

# THE BLUE BANNER

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*The Blue Banner* is UNC Asheville's student newspaper. We publish each Tuesday except during summer sessions, finals week and holiday breaks. Our office is located in Karpen Hall 019.

*The Blue Banner* is a designated forum for free speech and welcomes letters to the editor, considering them on basis of interest, space and timeliness. Letters and articles should be emailed to the editor-in-chief or the appropriate section editor. Letters should include the writer's name, year in school, and major or other relationship to UNCA. Include a phone number to aid in verification. All articles are subject to editing.

# EDITORIAL

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE UNEXCUSED BY POWER AND STATUS

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Harvey Weinstein has become a tarnished household name of modern America as the floodgates of sexual assault and harassment allegations continue to pour over his legacy as a Hollywood producer.

As the allegations of more than two dozen women rise to the surface, and as Weinstein's career shatters beneath him after the firing from his own studio, The Weinstein Company, it is crucial to know sexual violence is not an isolated incident among one field, but an epidemic among all fields, among all people.

Beyond the stigma of movie producers pulling the "I can get you a role in a movie" trick, as referenced by producer Dana Brunetti in an interview with The LA Times, the stigma of sexual violence in exchange for a woman's success is completely unacceptable.

Weinstein was punished, but he is not the only man of high authority who has manipulated the young and talented for sexual favors in exchange for a career. Furthermore, his punishment is a rarity among the powerful. While

his removal and ultimately the end of his career pushes our society a step forward, the end of the path to justice for sex crime survivors will not be reached soon.

The abuse and games Weinstein and others like him play go beyond a job or an out-of-court settlement; this abuse latches on to the survivor as a living, breathing monstrosity that does not go away.

*The Blue Banner* condemns sexual violence in all forms, regardless of the assailant's power, talent or intention. With incidences such as the wildfire of reports kindled by Weinstein's firing, we see an upward trend toward ending mass sexual violence. By actively condemning sexual predators and giving voices to survivors and those who may encounter predatory situations in the future, we can switch the role from praising predators and giving survivors an ill repute. Instead, we can uplift survivors and diminish sexual predators from the fields they dominate, the positions they proudly hold in their stained, filthy honor.