

The Seahawk



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Room for improvement

Dear Editor:

Due to the recent editorials and letters to the editor, I would like to say a few things regarding the Student Government Association (SGA). These are opinions of mine and do not represent the views and opinions of the SGA as a whole.

First, I would like to congratulate The Seahawk for being able to publish twice a week. When The Seahawk first decided to embark on this endeavor, the SGA never doubted it. SGA never said that it probably would not succeed; we never said that the Seahawk had enough problems finding material for one paper a week, let alone two. No, we encouraged and supported the staff, and still do.

Nonetheless, I do believe that you let many opportunities for stories get passed by. For instance, I do not recall seeing a story informing the UNCW community that the SGA aided in registering nearly 650 people, mainly students, to vote in this year's presidential elections.

Or what about the Sophomore Class Trash-a-Thon organized and implemented by SGA members who got UNCW students to go and pick up trash around New Hanover County. I would assume that all students are in support of making our community a more beautiful place to live.

Another missed event is Tailgate 2001, school spirit events that get UNCW students more active with our basketball team. We provided games and prizes and free food to students. Tailgate was even mentioned during Homecoming Court interviews as one of the best new traditions at UNCW.

As for Mr. (Thomas) Hamilton's remarks (*Letter to the Editor*, March 27, 2001) about the "SGA bickering", I would venture to say that not all students on this campus agree about everything. Everyone has his or her own

opinion and many of these are represented in your SGA. While SGA does disagree at times, things get done. I know I would not feel comfortable if people of the exact same mindset were making decisions concerning me. Conflict is not always a bad thing. When Mr. Hamilton was Vice-President, SGA was a completely different creature. We have made so many changes in SGA this year and I do not recall ever seeing him at one of the meetings this year so I do not see how he could make those assumptions.

As for the "Greek bashing" recently in the paper, I thought we as a community of UNCW, were trying to unify campus, not discriminate against members. I am not Greek and have never once been "bashed" because of it. Every person I know that is Greek is completely understanding and comfortable with my decision. I challenge Mr. Hamilton and all others who have written negatively about the Greeks on campus to go and talk to some of them or look at their website, or even visit the Office of the Dean of Students. Greeks do great things for UNCW and Wilmington. Don't let the actions of other campuses influence the way you view the sororities and fraternities at UNCW.

But Mr. Hamilton did get one thing right, SGA is working to make a difference on campus. By focusing on how SGA may not be able to pull off on-line voting, you only bring SGA down, which will ultimately have negative effects on you as a student.

Try to be optimistic and supportive of the SGA and all other student organizations as they work to better our campus, at least that is what they have been doing for you.

SGA meets every Tuesday night at 7:30 in UU 100. Everyone is invited to attend.

Erica Pittelkow
Current Student Body Vice President

Editorial Viewpoint

Lack of diversity on campus poses problem

Diversity is a word everyone likes to embrace and claims to have. However, there are some serious issues that need to be addressed as the university moves forward into the future.

The university seems to have grand plans for expansion over the next 10 years and a developing vision for achieving that. Perhaps part of that vision will include an increase in minority enrollment, which is currently less than 10 percent.

According to the University of North Carolina System Fall 2000 Enrollment Report, minority students make up nearly one-third of high school graduates in the state of North Carolina. It is apparent that our 10 percent enrollment of minorities is far from being representative of the state.

The university needs to take an honest and serious look at needs to be done to make this a more appealing environment to minority stu-

dents. UNCW cannot seriously consider itself one of the elite universities, as the administration continuously wants to do, if we can not truly represent and support the community within our state.

Without true diversity on campus, the university is making two major mistakes. First and most important, it fails to be representative of the community in which it serves. Second, it deprives enrolled students the opportunity of being exposed to a diverse culture and learning experience.

The university needs to seriously explore what measures need to be taken to increase minority involvement. Then, it needs to address those areas with the same level of passion it addressed the bond issue.

Until this happens, students will continue to be cheated out of a true educational experience. Society cannot expect a diverse culture if it cannot even teach it.

What is there to stand up for?

Dear Editor:

We are sheep. We were bred to be sheep. ("*View From the Dodo's Nest*," March 29, 2001)

You are the shepherd—take us where you want us. You would take us to the slaughter in a den of wolves, to have us fight. We have been taught how to think, how to act, how to dress—how to breathe—We Are Americans. Generations before have set the walls high—only to have the walls torn down. And now the walls are gone—and we must riot over basketball—our replacement for war. We come up with absurd ideas only to answer our own need for disturbance.

And yet the shepherds cry for blood, for a fight, for us to learn—but what are we to do—we are only sheep.

One to be proud of. Your article is nothing more than a scolding for the students of UNCW—be informed—be radical—change the world—be just like me. We are comfortable sitting in the dorm rooms and classes asking two

things. 1) Is this going to be on the test?? 2) Am I going to be able to use this in my career? Wake up! This is our job—living—surviving. S**t happens, we all know this from "Forrest Gump". What we wonder is—what are we going to do about it? God, please, don't you tell me anything more to do—rage, anger is not the way to make a stand. But, it worked here I am writing you this letter to get you off the back of the whinnying student body.

You would like us to stand and fight...for what I might ask? For the First Amendment? For the right to write an advertisement? Or just the right to bitch? Then again I've missed the point completely. The point was to get a response.

Julie Peacock
Freshman

Editor's Note: The point was to get students to start thinking and expressing their thoughts.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Seahawk encourages all readers to submit letters to the editor for possible publication. Please limit correspondence to 300 words. The Seahawk may edit letters for space. The Seahawk reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter. Libelous, false and misleading material will not be considered for publication. All letters must be signed by the author. Letters to the editor are the individual opinions of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Seahawk staff or the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Letters can be submitted in person at the Seahawk office, University Union room 205E; by mail at The Seahawk Newspaper, 501 S. College Rd., Wilmington, NC 28403; or by email at editor@theseahawk.org