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## The Blue

# BANNER

"Hope is the thing with feathers, that perches in the soul, and sings the tune without the words, and never stops at all."  
-Emily Dickinson

WEATHER: Cloudy this weekend with a chance of rain. Highs in the 50s. Lows in the 30s.

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## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS CUTS FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL AID FUNDING

**Will Rothschild**  
Staff Writer

A high-ranking Republican staff member close to the U.S. House of Representatives Budget Committee said Congress will consider eliminating the interest exemption for college students on education-based loans, but added other financial-aid programs are, for now, safe.

"We are not talking about any reduction in student loans, or any elimination in student eligibility for loans," this source, who asked not to be identified by name, said. "All we are talking about, in a very, very preliminary stage, is considering having students pay interest on their loans from day one, like all other Americans who take out loans do."

Currently, college students are not charged interest on subsidized Stafford Loans and Perkins Loans while in school. The federal government picks up

the in-school interest tab, and students are charged interest on school loans only after they graduate or leave school.

"This provision is, again, in the very preliminary stages," the source said. "There have been no hearings on the matter, no votes and nothing has been formally introduced. This is still in the idea stage, and the only thing even being looked at is the student-interest exemption."

"It is not at all on the table to get rid of programs like work-study, the federal Stafford loan, or the Pell Grant. Our focus right now is the loan-exemption issue."

Jack Cox, press secretary for U.S. Rep. Charles Taylor, said his office has not seen anything formal yet. Taylor is the representative for the 11th Congressional District, where UNCA is located.

"The entire student-aid package is still in the hearing stage," Cox said. "Nothing's been turned in for legislation. It is still in the Budget Committee, and we've been referring all the letters we've

gotten on this matter to Representative John Kasich."

Kasich, a Republican from Ohio, is the head of the House Budget Committee.

"Taylor will not comment, and I will not comment for him until we actually see a proposal because things change every day," Cox said. "We haven't even talked about the student loan issue yet. As soon as it comes up, we'll focus on it and get a position at that time. Right now, it's still in the hearing stage, which means we're talking to people about it."

The House Budget Committee

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Carolyn McElrath, director of financial aid, says she hopes students will be proactive and write to their representatives about proposed budget cuts that may affect financial aid funding. McElrath is pictured above with Mario Joyner, a senior political science major. Photo by Tanya Melton

## Races For Student Government Offices Heat Up; Elections Next Week

### Four in hunt for President and Vice President positions

**Andrea Lawson**  
Staff Writer

Four students are running for the presidential and vice presidential offices of the Student Government Association (SGA). Matthew Guinn and Denise Tomlinson are running for the office of president. Vice presidential candidates are Beth Daniels and Dhaval "Doc" Patel.

Guinn is a sophomore majoring in chemical engineering. He has participated in SGA as a freshman and sophomore senator, and is the head of the legislative committee. Tomlinson is a junior management major who has had experience in high school, campus and state government. She is currently the executive for external relations in the executive cabinet.

"I'd like to reorganize a little bit," said Tomlinson. "I think that one of the problems is that people don't know where to go if they have a question or who to go to."

"There are some things within SGA that need to be fixed," said Guinn. "I think that the legislative and executive branches need to be able to work to-



SGA candidates: (bottom l to r) Beth Daniels, Dhaval (Doc) Patel, and Denise Tomlinson (top l to r) Adrian Tatum, Mark Dann, Matthew Guinn, and Jeffrey Spence. Not pictured: Roger Keever and Robbie Combs. Photo by Christy King

gether better. Since I've spent the last two years in the legislative branch, I'd be more sympathetic to their needs. I think we could unify the government more."

Tomlinson said that she hopes to rename offices in the executive cabinet to enable students to get answers to their concerns more efficiently. She also hopes to introduce a plan for student-quality services, in which students fill out surveys on all student-service offices to evaluate their effectiveness in dealing with the students.

Guinn said he plans to concentrate on UNCA's participation in the North Carolina Association of Student Governments (ASG), as well as the possibility of a break time during exam week.

"We're currently working on a reading day in the middle of exams, but I'd rather see maybe two or three days before exams given, so that everybody can prepare," Guinn said.

According to Guinn, another problem

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### No competition for senate seats; campaign not issue-driven

**Christin Hall**  
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) will hold elections next Tuesday and Wednesday. Students can vote in the Highsmith Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m., in Karpen Hall from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and in Rhoades Hall from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Because only five people have officially announced their candidacy for the more than twelve senate seats that need to be filled, the election is not producing an issues-centered race, according to senate candidates.

"When it comes down to three people running for senior senator and there's only three slots, there's no real competition, so you fail to see the issues brought up," said Mark Dann, a senior senator who is running for re-election.

Like Dann, the two other candidates running for senior senator positions also have prior experience with SGA.

Robbie Combs, a political science major, currently holds the position of office manager and was elections commissioner last year. Roger Keever is

presently a junior senator.

Dann, who is majoring in psychology and political science, said he would like the race to be more issues-oriented, despite the small number of people running. He said talking about issues is virtually the only way to differentiate the candidates from one another.

"There's not much to divide the candidates, because the candidates have worked with each other for so long, and there are so few candidates," said Dann. "I think the candidates need to get out and talk to the students more. The issues need to be talked about."

Dann said he feels that a matter of particular importance is that SGA has not done a very good job of representing the student body in the past.

"One of my biggest concerns is student government's representation of the students," said Dann.

"I think student government has failed in the past, drastically sometimes, to represent the students or allow the students to feel like they have a place to go with concerns," he said.

Combs also said he thinks student government could do more for the students. He said that in previous years SGA has made such contributions as getting basketball goals put up behind Highrise and getting benches put in at

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## Visiting Professor Says UNCA Students Don't Fit Typical Stereotypes

**Todd Hagans**  
Staff Writer

UNCA's Belk Professor in the Humanities said UNCA's Humanities program is very strong, and she agrees with the requirement that students must take four semesters of Humanities to graduate from UNCA.

"I think the Humanities program here [at UNCA] is spectacular," said Carole Levin. "I think it is so important [for students to take four semesters of Humanities] because I think with everyone's major, this is a way of helping a person understand about [his or her] own life."

Levin also said the Humanities program teaches about different cultural backgrounds, and she was glad to see faculty from different academic departments teaching Humanities classes.

According to Levin, the stereotypes of students being lazy and uncaring does not apply to most UNCA students.

"The students here [at UNCA] are great," said Carole Levin. "I hate those stereotypes because they are just wrong. My own feeling as a teacher, if one presents material in a way that is really interesting, and has high expectations of the students to do the work, they'll do it."

Levin said that her position as the Belk Professor in the Humanities this semester allows her to work with the faculty that teach Humanities 214, and that she teaches an undergraduate class called "Saints, Witches, and Madwomen."

Levin said the class looks at how women throughout history in both European and American history were labeled as witches or as being mad. Levin said the Salem Witch Trials are studied in the class. Levin said the Salem Witch Trials are important because they happened in the United States, and we can learn about the people accused of practicing witchcraft in Salem.

Levin said she designed the class herself, and that she teaches the class regularly at the State Univer-

sity of New York at New Paltz, where she is a professor.

According to Levin, she is leading faculty seminars for the professors of Humanities 214, and she is also leading seminars related to women's studies.

Levin also said she is giving several public lectures this semester and the next lecture is March 7. The lecture is for Women's History Month, and is related to Queen Elizabeth I of England and Shakespeare.

Levin will also give a lecture on March 28 titled, "Hath not a Jew Hands: Jews in the Renaissance and 'The Merchant of Venice'." Both lectures will be held in the Owen Conference Center, and will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Levin said she is interested in history, especially history that involves Queen Elizabeth I of England, and that she has traveled to England to do research.

Levin said she has a double major in English and history, and received her masters degree and Ph.D.

from Tufts University in Boston. She taught as a graduate student, and she has taught in Arizona, Wisconsin, Iowa, and New York.

Levin said she visited Asheville about five years ago to present a lecture for Women's History Month. She said she saw an advertisement in the "Chronicle for Higher Education" for the Belk Professor in the Humanities position, and applied. After an interview last semester, she was offered the position.

The position of Belk Professor in the Humanities was created through an endowment from Irwin Belk, founder of Belk Department Stores, according to Levin. "I feel really privileged to be here this semester," said Levin.

According to Levin, because she is a visiting professor, she lives in the guest apartment of UNCA's South Ridge Residence Hall. She said she enjoys living on campus. "It is really convenient for me because I'm right on campus, and the apartment is lovely," she said.