

# Perspectives

## Volunteer for the right reasons

### Student Government Association

By Wiley Cash

Here it is, another SGA article, and I bet you're all busting at the seams to sit down and read it. Relax, take a deep breath, and jump right in.

Let me start off by telling you what I was going to write about. SGA had a retreat last weekend in Hendersonville with a very notable turnout from UNCA's staff and administration.

There were many pertinent

issues discussed over the course of the day, and I could write them all, but you already know what they are.

If you guess DIVERSITY, then you win, nothing. You just prove that you realize UNCA's lack of it.

Another topic discussed was UNCA's need for ties with the community, a.k.a. community service and philanthropy.

I must admit that these are two issues that have plagued my conscience in the last few months. We've talked about them, studied them, held forums to share ideas. But guess what, they are still problems. But guess what? They always will be.

So the true question is not: "What can you do about diversity and volunteerism?" Instead, it should be: "Do you truly desire to take a stand for diversity and the community, realizing that you are going to bust your ass with very little noticeable result or praise from your peers?"

Chancellor James Mullen said something at the retreat on Sept. 18 that made a huge impression on me. In reference to all the studies on our lack of diversity, he remarked, "How many blood samples

do you have to give before you realize you're sick?"

We need to stop feeling proud for discussing problems, and we need to start sweating and get them solved.

But do it for the right reasons, and also realize that reasons are ambiguous. I can't give you any concrete answers to fight for diversity or to improve the community.

I have my own, and you have to find yours. This is where the story comes in.

Once there was a young boy who was a prince. He lived in a beautiful kingdom with riches and power, and thought of himself as a good person who would help others in need.

One afternoon, he was walking through the forest when suddenly, a vision appeared amongst the trees. The Holy Grail floated before him, surrounded by a ring of fire and bright light. Immediately, the prince realized what he was seeing, and ideas of riches and fame filled his mind.

He could actually be the one to possess the Holy Grail.

Licking his lips in anticipation, he reached into the light to retrieve the Grail, only to be burned by the flames. With fame and fortune still firmly in mind, the prince reached again, only to be scalded more severely.

He tried several more times, only to find the flames too strong and the light too bright. Eventually, the vision faded, and the prince was left alone in the forest.

Years later, the young prince grew into a bitter, old king. Everyday he thought of the Grail and longed to feel his fingers grip the gold chalice.

He was tired and worn.

Years of disappointment sat heavy on his brow, and his people did not respect such a decrepit, feeble man. He stayed in his castle all day and looked out over his kingdom, and at night, he laid in bed trying to pinpoint where his life had gone wrong.

One day, a simple man wondered into the castle gates. He was a traveler and stopped for a night in the kingdom.

He made his way into the king's chambers and approached the throne, only to find a weak, old man, instead of a proud and powerful king. The simple man approached the throne, and being simple, knelt out of respect.

"Sir," the simple man said, "you look tired, and worn. Please let me help you."

The king, who was used to being ignored and mocked, was surprised that anyone spoke to him, much less out of concern.

The king, realizing for the first time how thirsty he was, answered, "Well, yes. Yes, can you please bring me some water? I am so very thirsty."

The simple man approached the throne with a cup, and the king took a long drink from the cool water.

Suddenly, the cup felt heavy and the king looked down, only to realize he was holding the Holy Grail.

The king looked up at the simple man in amazement and asked, "How did you find me? How did you know?"

"All I knew," the simple man replied, "was that you were thirsty."

Wiley Cash is the president of SGA

### Letter to the Editor

#### Clarification

Dear Editor,

The following is to clarify some information in the "Letters to the Editor" in the September 9, 1999 issue of *The Banner* about the creation of the Chancellor's Staff Advisory Committee (CSAC). The following is a brief timeline as to the most recent events that lead to the creation of CSAC.

June 11, 1997  
Former Chancellor Patsy Reed met with staff in Owen Conference Center to announce the change in the official hours of operation of the university from 4:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

July 18, 1997  
Molly Broad was elected as President of the UNC system.

July 22, 1997  
Reed called a meeting of the employees of the quarter. At this meet-

ing Mike Small, Judy Dillard, Melissa Acker, Steve Honeycutt, Elise Henshaw, Linda Franklin, and Betty Ponder were asked to draft by-laws for a representative staff group.

February 16, 1998  
CSAC was announced to the campus, and input from staff members was solicited.

June 30, 1998  
Reed called the first meeting of the elected representatives of CSAC.

May 1, 1998  
CSAC was announced to the campus, and input from staff members was solicited.

CSAC owes its existence to many people who have been suggesting that a group of this nature be created for years.

UNCA was about the eighth campus in the UNC system to create a

representative group of staff members. Thanks to President Broad, all 16 campuses are now required to have a group similar to UNCA's CSAC.

In the following issue of *The Banner* (September 16, 1999), there were a few things mentioned that need to be clarified from the article "Mullen meets with CSAC."

The article states, "The most pending issue was the salary policy, which dealt with pay raises for the staff and faculty." We were suggesting an in-range salary policy for UNCA's over 300 staff employees, not the faculty.

The article states "Smith says the committee has also helped to increase enrollment," and "Smith said one of their suggestions was a 24-hour public safety staff person, as well as more programs that promote diversity on campus."

The admissions office is responsible for recruiting students. CSAC was asked by Reed to review a list provided by the vice chancellors and make recommendations based

on an increase in expected enrollment.

We did endorse both the funding for public safety and the office of diversity and multicultural relations.

The article also mentions the employee summer picnic and the dunking booth fundraiser. While Maggie Smith and I did participate in the dunking booth, we would again like to thank Eric Iovacchini, vice chancellor for student affairs, Steve Baxley, director of facilities management, and Tom Goddard, assistant director of facilities management for their participation. In fact, Steve Baxley raised the most money for the CSAC student scholarship fund.

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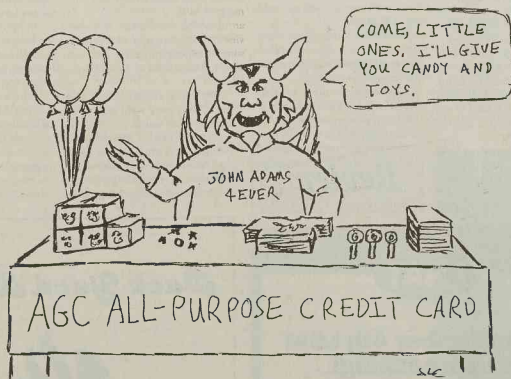
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