

# OPINIONS

## Unified Solar making an effort to improve campus



Zev Friedman  
Unified Solar Columnist

UNCA is beginning to establish itself as a leader in environmental responsibility among higher education institutions.

All across campus, many environmental actions are brewing, prompted by a strong realization that UNCA is a large organization with a significant 'ecological footprint' and much room for improvement.

For example, every year the school spends more than \$1 million on coal-fired electricity when there are proven ways to drastically decrease this cost, save taxpayers' monies, and reduce UNCA's contribution to Western North Carolina's unhealthy air.

These savings would be a start in lightening the current budget crunch.

By no means are these economically and environmentally sound measures new to UNCA.

Many forward-thinking faculty and staff have been working behind the scenes to transform UNCA into a more integrated, efficient and responsive campus.

Their accomplishments and processes are becoming a template from which many other universities and community members will derive inspiration.

In September 2001, the school hosted a design charette and dedicated itself to meeting stringent LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards on its new science and facilities management buildings, mainly due to the sustained efforts of Vice-Chancellor Wayne McDevitt, Steve Baxley, director of facilities management, and Paul Braise, head of design and construction.

In addition, the science building will be built using the U.S. Department of Energy's new Labs for the 21st century environmental design program, created to deal with the complex environmental issues unique to the laboratory setting.

This science building is well on its way to becoming one of the 'greenest' and most modern lab buildings in the nation!

Thanks to the timely intervention of Paul Braise and UNCA Recycling Coordinator Lynn Patzig, UNCA carried out a deconstruction recycling project with the Governors Village Dorms in November 2001 that received nation wide praise and media coverage, and provided metal with which the art department is creating artistic bicycle racks for campus.

Here are some of the projects currently on the proverbial green plate: \*An effort to comply with the Kyoto Protocol at the university level in order to reduce UNCA's climate impact.

This effort, modeled after Oberlin College and Tufts University by UNCA environmental management students, will involve an assessment of all of the infrastructure and activity on campus that in any way leads to greenhouse gas emissions; the assessment will be followed by recommended infrastruc-

ture modifications to reduce those emissions.

Many people believe that GHG emission reductions by institutions and industries cannot wait for the United State's diplomatic approval.

\*Creation of a sustainability library; this will be housed in Ramsey Library and will comprise a reservoir of books, journals, and electronic resources that will make information on many facets of sustainable living readily accessible to UNCA students and the Asheville community.

The green library will include an in-depth array of topics ranging from instructions for building an inexpensive solar water heater from scratch to the toxic by-products of photovoltaic production to grassroots organizational strategies to biomimicry in architecture.

It will serve as a comfortable database for those who do not primarily

**"Many forward thinking faculty and staff have been working behind the scenes to transform UNCA into a more integrated, efficient and responsive campus."**

identify themselves as environmentalists but still wish to incorporate environmental consciousness into their lives and professions.

\*Sustainable speaker series. A central theme to UNCA's greening efforts is that everything done here only acquires real significance if it is subsequently adopted on a larger scale by others.

So, in addition to the green library, we are organizing a prominent series of speakers on sustainability issues targeted not only at students and faculty but also at community members who have the opportunity to incorporate these ideas into their homes and businesses.

\*Faculty green lunch group. Five years ago, faculty members at Emory University formed a lunch discussion group that met every two weeks to discuss sustainability issues. They ended up becoming quite active and accomplishing great things for Emory.

The first UNCA Faculty Green Lunch will be held soon. Although it will begin by meeting only once a month, we have high hopes for what the faculty can accomplish by joining together explicitly for this purpose.

When the names of the participating faculty are printed, be sure to thank them for helping to make UNCA a better place!

\*Public transportation improvement. Beginning with participation in the Buncombe County Public Transportation Forum on May 17, UNCA will become a leader in the effort to reduce traffic, fossil fuel consumption and air pollution around Asheville by helping to tailor the bus system to connect campus with the rest of Asheville.

Most people realize the Asheville public transportation system is not as useful as it could be. In addition, the city is aware of the bus system deficiency, but does not have the

kind of funding necessary to immediately improve it.

So, UNCA will be one of about 15 major public transportation constituencies that will gather to determine exactly what services we all need and how we can help the city to get there.

Student participation would be wonderful here. Imagine a city where you can get from anywhere to anywhere in 15 minutes, at any time, as many times as you need to per day, without carrying money and without worrying about parking!

Boulder, Colorado (a city roughly complementary to Asheville in size) has fulfilled that dream, and Bob Whitson, the mastermind of Boulder's project, is coming to our Forum in May.

\*Highsmith Center deconstruction recycling project. When the Governor's Village Dorms were deconstructed, approximately 70 percent of the materials were diverted from their standard landfill destination and were recycled.

When Highsmith is deconstructed, we hope to bring that percentage up into the 90s, as well as actually reusing a large portion of those materials on campus.

As with the dorms, student participation will be welcome. Ripping apart buildings is like yoga.

\*Campus-wide greening charette. "Charette" is a fancy word, quietly stolen from Parisian artist terminology, which refers to an inter-

active meeting of interdisciplinary individuals to discuss and determine action on an issue.

Charettes usually include several layers of "breakout discussions," in which small groups are formed to talk about different aspects of the central issue.

By including, say, a plumber and a landscaper in an architectural charette, problems with water damage and shading might be avoided before the building is designed, rather than discovered when they occur in the faulty building.

Similarly, Wayne McDevitt would like to organize a campus charette to discuss if and how UNCA will become a leader in environmental responsibility.

The idea is that environmental consciousness is not simply an independent branch of thought, but instead can add richness to any discipline, deepening our understanding of our impact on ecological systems and enhancing the quality of our lives.

It is only reasonable to expect that artists, political scientists, economists and chemists will create fresh and useful outlooks on issues that are frequently constrained to environmental dialogue.

The administration, along with Unified Solar, is beginning to organize the campus greening charette, which will probably occur in fall 2002.

If this strikes a chord with you, contact us and get involved! Through this weekly column, Unified Solar will continue to do our best to keep everybody updated on the development of these efforts and abreast of hot local and national environmental news.

Get in touch with Unified Solar and we can help you find a niche in the campus movement that is fun, fits your energy commitment, and can aid you academically by providing research resources.

## Webcasting in jeopardy

Dear Editor:

All Educational and Community Radio Webcasts are in jeopardy.

Educational and Community radio stations around the country are putting their audio on the internet and are VERY concerned that soon they must stop "webcasting" due to new fees, content restrictions and costly reporting requirements.

Other stations want to start webcasting, but are afraid to because of the fees and other requirements.

If you want to be able to listen to these stations on the web, jump to the TAKE ACTION PAGE now. It only takes a minute of your time to help Save Our Streams!

If you are a station that is webcasting, or about to start webcasting (streaming audio on the internet) you need to know this information.

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) imposes new fees for stations that put their audio on the internet, in addition to the fees that stations are already paying to ASCAP, BMI and SESAC.

That's not the only problem! Whether you are a station or an on-line listener, you must act today to Save Our Streams!

Here's what stations must contend with as a result of the DMCA. Fees? Stations already pay royalty

fees. Yes, they do, for the use of the composition, not the recording.

The DMCA establishes new fees that could exceed \$10,000 per year, just for putting a station on the internet.

Once the fees are determined, they are RETROACTIVE to 1998! Stations on the internet are likely to be asked to produce monthly reports containing information about every song they air, including artist, song title, album retail title, record label, catalog number, International Standard Recording Code (ISRC), date and time of transmission.

These requirements are not only onerous, but cost prohibitive! Stations will also need to adhere to content restrictions.

Do you want your station to be forced to determine the songs it plays by some arbitrary restrictions?

Imagine if the reporting requirements were in effect now, how many stations would have broadcast specials concerning the death of George Harrison with music that exceeded the content restrictions?

Did these broadcasts spur the sales of his music? Beatles Music? According to local press, it sure did! Don't let them rest in peace!

Educational and Community Stations no longer streaming due to the DMCA.

KXCI WUVT KBOO KDHX WPTS KBCS WMHW KBVR KXRJ and many more to come, unless you take action today!

Get involved! Take Action!

Tarl Beckman  
Senior, business

## UNCA students competitive with scholarships

Dear Editor:

Having spent a great deal of time this semester and last helping out UNCA students with scholarship and fellowship opportunities, I have made a few frustrating discoveries.

It might come as a surprise to some that identifying funding opportunities for top students has not been frustrating in the least.

Indeed, opportunities abound for partial as well as full fellowships for graduate and continuing undergraduate study.

Nor has the process of identifying qualified students been difficult. UNCA has more than her fair share of competitive and competent students.

My greatest challenge has been convincing our top students that they are not only qualified to compete for these prestigious scholarship awards, but that they are among the best students nationwide.

On several occasions, I have had students shy away from national competitions because they did not feel qualified.

I thought I would take a moment to clarify a few points about the education that UNCA student receive, and why our students and alumni have, in many instances, a marked advantage over the competition.

First, as liberal arts graduates, UNCA students are often more attractive to prospective patrons and grant-making agencies.

Independent scholarship and fellowship providers are typically looking for the well-rounded academic qualities that our graduates possess.

Second, our rigorous curriculum and major programs of study ensure that UNCA students are among the best prepared for post-graduate study.

As an alumnus who has gone on to further study, I can testify to this fact.

Indeed, this level of preparation has not escaped the notice of grant makers and graduate schools.

Finally, top UNCA graduates exhibit a degree of professionalism and competence that is tough even for more prestigious schools to match.

These qualities shine through in interviews, thanks to the rich academic and co-curricular experiences that UNCA students enjoy.

But don't take my word for it. Consider the long list of UNCA graduates and alumni who have received the prestigious and nationally competitive Fulbright Scholarship at a rate of about one per year for the past 26 years.

Consider the remarkable success we have had with Goldwater Fellowships.

Consider that UNCA had two back-to-back Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars, who received full funding for a year of graduate study abroad in 1999 and 2000.

Of course the list goes on, but the important point to gather from this success rate is that these foundations and grant-making agencies certainly believe that UNCA students are competitive, often to the tune of \$20,000 or more.

This impressive record of student achievements is steadily building UNCA's reputation for academic excellence, a reputation that has most likely preceded your scholarship application.

UNCA students are among the most competitive in the country, so I will ask you to remember that the next time you learn of a scholarship or fellowship opportunity.

And if you are thinking about graduate school, or if you would like to apply for an undergraduate award, please stop by or check the list of opportunities that we have compiled on the honors program Web site, [www.unca.edu/honors](http://www.unca.edu/honors).

If you have worked hard as a UNCA student and have earned exceptional grades, there is simply no reason not to apply.

Doug Jones  
Coordinator, University Honors

## Letters to the Editor

### Appalled by Heffner story

Dear Editor:

I would like to begin by saying that this is not so much a critique, but an expression of a concern.

Picking up the Feb. 15 issue of your paper, I discovered that three out of the four front-page stories dealt with investigations and charges brought against people.

I will not even try to pretend I am unbiased. One particular article focused, Sean Heffner, was someone considered to be a good friend since high school.

One article dealt with embezzlement, and I can see some relevance there.

The student body may indeed have a right to know how UNCA money is spent, even though our tuitions are only a small fraction of the school's budget.

The other two, however, dealt with personal disputes and/or charges, do not believe these things are necessarily the business of the entire student body.

What I am trying to say is that when I picked up this copy of *The Blue Banner*, I expected to read news that was relevant to at least a large portion of the campus and walk away with that post-enlightened, tingly feeling.

Instead, I found myself with the wrenching sensation I usually carry away from the tabloids in check-out lines.

So, in conclusion, I know there is not an overabundance of campus news to fill up a regularly published paper.

I would greatly appreciate it, however, if you wouldn't fill up the extra space with stories of every student who is kicked off campus.

This campus does not have a huge student body, and every story like Sean Heffner's surely has a concerned group who hates to see their friends' names smeared on the front page.

Ryan Madden  
Junior, undeclared

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