



# OLD GOLD AND BLACK

VOLUME 79, No. 4

"COVERS THE CAMPUS LIKE THE MAGNOLIAS."

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1995

## Chambers analyzes race relations in Convocation address

BY DANIELLE DEEVER  
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

Julius Chambers, the renowned civil rights activist, spoke about the hypocrisy that occasionally results from affirmative action and other issues of race relations at Opening Convocation last Thursday.

Chambers addressed many topics involving race relations in the United States today,

including some areas that are adversely affecting relations. He spoke out against the judicial system, which he said used to be black people's only sympathetic ear. "Yet, recently, courts have begun to close their doors," he said.

Another main point of Chambers' address was the continued need for affirmative action. He referred to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas as someone who had gotten

his position through affirmative action but later forgot the need for it and voted to abolish affirmative action. "We are returning to the racial society we had before the civil rights era," Chambers said.

The history of the university also factored into Chamber's speech. He said visiting the university encourages him by reminding him of its history in relation to race relations and his personal interest in that diversity.

"I didn't apply to Wake Forest for admission because I knew the doors were closed to African-Americans," Chambers said. He added that the university's subsequent policy changes created an opportunity for anyone to attend the university.

Chambers spoke about a proposal to change public schooling by returning children to local schools instead of bussing them into different districts. He said that although the idea

of local schools is good in the abstract, it is flawed because some areas are too poor. "Will the responsibility be equally divided ... will we teach respect?" he asked. "It would be foolhardy to stop now, as we did in the Vietnam War and declare we have won the war."

The subject of gerrymandering has been debated heavily in the state recently. "Minorities fear blacks will be denied electoral

See Chambers, Page 3

## Big social-policy changes raised in furtive report

BY MARY BETH FOSTER AND BRIAN J. UZWIAK  
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER AND EDITOR IN CHIEF

Senior Evan Peverley had heard rumors of a controversial faculty-generated report on student life since January. So when the Student Government president noticed copies of the document lying on a table at a board of visitors' luncheon in April, he decided to find out what those rumors were all about.

"I saw it and just picked it up," he said.

Though it was the first time any student leader had obtained a copy of the document, the report had already begun to affect student life policies. The report's authors

The 28-page document, known as "The Lilly Report," was written in June 1994 by then-Dean Thomas E. Mullen; Carole Browne, an associate professor of biology; Barry Maine, an associate professor of English and the chairman of the department and Teresa Radomski, an associate professor of music, when they attended a workshop on the liberal arts in Colorado Springs, Colo. funded by the Lilly Foundation. Mullen chose the three professors and decided that the group should study the university's intellectual climate, Maine said.

The report offers recommendations for creating an "improved campus climate and a stronger university."

The majority of students at the university devote much more of their time outside of class to social organizations and events that involve "excessive consumption of alcohol" than to intellectual pursuits, the report says.

"It's embarrassing to see such appallingly low attendance ... at university lectures and symposiums," Maine said.

The handful of students who have seen "The Lilly Report" said they are not sure they agree with the group's conclusions.

"I refuse to apologize for my belief that friendships and our collective abilities to interact with other people are equally as valuable if not more valuable in life after Wake Forest than our ability to fit their definition of being cultured," said junior Bryan Yeazel, a student representative on the SLC.

"I think faculty don't realize we spend a lot of time out of class doing homework," Peverley said. "If we relaxed the pressure on grades and what they mean and focused on learning, ... I think students would attend."

Radomski said the report's authors considered stressed-out students when they made their recommendations.

"There seems to be a growing sense of overcommitment by students to all kinds of organizations. I think students are having a difficult time making choices and setting priorities. Our main concern is to help students to make these choices," Radomski said.

See Lilly Page 3

### Recommendations in the Lilly report include:

- Consumption of all alcoholic beverages should be prohibited in university residence halls if the laws with respect to drinking age cannot be strictly enforced on campus.
- Freshman Rush should be prohibited.
- Faculty should accept more responsibility for the quality of student life outside the classroom, and faculty contributions to student life should be taken into consideration in decisions about salary, tenure and promotion.
- Fraternities and sororities should be advised that their continued existence on campus depends upon their recognition of their responsibilities to the academic community.
- The Admissions office should interview potential students.

presented their recommendations to the Student Life Committee in a meeting that same week.

The SLC voted on one of the proposals, a recommendation to prohibit freshman Rush. The committee decided on further study before taking action and will vote again on the issue this April.



Kristin Thompson

### Sunny days

Junior Katie Brown takes advantage of the recent sunny autumn-like weather to do some studying on the chapel steps.

## University ranks 31st in nation

BY STACY LANDIS  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

For the first time, the university can claim a specific number ranking in the *U.S. News and World Report* survey. The university was ranked 31st in the magazine's "America's Best Colleges" issue this week, as compared to last year's unspecified position in the second quartile.

The university was ranked 20th among national universities with "an unusually strong commitment to un-

dergraduate teaching." The magazine also recognized the university's Calloway School of Business and Accounting as 25th among national undergraduate business programs.

This is the first year the magazine has ranked schools based on their teaching commitment and undergraduate business programs.

*U.S. News and World Report* decided to rank universities' teaching ability due to the growing concern of teaching quality on campuses, an article said. These rankings were done

through a reputational survey of college presidents, provosts and deans of admissions. They were asked to select the 10 schools in their academic categories that showed strength in teaching.

The business school survey was done in response to the increasing number of students who choose schools on the strength of a particular undergraduate major.

*U.S. News and World Report* generally ranks the schools according to See Rankings, Page 5

## Students lack representation on new computer committee

BY EVA BERG, JENNIFER FOWLER AND LILLIAN NASH  
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTERS

According to some freshmen, the only benefit of having an IBM Thinkpad in math class is being able to chat on-line with a roommate across the room for an hour.

Others say the graphing capabilities are nothing the computer at home couldn't handle.

But Thinkpads are here to stay.

Since its inception, the Plan for the Class of 2000 has promised to give students technological freedom — the ability to work and study anywhere on campus. Students' interests may be in jeopardy, however, since the Thinkpad model used is unique to the university and the committee planning for future technology lacks student representation.

Advising university negotiators is the

newly-formed Committee on Technology, which replaced the Academic Computing Advisory Committee. According to Rhoda Channing, the director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Library and a former member of the ACAC and current member of COT, the ACAC was dissolved last week when the faculty elected its six representatives to COT. Channing said she knew of no provisions for student representation on COT.

According to Dean Paul Escott, however, the faculty resolution creating COT guarantees the appointment of one undergraduate student to the committee.

The Student Government Constitution calls for the faculty Committee on Nominations to request SG nominations to university committees, but SG President Evan Peverley said he has not been approached by the administration about student representation on COT.

"We are the source of all student appointments to university committees, but we aren't in the process of nominating anyone now," he said. "No one has called me about this."

Escott said he is waiting for nominations from SG for student appointments to several committees, including COT.

Freshman Erin Taylor said, "I know I chose to be in the pilot program, but next year See Thinkpads, Page 5



Kristin Thompson

### Puppy love

Freshmen Courtney Mull and LeeAnn Abernathy pet puppies on the Quad Wednesday.

## Escott encourages re-evaluation of grade values, grading systems

BY HEATHER MACKAY AND LISA MARTIN  
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER AND NEWS EDITOR

What's in an A is up for discussion.

Due to the sharp increase over the past five years in the percentage of students graduating with honors, Dean of the College Paul Escott urged faculty members to re-evaluate their grading methods.

In a general welcome-back memo to the faculty, Escott reminded professors that a grade of B is superior while an A represents exceptionally high achievement.

Last year, nearly two-thirds of the graduates received *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* or *summa cum laude* honors, Escott said. He said that from 1983 to 1990 the rate of students graduating with distinction remained stable at about 40 percent, but that since 1991 there has been a significant increase each year.

"At this rate, over 70 percent of this year's class will graduate with distinction," Escott said.

In the memo, Escott said that he does not feel the improvement in grades is proportional to the natural

increase in the quality of the student body that has occurred in past years.

Dan Hammond, a professor of economics, said, "You don't have to read between the lines to see that the dean doesn't feel these grades are justified."

Escott said that the memo was intended only to draw attention to the problem of grade inflation and promote discussion among faculty members, but some faculty said they felt the letter pressured them to assign fewer A's and B's.

"I feel that (the memo) was telling me not to give out too many high grades," said Yaorong Ge, an assistant professor of mathematics.

Although both Escott and faculty members concede that this increase could be due to a number of reasons, including a higher caliber of student, grade inflation is a major concern for Escott and other faculty members.

"I don't think that Wake Forest has as much of a problem with grade inflation as some other universities, but it is a concern for us," Escott said.

See Grades, Page 3



### What's on your mind?

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### Phree Philomathesian Philms

Preview of the Philomathesian Society's esoteric and eclectic free fall films, next week in the *Old Gold and Black*.

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