

OLD GOLD AND BLACK

The Student Newspaper of Wake Forest University
Founded in 1916

EDITORIALS

If they build it, who will come?

If a single issue has defined the Student Government this decade, it has been Shorty's, currently a little-used game room next to the Benson University Center Food Court. That a small room on the second floor of Benson has dominated SG's agenda year after year may or may not speak volumes about the priorities of our legislature and the effectiveness of our administration.

But it appears that an end to the long struggle is finally at hand. The administration has finally given the Student Government the green flag to develop a campus coffeehouse and pub. But the administration's proposal may not be quite what most students, and, indeed, SG, had expected.

No longer is Shorty's to be a small, centrally-located campus pub. The administration, dramatically expanding SG's humble vision, now plans to construct an entire new building to house the gathering place, which is apparently to serve as not only a pub but also a coffeehouse, a restaurant and possibly even a bookstore.

Strangely, the new Shorty's is to be located behind Palmer Residence Hall. We don't know how a pub in this isolated area of the campus will manage to attract the masses of students and faculty needed to make it a true campus gathering place.

Student Union Coffeehouse functions, for example, would be moved there, and they have enough trouble attracting students in their current location at the center of campus. Further, if ARAMARK provides food service for the new enterprise, it is doubtful the cuisine will attract anyone at all.

And the idea that our busy faculty could ever find the time to visit such an out-of-the-way gathering place is laughable.

But if the location of the new Shorty's is peculiar, the administration's sudden change of heart on the matter is downright strange.

SG has toyed with the idea of a campus pub for several years, but little of consequence resulted until this week. Two years ago, an architectural firm submitted an estimate of \$180,000 to renovate the current Shorty's. But the administration went nowhere with it. Essentially, then, the responsibility for the entire undertaking was left in SG's hands. And SG lacked the resources to take action on the project.

So why the dramatic new proposal from the administration? If they regularly made decisions based on the needs of current students, we might not be suspicious of our administrators. But the purpose of the new Shorty's has apparently been dictated primarily by the administration. And its vision differs in some ways from SG's.

After all, SG's initial version of Shorty's was as a campus pub or even a sports bar. But the administration's vision seems to be more of a coffeehouse-bookstore environment — strikingly similar to one of the recommendations in the "Lilly Report."

Frankly, the administration probably has the superior plan. Sports bars are not particularly conducive to intellectual discussion, and the campus already has plenty of places to watch athletic contests.

But the fact that the administration felt it had to impose its own plan does not speak well of SG's priorities. And its action provides yet another hint that the administration does not believe that students are capable of designing and implementing plans of any importance.

Moreover, the new Shorty's is not the only building the administration has planned for the area behind Palmer. A 160-space parking lot is also proposed for the vicinity. And, more ominously, several other buildings are planned there for sometime in the future, which would create a third quad.

Whether the university should be expanded is an old and complex question. But the fact that the new Shorty's will be tied into this "third quad" rather than the existing campus infrastructure indicates that the administration may be using this the new Shorty's as an excuse to catalyze its expansion plans.

That said, the administration is to be commended for finally taking action on this issue. Perhaps with this little affair finally settled, SG will at last begin devoting its time to matters of real importance.

Over the last two years, the administration has recklessly pushed through a number of sweeping changes with only a passing glance from the legislature. Current SG members owe it to their constituents to stand against the administration's increasingly Orwellian social and security measures.

In the meantime, the new Shorty's may turn into something its planners never anticipated.

Its focus is already vague. Is Shorty's a coffeehouse? A pub? A nightclub? A restaurant? Only so much can be squeezed into 3,000 square feet. And it is worth remembering that a building's use is determined by the people who use it, not by self-styled visionaries who design it.

After all, Benson was billed as a similarly vague student gathering place before it was constructed. That a need for another student center is perceived only half a decade after Benson's construction is proof that the administration's murky visions have a way of mutating unexpectedly. The university should take caution in launching a campus expansion with a coffeehouse.



On, off-campus worlds fail to meet

LISA MARTIN

NEWS EDITOR

Last week a man who did not appear to belong on campus walked across the Magolia Court. He was an older man, and he wore a checkered suit that had once been green but was now faded to gray.

He wore a red jacket over his suit that was equally faded. In each hand he carried a plastic shopping bag stuffed full, and he also carried a worn-out, beaten briefcase.

I don't know who this man was. He may have been a parent going to visit a student, or he may have been the friend of a professor keeping a lunch date. But upon first glancing at him, at his clothing and at the rather blank and dejected look on his face, I assumed that he was a vagrant, a homeless man wandering through campus.

Amazingly, at a time when the campus was full of students just getting out of class, no one saw this man. Many just didn't recognize his presence at all, and others, like me, who caught a glimpse of him out of the corner of their eyes, managed to look the other way. No one smiled or said hello to this gray man.

I don't know if everyone was just too busy with personal concerns to note the man, but I am afraid that the reason no one saw him stems from a much larger attitude that seems to pervade the campus. Inside the walls (however imaginary) of our campus, most of us tend to become so wrapped up in our own worlds that we forget that other worlds do exist. The gray man did not belong in our world, so we ignored him.

Two weeks ago civil rights activist Julius Chambers spoke at Opening Convocation about the need for all of us to keep fighting against racism. Many of us believe that racial problems are a thing of the past or are only found in the inner city. But discrimination is here, now, and we don't help

Inside the walls (however imaginary) of our campus, most of us tend to become so wrapped up in our own worlds that we forget that other worlds do exist.

matters by looking away when we glimpse it out of the corner of our eyes.

Chambers asked us when was the last time we talked with a person of a different race about race. When was it? I can't recall. For that matter, when was the last time any of us spoke with a homeless person about homelessness? With a cancer patient about terminal diseases? With an impoverished child about poverty? With a welfare mother about welfare? The list goes on.

The size of our Volunteer Service Corps attests to the fact that many of us try to do our part to help those less fortunate than ourselves. But for the most part, we spend an hour or two a week out there helping, and then we come back to the safety of our campus and forget about those we just helped for the rest of the week.

All too often, these people we help are not real to us; we just do our duty out of a sense of responsibility. We compete with other groups to see who can raise the most money for a cause, but we very rarely think about the cause itself and the people it affects.

We all venture out into the real world at some point after college, and many of us will be forced to confront such real-life issues as we do not encounter here. With the student body becoming more and more homogeneous as the price tag on an education here rises, we are very much at risk of leaving with not only a diploma, but also with some very limited ideas of what the world is all about.

We must make an effort every day to overcome these obstacles to understanding, whether it be by joining a group of students very different from ourselves, holding serious discussions with other students of all races about the racial problems on this campus or getting truly involved in the life of someone who is struggling.

But the first step, I think, is recognizing the presence of the gray man on campus, whoever he may be.



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; Patrick Kelley and Erin Korey, production assistants; Emily Brewer, copy editor.

Editorials: Mark Stewart Hayes and Charles Starks, editors; Cayce Butler, copy editor.

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

Sports: Karen Hillenbrand, editor; Mickey Krainyak, assistant editor; Steve Welgoss, copy editor.

Perspectives: Gray Crawford, Danielle Deaver and Andy Ferguson, editors; Robyn Reed, copy editor.

Electronic Edition: Julie Davis and David Marshburn, editors.

Photography: Joe Weeks, editor.

Graphics: Susan Roberts and Joseph Dobner, editors.

Advertising: Jamie Womack, production manager; Chris Collier and Elizabeth Mack, production assistants; Bharrat Gummadi, sales manager; Scott Nye, circulation 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

Loss of trust

Someone once said that we are all travelers here at the university. A recent story in the *Old Gold and Black* ("Escott encourages re-evaluation of grade values, grading systems," Sept. 21) caused me to question why I came here.

Was it ample parking? No. Was it computers? No. Was it the administration? Certainly not.

I came to the university because I wanted a good education and a challenge. Who provides this? People do. I'm talking about challenging professors and competitive students. This is why I came to the university.

Naturally, then, I am saddened to read that Dean Paul Escott has "reminded professors that a grade of B is superior while an A represents exceptionally high achievement."

And I am saddened when his memo to faculty said that the improvement in grades is not proportional to the natural increase in the quality of the student body.

I am saddened because the administration does not trust my professors (with whom I've entrusted my education) to evaluate my performance. (I've been here two years and have never been given anything).

I'm saddened also because the administration doesn't believe in us. It apparently doesn't understand the caliber of student we have here. It is simply out of touch.

But this lack of trust is mutual, you see. Trust has to be earned. It seems the only answers we get from the administration (no matter what the subject) are "because Duke does it that way." Well, I didn't travel all the way from Georgia to go to Duke. Nor did I want to go to Duke Forest. I wanted to go to Wake Forest.

Yes, I suppose we are all travelers. If I didn't believe so much in the old Wake Forest, the true people of Wake Forest, I'd call my travel agent. For those who no longer believe in the people here, I suggest you do just that.

George G. Demetriades Jr.

Report explained

We would like to respond to the charge in the Sept. 21 *Old Gold and Black* that the "Lilly Report" is a "furtive" report that has perhaps been intentionally withheld from distribution on campus ("Big social-policy changes raised in furtive report"). As was reported in your article, the final version of the report was not completed until the last week of April.

We knew from the beginning of the year that if the report was not completed before the end of the semester, its distribution during finals or summer would not be practical because it would not be widely read. However, the report was made available to department chairs, administrators, the Board of Visitors, the Board of Trustees, and it was made available to anyone else upon request.

The "university" can hardly be blamed for a failure to distribute the report, since the Lilly Committee is

an ad hoc committee which has no authority and no official standing in the university's committee structure.

The committee was formed in response to an invitation by the Lilly Foundation and will continue to function only until we feel we have completed the task that we originally chose to undertake, which was to offer suggestions on how the intellectual life outside of the classroom might be improved.

In response to the charge that the report was "furtive," we can only say that last year we met with many individuals and groups campus-wide, all of whom were apprised of the preliminary recommendations of the draft report.

The draft report was not widely circulated because, although it was written in consultation with educational consultants and members of other colleges and universities attending the Lilly Foundation workshop, we felt that it was essential that we consult extensively with members of our own campus before issuing a final report.