, a UNCA student government officer is leading an effort to develop a system of student surveys of university offices.

Denise Tomlinson, the executive for external relations for the UNCA Student Government Association [SGA], said the survey system, which would give students a chance to critique every university student-service office, could be in place as early as next fall.

"What this does is gives the student the opportunity to complete a survey on any department that is a student-service department, like Financial Aid, Business, Health Services, Counseling Center, and the Career Center," Tomlinson, a junior, said.

Tomlinson, who is also director of public relations for the state association of student governments, said she originally heard of a similar pro-

gram from a UNC-Greensboro (UNCG) student government officer. A survey system is already in place at UNCG.

Tomlinson also said she hopes the system, when in place, will give the average, everyday UNCA student a louder voice.

"I really thought we could use this [survey system] after all the complaints I'd heard about financial aid," Tomlinson said. "I have heard similar stories from students across the state at different schools."

"At ECU (East Carolina University), the student government president walked into the business office one day and asked if he could use the phone, and they said, 'No, students aren't allowed to use the phone.' But, another lady walked in and knew who he was and told him that he could use the phone."

"What happens to the normal, everyday students without a title, who are just as, if not more, important? They should have a voice and be able

to say they were not treated well."

Tomlinson said Chancellor Patsy Reed supports the idea.

"Chancellor Reed is all for it," Tomlinson said. "Like Chancellor Reed has said, she wants this school to be customer-friendly. In essence, we [the students] are the customers, and if we are not happy, we need to do something about it. If students see a problem, we have to be able to get it fixed."

Reed said in a December interview the administration would be looking for ways UNCA can be a "more customer-friendly campus," as the new master plan is developed in 1995.

Tomlinson said academic advisors could also be one of the student services critiqued in this program.

Tomlinson, a Southern Guilford High graduate, also made it clear that the program would not be intended for the sole purpose of student complaints.

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