

OLD GOLD AND BLACK

The Student Newspaper of Wake Forest University
Founded in 1916

EDITORIALS

Alcohol policy: Crying to mom

You may have noticed that the university instituted a new alcohol policy this year. That's right — if you're caught drinking, Mom and Dad may get a letter from the administration detailing the dastardly deed.

Once again, the university is overstepping its bounds and attempting to parent its students. The administration claims that at college, students' responsibility rests in their own hands. But in reality this is less and less the case.

A year ago, letters were sent to all parents warning of increased marijuana use on campus. Certainly, drug use is a problem. But will writing to parents really help?

After all, many parents smoked marijuana themselves in college. And it is safe to say that almost all of them drank alcohol.

Still, the administration apparently assumes that sending these letters home both raises the concern of parents and cuts down on drug and alcohol use.

But even if the assumptions are correct, the policy is questionable. Policies often bring unintended consequences, and a drop in drug use may not be this one's only impact.

Our society is increasingly childish. More and more, tastes are dumbed down to the lowest common denominator.

Pushing student responsibility back into the hands of parents will only expedite these trends. If the university treats its students as children, that is exactly what they will remain.

And just in case a letter to their parents is not enough to scare them, the university also plans to force students caught drinking to attend

counseling at their own expense.

This ludicrous policy will undoubtedly waste tremendous amounts of both the students' and the counselors' time. Does occasional beer drinking really warrant professional help?

Of course, if you are caught twice, you could probably forgo counseling entirely.

That's because, according to a letter sent by President Thomas K. Hearn Jr. to freshman students, "a second incident of abusive drinking will result in suspension or expulsion."

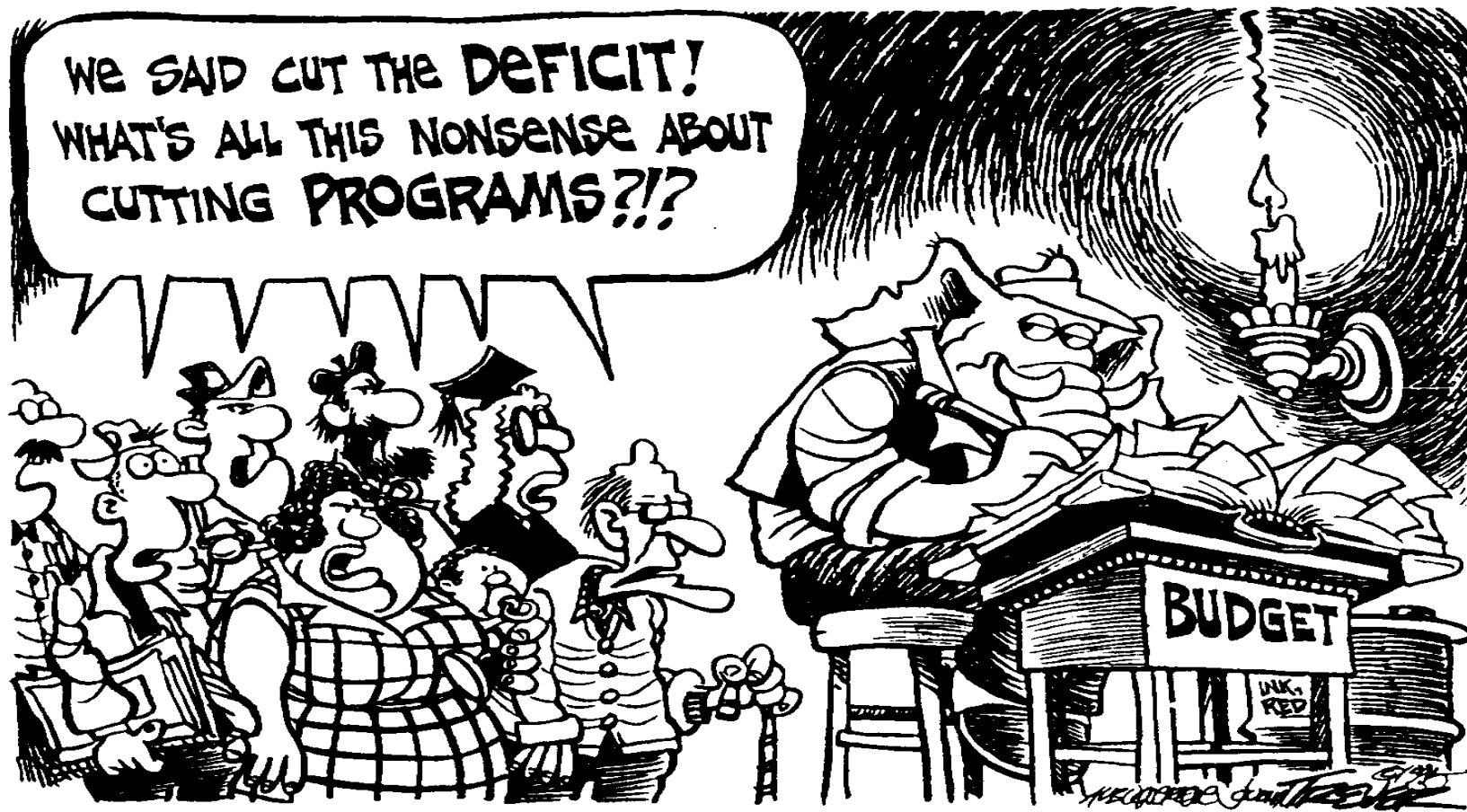
Essentially, this means that drinking could cost students their college education. This is overreaction of the worst kind, because it denies students the freedom to make mistakes.

True, the university is a community. And the actions of one person affect everyone else. But part of growing up is learning that actions like getting drunk are not socially acceptable.

If the university chooses to use fear as a disciplinary measure, then drinking will only be an act of rebellion, something to "get away with." And students will never give any thought to its real societal consequences.

If this university is to turn out adults rather than robots and spoiled children, then heavyhanded disciplinary measures such as the new alcohol policy must be curtailed. Students must be allowed to learn the true cost of their mistakes.

If students are prevented or scared from doing anything potentially harmful, then they may well be deprived of one of the best teachers a university can offer — experience.



Dixieland dramas dominate summer

For the South, this summer has not been full of lazy days sitting on the back porch sipping iced tea and mint juleps, but has been full of the chaos usually found in the novels of William Faulkner or Pat Conroy.

The South has made several serious attempts to outdo Los Angeles in media attention, rivaling the viewership of the stagnating drama of the O.J. trial.

Hailing from South Carolina, I had quite an eventful summer filled with daily updates first on Susan Smith, the woman sentenced to life in prison for drowning her two sons.

Because the judge had some sense and banned television cameras from the courtroom (causing the local newspeople to whine about how hard their jobs were going to be), we got to see Smith walking in the courthouse, walking out of the courthouse, walking out of the courthouse. Well you get the picture.

Flipping the local news channels to see the different courtroom artists' interpretations of what Smith looked like was also a fun summer activity. One channel's version was abstract, another's impressionistic.

Fortunately, the judge kept the trial moving swiftly. We were only subjected to three or four weeks of watching local correspondents sweating in the sweltering heat as they ran down what happened that day.

The weeks of heat ended in a rain-storm with the delivery of the verdict. It is interesting to note that on the day this verdict came out and the day that

RACHEL SHEEDY

MANAGING EDITOR

Shannon Faulkner quit (an issue I will expand on in a moment), it rained after weeks of suffering from heat waves — perhaps some sign from God mourning humanity?

Thankfully, the Smith case lasted just a hundredth of the time it is taking to rule on the never-ending

Simpson case. North Carolina got its own moment of spotlight in the Simpson trial when defense lawyer Johnnie Cochran came to Winston-Salem to fight for release of a North Carolina screenwriter's infamous Mark Fuhrman tapes.

It seemed as if another Southern judge was going to act as a voice of reason by blocking the use of the tapes, but no such luck as the ruling was overturned by a higher judge. Hence the Fuhrman tangent of the O.J. trial is now under way.

Immediately after Smith's case came local updates on Faulkner, whose two-and-a-half-year legal battle to enter the all-male Citadel was coming down to its last minutes. Was she going to get in?

I hoped she was going to make it,

though many others likened her to the antichrist. The case made it all the way to the Supreme Court, where the justices refused to block her entrance. The news showed her popping a champagne bottle in celebration as supporters of the Citadel cried their eyes out.

The next day we watched the local news follow her leaving the house with her packed car and later saw her unpacking and carrying her things up to the barracks.

Then we watched her check in and meet her company and then eating in the mess hall. We learned she was accepted into the school's band and

watched her start her first day of marching.

All the news about Faulkner was truly exciting. I began to wonder what would happen on *SHANNON: Day 147*. Would we get to see Faulkner carrying her books around campus?

Everything seemed to be going swimmingly well until newscasters announced she had been put in the infirmary with five other knobs due to heat exhaustion — not a terribly peculiar event, since the temperatures were around 100 degrees.

Everyone of course took a shot at her physical condition. Surprisingly

for the next four days, she became the lone knob in the infirmary. She was even admitted to a hospital. We wondered what was wrong with her and when she would return to the Citadel.

At the end of the week we got the answer as the local news anchors, with a look of glee as they got to break in at the end of Oprah with a special report, told us Faulkner was leaving the Citadel. She lasted only a bit longer than Peter "Hurricane" McNeely did against Mike Tyson.

An amazing end to the summer: After working so hard to get in, Faulkner was quitting. Feminists mourned. Cadets jumped with glee.

So maybe you missed the sagas of these two Southern "belles," but several stories in the news this summer will continue to develop. North and South Carolinians have been watching their new NFL team, the Carolina Panthers.

We are also preparing for the international Olympic teams which are descending upon the region to train for the 1996 games in Atlanta. The torch will even be carried through Winston-Salem.

Plus there is Clinton's new mission to prevent teenagers from smoking by regulating the sale and advertising of cigarettes. This may be our university's personal Shannon Faulkner story. How will we keep the leaves off the sidewalk if R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company loses the heaps of money it earns from selling smokes to young people?

This should be an interesting fight to watch in the coming months.

Student trustee, not SLC trustee

Speaking of taking away student responsibility, look how the new student trustee was chosen

Students voted for trustee candidates. The Student Life Committee interviewed the top three vote-getters and endorsed one.

The final decision was made by the board of trustees, who selected the new student trustee from the three for whom the students voted.

Their choice — sophomore Joy Vermillion — was also the SLC's top choice. But two other candidates won more votes.

Fortunately, Vermillion seems to have the ability to deal graciously and firmly with the other trustees, and we are sure she will do a fine job. Still, something about the selection process just does not sit right.

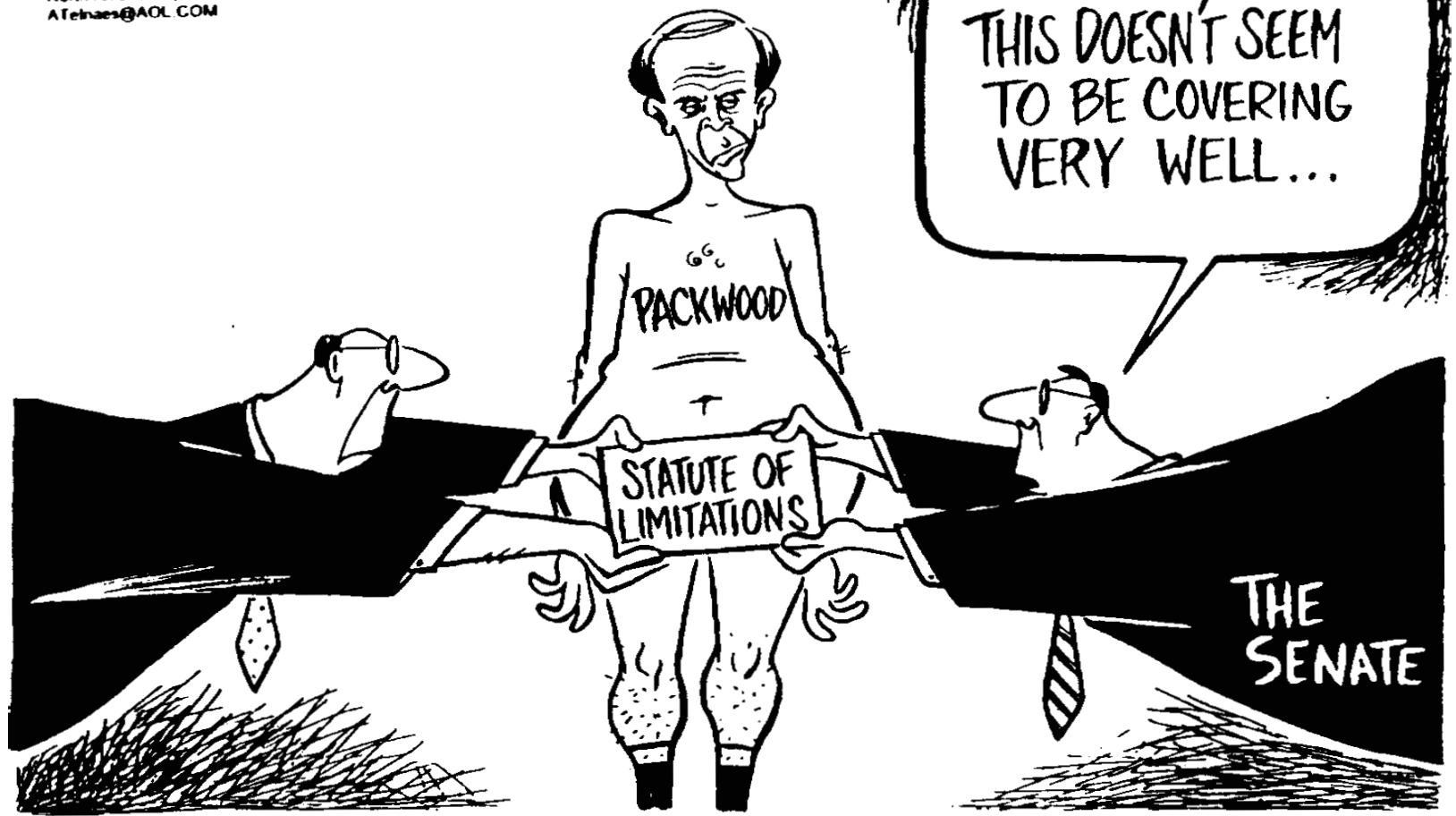
The fact that a student trustee position exists would seem to speak well of the university. But if the students have only a minor voice in its selection, then the position might as well go unfilled.

What's to prevent the trustees or the SLC from choosing a yes-man or -woman who will not address real student concerns for fear of endangering potential contacts in the business world?

Many committees and student posts at the university exist mainly for the purpose of filling resumes. The student trustee position is much too valuable to be used in this way.

This position supposedly exists to advance the concerns of all students. The selection process ought to be changed to reflect the position's title — *student trustee*.

ANTENNAES
North America Syndicate
Antennas@AOL.COM



OLD GOLD AND BLACK

Brian J. Uzwiak
Editor in Chief

Rachel Sheedy
Managing Editor

Jim Myrick
Business Manager

Associate Managing Editor: J. Hunter Tart.

News: Lisa Martin, editor; Shannon Bothwell and Jennifer Fowler, assistant editors; Emily Brewer, copy editor.

Editorials: Mark Stewart Hayes and Charles Starks, editors.

Arts and Entertainment: Michael Janssen, editor; Daveed Gartenstein-Ross, assistant editor; Anne Burkett, production assistant; Heather Mackay, copy editor.

Sports: Karen Hillenbrand, editor; Mickey Kraynyak, assistant editor.

Perspectives: Gray Crawford, Danielle Deaver and Andy Ferguson, editors.

Copy Editors: Cayce Butler and Steve Welgoss.

Electronic Edition: Julie Davis and David Marshburn, editors.

Photography: Joe Weeks, editor.

Graphics: Susan Roberts and Joseph Dobner, editors.

Advertising: Jamie Womack, production manager.

The *Old Gold and Black* encourages members of the Wake Forest community to address current issues through letters to the editor. To reserve a guest column call the editorials editor at Ext. 5280 at least one week in advance of publication.

We do not accept public thank-you notes. Corrections will run in the corrections box on page two. All letters to the editor must include the author's name and phone number, although anonymity in print may be requested. Submissions should be typewritten and double-spaced.

We appreciate contributions submitted via floppy disk or the university network. Letters should be delivered to Benson 518, mailed to P.O. Box 7569 Reynolda Station, Winston-Salem, NC 27109, sent via electronic mail to letters@ogb.wfu.edu, or faxed to (910) 759-4561.

The *Old Gold and Black* reserves the right to edit, without prior notice, all copy for grammatical or typographical errors, and also to cut letters as needed to meet layout requirements.

The deadline for the Thursday issue is 5 p.m. the previous Monday.

The *Old Gold and Black* is published each Thursday during the school year, except during examinations, summer and holiday periods by Piedmont Publishing Co. of Winston-Salem, N.C.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Offensive ad

The insert in the final issue of the *Old Gold and Black* last year, "She's a Child, She's not a Choice," was truly appalling. I understand that the 12 page insert was not a product of the university, and that it was a private publication of an organization which probably paid a huge sum to the paper. However, I believe that this school demands enough of its

students financially to prevent any need for such an "advertising supplement." The supplement was completely one-sided, which is deplorable for a controversial topic like abortion.

I believe if the university wants to confront such subjects, it should do so in an open setting such as a forum. That way both sides of the topic would be equally represented. I am very much in favor of addressing these types of social and political

controversies. However, this insert did nothing but instigate strong emotion that was never channelled in a constructive way. Such emotions could provide insight to others in a forum setting.

Abortion is a topic that tests all moral, social, and religious views. Therefore, it should be confronted tactfully, not blatantly shoved amidst a college's daily news.

I know for a fact that I am not alone in my opinion and hope that the

OG&B reconsiders before accepting any other such "advertising supplements" in the future.

Lynsey Wood

Editor's note: The Old Gold and Black has adopted a policy on advertising supplements which states that, prior to publication, the editorial board will meet to discuss any such inserts which might prove offensive to our readers.