

# 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

## TRUMP IMPLIES PENCE'S TREATMENT OF LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY WILL LEAVE BLOODTRAIL

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Since the beginning of Trump's presidency, various groups of people have called for his impeachment. Although a Trump impeachment would in fact be preferred by many, it would then default the country into the hands of Mike Pence, the former Indiana governor and current vice president.

During a meeting with Pence and a legal scholar about topics such as abortion and gay rights, Trump gestured toward Pence saying, "Don't ask that guy — he wants to hang them all," in reference to the LGBTQ+ community.

It is one thing to engage in discussion, even argue, with views not partial to one's own; it is another thing for Trump to make a joke on the behalf of the safety and welfare of the millions of LGBTQ+ citizens in this country.

Aside from being an entirely evil and vulgar comment, it emphasizes the very real dangers the LGBTQ+ community

face on a daily basis, dangers and fear that have only been enhanced since the beginning of Trump's term.

Pence has relentlessly campaigned against gay rights as his record of opposition to gay rights shows in his records of voting as a member of Congress and governor of Indiana. His approval of gay conversion therapy became well known during the 2016 Republican Party campaign, according to *The New York Times*.

At *The Blue Banner*, we denounce the movement of anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and the light-heartedness that Trump and Pence use to discuss such topics. In an America where hate crimes against the LGBTQ+ community is twice as likely as hate crimes against any other minority group, we cannot afford to have a president and an administration that jokes about the deaths of our citizens.