

# OLD GOLD AND BLACK

The Student Newspaper of Wake Forest University  
Founded in 1916

## EDITORIALS

### Students deserve say on committee

In an *Old Gold and Black* survey of students last semester, three-fourths of the students polled said they believed the administration had not "adequately opened discussion to the faculty and students" regarding the Program Planning Committee's Plan for the Class of 2000.

Despite overwhelming student opposition to the plan, the university went ahead with it anyway. We had hoped the university had realized from this debacle that students deserve more input and authority in formulating such fundamental changes.

Unfortunately, it appears the university has not learned this lesson. Consider the Committee on Technology. The COT's objective is to determine exactly how the computers, which all students are required to purchase under the plan, will be implemented.

According to the faculty resolution that called for the COT's creation, both students and faculty were supposed to be represented on the committee.

But no students are on the council.

And according to Rhoda Channing, the director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Library, the uni-

versity plans not to include them.

Clearly, there is no valid reason to exclude students from the COT. If computers are to become fundamental components of our education, then what the COT decides is of supreme importance to students. After all, students are the ones who will ultimately benefit — or suffer — because of what the committee decides.

Students serving on the COT could also provide the committee with a valuable point of view.

Students could explain how students use computers now and suggest how students will receive any proposed changes. Heck, students may even have some good ideas of their own about how to integrate technology and education. But the COT will lose this input if students are not actively involved in the decision-making process.

Students have been skeptical of the PPC's plan from the very beginning. And this was despite the fact that students served on the PPC. This latest action only reinforces the belief that the administration and faculty don't value student opinion.

In this case, we hope the university proves us wrong and opens the COT to students.

### University needs open discourse

University officials have been busy making some fundamental changes in student social life lately.

The Student Life Committee voted on a proposal to eliminate freshman Rush. And the university is actively pursuing policies which regulate the use of alcohol on campus. This semester students were told that penalties for infractions of the alcohol policy would be much stricter than in the past.

Oddly enough, many of these changes mirror recommendations made in the little-known Lilly Report. The report was originally written by four faculty members and then-Dean Thomas Mullen in June of 1994 but was not officially completed until last spring.

The report focuses on the need to improve the university's academic life. It argues that students devote too much attention to social endeavors at the expense of academics. In particular, Greek groups and alcohol abuse were singled out as major obstacles to improving the academic climate. Among other things, the report recommends that Greek groups become more academic in nature and that their control of campus social life be reduced.

The report even says that the Greek system should be abolished if these changes prove insufficient. It also says that alcohol abuse and

underage drinking need to be controlled. Again, if these efforts fail, the report recommends banning alcohol from campus.

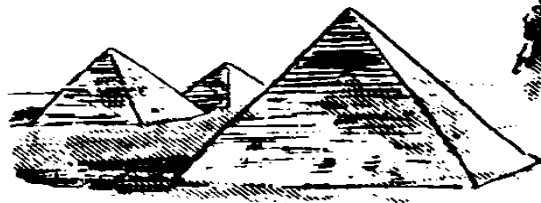
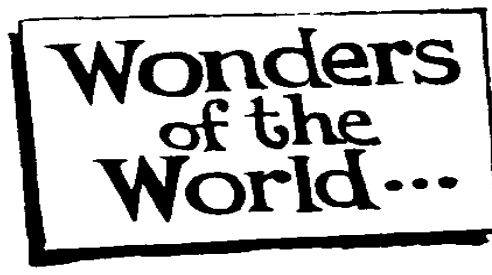
It's not clear if the Lilly Report has become the university's blueprint for change; however, the remarkable similarities between its recommendations and recent university policy changes seem more than coincidental.

Interestingly, the report also says that the university community ought to discuss these issues and proposals. But no discussion of the report has occurred. That's probably because the university neither told student leaders about it nor sent them copies.

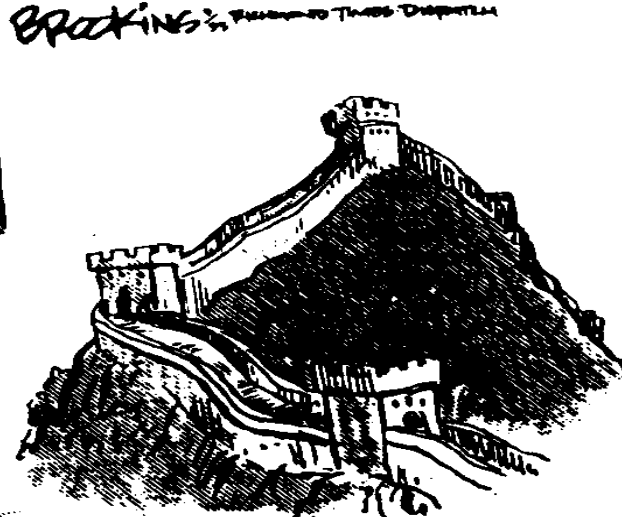
In action after action, the administration has shown disdain for student opinion. When students protest their actions (witness the multitude of letters and columns in these pages each week) administrators often meet the criticism with silence.

Students have a valid interest in whatever changes in student life are made. Moreover, it is important that university officials hear student opinion, and that means allowing everyone a say, not just a select few students.

Clearly, the time has come to open both the Lilly Report and the general subject of the university's academic life for discussion.



Pyramids of Egypt



Great Wall of China



Ripken of Baltimore

### South should play taps for sullied flag

The Confederate flag, designed by Major Orren Randolph Smith, first flew on March 18, 1861 in his hometown of Louisburg, N.C. Since that day, the "Stars and Bars" has been at the center of frequent conflict and dissent in the United States.

Despite the defeat of the Confederacy in the Civil War, the flag is still included in many state flags in the South, where it has come to represent a unique heritage.

Disturbingly, it has also been embraced by white supremacists and hate groups. This antagonism and the controversial history of the Confederate States have naturally raised objections about the display of the Confederate flag. African-Americans in particular detest the appearance of the "Stars and Bars" on Southern state flags because of the Confederacy's brutal institution of slavery.

However, do these protests warrant the removal of the flag from its place on state symbols? Can America forget the sordid past of the Confederacy and display its flag as a sign of regional pride? Unfortunately, the painful conflict associated with that episode of history still divides the nation, making the flag an improper symbol in a nation striving to unify its people.

The question is complicated by the fact that the flag has been plagued by misrepresentations for years. Primarily, the flag has been embraced by several hate groups, although it is not necessarily a symbol of white supremacy.

When skinheads display the flag to represent their prejudice and hatred, they are incorrectly interpreting the sentiments that led to secession. The defining sentiment behind Southern secession was a belief in a limited central government and states' rights.

The Southern states resented the efforts of the federal government to legislate control over their people and property, claiming such measures encroached upon their sovereignty.

Interestingly, current political developments parallel these convictions. Many contemporary lawmakers are seeking to reduce the role of the federal government plays in society by giving individual states more control over public welfare programs and by crippling affirmative action. Furthermore, controversies over the incidents at Ruby Ridge, Idaho and the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas indicate a present

MATTHEW GILLEY

STUDENT COLUMNIST

concern about the actions of the federal government.

Yet despite its political motives, the Confederacy will forever be vilified because of the property it fought to protect: slaves. Southern slave owners claimed ownership of other human beings and in so doing destroyed countless lives over the course of centuries.

This horrible institution is essential in determining why the "Stars and Bars" is unfit as a

**The Confederate flag is representative of a government that allowed an institution of slavery. The bad feeling, distrust and uneasiness among races that slavery conceived linger today.**

symbol for state governments. While the flag does not strictly symbolize white supremacy, it does in fact symbolize a confederation that sanctioned white supremacy and slavery. This is not a heritage that America should be eager to honor.

America should use not only its historical conscience as a reason for removing the Confederate flag from symbols of government. Slavery engendered profound sentiments of distrust, anger and animosity between blacks and whites.

Those feelings have not dissipated through successive generations and have grown to include new ethnic minorities. The controversy surrounding the inclusion of the Confederate flag in state symbols will only widen the cultural rifts in American society.

One would be naive to claim that the U.S. has eliminated its last vestiges of prejudice and inequality, thus rendering programs like affirmative action to be a waste of money. A prime example of lingering inequality is in education.

The lower scores of minority students are not to be ascribed to a poor work ethic or inferior inheritance. Saying so denies the essential reality

that rural and urban students are not afforded the same opportunities, financial and otherwise, as students at predominately white suburban schools. Such realities extend across a wide spectrum of social issues.

Furthermore, deep divisions in society are especially apparent when one considers the reaction of minorities to the recent political developments alluded to above. Those who attended fall convocation heard Julius Chambers express his profound concern about contemporary politics in the United States as it pertains to race relations; particularly, he mentioned the assault on affirmative action and the threat of reduced minority representation in government. He has good reason to be concerned.

For some time, the federal government has been the primary guarantor of minority rights in America. When desegregation was ordered, federal troops and marshals protected black students as they entered various state institutions despite the vigorous desire of state officials to keep them out. The memory of that resistance is not likely to fade soon in the minds of African-Americans.

Now that current trends promise to turn control of programs crucial to minorities over to the states and ease the authority of the federal government, one must wonder what the future holds for minorities in America.

A safe assumption is that the old animosities will remain and grow stronger. To make matters worse, America's social inequality threatens to create a permanent underclass or a de facto slave population that has only been given the education and training fit for a job of menial service labor.

The United States must distance itself from these trends and dubious legacies. To do so requires a departure from the past mistakes that caused today's difficulties.

The Confederate flag is representative of a government that allowed an institution of slavery. The bad feeling, distrust and uneasiness among races that slavery conceived linger today because of the refusal to discard errant prejudices and discriminatory practices.

Due to its divisive nature, the Confederate flag is an inappropriate symbol to fly over a statehouse in America. Any departure from the terrible history of racial discord in the U.S. must be accompanied by a departure from the "Stars and Bars."

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Cost vs. benefits

The Sept. 14 issue of *The Old Gold and Black* carried a front page headline that read, "University drops to 25th among *Money's* best college buys."

To a casual reader, this could send a message of concern or even alarm. Is the university slipping? Is it becoming overpriced?

With this in mind, I decided to do a little investigative reporting. I found the publication (noting its \$4.75 cover price) prominently displayed on a magazine rack at a local store.

The document starts with an explanation that parents seek institutions that have a reasonable cost while students look for schools with small classes, personal attention and an emphasis on teaching as contrasted to research.

Bearing in mind that it is parents to whom publishers are appealing to purchase the magazine, it comes as no surprise that there is so much emphasis on the ratings of the price charged for education and so little on academic factors and quality of student life.

In fact, in one part of the publication, two institutions not particularly well-known for academic quality are listed with the following statement:

"We are not suggesting that the schools are in the same league academically (as many of those with lower ratings) — they most certainly are not — but the education they offer is well worth the cost."

This raises a concern about at what point one substitutes price for quality when setting a rating.

As a measure of comparison, I then looked for Harvard and found it well below the top 25. However, in

another special section labled "Expensive But Worth the Price," Harvard was ranked number one. With a very high graduation rate and graduates who are able to find jobs at above average salaries, why is not Harvard in the top ten from a return-on-investment standpoint?

There is no cause for concern or alarm in Wake Forest's decline in these dubious rankings. The university's ability to furnish those characteristics listed in the magazine as important to students is stronger than ever.

It is unfortunate that the editors of *Money* did not focus their rankings on such factors instead of attempting to identify what might be considered low-cost alternatives for parents.

Louis R. Morrell  
Vice President for Investments  
Treasurer

#### Babied campus

I have the right to vote. I may join the army if I wish. I can get married. I've been driving a car for years, and in a few months I will even be able to purchase alcohol. So let me get this straight. If I am caught holding a beer can on campus, Vice President for Student Life Ken Zick wants to call my mommy?

As addressed in the *Old Gold and Black* editorial, "Alcohol policy: Crying to Mom" (Aug. 31), this is yet another unfortunate example of the university's abusive attempt to parent its students. In conjunction with the terribly harsh possibility of suspension or expulsion upon a second violation, these new university policies are clearly telling students that this college is not a learning

environment. It is a place where no mistakes are tolerated, regardless of how minor they are, and where conformity is the only option for survival.

Having recently witnessed a 21-year-old student get written up for "breaking the plane" of his dorm room door with an open beer can, the thought of administrative tattletales notifying his parents is too much for me to bear. In addition, it's simply sick to think that another minor violation could mean suspension or expulsion for this poor student.

As we all know, such pointless and petty writeups are common. I am certain that any student could cite several examples of our sycophantic resident "advisers" and their ongoing quest to appease the administration by taking away as much freedom and liberty from campus life as possible.

If trends continue in the current direction, I wouldn't doubt a day when the university employs breathalyzers in conjunction with key cards to restrict hall access only to those who never drink, or where noise meters ensure that only Walkmen and small clock radios be allowed in residence hall rooms. Perhaps the use of profanity can one day be better restricted once the technology for electronic conversation censors becomes available.

I would mention hidden cameras, but as hideous as it sounds, several students discovered last year that those have already been implemented.

I have been angered so many times by the absurd and ever-tightening level of control that the administration wishes to maintain over the personal lives of its students that I don't have time to address each of my

concerns in this simple letter.

I have also noticed on several occasions that the complaints of students, no matter how justified and widely supported, invariably escape the ears of the managers of this business corporation we call a university.

Therefore, I have but one piece of advice for my fellow students: *Move off campus!* I have recently moved into an off-campus apartment myself, and it may be the best decision I have ever made at this university. For those of you who still live within the confines of the immaculately homogeneous and altogether restrictive Reynolda campus, I cordially invite you to visit my friends and me in our new home at any time.

In the next year I would like everyone to keep track of the number of times they witness students being written up, fined and punished by — wait a minute; there must be some mistake — their fellow students? I know it's hard to believe, but it's true.

Somehow those "peers" of ours who are lucky enough to receive free room and board and a monthly paycheck from the university feel obligated to maintain control over the other 90 percent of the student population.

So what do we get in return? Maybe we can reap the benefits of an occasional cookout (if we remember to pay our five dollars at the beginning of the year).

Join me, my friends, in the off-campus land of the free, and perhaps together we can pretend that we go to a modern university that respects the ability of its students to take care of themselves.

Dax Mackenzie Roggio

# OLD GOLD AND BLACK

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