

University in 2010: Safe, secure, stale

With so much controversy surrounding so many of the new policies that are being implemented here at the university, I got to wondering: What will this campus be like in, say, 15 years? I picked up the phone — and with a quick call to my psychic friend — I was able to find out some information about the atmosphere of the campus in the year 2010. My friends, it's not a pretty sight. In fact, I'd advise you to sit down before reading further.

The most significant change is the elimination of Greek life. The administration and faculty could not find any justification for its existence. So what if Greeks have a higher average GPA, donate large sums of money to the Brian Piccolo Cancer Fund, participate in numerous philanthropic projects and provide the university with most of its social activities? That does not justify their presence.

By eliminating fraternities and sororities the university has made a substantial step in banishing what is perhaps the largest threat to academics in America — fun.

There is no longer any controversy over inflated grades. With the implementation of "Project C" the average GPA had been lowered to exactly a 2.0. Under the guidelines of this project all grades higher than a C must be approved by Dean Paul "The Great" Escott. Also, for every student who earns a B, another must receive a D, and for every A there must be an F.

Alcohol is not a factor in campus life either. The administration decided that beer

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had been distracting students from their academic responsibilities.

By prohibiting alcohol, the administration felt that it would be protecting students from a dangerous enemy — themselves. Only after receiving a college degree will students be able to make informed choices about their lifestyles.

In keeping with the university's effort to provide its students with a healthy lifestyle, all malnourished foods have been banned from campus. The Sundry shop carries only health food and R.J. Reynolds cigarettes.

In order to provide students with proper security, key cards have been placed on the doors of all bathroom stalls. This eliminates the problem of people entering stalls that aren't theirs and stealing toilet paper or, worse yet, going to the bathroom and failing to flush. A problem occurred when some students propped open a stall door, so they would not need to get their key cards in the middle of the night.

But that security breach was handled when cameras were installed in all bathrooms. The culprits were caught and forced to pay \$100,000: the cost of the camera, the key card system, the salary of the campus policeman who had to monitor the bathroom and the cost of the food he consumed while doing so.

HBO is no longer provided to students. This occurred after President Thomas K.

Hearn realized what the channel showed in the wee hours of the morning when good students should be sleeping or studying. A tape of *Real Sex 72* was shown to the faculty, who agreed with President Hearn's decision but only after viewing the offending material 5 times, just to be sure.

The *Old Gold and Black* is no longer the official campus newspaper. That responsibility was transferred to a reborn version of *The Critic*, as its conservative views were in agreement with that of the administration. The *OG&B* is now published by a secret group of radical students on a semi-annual basis.

The Screamin' Demons have expanded from just attending football and basketball games. As of the fall of 2006, they now attend every single sporting event and even some non-sporting competitions. The members are all freshman who were lured in by a T-shirt and the best seats at debate tournaments.

Some things, however, haven't changed. The football team has finished last in the ACC for 15 years in a row. Coach Jim Caldwell is still in charge of the team, saying, "we played well, but we just weren't able to establish our game plan."

Hopefully my psychic friend was wrong. (After all, the football team did have a big win Saturday.) Unfortunately, with the release of the "Lilly Report", the outlook for the rest of campus life doesn't look as bright. With all of the policing going on, Wake Forest graduates will enter the real world lost in space.



Age may conquer body, but soul can remain young

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Youth is but a passing fancy. I wish that I could catch it and hold onto it forever. Unfortunately, at the age of 21 I am already losing grasp.

I am reminded with every stolen glance in the mirror. The slowly sagging curves, sun spotted skin and slight creases around my eyes are constant reminders that I am maturing in age.

My golden highlights are growing in grey. They seem to pop out of nowhere and multiply like crazy, and I know that I am not alone.

I wonder how long it will be before my hair turns completely white and begins to have that elderly purple tint. I wonder how long it will be before I use a cane and talk about the good old days.

Maybe I am getting ahead of myself, but if I have to grow old, I want to do it well. I have noticed many elderly people throughout the community, and I believe there are two types.

The first type are old people. They look ancient, live as fossils and embalm themselves in the past. They are scarred by efforts to stay young with Toys R' Us attitudes long dismissed and wells of youth run dry.

The second type of elderly are vibrant people in old bodies. They have not grown apathetic, ambivalent or accusatory to those

around them. They dress themselves in hope, love and compassion and seek to impart wisdom to those in need.

Their beauty is real. These people seem to get more beautiful with age. They represent something not captured in the glossy pages of *Vogue*, *Mademoiselle* or *Elle*. These individuals are able to overcome the limits of their aging bodies and radiate something that does not age — true beauty.

Rather than join the battle to stay young, they have independently sought to grow old and do it well. They have won.

Their victory has not come through the gym, plastic surgeons or trendy apparel. It has come through the recognition that hips will grow, skin will wrinkle and areas sag. They keep the areas that will never grow old in shape.

The big smile, warm heart, helping hands, listening ears and mouth that speaks kind words breathes vibrant life into the most aged of bodies. These people are able to hold onto all of the beauty which God gave them despite the passing years. It is these qualities that we must hold onto if we want to remain forever young.



America's infatuation with Powell: Could it withstand his presidency?

The recent clamor within the American political arena has centered upon the possible entrance of former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and retired Gen. Colin Powell into the 1996 presidential race.

Powell's impending decision has dominated the headlines of the national media, and has made Sen. Bob Dole, President Bill Clinton and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich seem secondary figures in the running.

Powell's exposure has reached the same level as during the Gulf War in 1991. Taking the route that Gingrich recently chose, Powell is now making his rounds across the country promoting his autobiography, which has quickly become a bestseller.

Why such passion over Powell? Powell's rating blows the roof off numerous polls. Americans from the east coast to the west coast love Powell. Conservatives like him. Moderates like him. Even some liberals like him.

It is not that Powell has the charisma of a John F. Kennedy Jr. or the political experience of a Bob Dole. Simply put, Americans are intrigued with Powell because he is a national hero.

Countless times during the Gulf War, Americans watched actual footage of Iraqi military units and infra-

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structure being destroyed with pinpoint accuracy and perfection. Immediately following that footage Powell would appear, map and pointer in hand, explaining how the American military was making short work of Saddam Hussein.

Powell's appearance as a brilliant military commander — which he was — added fuel to a raging and spirited fire that was burning inside a highly patriotic America.

The nation loved Powell in that instant, much as it also loved George Bush. Remember, both Powell's and Bush's approval ratings at the time were in the mid to upper 80s. But after the war was over and the parades had ended, Bush had to return his attention to the many needs of the ailing United States,

while Powell retired in grand style. Powell kept his high rating, while Bush ended up a one-term president.

The point simply is this: America loves Colin Powell because we have not seen him fail. He is still an undefeated hero in our eyes. America does not love him simply because he rose out of a hard life in inner-city Brooklyn, or because he rose to such a high position in the military despite the racism that blights its ranks.

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Clinton originated from a poor family in poverty-stricken Arkansas, but it is painfully obvious that much of America does not respect him. The question is, how would America respond if Gen. Powell suddenly became President Powell in November 1996?

Would we still view him as an American hero, or would we view him as a politician who is susceptible to the defeats he would inevitably encounter in office? How would America respond if unemployment increased or a recession occurred?

What if Powell could not push health care or welfare reform through Congress? Would America view him as a loser and "just another politician" who took part in the games of Washington?

Would he still be the defiant hero? Chances are that negative sentiment would build because American public opinion is strictly a fair-weather friend.

When we win, we salute our leader and strike up "Hail to the Chief." However, when troubles arise, our leaders become scapegoats. Instead of searching for a hero, America should view Powell now as it would if he were president: as an outstanding human being who will encounter both failures and victories while in office.

Our society is desperately searching for a hero. With high crime rates, drug-ravaged streets and fallen cults of personality, America is reaching into the dark, seeking a citadel of hope. Is Powell that hope, or is the country so desperate to find someone that it is willing to award him that title because we have seen only his victories?

One man cannot change the world; it takes a collective effort by all. Powell may be able to stir the fervor for change, but he will not create change. He will fail often, as have many before him. Before they elect him president, Americans must realize this significant point.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Many one-on-one interviews were conducted with students, members of the committee participated in two student-organized panel discussions on Greek life, and we spoke to groups of students in residence halls on several occasions.

The recommendations of the draft report were presented at an open meeting of the faculty at an American Association of University Professors meeting, to the Student Life Committee, to the admissions office staff and to the Board of Visitors.

We met several times with members of the Division of Student Life, including Ken Zick, Harold Holmes and Connie Carson. We also met with advisers of Greek organizations and a representative of the Development Office.

The Student Government obviously did not feel that the "Lilly Report" was confidential in nature, since they felt free to quote from it, without permission, in a full page advertisement in the *OG&B* supporting the establishment of a pub on campus.

In fact, the "Lilly Report" recommended the establishment of a coffeehouse-bookstore, not a pub, as a means for increasing the opportunities for intellectual interaction among students and faculty.

We regret any misunderstanding on the part of students on the role of the Lilly committee and its report. The purpose of the Lilly Foundation support for such endeavors is to engender discussion on campus issues of importance to the educational community and, hopefully, to provide mechanisms by which change can occur, when deemed appropriate.

In our role of bringing issues to the attention of the campus community and initiating discussion, we feel we have been partially successful.

We will continue to work throughout the year to bring several issues that have not yet been fully aired to the attention of the appropriate committees, and are willing to meet with any student group that wishes to discuss these ideas.

The best way to understand the "Lilly Report" is to read the entire report. Copies are available in the Dean's office.

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Barry Maine
Associate Professor of English
Teresa Radomski
Associate Professor of Music

Positive weekend

I feel obligated to share with the university community some positive things that were a result of last weekend's Presidents' Leadership Conference.

This conference was organized by the Student Government and was attended by top administration, faculty and students.

The schedule included discussions on many of the concerns that I have heard voiced on this campus recently. Some of these included the Plan for the Class of 2000, the "Lilly Report"

and social and Greek life including freshman Rush, grade inflation, racial tension and the honor code.

Before attending this conference I was confused, opposed and very negative to many of the proposals and wondered if the "guys on top" were still listening to the students and faculty.

It did not seem that they were working in the interest of the students and helping to develop us into well-rounded, educated individuals.

Recently, I heard someone say we were "going to hell in a peach basket," and personally I was relieved to be leaving this fine institution and afraid of the direction in which it was heading.

After attending the conference, I have a much better understanding of where the school is headed and no longer feel that we are losing our traditions and direction.

Over the weekend, we had the opportunity to voice concerns to the group or to specific individuals. This was a time when each side was able to explain and to be heard.

For example, when Dean Paul Escott voiced his concern about grade inflation (Sept. 21, "Escott encourages re-evaluation of grade values, grading systems"), he was merely pointing out the trend and hoping to get some feedback on the issue.

Yes, as students, we do work hard and want to receive merit for it, but is it an honor if 70 percent of students are recognized as graduating with honors?

No decision has been made, no proposal has been written to either change the distinction level or to "suggest" to the teachers to use a bell curve or the like.

From this, I concluded that, before getting upset, I should have recognized that maybe I was not getting the whole story.

I was impressed, in general, by the respect and open-mindedness the administration showed toward us. Indeed, the university is on the brink of revolutionary changes; however, our education, safety and the resources provided to the students are their main concern.

The 40 students that were there representing various student leadership positions cannot be the "voice" for the university.

We talked a lot about the university as a community, and I hate to see the community split over various issues resulting from a lack of communication and explanation. Granted, we cannot all agree with every measure taken, but we can at least be informed.

I urge the administration to publicly educate the entire campus, as it did this weekend, on the issues, and I recommend that the *Old Gold and Black* work to represent both sides of the story.

I encourage students and faculty to ask questions and raise their concerns to the appropriate people before negatively representing our institution.

Despite all the changes, do not forget that we are a fine learning institution moving forward in today's society, and be proud.

Wendy Coulson