

Perspectives

Letters to the Editor

The late schedule is unrealistic and ridiculous

Dear Editor,
There is only one way to justly describe UNCA's strategic production of a wintry-whether (that's a pun) Late-Start Schedule.

But since I recognize *The Blue Banner* as an upright provider of all the news that's fit to print while enduring the "college experience," I will refrain from using any unsportsmanlike language.

Therefore, I proclaim the Late-Start Schedule as feeble and offer the following example:

When the ice covers everything but my armpits; when it is miracle enough to skate treacherously down my driveway, let alone to the nearest intersection without careening into assorted, half-frozen farm animals; when I haven't seen or heard another vehicle for three days; when I haven't seen or

heard another human being for three days; when three days seems like two weeks; when television reports spill over with scenes of Armageddon; and finally, when army transport planes are dropping supplies from overhead, I'll know.

Yes, then I'll know. According to the Late-Start Schedule, the alternate time for my 10 a.m. class is 11 a.m. Oh well, then.

That's no problem at all. Why that even gives me an extra hour to scrape the snow and ice from my windshield. Now, if I could only find my car.

Give us a break. The late start times will cause nothing but chaos. I could be wrong, but I think this attempt is hilariously unrealistic. We don't all live within musing distance.

Gary Gray
Mass Communication

African Studies program offered in the spring

Dear Editor,
Anani Dzidzienyo, tenured professor at Brown University, lectured on Thursday, Oct. 31, 1996. His lecture focused on the world of what he called "Afro-Brazil."

He took the small audience of students, faculty, and local citizens on a journey through the history of Brazil. Included in this journey were accounts of ethnic and racial compositions of Brazilians, the role of colonialism, discrimination amongst Brazilians, and general Brazilian history. Dr. Dzidzienyo skillfully incorporated stories of Princess Isabelle and her association with abolitionist with the film, *Black Orpheus*, which was written by the brother of Albert Camus, and the heralded football star, Pele, who is now the minister of sports in Brazil.

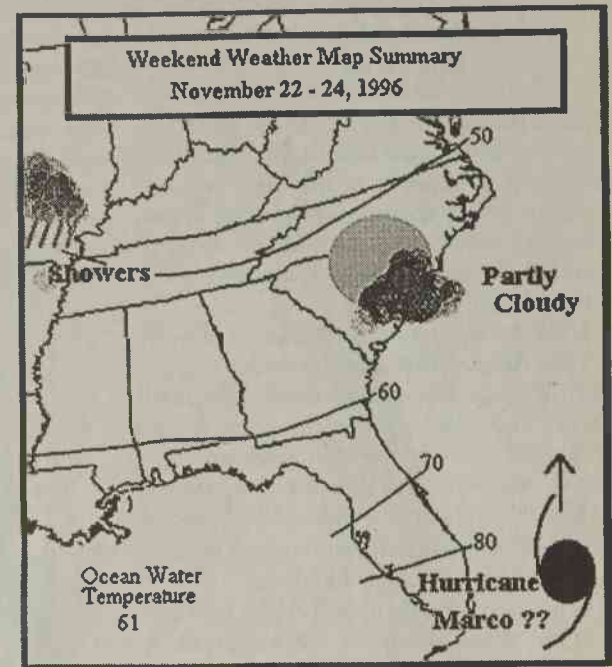
Each story made understanding the world of Afro-Brazil that much easier. Afro-Brazil, the Brazil in which African-Brazilians are discriminated

against, resembles that of the United States. Interestingly enough, Dr. Dzidzienyo made the same comparison, but did so by first pointing out the similarities between the size and the population of both countries.

The lecture was very informative, and the question-and-answer session that followed was even more so. This lecture was part of the Africana Studies lecture series which is organized by Dr. Omer and Professor Abunura. The spring semester in '97 will bring more lectures of this type as well as the Africana Studies minor. Courses range from AFST 130 (Introduction to African Studies) to AFST 430 (Senior Seminar in Africana Studies). Faculty that will teach courses in Africana Studies are Professor Abunura, Dr. Omer, Dr. Downes, Professor Harris, and Dr. Lee.

Andre Mack
Senior

Weather Map



Nov. 22-24

Condoms, please

Dear Editor,
A large proportion of UNCA students are not using condoms with intercourse because they feel their partner has been checked for all sexually transmitted diseases and is clear of disease. This is a very false assumption. Students who are checked in a medical office for STDs are usually only checked for chlamydia, gonorrhea, HIV, and maybe syphilis. A medical provider usually cannot check for herpes or wart virus unless there are evident sores. There are blood tests that can be done, but they are expensive and often meaningless if they are positive. A person can have an antibody to herpes without being

a carrier of active herpes virus. A person can carry and transmit herpes virus or wart virus without having any sores. Another STD people can have and not know about is hepatitis. That is the one STD for which you can be immunized. I hope students will pay attention to this warning because it breaks my heart when I need to console an infected student who really thought he or she was safe. Use condoms with every act of intercourse. They are free at the Student Health Service in the Weizenblatt building. Karen Weinberg, RN
Weizenblatt Student Health Service

The Blue Banner is looking for columnists next semester. Call 251-6586, and be prepared to submit a sample column.

The Blue Banner Weather Weekly

This weekend looks to be the best one yet for the month of November. We can expect some clouds to move in late Sunday, but the remainder of the weekend should be partly sunny with temperatures slightly below normal. Hurricane Marco may threaten the U.S. East Coast later this weekend.

WEEKEND WEATHER FOR ASHEVILLE

Thursday night, cloudy with rain tapering off, low near 40
Friday, morning clouds will give way to afternoon sun, high between 50-55, low near 37
Saturday and Sunday, partly sunny and seasonable, highs 45-50, lows 27-32

WEEKEND TRAVEL FORECAST

Atlanta	57/43 ps	53/37 ms	55/38 ps
Charlotte	54/40 ps	50/34 ms	52/34 ps
Greensboro	52/39 ms	48/31 ms	52/34 ps
Raleigh	55/39 ps	50/32 ms	54/35 ms
Wilmington	58/44 ps	55/35 ps	59/34 ms

s=sunny ms=mostly sunny ps=partly sunny cl=cloudy r=rain t=thunderstorms sn=snow
For more info, call the UNCA Weatherline at 251-6435 or check out the homepage at

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

by Mike Peters



The Pilgrims avoided the stuffing, maybe you should too

Dave Barry

Columnist

Thanksgiving is a time of traditions, and there is no tradition more meaningful than the annual U.S. Department of Agriculture warning about fatal food-dwelling bacteria. This year, I'm pleased to report, the department has outdone itself: For the first time ever, the department has officially advised Americans NOT TO STUFF THEIR TURKEYS.

Many alert readers sent in an Associated Press item in which the acting director of the Agriculture Department's Meat and Poultry Hot Line—whose name is (I'm not making any of this up) Bessie Berry—is quoted as saying: "Improperly cooked stuffing can cause serious illness or even death."

I am frankly wondering if stuffing should be regulated, like assault rifles, to prevent it from falling into the wrong hands.

BANK TELLER: May I help

you?

ROBBER: Hand over the money!

SECOND BANK TELLER: Do as he says! He's holding improperly cooked stuffing!

But the looming specter of painful death should in no way dampen the festivity of your Thanksgiving dinner. Just make sure the food is prepared in accordance with federal guidelines ("STEP ONE: Lighting The Blowtorch").

And before you eat, don't forget to bow your head for the traditional prayer of thanks ("We thank Thee for this bountiful meal and ask Thine forgiveness for the fact that we hath ordered pizza").

Another traditional thing you should do is teach your kids the true meaning of Thanksgiving. I suggest you have them put on the following historical play, "The Very First Thanksgiving," which I wrote myself

after several backbreaking minutes of research in the encyclopedia.

THE VERY FIRST THANKSGIVING

(SCENE ONE: Some Pilgrims are standing on the deck of the Mayflower.)

FIRST PILGRIM: Well, here it is, the year 1620.

SECOND PILGRIM: Yes, and we have been on this tiny ship, the Mayflower, for many weeks, fleeing persecution in England because of our religious views.

FOURTH PILGRIM: Also, we wear hats that look like traffic cones.

FIRST PILGRIM: What happened to the Third Pilgrim?

SECOND PILGRIM: He's throwing up.

FOURTH PILGRIM: Hey, look! There's Plymouth Rock! Pull over, Captain!

LONG JOHN SILVER: Arrrrr.

(SCENE TWO: The Pilgrims are standing on a shore.)

FIRST PILGRIM: Well, this looks like a barren area with poor soil and harsh winters, offering little chance for our survival.

OTHER PILGRIMS: Perfect!

ROBBER: Hand over the money!

FIRST PILGRIM: Hey! You already did your scene in this column!

ROBBER: Whoops.

SECOND PILGRIM: Look! A Native American! Fortunately, I speak English. My name is Squanto.

FOURTH PILGRIM: "Squanto"? What kind of name is "Squanto"?

SECOND PILGRIM: It sounds nasty! It sounds like, "Mom! The dog made Squanto on the linoleum!"

FIRST PILGRIM: What's "linoleum"?

SECOND PILGRIM: I have no idea.

SQUANTO: I'm going to show you how to plant maize and beans using alewives, shad, or menhaden as fertilizer.

FOURTH PILGRIM: "Alewives"?

SQUANTO: That's what it says in the encyclopedia.

(SCENE THREE: One year later.)

FIRST PILGRIM: Well, here it is, one year later.

SECOND PILGRIM: That was a pretty harsh winter.

FOURTH PILGRIM: That was definitely the last winter I plan to spend in a small confined space with people eating a diet of maize and beans.

FIRST PILGRIM: Also, as you will recall, we had a lot of starvation and disease, the result being that half of us are dead.

SECOND PILGRIM: Time for a celebration!

(SCENE FOUR: The Pilgrims and Squanto are seated at a banquet table.)

FIRST PILGRIM: So here we are, at the (burp) first Thanksgiving.

SECOND PILGRIM: I definitely want the recipe for this alewife dip.

FOURTH PILGRIM: Hey, Squanto, what are those drums saying?

SQUANTO: (after listening for a moment): Lions 14, Bears 7.

FIRST PILGRIM: You know, Squanto, without your help, we never would have survived this winter. So we've decided to take over all of North America and pretty much obliterate your culture.

SQUANTO: Sure.

FIRST PILGRIM: Really? You don't mind?

SQUANTO: No, not at all.

FIRST PILGRIM: Great!

SQUANTO: Try this stuffing.