

The Blue Banner

The University of North Carolina at Asheville

Volume 33 Issue 4

February 22, 2001

Features



Local authors read works at Malaprops Feb. 18

See page 3

Sports



Men's basketball split two conference games

See page 5

Opinions



"Clear-cutting protest at Staples," by Candice Carr

See page 8

Most athletic funds go to basketball



ANTHONY GRECO/PHOTO EDITOR

Junior forward Robby Joyner, a member of the basketball team, attempts to score a basket at a recent game.

Keith Cromwell
Staff Writer

The athletic department spent \$412,438 on combined salaries and benefits and \$700,000 on student athlete scholarships, according to the athletic budget.

Some students said they disagree with the amount of money spent on scholarships for athletes.

"It seems that we can put that money into better facilities, or something that benefits the entire school, rather than just a few students," said Danny Proctor, a sophomore atmospheric science major.

In terms of each team, men's basketball received the most funds. They received \$103,000, plus \$26,000 for recruitment. Women's basketball received \$65,000, plus \$17,500 for recruitment.

In comparison, the men's and women's tennis teams both received \$11,500, plus \$1,000 for recruitment.

The men's soccer team received \$23,862, plus \$3,000 for recruitment. The men's and women's cross country teams each received \$31,343, plus \$1,000 for recruitment, according to the budget.

"I think teams should get equal amounts," said Crystal Gore, a sophomore art major and member of the women's track team.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association requires a minimum amount of schol-

arships and sports teams to be in Division I. The requirements include maintaining 14 teams, made up of seven men and seven women's teams, and provide 25 scholarships for each gender, according to Gore.

"With the exception of the basketball players, most of our athletes are on a partial scholarship," said Joni Comstock, director of the athletic program.

UNCA students pay \$399 in student fees toward the athletic program, the highest out of all 16 UNC-system universities. During the 2001-2002 school year, athletic fees will increase \$22 per student.

"Athletics are a part of every university," said Anne Moukperian, a sophomore political science major. "I do not think athletics are taken seriously on this campus, other than by athletes and those who are involved in athletics."

Last year, athletics received \$1.1 million from student fees. The total athletics department budget was \$1.8 million, according to Comstock.

Most revenue for athletics comes from student fees, private gifts or grants and the NCAA.

UNCA athletics received \$200,000 from game guarantees. Game guarantees are money the university receives from bigger schools for playing a game at that school.

Both men's and women's basketball teams play these games, according to Mike

Gore, director of sports information.

"This year, we went down and play the University of Texas, and we get a check from them for playing the game," said Gore. "It makes sense for Texas because they need a home game. A home game for a school like that generates a lot of money."

Game guarantees "help our budget, but it also makes our team better in conference play," said Gore. "When you play Texas in front of 10,000 people, it's a little easier to come back and play Liberty."

The games are played in regular season, and count toward UNCA's record. This year, the men's basketball team played five guarantee games, according to Gore.

"The teams that schedule us think they are getting an easy win, and a couple of times, we have fooled them," said Gore. "We beat the University of South Carolina and Mexico State University one year, and lost to Tennessee by three points."

Some students said the athletic department should find other sources to make money.

Playing these games "make it seem the athletic department doesn't care about the basketball team's record, but rather all they care about is the money," said Jessica Bulleck, a freshmen computer science major.

Athletic fees at other schools include \$261 at Appalachian

See BUDGET page 8

Privatization draws interest

Angela Brock
Staff Writer

Several UNCA students were involved with the distribution of flyers to promote awareness of Sodexho Marriott Services' connection to prison privatization.

"A box of burritos was dropped on the middle of the quad with a sign that said 'Free Burritos,'" said a student, who wishes to remain anonymous. "Someone took a box to the cafeteria, and handed out burritos with a flyer."

The persons passing out the burrito flyers stood outside the cafeteria, but no one is sure if anyone actually entered it, according to the student.

"The flyer was anti-prison propaganda," said the student.

Sodexho Alliance owns almost half of SMS. In Europe, Sodexho Alliance operates a high percentage of private prisons in many countries, according to the SA Web site.

Prison privatization involves the use of prison labor without monetary compensation for the labor.

SA invested in the Corrections Corporation of America, a corrections service to government associations, according to the CCA Web site.

Some students said they are concerned about the use of prison labor to produce goods that UNCA's cafeteria may use, according to the students.

The purpose of the flyers was to inform UNCA students about the use of prison labor, according to the student.

"The flyers were just to let students know about the corporations they support," said another student, who wished to remain anonymous. "The student activists are not into property destruction at all, regardless of what has been said about students who oppose Sodexho's involvement with privatization."

There has not been any student vandalism take place in the cafeteria by students who oppose Sodexho Marriott's involvement with prison labor, according to Sodexho Marriott employees.

Profit is made off of the prisoners, thus some prisoners may get longer sentences, according to students.

"I do not want my money to go towards private prisons, and I would like to support more local food sources," said another student, who wishes to remain anonymous. "We want an alternative place on campus to buy food that can be ran by the students."

Program attains exemplary status

Thad Eckard
Staff Writer

UNCA's teaching program received a high rating from the North Carolina State Board of Education, but did they not receive the scholarship money due to them, according to Mark Sidelnick, chairman and associate professor of education.

"Schools that receive exemplary status were supposed to receive scholarship money for students becoming teachers," said Sidelnick.

Although the programs qualify for rewards, they have not yet received anything.

The program was never told how much they would receive for scholarships.

"Professors in the educa-

tion department are not only my instructors," said Tanner Gamble, a senior environmental science major. "They are also my colleagues now who I can come to when I need their help. I am extremely grateful."

All the Board promised were "sanctions and rewards," said Sidelnick.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EDUCATION PROGRAM

Nick Phillips, a senior history major, helps children at a school.

The law mentioned "scholarship money," but did not provide specific amounts. Instead, they implied that particular amounts "would be determined," said Sidelnick.

When the state realized that it had no money, "there was nothing to determine," said Sidelnick.

The ranking places UNCA's education department in a position shared by only three other schools in the state.

The Board based this year's

See RATING page 10

Drivers may be a risk for animals

Claire O'Brien
Staff Writer

Both domestic and wild animals are possibly in danger of being killed by drivers speeding around the campus area. The most dangerous areas for animals are on the side roads leading to campus, especially on Edgewood Road and Barnard Avenue, according to Ann Weber, professor of psychology.

"You cannot turn around without seeing little dead squirrels everywhere," said Tonie Carlton, a senior political science major.

Squirrels tend to dart out in front of cars. If drivers obey the speed limit, they can stop in time, according to Weber.

Edgewood and Barnard roads are popular shortcuts to campus, but are also residential areas with a large number of those residents pet owners, according to Weber.

If the residents have a pet, "make it an indoor (animal), or kiss it goodbye," said We-

ber. This is unfair to both the owners and the pets.

If students, staff and faculty would obey the 20 mph speed limit, these deaths could be avoided, according to Weber.

In December, one of Weber's neighbors lost their shepherd-mix dog, Lucy, to a hit-and-run driver.

The driver sped away after hitting Lucy, as the dog lay dying in the road, according to Weber.

By the time neighbors reached Lucy it was too late. The dog died in the vet's office.

Just a few months before Lucy's death, the same couple lost their cat to a speeding driver, according to Weber.

In the woods on campus, there is a small grave where a cat named Ike is buried, also the victim of speeding driver.

Ike was hit on the road near the Physical Plant building. A frequent visitor to the campus, Ike's favorite place to hang out was around Zageir and Owen Halls, according to Weber.

Ike belonged to an elderly couple living on L yannis St.



KATHRYN KROUSE/FEATURES EDITOR

An unleashed dog, owned by a UNCA student, could be at risk for injury or death by automobiles.

Around class times, people follow the car in front of them too closely, pressuring the other driver to speed. Even if a person is going to be late to a class or meeting, there is no excuse for speeding, according to Weber.

"Just speeding in general, I have never seen anyone get pulled," said Cyrus

Tashakkori, an undeclared sophomore.

Unattended dogs running loose on campus "should be on a leash," said Geneva Stork, an undeclared sophomore.

There is a leash law that prohibits students from leaving pets unattended on campus, according to Weber.

However, there is no one for

public safety to ticket, and they cannot hold the dog for the owner to pick up because the campus does not have the facilities, according to Weber.

In order to remove the unattended pet, public safety would have to call Animal Control, according to Weber.

Many students "have seen [dogs] out for hours and hours in the hot sun," and some of these dogs are left without shade or water, said Weber.

The owner often wraps the dog's leash around a tree, essentially binding the dogs, with no give in their leash, according to Weber.

The campus needs to find a solution that is "safe for animals first and convenient for owners second," said Weber.

One faculty member suggested having a "Pet Day," said Weber.

It would be held on campus and students could bring their pets to an informal meeting to learn pet-care tips, said Weber.

"Unless it is a bad (animal) and gets in people's way, it adds character to the campus," said Tashakkori.