

The Blue BANNER

Volume 24, Number 21

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

March 21, 1996



Pencil GRE reinstated 10

Tomato Rumba lacks spice 4

Bulldogs break even in double header 6

Review of Dar Williams. Page 4

Coach files personnel grievance against head of athletics

Jennifer Thurston
Staff Writer

The UNCA head women's basketball coach has filed a personnel grievance against the head of the athletics department.

According to a story published in the *Asheville Citizen-Times* yesterday, Ray Ingram, the coach, charged Tom Hunnicutt, director of athletics with harassment, although the kind of harassment was not specified.

Neither Ingram nor Hunnicutt would elaborate on the nature of the complaint when asked to comment.

"I'd really rather let (the grievance) run its course first," said Ingram. "Anything I say is going to affect how people view it. After it's over, I'd be glad to talk, but I don't want to make it a big yelling, screaming match. It's just a normal personnel grievance."

"At this time, I can't (comment)," said Hunnicutt. "It's a personnel matter. When it gets resolved it will be appropriate to make some comment, but (not) at this time."

According to the UNCA Faculty Handbook, a faculty grievance committee is responsible for conducting an initial screening when grievances are filed. The committee then decides whether the grievance requires a formal hearing or whether it can be resolved in mediation. A hearing must be held within 40 days of the initial complaint.

The grievance committee reports to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Eric Iovacchini. He would not comment on the complaint and referred the matter to the Director of Human Resources and UNCA's Affirmative Action Officer, Kristie Childress. Childress was unavailable for comment.

According to the *Citizen* article, Ingram was quoted as saying that he had been told to "find another job." But Ingram told *The Blue Banner* that he did not expect to be fired and would not resign.

"I honestly believe that this is a personality conflict between Mr. Hunnicutt and me," Ingram said. "I don't think it has any merit or any bearing on my job performance. I don't think the university sees me as someone who has a negative influence on the university."

Although Hunnicutt would not discuss how he responded to the official grievance, he said, "It involves several issues, primarily the supervisor-subordinate issue, (and) other things that I get involved with in the program that Coach Ingram has."

The women's basketball team finished its season two weeks ago with a record of six wins and 21 losses. Ingram has been at UNCA for three seasons. "I've tried to treat (Ingram) just like I treat all of our other coaches," Hunnicutt told the *Asheville Citizen-Times*. "But there are some coaches you have more confidence in than others."

Ingram expressed regret that the matter had received media attention. "I don't feel good about (the story) hitting the *Asheville Citizen-Times*. They don't give our program that much coverage when we're playing games, so why look for dirt now? I'd like to look at this as the same situation as when a professor has a problem. (Then) it doesn't get put into the paper."

SGA proposes new organization-sponsored escort service

Kenneth Corn
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) unanimously passed a resolution March 6 supporting the formation of a student organization-sponsored escort service.

Mark Dann, senior senator and chair of the senate committee for student affairs, wrote the bill because of "repeatedly-voiced concerns about lighting and the sense of safety on campus

in the evening hours."

"The students have shown that they desire to have this program by passing the bill," said Dann.

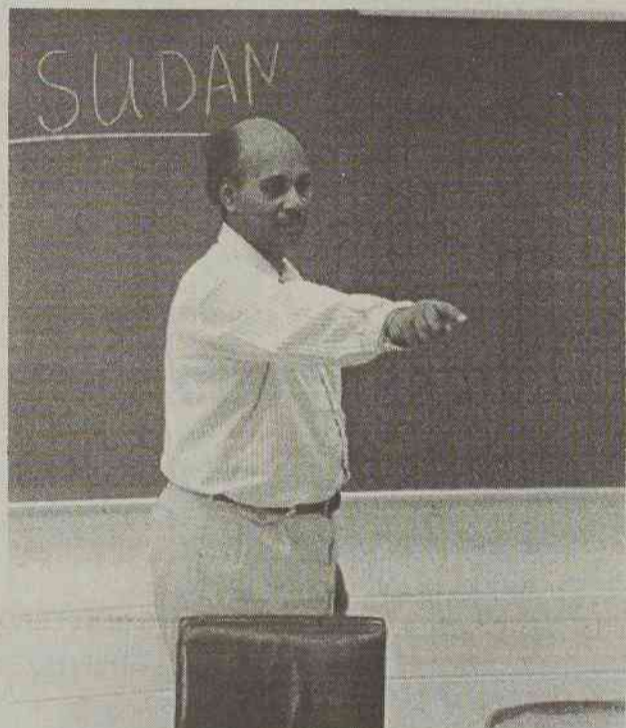
When Dann presented the bill to the senate, Michael Welch, residential senator, was the only senator to ask questions about the bill. His main concern was that the bill was vague and he questioned who would be responsible if any accidents involving a vehicle occurred.

Dann said the bill was just a resolution to show that SGA "encourages, advocates, and supports the establishment of a student organization-sponsored escort service." Dann also said any liabilities would be the responsibility of UNCA's public safety department if they agreed to help with the project. Dann's answers satisfied Welch's questions. The senate then voted and passed the resolution. UNCA already has an escort service.

Dann said the public safety department received \$2000 from the UNCA Parents Association and \$1800 from the chancellor's office last semester. With this money, the Public Safety Department hired two students to be escorts after dark in the public safety cars.

According to Dann, the service does not work very well. He said when the

ESCORT cont. on pg.8



Photos by Michael Taylor

Elmoiz Abunura (above) and Afaf Omer (below) are professors from Sudan. Abunura was granted political asylum and teaches in the political science department. Omer teaches in the sociology department.

Sudanese professor gains political asylum in the U.S.

Susan Sertain
Staff Writer

The civil war in Southern Sudan, led by the National Islamic Front (NIF) is a topic of great concern for two Sudanese professors at UNCA.

"It is a real human tragedy," said Elmoiz Abunura, an instructor in the political science department.

"The fundamentalist Muslim regime is trying to run a theocracy and the country is ripping itself up in civil war," said William H. Haas, the chair of the sociology department.

Abunura, his wife, Afaf Omer, an assistant professor in the sociology department, and their nine-month-old baby, Ghassan, moved to Asheville in January 1995. They met at the African Studies Association meeting and married in 1994. They lived in Boston, Mass. then moved to Providence, R.I., where their baby was born. They are both members of the African Studies Association and the Middle East Studies Association of North America.

Abunura came to the United States seeking political asylum. He was working in Sudan as a senior petroleum economist with an oil company. He was also very involved with human rights and amnesty organizations when the military coup took place. He was very critical of the Muslim fundamentalists and their undemocratic views, he said.

"I felt threatened, so I came to the United States," said Abunura. He picked the New England area because of many similar organizations he was already involved with, he said. He worked at the African-American Institute-Northeastern University, where he taught African-American studies, economics and political science.

Abunura said he was attracted to the Boston area because of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, where they have one of the largest

Nubian collections, he said. Abunura taught courses on Nubia, the ancient Sudanese civilization, in 1993 and 1994 the the Nubia Summer Institute in Boston.

His arrival to the United States in September 1989 did not mark his first time to this country, he said. He had visited before for a petroleum convention in Nashville, Tenn.

Omer came to the states as a visiting student at Princeton University, and she holds her doctorate in sociology from the University of Michigan. While a student in Michigan, she was able to freely return to Sudan yearly, but after the coup and the civil war began that ended, she said.

Abunura received his masters in economics from the Institute of Social Studies in Holland and will continue work on his doctorate in political science.

Abunura and Omer keep many of their cultural traditions. "She has a different last name than my name because usually according to our culture in Sudan, women keep their last name even after marriage. The last name is her family name so she doesn't change it," said Abunura.

They both still have family in Sudan. "We have family outside also," said Omer. "Those who can leave the country have left." They have relatives in the Persian Gulf, Libya, in Europe and in Canada, said Abunura.

Abunura does not see the family he still has in Sudan. He cannot go back there because of the political situation, he said.

"We left Sudan and we cannot go back," said Omer. The last time they saw Sudan was in 1989, she said.

Abunura was born in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan. His family is from Omdurman and Rufaa, in the Gezira region, 150 miles south of Khartoum.

Omer was born in Omdurman. They trace their families from certain areas rather than

PROFESSOR cont. on pg.10

State program provides new patrol cars for public safety department

Denise Sizemore
Staff Writer

Last month, UNCA's public safety department received two new patrol cars. These cars replaced two two-year-old Chevrolets.

The money for the new cars "came out of our budget," said Dennis Gregory, investigation and crime prevention officer. In all, UNCA has three cars patrolling the campus, said Gregory. The other car is a 1994 Plymouth.

The cars came through a state-lease program from Motor Fleet Management, said Gregory. Motor Fleet Management is a huge department that buys Fleet-priced cars and then

leases them to agencies that are state affiliated, he said. Motor Fleet Management has a lease division of Fleet packaged cars that also leases cars to other universities and various law enforcement organizations, said to Gregory.

"We lease the cars through them so that when they feel it is not cost efficient to maintain a car, they tell us we're getting new cars," said Gregory. "Basically that's what happened in January. They told us it was time to replace the two Chevrolets and they had ordered two Fords."

Motor Fleet Management makes the decision when to replace the cars, according to Gregory. It generally becomes cost efficient to replace the cars "at about 40 or 50,000 miles

because of the 24-hour operation of the vehicles," he said. Prior to the replacement of the Chevrolets "we put in almost \$1000 in the transmission," he said. However, that did not cost the public safety department anything, because Motor Fleet Management maintains the cars, according to Gregory. The only money the public safety department spent on the cars was to have UNCA decals put on the sides, he said. "That was less than \$100," he said.

UNCA has eight police officers and two security officers, he said. The two new cars are for the police officers and the Plymouth is a security officer's car, said Gregory. The cars patrol the campus "24 hours a day, seven days a week," he said.

"I think some people are saying 'why didn't you use the money to get more officers?'" said Gregory. Gregory said he wants students to know that his department has requested many times for more officers. However, the new patrol cars have nothing to do with the number of officers on campus, according to Gregory. The money for the leased cars comes from the public safety department, he said.

"No student fees support this department at all," said Gregory. The only things that support the Public Safety Office are a budget from the state and a small supplemental budget from parking fines, he said.

Gregory said he would like to have

CARS cont. on pg. 10