

Looking back through the years

As we were sifting through the archives of the Old Gold and Black, looking for a prospective story for the ensuing issue, the idea of doing a retrospective was thrown around. After looking through old copy, we decided to take an issue from 10, 20 and 30 years ago and report on the status of the university during that time period.

While it is exciting to see the way society has changed and how the university has changed along with it, it is also interesting to note that some things do not get resolved, even after 30 years. The question of what to do about the social climate of independents still lingers. Alcohol abuse and sexual relations are both still questioned and scrutinized by students and faculty and administration alike. Though it is true that some things are better left as they are, it is also apparent that new approaches to old problems are necessary, unless we are willing to wait another 30 years to resolve these issues.

1965

By ANDY FERGUSON
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

Thirty years ago, Harold W. Tribble was the president of the university, which had been in Winston-Salem for almost 10 years. The *Old Gold and Black* was celebrating its golden (50th) anniversary year.

The leading stories for Monday, October 11 were of great interest to the students. The student legislature unanimously passed a resolution to invite a "well-known communist" (Soviet foreign minister Andrei Gromyko was later asked) to speak at the college. This decision was in open defiance of the North Carolina Speaker Ban Law which, according to the *Old Gold and Black*, "prohibits known communists from speaking at state-supported schools." This decision caused a ruckus throughout the state, as newspapers in Winston-Salem, Raleigh, Durham, Sanford, Greensboro and Thomasville carried multiple stories on the subject. The *Charlotte Observer* even wrote an editorial.

The college trustees made headlines as they announced plans to build a \$2 million, 30,000-seat football stadium. Charles H. Babcock of Winston-Salem had already donated a 77-acre tract of land next to the Memorial Coliseum, and all that the school needed was the money.

The trustees decided at their October meeting to raise tuition from \$850 to \$1,000 a semester, effective in the spring. According to the *Old Gold and Black*, college officials said that tuition was being raised primarily to increase faculty salaries.

The debate over what to do about independents at the university is one that has apparently existed since the beginning of time. Ralph Simpson, the *Old Gold and Black* assistant editor, reported that the Independent Council, along with administrators, faculty members and "interested men students," conferred at a meeting concerning the importance of providing facilities for independents on the campus.

The idea of a house was proposed and debated. Keith Prichard, an assistant professor of education, said, "a solid framework must connect the present and past, giving the house a tradition." He also said that the house must be a place "where old independent alumni can come back to and be proud of."

Two editorials were also devoted to the issue of independents and what should be done about them. Prichard wrote one of the editorials, in which he outlined a solution to this problem. He suggested a plan much like ones implemented at the University of Michigan and the University of Indiana, where incorporating social activities into

the independent atmosphere had been successful. The other was a staff editorial proclaiming that independents must have leadership to unify. It almost seemed like there was a movement to establish an independent fraternity of sorts, which seems as though it would be contradictory to the very idea of independents.

The student legislature voted unanimously to abolish Saturday classes. For all of those who think the present-day work load is overbearing, now is a good time to smile and say to yourself, "Things could be worse."

The university also had its share of notoriety on the campus, as the Homecoming Dance attracted top entertainment in a featured performance by Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs. It was, however, another part of the performance that now seems impressive. A young quartet by the name of the Four Tops put on floor shows at intervals during the evening, then a minor part of the entertainment.

Perhaps the most intriguing facet of the Oct. 11 issue was an advertisement on page six from Computer Research Services, a division of Piedmont Holdings, Inc. The advertisement was a questionnaire with which students could find their perfect mate at such nearby schools as Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The interesting part of the 10-question survey is question four, which asks, "What are your career goals? Girls pick one of these: marriage; marriage and career; career more important than marriage; no preference. Boys pick one of these: business; professional; science or engineering; arts (music, painting, etc.)."

Pages seven and eight are a sports section which might as well have been a football insert. Out of seven stories, five were on the football team, which subsequently finished with a 3-7 record. The other two stories focused on a men's cross country meet and the new men's swimming team and its first few weeks of practice. Besides a lack of diversity in the coverage, the fact that women's sports are not evident is interesting.

As far as the physical appearance of the paper goes, it would be visually unsatisfying to students today. The paper, which was larger then, had an eight-column format, leading to the appearance of articles being sandwiched where room existed. Apparently the emphasis then was not on the appearance of the paper nor the quality of the articles for that matter. Ironically, an article from the *Old Gold and Black* later that year reveals that the staff won a national Pacemaker award for its 1964-65 campaign as a weekly newspaper. Oh well, to each their own.

1975

By DANIELLE DEEVER
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

The 1970s found the university in a bit of a quagmire. Caught between the strict heritage of the Baptist traditions and the sexual and other freedoms of the '70s, students struggled to find a happy medium between the two extremes.

As part of a series about sex, page two of the Oct. 10 issue featured a story with the headline, "Wake's Women Frustrate Men." A survey among the university's men and women revealed that the "university's rigid ban of intervisitation" was considered by most men to hamper relations with women, whether casual or sexual in nature. "One 21-year-old senior who transferred here last year said that the separation of the sexes on this campus prevents healthy interaction

between the sexes." Steve Carpenter, the author of the article, wrote.

Despite the barrier the intervisitation rules constructed, 72 percent of the men surveyed were not virgins. Most of these men, however, had experienced the sexual relations with women from outside of the

was mentioned in a scathing editorial entitled "IDIOTS attempt oil agreement." The editorial bashed the dismal failure of the international community to end the oil crisis.

A trivia quiz asked about television shows and movies popular at the time,



Courtesy of the Howler

An *Old Gold and Black* staff typifies the laid-back attitude of the 1970s era. The editorials page then was more concerned with world events than events confined to the university.

university. One upperclassman said in the article, "The problem with Wake Forest girls is that they can't decide whether they should run their affairs with all the rules of the antebellum South or whether they should jump in and have all the fun of the 1970s. ... They really want all the fun of Berkeley, but they can't do anything because of their upbringing."

Highlights of the news section include an

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Anonymous

Old Gold and Black, Oct. 10, 1975

article about a speech by Dixy Lee Ray, a former chairperson of the Atomic Energy Commission and the assistant secretary of state for oceans and international environment and scientific affairs. She advocated nuclear energy as one answer to the growing problem of lack of energy conservation. Ray had to defend herself against several accusations from an economics professor.

Russian novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn, an anti-communist leader who was exiled from the Soviet Union in 1974, was scheduled to speak and to receive an honorary Doctorate of Letters degree from the university. The speech would have been his first public appearance on a college campus since the exile. After elaborate preparations had been made for the visit, including the engagement of an orchestra, caterers and the invitation of dignitaries to come to the event, Solzhenitsyn backed out at the last moment. He told Ralph Scales, the president of the university, that he was too hot and tired from a trans-continental trip that included stops in Alaska and California, and had no speech prepared.

The newly-formed Parents' Council met for the first time to discuss ways to develop better relations between parents and the university.

Also in the news section was information about a new wrestling clinic that met every Saturday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. At the time there was no university wrestling team, so freshman Jack Nales created the clinic to teach students about wrestling. According to Nales, the clinic made individual competition, instruction and development available for wrestlers of all abilities. Intramural teams were being planned. Today the university has a varsity wrestling team.

The new qualifications for Carswell scholarships were outlined. Previously the scholarship had been awarded solely on the basis of GPA. Qualifications were modified to use grades as a general guideline, but qualities such as extracurricular activities and overall character would be considered as well.

At this time 20 years ago, the football team was facing an away game at Clemson. The cross-country team had just lost to Duke and the University of Virginia. The upcoming fall baseball season was reported as looking promising.

In the editorial section the oil embargo

including "Ironside" and "Star Trek." There were also questions about the movies "White Heat," "Psycho" and "Jaws." Superman fans were also quizzed intently about their hero's secret fears.

The 1975 volume of the *Old Gold and Black* featured some of the same issues that face university students today. Issues were raised that are less important to today's students as well, such as the oil crisis and the possible benefits and problems of nuclear energy, an issue that affects students today but is not as urgent as it was to the students of 1975.

Other things differ greatly between the times. The advertisements were very different. An ad offered \$3 at any G'Anzie store for old jeans. The ad featured bell-bottomed jeans and long skirts, which are once again in fashion in a sense, although not as ubiquitous as in the 1970s. Another advertisement wanted a student security officer for about 16 hours a week. Peugeot bicycles were on sale for \$147.

The layout of the paper was similar to that of 1965 with some exceptions. Still based on an eight-column format, the stories once again appear sandwiched into convenient areas, but things are improving. Some stories actually have their own space and do not run into others. The news section did not feature some of the trivial stories that were so prominent in 1965 and the sports section actually saw a bit of diversity.

1985

By ANDY FERGUSON
PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

The fashion-conscious eighties had apparently impacted the *Old Gold and Black*. As far as physical appearance was concerned, the newspaper had improved by leaps and bounds.

The inclusion of color made the paper more pleasing to the eye. The layout was also better: stories had their own place and were not plopped down without any semblance of order.

The lead story of the Oct. 10 issue addressed the low percentage of minority students on the campus. At the time, eight percent of the students were minorities; five percent were black.

Solutions to this problem were discussed in the article, as the university cited different actions it was taking in the form of recruitment and scholarships.

Beverly Stewart, the president of the Black Student Alliance, said that the school was responsible as it did not create an environment that wants black students. "The university tells you to melt in and set your separate identity aside," she said.

Another front page story of interest was the announcement of a more stringent alcohol restriction that was supposed to go into effect immediately.

Brian Austin, the assistant vice president

for student services, announced that fraternity parties would be limited to five kegs of beer in an effort to control the abuse of alcohol on campus. Before the restriction, fraternities could have unlimited amounts of alcohol at their parties.

Austin said that there were "increasing incidents of parties being close to out of control" due to this abuse. Apparently the current debates about alcohol policy have their roots in the past.

Computers were also working their way onto the campus, although on much smaller scale than today, as the mathematics and computer science department acquired a new minicomputer which was kept in the library. In addition to this, 21 new PRIME terminals arrived and were being assembled.

IBM was selling software to the university even a decade ago. Portable computers were sold in the microcomputer center for \$1,375.

According to the announcement, "IBM suggests that the portable model will be attractive to those who want to use a computer in a crowded dorm or in a classroom, because it is compact yet has all the power of the IBM PC."

The sports section had developed into an impressive three-page section which covered a broad range of sports.

Articles concerning equestrian events, cross-country, women's volleyball, tennis, field hockey, soccer and football are all present.

The editorials section featured a broad range of columns dealing with issues ranging from fraternity parties to a letter to the editor condemning homosexuality.

With all of these, though, it was a light-hearted and humorous staff editorial ("Save the world," Thursday, October 10, 1985) that caught my eye. With fall break just over the horizon, it should strike a chord in students today:

"In defense of humanity, we urge the administration of Wake Forest University to prevent global nuclear war by giving us more time off during the semester.

"Since one day off is cancelled out by the extra work professors assign, we can determine that what we have is a fake break on our hands.

"Those students who live far away have to spend half their "break" driving home and back, and the others still don't have enough time to relax from the hectic pace of school.

"Now, after a period of four years, students fall into a hectic lifestyle that teaches them to never relax. This produces very tense and edgy people.

"And, since Wake Forest students are the cream of the crop and will find their way into all kinds of leadership positions in a few years (so we are told), we will have very tense and edgy people controlling the key policy-making organizations in our society very soon.

"And, these very tense and edgy people will escalate superpower tensions around the world, leading us into war. This war will soon escalate into nuclear war and the very tense and edgy people will push the button in an emotional moment and the planet will be destroyed.

"Nobody wants this to happen. What's more, it doesn't have to happen. If we all learn to relax and take our fingers off the triggers we won't have global nuclear war. But it is impossible to learn to relax when we are not given the chance.

"We hope the administration heeds the



Courtesy of the Howler

Though partying was still prevalent at places like Ziggy's and around campus in the eighties, alcohol restrictions were created to curb the abusive habit.

Old Gold and Black, now only a lonely cry in the wilderness for life, liberty and the pursuit of fun (unless they are all mutually exclusive, in which case we cry for only fun) because if the administration does not give us more time off during the semester it better not come crying to us when the bombs fall, because we won't listen."

And to think that it all could have been avoided.



Courtesy of the Howler

Members of the Four Tops entertained a festive homecoming crowd in 1965. The popular group was just beginning its ascent to stardom. They opened for Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs.