

# Opinions

## The Banner

## Editorial

### Supergig

#### Can't draw on this wall

Get out your calculators UNCA, we need more money. However, this lack of funds affects students more seriously than a leaky roof in Highsmith or the need for an expanded multicultural office.

Our B.F.A. and B.A. seeking students can't graduate on time due to gallery and studio space shortages.

There can be no hemming and hawing over fund availability for acquiring new space for the art department.

Ladies and gents of the powers that be, if the administration does not attack this dire problem immediately, the program is in danger of losing talented art students who are not willing to waste hard-earned money hanging around and waiting to reach the front of the two-year, gallery-space line.

Not only that, but potential art faculty might think twice about jumping aboard the UNCA ship when they realize that they will be given no studio space on campus to share their valuable experience with students.

But don't fret, for the bargain price of \$2 million UNCA can rent space downtown for its art students, not-so-conveniently giving them gallery space miles from their campus studio (if they've been lucky enough to get a corner in one), away from the support of students and faculty who can only make time to see the shows on campus.

And when prospective students ask where they can see a student exhibit, we'll hand them directions to the gallery and say, "Sorry, we just didn't have quite enough room for their talents."

Off-campus gallery space may be a workable, but expensive, short-term solution, but let's not allow this Band-Aid to become a tradition for B.F.A. students.

### Bittersweet

After six and a half years at UNCA, Athletics Director Tom Hunnicutt concedes that the student fees levied on students during his tenure here is "the thing that hurt me the most."

The fact is the entire campus community has carried the burden, and its effects have been well-documented in the past. However, Hunnicutt should be commended for improving the caliber of UNCA student athletes, given the fact that, previously, 25 basketball players consecutively left our school without a diploma in their hands.

Now, if only his successor and Chancellor Jim Mullen can find a way to pay a deficit of approximately \$200,000, then the Bulldogs truly will have a winning season.

### Overflow

UNCA's recent advertising extravaganza showcasing our liberal arts haven has incurred an overwhelming response. Already, applications are up 56 percent over this time last year, and minority applications have increased 33 percent.

The wave of new-found interest can be traced to direct initiatives taken by the university: advertising and hiring minority admissions reps.

This is good news for the university's efforts to construct a racially-diverse campus within the not-so diverse setting of Western North Carolina, or as one student put it, to create an island in the middle of homogeneity.

Dangling our banner of peace, love and liberal values, UNCA's advertising campaign has successfully glossed over UNCA's problems.

The administration and faculty have the challenge of fulfilling that idealistic diversity promise to the incoming students, who will have been sold by the pledge to cultural diversity.

These hopefuls will already have to deal with the disappointing Highsmith (which by that time may have deteriorated into a classic mountain lean-to), non-existent childcare, and increasing student fees.

Although, take comfort, only a small increase is expected in tuition and fees for 2000-2001, according to Philip West, UNCA assistant vice chancellor for enrollment services.

While UNCA is busy "playing the game of competing and marketing," the deadline is approaching to "diversify" the faculty and student programs.

And as UNCA's application numbers mount, reflecting aggressive marketing strategies, we hope the administration doesn't exploit the UNCA awakening and drastically increase enrollment figures.

Increasing enrollment may pay for the advertising campaign and put a dent in monetary hurdles, but more students would mean less space, a high student to professor ratio, and a longer backlog of B.F.A. majors.

# Glory, drugs and rock n' roll



Andrew Thomasson  
columnist

When I tried to write a "Millennium In Review" column, I discovered that my knowledge of the period from 1000 to 1300 A.D. consisted of the black death, large venous super-rats that killed people, and the Vikings, guys with a pansounding names like "Letic." I am sure those two topics alone do not come close to honoring those pioneer centuries as they deserve. So, the following is a decade-by-decade review of the past 100 years.

**The Oh's: 1900-1909**  
I know that 1900 was technically part of the 19th century. However, I am almost certain that people living then thought the new century started when the first two digits on the calendar changed from 18 to 19. They thought the world was going to end then too, perhaps as a result of the Y19K potato bug ravaging the globe. Anyway, in 1903, the Wright Brothers made their historic first airplane flight in Kitty Hawk, N. C. The flight, which made all Southerners proud, until they figured out the brothers were from Ohio, was the sole thing associated with North Carolina until Jesse Helms. Also, the Chicago Cubs won the World Series, twice.

**The Teens: 1910-1919**  
The Great War introduced the

bank as a means of killing large numbers of people at one time, while trench warfare in Europe brought a personable side to the conflict. American soldiers wanted to stay in the trenches because at home, Congress had passed the Income Tax Amendment and the amendment prohibiting consumption of alcoholic beverages. Prohibition was spearheaded by Strom Thurmond, who at age 40, was serving his second term as senator of South Carolina.

**The 20's: 1920-2020**, you get the idea

"The Roaring Twenties" featured a dance affectionately called the "Charleston," and women, affectionately termed suffragettes, gained the right to vote in 1920. President Calvin Coolidge's 188-hour-a-day sleeping schedule inspired young Ronald Reagan to end his silent-film career and begin a political journey that would land him in Washington, D.C.

**The 30's**  
Technically, the Great Depression began in October 1929, but the bulk of it elapsed during the 1930s. Many in Europe became so poor and disillusioned that they thought Hitler had a good idea when he told them to wipe out a large percent-

age of the European population. Things got so bad that the American government gave up on their liquor ban in 1933, deciding that a depression was at least worth a couple drinks. The greatest blues man of all time, Robert Johnson, recorded two records in 1936 and 1938, which remain some of the most profound and soul-searching music to be found.

**The 40's**  
In the '40s, Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first and only person to be elected to four terms as president and the first president to be referred to by his initials. World War II happened, and the Holocaust was discovered by the United States.

When the soldiers returned from the war, they got married in huge droves, creating another industry for Las Vegas and (forgive the word choice) spawning the baby boom.

**The 50's**  
Elvis Presley happened. That's all you need to know.

**The 60's**  
The Beatles invaded the world, as did Motown, psychedelic rock, and an overweight Elvis. It became so widely acceptable to name your band Strawberry Alarm Clock or Jefferson Airplane as a result of massive amounts of psychedelic drugs.

John F. Kennedy continued the initial tradition of F.D.R.

The Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement allowed protesters to raise protesting to an art form, and Country Joe Mc Donald started the profane musical revolution.

**The 70's**  
The '70s were the era of disco, perhaps the most off-maligned form of music. Disco became popular when even the most uncoordinated of individuals (except Richard Nixon) figured out how to do the YMCA. Richard Nixon removed the need to have scruples to qualify for president and ended the era of

initiated presidents, leaving us only with "Dick."  
**The '80's**  
On a sad note, Andy Kaufman died. On a sadder note, Ronald Reagan didn't, thus the accumulation of a massive U.S. national debt from the Star Wars program (let's blow up the world), and the height of "trickle down economics" or passing away the money of every working-class individual in the country.

Reagan removed the need for a president to be moderately intelligent or have a memory at all, as long as you come off as a nice grandfather figure. Also, plastic surgery became a social norm, making the general public feel like bouncing quarters off the faces of Michael Jackson, Liz Taylor and Cher.

**The 90's**  
The limits of the First Amendment were sorely tested with Madonna's *Erotica* and 2 Live Crew. But The Starr Report, more tawdry than either, was readily available on every newstand and TV station in the country.

Bill Clinton removed the dignity from the office of president, proving that anyone can become president, if they have a spare quadrillion dollars. M.C. Hammer went bankrupt while earning \$33 million a year, and Ricky Martin endorsed crops to "shake their bon-bon."

That sounds like kind of a dirty thing to do in public, but if the prez can do it, then why can't I? Also, the Chicago Cubs failed on the World Series for the 91st consecutive year.

The past century has been full of hope and guts and glory, sex, drugs and rock-n-roll. However, not much has really changed. Strom and Jesse are still wearing labels, everyone thinks 1999 is the last year of the millennium, and the son of a Reaganite is probably going to become president in the year 2000.

# Humanities lacks overall theme



Hugh Kelly  
columnist

The conventional wisdom regarding Humanities 414 is that students don't like it because it's not what we're here to study—that many students are unable or unwilling to engage in the complex task of integrating the insights of various academic disciplines into a general analysis of contemporary culture. But is it possible that 414's unpopularity with students is due less to their lack of intellectual curiosity and more to the course's lack of coherence?

While the threat of absolutist tyranny is by no means dead in contemporary American government, an equal but unnoticed danger to our freedom is the demise of duty. Our political culture has become too rights-centric, demanding the rights secured by liberal democracy without recognizing that such a government depends on an informed and participatory citizenry.

This attitude manifests itself in an unrealistic preference for legal remedies over political ones, an uninformed and cynical mistrust of government and politicians, and a deterioration of civil discourse. Like a snake about to devour its own tail, this distortion of individual liberty threatens the foundations of democratic society.

It takes more than the mere desire for liberty to secure liberty. The liberal democracy also demands a certain level of dutiful vigilance from its citizens. If Martin Luther King, Jr. had not recognized his duty as well as his rights would he have bothered to lead the Civil Rights Movement?

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, many in the West have been feel-

ing particularly smug about capitalism. However, what Adam Smith (who also wrote a book on moral philosophy) recommended laissez-faire economics, it is doubtful that he ever dreamed of the extent to which our lives would become saturated with market transactions.

From a purely economic standpoint, free-market capitalism is good because it gives individuals strong incentives to produce, and generally in a higher material standard of living. However, as capitalism and industrialization have come to dominate production and consumption across the globe, they have crowded out important social values.

For example, consider how much more time could be spent with family and friends during Christmas if we weren't so busy shopping for presents, decorations, and fancy food and working our tails off to get enough money to buy all this unnecessary stuff.

What started out in "The Wealth of Nations" as a simply a system for producing and allocating goods has become an obsession with money and the consumption.

AT&T, Microsoft spend billions of advertising dollars promoting the wonders of motion pictures and TV shows, the telephone, and the networked computer, but, for obvious reasons, the voices that point out the negative effects of these tools are only faintly heard.

The manufactured diversions delivered by these communications tools can rob us of our self-awareness. Television, idle phone talk, or our wiring distract us from our own being.

Are modern Americans afraid of what they might hear if they spend time listening to their inner voice? Perhaps having virtually immediate access to all of one's wired friends, no matter where they're located on the globe, means that face-to-face communication is cheapened since

the gravity and the reality of the moment is undermined by the knowledge that we can always "reach" these people remotely at any time in the future.

The three excesses of contemporary acquisitiveness have their roots in essentially good ideas developed during the Age of Reason. The demise of the public duty entered our culture in the shadow of individual rights; compulsive commercialism entered in the shadow of laissez-faire economics; technological distraction would not have been possible without the Scientific Revolution.

However, the simple act of awakening to television's dangers allows us to use it as a tool instead of losing ourselves in its beguiling diversions. Awakening allows us to view ideas as simply intangible toys. Perhaps reason itself is a tool.

Locke, Smith and Bacon all developed good ideas, but the application of these ideas must be careful, humble, and organic so that they do not destroy existing relationships, traditions, values, and systems that, while never perfect, also contain older good ideas. Once we realize that reason itself is a mere tool, we will be more careful, respectful and aware of how we use it.

I consider my idea a process for becoming more aware of various aspects of our culture as touched on in 414. I know my idea is not the truth but an imperfect tool to be used and eventually discarded. If the diverse architects of 414 cannot agree on an overarching theme, perhaps the lectures could be presented as a dialogue, or even a series of professorial debates that respond to preceding lectures and refer to forthcoming ones. Even if the resulting product is a craft that leaks here and there, the process of building it may make students both more interested and more confident in their ability to wield ideas.

Decem  
S  
C  
A  
As th  
thead  
nium, it  
bility to  
tional ac  
port all  
As the  
to pro  
cation,  
things,  
provide  
educatio  
to inter  
Carolin  
large  
A key  
Prov  
Dear E  
I am w  
Banner  
Nov. 10  
Affili  
Castro  
people.  
What  
Worth  
that he  
Offend  
fills, I  
them?"  
Cashm  
and Ro  
It co  
public  
Appa  
Dear E  
In dis  
and se  
palled  
of rape  
Even  
munit  
during  
punch  
Since  
million  
was cr  
small  
Le  
m  
T  
U  
2  
H  
2  
b  
o  
B  
b  
te  
si  
li  
o  
m  
s  
L  
m  
ir  
c  
m  
ti