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There Is No Robin Hood, Get Over It

People always complain about the powers that reside over them. Employees feel their bosses screw them out of money. Citizens fear their government is conspiring against them. Students fear that administrators abuse the money they pay to attend school.

The fact of the matter is that few people actually do much more than complain. People are ever hopeful that their own personal Robin Hood is going to show up and save the day. Unfortunately, the real Robin Hood died centuries ago.

Last week the Blue Banner ran an article concerning the possibility that administrators abuse student fees. Say it isn't so! Next thing we know, we're going to find out that the Oscars are political and French Fries aren't actually French.

None of the above things shock people, yet they throw a fit when someone uses their money incorrectly. However, unlike the evil Sheriff Nottingham, there is no good king coming to the rescue or any reasonable way to arrest them.

According to the UNC Asheville events calender, there's a plethora of events concerning the environment and arts. A few weeks ago, however, UNCA administrators John Pierce and Bill Haggard held a budget forum for students. Where were the upset students then? There were a few SGA members and reporters from the Banner and few others.

So this brings into question whether or not students really care about how their fees are spent. Many students may feel that their opinion doesn't matter and all they can do is complain. Others don't care at all while still more are waiting for their Robin Hood to steal their money back for them.

The Sheriff of Nottingham, from the Robin Hood story, abused the tax money for his own pleasures. Administrators at UNCA, according to UNC policy manual, cannot use students fees for salaries. Their own salaries that is.

Administration are those people with titles like "Vice Chancellor" or "Chancellor" and have power over school legislation. Administrators, however, are more like that side-kick minion that the Sheriff of Nottingham sent to hunt down Robin Hood.

All of this seems confusing, sort of like administrators are splitting hairs to confuse students. If this worried students, then where were they during the budget forum?

The Blue Banner and SGA attempt to help students understand the world around them in terms of the big picture. But they are not Robin Hood, just students trying to hold administration accountable.

There's another issue at hand: accountability and responsibility. It is the responsibility of students to hold administration accountable. And then the responsibility falls on administration to make information concerning accounts available to students.

Budget cuts, recession and stressed out administration often lead to rash choices. According to UNCA's "UNC Tomorrow Response Phase II: Faculty and Staff Recruitment and Retention," administration attempts to retain jobs by shifting them around in the pyramid.

Maybe UNCA is using student fees to pay some of the faculty salaries, so what? Apparently, people would be happier knowing that, instead of allowing a small amount of their fees help job retention, the University simply fired those positions.

When the students do nothing more than complain about money, without ever researching, understanding or acting upon their convictions, there is no change.

Students willingly paid to go to school here in the first place, nobody forced them to attend. Students need to stand up, quit waiting for somebody else to save them or shut up and go about your business.