

OPINION

The Appalachian

Your student newspaper since 1934.

ASU Box 9025
Boone, N.C. 28608

Founded 1934.

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Our Perspective ...

Banner's 'oops' hits right in the purse

There are a few things you can depend on at Appalachian State University.

Tuition hikes are inevitable, construction can be a nightmare, parking is a hassle and classes are rarely (if ever) cancelled for snow.

But look on the bright side, if you are a university employee, you can at least count on receiving your paycheck on time and void of errors.

Right? Isn't that how it is supposed to work?

Apparently that is not how it operates, at least not under the Banner payroll system.

With the Banner system, that paycheck may be late, it could contain an overpayment to be removed in the months to come or taxes could be collected in lump sums.

Confusing? Definitely.

A hassle? Sure.

Inconvenient? Oh, yeah.

Avoidable? One would think so.

Banner is a new system.

At least, it was new a year ago.

Since then, the system has been plagued by errors.

Certainly a new program comes with an expected "learning curve."

But how far is that learning curve allowed to reach before it causes university employees to lose a month's paycheck altogether?

Obviously, Banner has met more than its share of woes.

Each time the error was explained as a "box that was not checked" or line not filled in, simply oversights.

Why have these boxes not been properly checked and lines and not filled in after so many mistakes?

It seems that these miscalculations could be avoided if the payroll watched for those prone to occur Banner learning curve mishaps.

Isn't it much more difficult and more frustrating to fix these errors after the paychecks have been sent?

The payroll department has received quite a few phone calls from confused and disgruntled university employees.

It is a lose-lose situation when those erroneous checks make it to bank accounts and mailboxes.

Employees are hassled by the one thing they think they can rely on: a steady paycheck.

The payroll department is inconvenienced by phone calls and mistakes stemming from a system meant to make everything easier: Banner.

There are two choices: learn how to use the Banner system or find a program that is more user-friendly.

Since it seems that the latter is not an option, then it is time to learn from those past mistakes that have proved so costly for university employees.

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OUR MISSION

The Appalachian, a student-run publication at Appalachian State University, strives to provide fair and accurate news for the campus community; to inform, entertain and create a forum for ideas; to be a watchdog for student, faculty and staff interests; and to remain independent and reserve its First Amendment rights.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Appalachian is published every Tuesday and Thursday of the academic year with the exception of selected holidays and breaks. The opinions expressed in the commentaries appearing in The Appalachian are those of the individual columnists and not those of The Appalachian. The opinions represented in the unsigned editorial are the majority views of those on the Editorial Board of The Appalachian.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Appalachian welcomes Letters to the Editor. Letters should be 250 words or less, typed and double spaced. They should include the author's name, ASU Box, phone number, year in school and campus affiliation, if any. The Appalachian reserves the right to decline publication of any letter and to edit letters for the purpose of clarity and space.

Although we are unable to acknowledge those letters we cannot publish, we appreciate the interest and value the views of those who take the time to send us their comments. Letters must be submitted electronically via email. The email address is theapp@appstate.edu. Letters to the editor that are of proper length, and contain proper identification may be published online rather than in print. Letters can be accessed online by the Web site: <http://theapp.appstate.edu>.

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Should Dr. LaHaye get support or criticism?

We have freedom of speech in this country. I am all for that. Especially since it protects the speech that we do not like.

Any speech coming from the mouth of Dr. Tim LaHaye is definitely what I do not like.

The author of the best-selling Left Behind novels, LaHaye is not exactly what you would call a "loving Christian."

In a non-fiction book he wrote, titled "Mind Siege," LaHaye outlined what he would consider a perfect society. In this society, there is no separation of church and state. Of course, abortion is outlawed and homosexuality is the same as pedophilia. Public schools are devoted to fundamentalist indoctrination.

Since we all know that kids are unaware of sex, we'll just outlaw sex education. That way, AIDS will disappear and kids will never get pregnant.

We won't need condoms seeing as how sex will only happen in the sanctity of marriage, so think of all the latex we can save for useful things like medical gloves.

Women stay at home to raise their babies and forget all that feminism taught them about being equal and having rights, apparently.

He is also a co-founder of the Council for National Policy (CNP), a secretive group of all the best (i.e. super conservative) men in America: Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson have supposedly been members for years.

In 2000, this group summoned now-President George W. Bush to a closed-door meeting to make sure he represents them. He succeeded in this, and suddenly the full weight of the Christian Right was behind him.

LaHaye also seems to hate particular religions. In 1988 word came out that his church had sponsored an anti-Catholic group called Mission to Catholics. One pamphlet stated that Pope John Paul II was the "archpriest of Satan."

He has also noted that Roman Catholicism is "a false religion" and had asserted that the Jews are responsible for Jesus' death.

I am fine with him being against Catholicism. Well not exactly fine with it, but I've been living in the South for the past 11 years and I am used to people questioning my religion.

Some have even ventured to tell me that it is not Christianity and we have it all wrong because we believe man is not saved through faith alone, but works actually mean something.

I am OK with him having sold



Hugh Kellenberger



Tiffany King

60 million copies of this bile, such tedious work that only a fundamentalist could make them through without resorting to vomiting.

The problem I have is the fact that this man has the ear of the president. There are 280 million people in this country. It's bad enough that we couldn't find one with intellect and instinct. Assuming the president does possess some instinct, the intellect area is being covered by guys like LaHaye and Falwell?

Excuse me while I file the necessary papers to move to France.

According to the 2000 census, 28 percent of this country classifies themselves as Catholics. 56 percent call themselves Protestants, but if you break down by the different protestant religions (Methodist, Baptist, etc.), Catholicism is the largest religion in the United States.

No one has ever elected Tim LaHaye.

He has never even run for political office.

He is a man who scares people into following him. His biggest follower is Wal-Mart, as evidenced by the huge displays welcoming you as you enter the door.

We all know Wal-Mart is the symbol of good judgment, given that they sell guns and ammunition but have decided that "Maxim" is too indecent for their taste. He has made millions using the name of Jesus Christ, and has shown no remorse for this fact.

There are plenty of great Christian leaders.

Billy Graham is a perfect example, as well as the Pope. However, people like Falwell, Robertson and LaHaye are the ones standing in front of the camera declaring millions of Americans to be wrong, because God told them so. I talk to God too; gentlemen, and He had a much different answer.

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the Bible because they do not fit into their particular doctrine. LaHaye has every right to interpret the Bible however he pleases. And who's to say he isn't right? I may not agree with everything Tim LaHaye stands for, but I do have to give credit and respect to a man who stands up for his beliefs, even if it does cost him his reputation.

To me being able to respect someone else's interpretation is a reflection of one's true faith and their beliefs. If you have true faith, you can read a different interpretation, respect it and not be offended by it. This is the principle of religious tolerance and it should not be completely foreign to Americans, considering it is one of the founding principles of our religious freedoms.

Unfortunately, the article did not just end with the attacks on LaHaye. It continued to discuss how LaHaye and a group of other members of The Christian Right had a meeting with our president, George W. Bush during his 2000 campaign. In this meeting it is alleged that the members of the Christian Right quizzed George W. Bush to see if he had the same ideals as them, and if he was someone they wanted to support for president.

The author of the article, Robert Dreyfuss, stated that this makes many feel uncomfortable knowing President Bush's evangelical beliefs.

Tim LaHaye's influence on George W. Bush's campaign, in my opinion is no different from any lobbyist's influence. For years tobacco companies have put political leaders in place by financing their campaigns, in order to get Congress on the side of the tobacco companies.

By interviewing George W. Bush, the Christian Right was just trying to make sure that George W. Bush was someone they wanted to support. If not, who's to say they wouldn't find another candidate to back up. It is not a new idea; organizations have backed and funded campaigns for years.

So are we right to disagree with Dr. Tim LaHaye and his beliefs? Of course we are, we can form any opinion we want. Even I, who has read his books, have chosen to disagree with many of his points. But are we right to persecute him simply because he believes something we don't or interpret something differently than many others do? No, I don't think so. Maybe we should exercise our freedoms and practice a little tolerance.

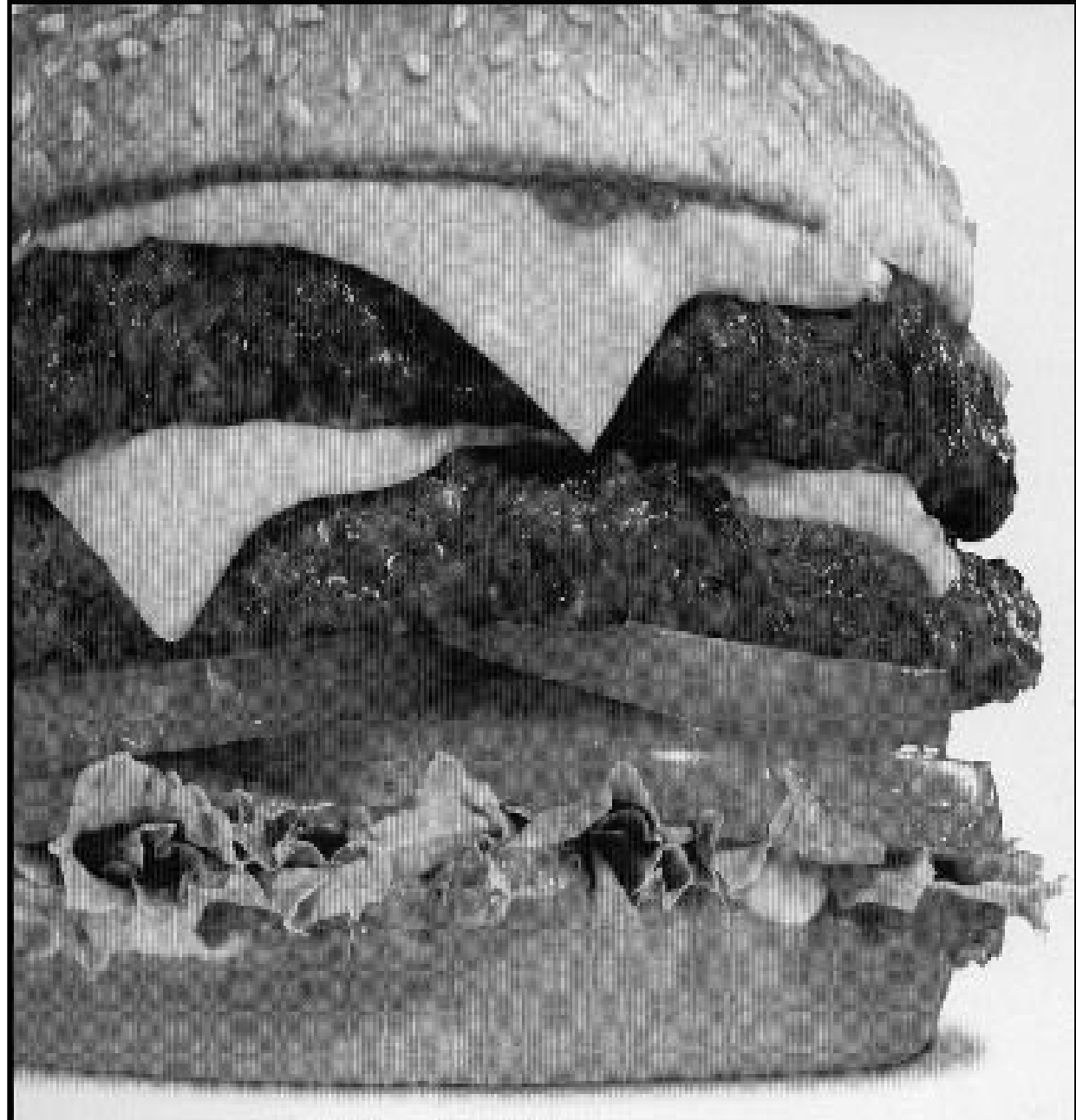
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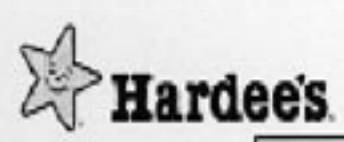
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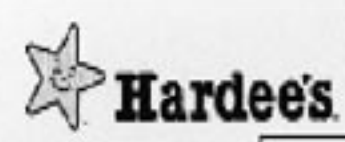
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OPINION



Ah, Valentine's Day. It is the infamous day where love stands to be recognized, whether love is in your life or not. For those in relationships, the expectations are higher and the pressure is on. Typical has been done and tame is not in the cards. Roses, chocolate, and a little dinner by candlelight are in order no matter if love has sealed the deal or not. Relationships that are still in the "only if he calls me first" phase are jolted forward and those in the ever-so-serious/comfortable "we talk about our bodily functions" phase are reminded to rekindle the romance. On this fateful day in recognition of love, where do you stand? Give in, take the quiz. What kind of love do you have? Are you crazy in love like Jessica and Nick, just for show like Angelina Jolie and Billy Bob, or is your love on a rollercoaster ride like "Bennifer?"

- When you go out on a random night together...
 - The bf always foots the bill, no questions asked.
 - Sometimes the bf pays, sometimes the gf pays.
 - You are lucky if you make it out in public together.
- After spending a weekend away together your bf/gf drops you off at your house on Sunday night and you...
 - Go home and shower, then relentlessly study biology and call them to say goodnight.
 - Why go to separate showers?
 - Actually, come to think of it, the only time you go home is to shower and change.
- You haven't been able to get in touch with your bf/gf for the whole night; the first thought that runs through your head is...
 - They are screening their phone calls and avoiding you.
 - Wonderful, they out are hooking up with that redhead they said was hot the other day.
 - Think he/she is either at the library working on that paper he/she has been stressing over, or their cell phone is dead again, as usual.
- Your bf/gf has an 8 a.m. class with no transportation, but you don't have class until three in the afternoon and you want them to spend the night do you...
 - Reassure him/her that there is an AppalCart stand right by your apartment?
 - Set your alarm for 7 a.m. with enough time to grab a Mickey D's chicken biscuit on the way to taking him/her to class?
 - Let them take your car and park in your spot on campus?
- Your girlfriend's car battery has just died and she has an important appointment in 30 minutes. When she calls you on the way to class, you...
 - Tell her you are on the way to class and she will have to wait
 - Skip class to go help her.
 - Leave her with your car and tell her to come pick you up from class when she gets done with her appointment.
- Your bf is a huge Dave Matthews Band fan while you are a diehard Black Flag fan. Do you...
 - Agree to disagree?
 - Become a Dave fan overnight and know the Lillywhite sessions by heart?
 - Revert to mixed CDs containing the best of both worlds?

- Your bf/gf's ex calls and wants to take them to a catch-up lunch session. You...
 - Say it's okay, but wait until he/she returns from the lunch to start a fight
 - Feel reluctant, but say it's okay once you have arranged a lunch date with your ex to keep the scores even.
 - Tell them of course you can go, but only if he/she brings you back leftovers.
- Your bf/gf has already spent his/her loan check for the semester and there is no help from the parental units in sight, do you...
 - Help your bf/gf out until they get a job?
 - Split your slim pickins' with them, 50/50?
 - Break-up with them and wait for that girl/guy with the Land Rover to ask you out?
- Your gf/bf wants to try out that maneuver that Sue was talking about on "Sunday Night Sex Show," you on the other hand...
 - Are one step ahead and plan on involving a third party
 - Would rather cuddle ... then maybe ... but probably not.
 - Think like 2Pac, "I am looking for a lady (gentlemen) in the light and a freak in the dark."
- You adore your bf/gf, but hanging out with his/her friends is worse than that smell that lingers in the dorm elevators after a Friday night. When confronted with the inevitable you...
 - Suck it up and become very involved with whatever reality show is on TV while trying to drown out the sounds of his/her friends in the background.
 - Get to know them; if they are friends with him/her, they have to be bearable.
 - Use the time you spend with his/her friends as emotional blackmail next time you want your bf/gf to do something for you.
- This Valentine's Day you plan to...
 - Can't say, it always has to be a surprise
 - Lock yourselves away together for the weekend and forget about the rest of the world, what do they know anyway?
 - Win a date with Brad Norman, senior sports writer for *The Appalachean*, and be swept off your feet.

- a. 1
b. 2
c. 3
- a. 2
b. 3
c. 1
- a. 2
b. 1
c. 3

Jessica and Nick 27-33

Happy Valentine's Day to you, it looks like you have it together in the love department. You both try to compromise and understand each other, even though sometimes you disagree. You offer great support to one another and maintain a balance between friendship and love. The relationship the two of you have was obtained by knowing yourselves and knowing what you deserve. This is the person that will make you smile for a lifetime and as long as both of you work for it, the romance may not fizzle. Who knows, this may or may not be the one, but you are certainly on the right track. Although your Valentine's Day may not begin with a dinner of Chicken of the Sea, neither of you would mind a little love by candlelight.

Bennifer 16-26

It is like the first time you are love. You tell the whole world, it is so innocent, but wait, no such luck. It takes a turn for the worse and suddenly love isn't so grand. You seem to be a couple that thrives on being idealized by others, for everyone tells you they want what they "think" the two of you have. Granted, you care about each other, but behind closed doors, your surface relationship sinks to the floor. You definitely have your sweet moments and you try to make it work, but you are missing something. Don't hang on just to please everyone else, or because you are afraid of being alone. Even though this person may be wonderful in every aspect, that does not mean they are wonderful for you. Take a look around and if you can't imagine ever putting such a bling-bling on her finger, or getting one from him ... let it go and don't drag it out with random Saturday nights together. A clean break is idealistic, but in reality, it will save you in the end.

Angelina Jolie and Billy Bob 11-16

Maybe you aren't carrying each other's blood in a vial around your neck, but this relationship may be headed down a dark path. What may seem like a passionate and intimate partnership is just a down and dirty fling that will more than likely end up leaving someone coming out of the battle a little bruised. This relationship is one that many encounter in college, what some may refer to as a "learning experience." One person is probably more into the relationship than the other, and with Player, party for one, jerking on the reigns of love; a nasty break-up may ensue. Have your fun; just don't go running off for tattoos of love expecting this to be something long term.

Points:

- a. 2
b. 3
c. 1
- a. 3
b. 2
c. 1
- a. 1
b. 2
c. 3
- a. 1
b. 2
c. 3
- a. 1
b. 2
c. 3
- a. 2
b. 1
c. 3
- a. 2
b. 1
c. 3
- a. 3
b. 2
c. 1



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