

THE BLUE BANNER

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Numbers Point to Decrease in Diversity

Keith Cromwell

Investigative Reporter

In 2000, UNCA saw a decrease in the black population, which totaled 3.2 percent, with all other minority groups totaling 5 percent. In 1994, the number of black students on campus was 3.4 percent, with all other minority groups making up 3.4 percent of the campus.

"It's difficult to convince a minority student that they will truly enjoy coming to a predominately white campus," said Chris Vanderford, a senior music technology major.

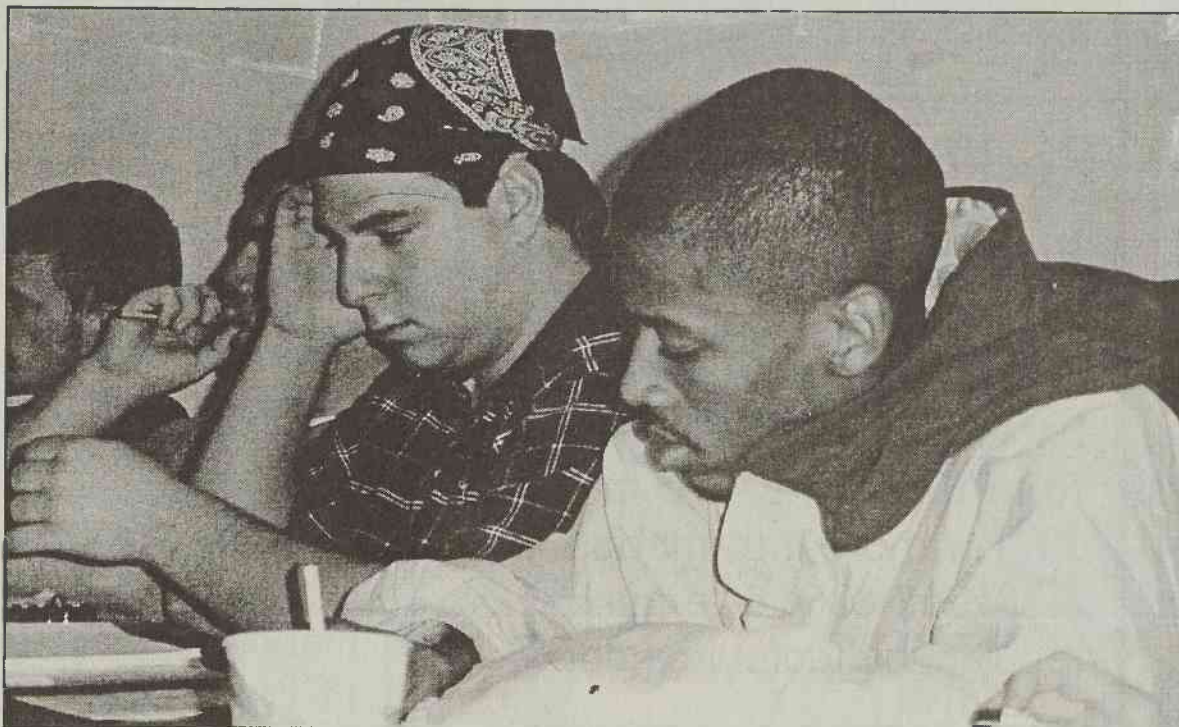
UNCA does not maintain set quotas for enrollment of minority students. However, Philip Weast, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment services, said the school does try to actively recruit minorities through various programs.

"The enrollment administration ran a summer program called Camp College in hopes of attracting minority students to the campus," said Weast.

In addition to admissions programs, UNCA has financial aid programs offered to minorities.

"Some minority groups have to have financial assistance and that's what helps them make the decision

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Andrew Hainsworth, a junior political science major and residential senator, is the only black member of the SGA.

UNCA Plans to Attract More Ethnic Students, Say University Officials

Keith Cromwell

Investigative Reporter

Claire O'Brien

News Reporter

UNCA officials said an ethnic minority of 8.2 percent is not enough, and they plan to increase diversity through various programs.

Looking across campus, "there are 25 people in sight, none of whom are [ethnic],"

said Jeremy Russell, a senior art major. "On the other hand, our minority population [in the state] is low."

A culturally diverse campus prepares students for their role in the global community, according to Brenda Greene, assistant to the chancellor for diversity and minority affairs.

Greene said UNCA needs to increase minority enrollment of student and faculty.

UNCA currently has a higher minority population

than Appalachian State University and roughly equal to Western Carolina University's minority population, according to UNC-system data.

UNCA is doing a lot to improve diversity, but still has a long way to go. Greene said she has looked at several areas around campus to see what needs improvement.

Greene has looked at the magazines and other products in the bookstore.

Greene said the magazine

selection does not tell minority students that they are a welcome part of the campus because there are so few magazines specifically for them.

General requirement courses are another aspect of campus life that could be more culturally diverse, according to Octavia Wright, advisor to the African-American Student Association.

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UNCA Student Reports Man's Indecent Action

Lena Burns

News Editor

A sunny and moderately warm March 10 afternoon was disrupted when a middle-aged, white male allegedly sexually violated a UNCA student, who was sitting in her vehicle, waiting for her fiancée to get off work.

"This guy saw me sitting there, and saw an audience waiting to happen," said the student, who wishes to remain anonymous, in an e-mail. "I know it had nothing to do with me, personally, other than the fact that I am female."

The student is in her mid-twenties. She had parked her vehicle at the United States Courthouse on Otis Street.

"Normally, I pick him up at the door," the student said. Since it was a nice day, "I (figured) he could walk down and meet me at the street entrance."

While she sat balancing her checkbook, with her vehicle windows rolled down, the man approached her, accord-

ing to the student.

The man walked up to her window, saying phrases such as "Hey baby. I'm horny," to that extent, said the student.

She said she then realized that the man was exposing himself to her and fondling his genitals. She told him to get away from her, and attempted to drive away.

As she began to grasp her keys to start the ignition, the man reached into her car and touched her neck.

"He got his jollies off of making me want to throw up, crawl into a little ball and throw up some more," said the student. "This isn't a minor event to me. I have the mental picture of this weirdo jiggling his limp penis at me and reaching towards me. It really shook me up and infuriated me."

The man is in his mid-forties, around 5'9" to 5'11" feet tall, 180 pounds, brown hair, full beard and a mustache. The day he approached the woman, he was wearing a baseball cap, aviator-style sun-

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Death Penalty Raises Concerns

Angela Brock

News Reporter

UNCA students and faculty said problems exist with the current death penalty during the International Death Penalty Abolition Day March 1.

"It is important to have an awareness of the reality of the death penalty because it is not applied equally, and it is not fair," said Laura Hastay, a senior sociology major and coordinator of UNCA's international death penalty abolition day. "It is important to draw attention to the death penalty and the problems with it."

The international death penalty abolition day is recognized every year on March 1 to inform people about the practice and to discuss alternatives to the death penalty.

Guest speakers included Keith Bramlett, a lecturer from the sociology department, and Margaret Fullwood, the mother of a death row inmate.

The death penalty is disproportionately imposed on minorities and the poor, according to members of UNCA's Amnesty International.

"Between 1930 and 1976, 455 men were executed in the U.S. for rape, and 405, or 90 percent, were black," said Bramlett. "Even today, the killing of a white is treated more severely than the killing of a black."

"Approximately 90 percent of those on death row cannot afford to hire an attorney," said Bramlett.

Since 1900, there have been, on the average, more than four cases per year in which an innocent person was convicted of murder in the U.S., according to Bramlett.

"Approximately 3,600 people await execution in the United States, and 214 people await execution on North Carolina's death row," said Bramlett. "Between 1930 and 1990, 4,016 people were executed in the U.S."

"Of these people, 2,129 or 53 percent were black, and during this time African-Americans comprised roughly 12.5 to 12.8 percent of the nation's population," said Bramlett.

The death penalty is no more effective than long-term prison sentences, according to

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Department Receives \$80,000 Grant

Eaton Foundation grants department funds for equipment and scholarships

Thad Eckerd

News Reporter

UNCA unveiled the new electricity and magnetism design lab March 7. A portion of the \$80,000 grant from the Eaton Foundation helped renovate the lab, which will aid mechatronics and physics students.

"Eaton is investing in the future for UNCA students by providing the grant money," said Josh Weinstein, a junior multimedia arts and science major and engineering minor.

"Now, we will have the facilities and the means to pursue engineering-related fields."

"UNCA is not a research engineering national powerhouse. For Eaton Cleveland to step forward and give us this amount of money is significant," said Alex Comfort, assistant vice chancellor in development.

"This is a great example of collaboration with the busi-

ness community and UNCA, and from North Carolina State University and UNCA. Not only was it fully collaborative, it was a great deal," he added.

The grant will help keep engineering students near Asheville industries. Eaton Corporation Cutler-Hammer in Arden, manufacturers of power transformers for heavy industry machines, asked its Cleveland, Ohio headquarters to pledge \$20,000 a year over a four-year period to UNCA, said Comfort.

UNCA received the first \$20,000 to put into an endowed scholarship for mechatronics students, said Merianne Epstein, UNCA public information director. The remaining \$60,000 went to the Eaton Mechatronics Design Lab.

When Eaton first toured the physics department, they described the lab as pathetic, according to Comfort. The donation was the "second largest pledge Eaton had made to

"The professors are great, but the equipment was not up to snuff for what we need."

-Alex Comfort

Assistant Vice Chancellor of Development

a university that whole fiscal year," he said.

Eaton's grant helped equip the new lab with 12 computers and furniture. Tom Cochran, acting vice chancellor of academic affairs, said he praised Eaton and program organizers for their contributions.

The academic affairs program agreed to match the money with funds the state gives UNCA for new equipment.

In return for their gift, Eaton hoped to get some good engineers to work for them after they graduate. Eaton representatives did not show for the event, however, according

to Comfort.

A four-year residential program for students from this area will benefit local industry, according to Comfort. Students stay resided at UNCA, but their degree will come from NCSU.

"The Manufacturers Executives Association and the Chamber of Commerce have long been saying that we want an engineering school in Asheville," said Comfort. "We had a 'two-plus-two' program, which is great, but that meant the students would leave and go to Raleigh to finish up their last two years. They didn't tend to come back," said Comfort.

Comfort and other fundraisers evaluated the best way to promote the mechatronics engineering program.

"If we are going to have good mechatronics students, we need strong undergraduate science programs," he said.

The physics department supports the mechatronics program, which needed money the most.

In the physics department, the "professors are great, but the equipment was not up to snuff for what we need," said Comfort.

Comfort said keeping up with adequate equipment concerns many learning institutions. Sometimes local businesses try to help by donating old equipment.

"That doesn't help us because they are out of date," said Comfort.

In particular, the department plans to purchase design equipment, the "sacred cow of engineering programs, now," said Comfort.