

OLD GOLD AND BLACK

The Student Newspaper of Wake Forest University
Founded in 1916

EDITORIALS

Apathy threatens honor system

Students should feel heartened that the Judicial Council has decided to hold an open debate on how the honor system should be reformed.

The council released a discussion paper Sunday detailing the results of its yearlong study of the system and several possible proposals for reforming the system. The paper accurately points out what, in the words of one professor quoted, has become a "crisis in confidence" in the honor system.

Unfortunately, the paper seems to fault students almost entirely for this crisis. For instance, the paper reports that many faculty believe the honor system is exceedingly lenient on students charged with infractions. Some faculty said they feel the Honor Council members "bent over backward to defend the students as opposed to defending honor."

Unfortunately, it is hard to evaluate such claims without knowledge of specific examples. After all, the recent O.J. Simpson case in Los Angeles has shown how different groups of people can view the same set of facts and reach very different conclusions.

In addition to largely faulting students for problems with the system, the paper also concludes with several proposals for change that would limit student control of the Honor Council. One proposal would change the way in which students are elected to the Honor Council by screening applicants in order to make sure they have a commitment to honor.

Another proposal would create a council made up not only of students but also faculty and administrators.

Interestingly, the paper notes that only two percent of the schools in the nation have honor systems where students are given so much responsibility. According to the report, many faculty believe the system would improve if only the faculty had more control over the

Honor Council. But the paper also says that cheating is "rampant" throughout the nation's universities.

The obvious question is why do the other 98 percent of universities also have so many problems if reducing student control was all that was needed to improve the system.

In an effort to build confidence, it may be wise to give faculty more power in the system. But we believe students are capable of running the honor system and running it well.

Moreover, we believe that at least some of the problems with the system lie with the faculty. For example, one of the Judicial Council's findings is that there is "little knowledge" among the faculty about how the system works. Also, only one-third of the faculty responded to the council's survey on which it based much of its arguments.

We can empathize with faculty members who have busy schedules. But learning about the honor system and working to improve problems within it should be one of the primary duties of professors. Given their paltry display of attention thus far, it's not entirely certain how more faculty control would improve matters.

Of course, students are also guilty of apathy. If the faculty's concerns are valid, then students need to rethink their decision to attend a university that places such emphasis on the honor system.

And even if the faculty are misguided, students should vehemently defend their ability to run the system.

Perhaps the most important statement made in the paper is that any improvement to the system arguably depends "upon all of us making a more public commitment to uphold honor and to explain its significance to new members of our community."

To that, we can only emphasize that "all of us" includes students, faculty and administrators.

RSA fights to keep dorms open longer

The Resident Student Association passed a resolution this week calling for the time period during which all students can enter the residence halls to be expanded from between midnight and 10 a.m. to between 7 a.m. and 2 a.m.

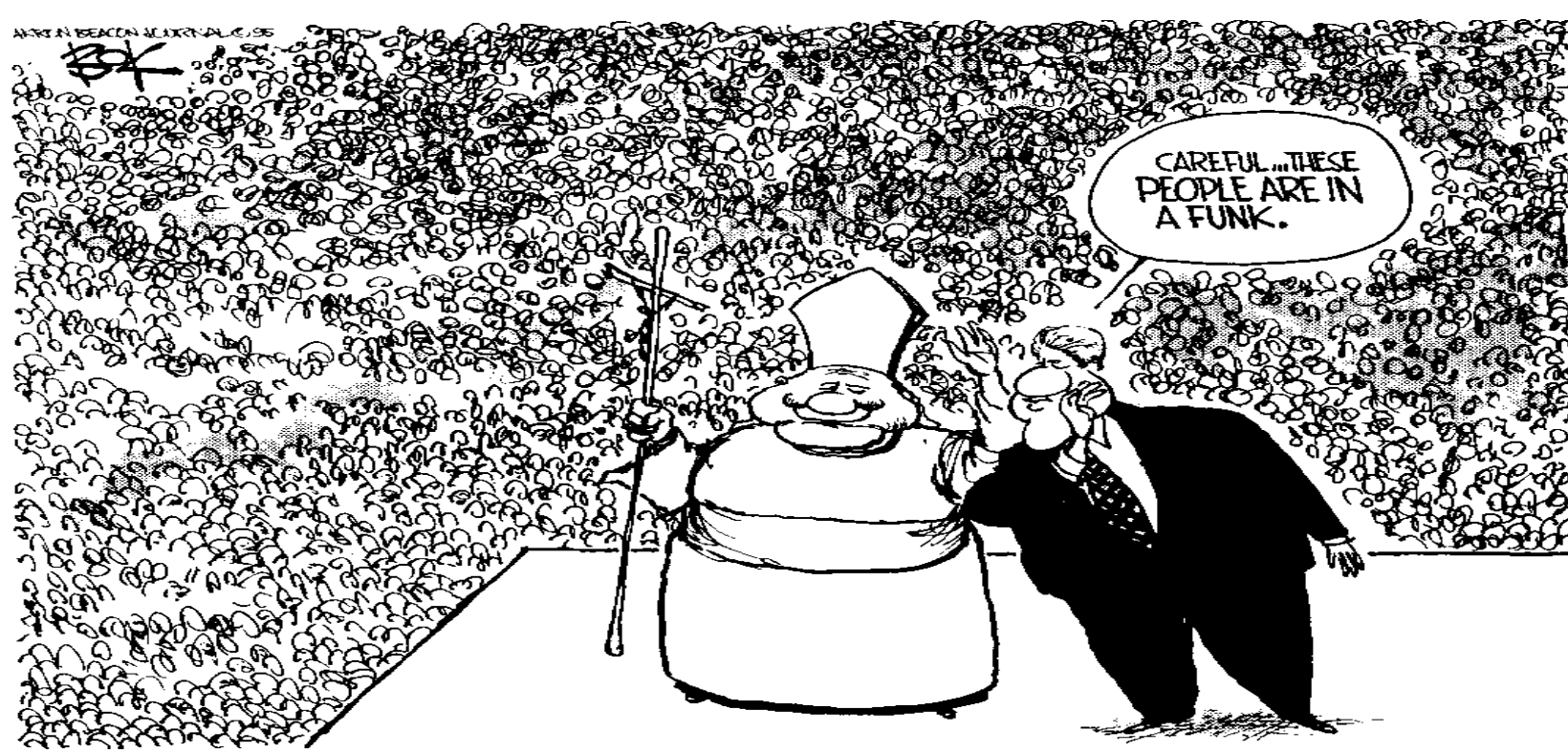
Though traditionally not known for venturing into the realm of campus politics, RSA fortunately has not allowed protocol to deter its responsibility to represent students before the university.

The resolution is a simple, inexpensive way to make the new

keycard system more convenient for students while still preserving the administration's intent to make the dorms safer.

The long time period that the suites are locked down has been one of the most frequently cited causes of annoyance with the new system.

In deciding the times, the university simply failed to take into account student lifestyles. Now that RSA has acted to correct that oversight, we urge Residence Life and Housing to approve these changes.



Flyers highlight gender issues

Some of you may have noticed the mushrooming of "monster" art throughout the halls of Wake Forest. Then again, maybe you haven't, considering that some among us have been tearing them down as soon as I can put them up. I put up a fresh set to replace the ones torn down last month, this time with source cited, in Tribble Hall on Thursday morning.

By Sunday night, they had all been torn down. I'm sure the perpetrators have reasons for doing so, but frankly I am astonished at the lack of respect such a violation of rights indicates. Have we really come to the point where certain members of our community feel it is their civic duty to protect the sensitive minds of those less capable of making their own decisions?

Yes, the drawings are sensationalist. It seemed the best way to ensure that the message would be read, short of wandering through the classrooms naked armed with a sandwich board and a bugle. The purpose was simply to get the Wake Forest community to acknowledge some of the issues facing women today. The statistics presented are so emotionally charged because they suggest that women and men aren't yet equal.

This is shocking and disheartening, perhaps, but it is the truth. Tearing these flyers down does not make the problem go away. It merely fosters the type of ignorance that allows the problems to perpetuate. Awareness, as has been often pointed out, is the first step towards recovery. We can't close our eyes and expect these problems to go away by themselves. As the Virginia Slims ads don't say, we have a long way to go, baby.

The statistics that illuminate these issues are as

SHANNON POE-KENNEDY

GUEST COLUMNIST

accurate as they can be. They are not my opinions. I did not sit up late at night making them up while throwing darts at a Calvin Klein ad and tearing up photographs of old boyfriends. They came from the *Statistical Abstract of the United States 1994*, compiled by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

I felt that this source would be sufficiently reputable to prevent anyone from discrediting the statistics. The newest installation of the flyers, which were still torn down, had the source clearly cited. I regret having to use any of my own words in making the statistics readable, but as it was necessary, I tried to present them as objectively as possible.

This is what the nine flyers say, now from the depths of a trash can:

1. In 1992 there were 471,100 male physicians and 107,000 female ones.
2. In 1986, there were 1,048 reported cases of AIDS in women. In 1992, the number rose to 6,312.
3. In 1970 there were 26,888 forcible rapes in the United States. In 1992 there were 109,060.
4. In the 103rd Congress, 1993, there were 388 male representatives and 47 females. There were 93 male senators and only 7 female senators.
5. In 1993, men earned a median weekly rate of \$514.00. Women earned \$395.00.
6. Males with doctorates earn \$4,915 a month. Females with doctorates earn \$3,162.

7. In 1990-1991, the average annual salary of male teachers was \$33,360. The females' was \$30,476.

8. In 1990-1991, 1.3 percent of male teachers had their doctorate; only 0.6 percent of female teachers had doctorates.

9. Male high school dropouts earn \$1,166 a month. Female dropouts earn \$579.

I have reread these many times, and the only slightly subjective/reactive phrasing that I could find is: "There were 93 male senators and only 7 female senators." This was incredibly irresponsible of me, and I will change this word in the future waves of these flyers.

It has been suggested that the flyers are making monsters out of men. This is farthest from my mind and intention. The drawings were done two years ago, without the slightest idea that they would eventually be promoting women's issues. Monsters in our society's media are typically male. Dracula, the Mummy, Freddie Krueger and Jason are all males. There is no Wolfwoman. We don't accuse Mary Shelley of hating men.

Rather, the flyers suggest that the issues themselves are the monsters lurking in everyone's closet. I am merely trying to drag them into the sunlight, where we can deal with them effectively. It is hard to do this if people continually tear down the flyers. I will keep trying, but it is a waste of time and money if they keep disappearing.

Please respect the right of fellow students to express their concerns. Surely university students, of all people, ought to respect the First Amendment and not suppress freedom of expression.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Healthful hints

In one of my classes I talk often about chronic degenerative diseases which afflict a great many of our population. Generally, we have accepted the fact that half of us are going to die from cardiovascular disease, another quarter of us from cancer, and as we get older that we will get fatter, become partially incapacitated from arthritis, live and suffer from medical problems and take medications recommended by our physicians. What a gloomy outlook for aging. Unfortunately this is a common pattern and a tragedy of our modern way of life.

The great news is "it doesn't have to be that way." Research on aging tells us that if we take care of ourselves we can have "quality of living in our later years." Weight training for the elderly has shown great promise. It has revitalized many persons who had given up to "old age." Research is saying that people in their sixties who have taken care of themselves can function and perform as well as the average 20 year old. Can this be true?

Last week I returned from competing in the State Senior Games held in Raleigh. There are 49 local games held during the year from around the state and the top three finishers are invited to Raleigh to compete. In the senior games in Raleigh, I saw 69 and 70-year-old men and women who would outperform all of our Wake Forest students except for the top athletes who are in training.

What was different about these folks? I talked with some of them. Many were only average athletes in their youth. The difference was that they did not continue to cling to the standard lifestyle that most of us have today. I talked with Charles Dotson, in the 70-74 age group, who won the 1500 meters in 5:53 and he told me that he exercises and watches his diet. He said that he has been a vegetarian for the past 15 years.

I talked with Jim Law, age 69, winner of the 100, 200 and 400 meters, and he told me that he has drastically changed his lifestyle over the past 10 years. He gave up smoking and adopted the macrobiotic diet. These people and many more like them are leading active and interest-

ing lives. They have not succumbed to the old age dilemma.

What is a prescription for an active enjoyable senior life? First, you have to change the way you think. Attitude is almost everything. Get your mind, emotions and your spiritual life in order. Make "peace" with your God, humanity and yourself. Then make some behavioral changes. Get a well balanced diet. Primarily, get off the sweets, fat (primarily from meat and animal products) and processed foods. Eat more fruits and vegetables. Begin an exercise program. You need an aerobic, a resistance and a flexibility program. Get the proper rest. Then, be prepared to feel better and enjoy life more and forget about growing older.

Just to test the theory that a 60 (plus) year old who has spent a little time looking out for his health can perform with the average 20 year old. I will challenge each of the men in the four Wake Forest classes in the Brian Piccolo cancer run. I will put up \$250 to forfeit to the Piccolo fund if I do not do as well as the average student in each class. On the other hand, each student has to put up \$1 to donate to the fund if I do better than the average student.

In the event that some students will wimp out, I will get two seconds deducted from my time for each student who does not run. Is that fair? It is just for fun and research and the Brian Piccolo Cancer Fund will be the winner. In the event you don't think that the run is the best test, I will even throw in cholesterol readings, fat measurements and resting pulse rates.

Bill Hottinger
Professor of Health and Sport Science

SG works?

Last week Student Government President Evan Peverley and Treasurer Graham Goodrich ("SG works on students' behalf," Oct. 12) responded to an editorial in the Oct. 5 issue of the *Old Gold and Black* ("Earth to Reynolda Hall: Do you copy?"). As a student whom they "represent," I feel that these two members of SG grossly overestimate the work that their organization accomplishes. In fact, I question exactly

what work this organization accomplishes at all.

As the main objective, "SG functions as an intermediary between the students and the administration." While I do feel this is an important job that needs to be done, I wonder what SG reports to the administration. Maybe it is that we desperately need a bar on campus, as that seems to be the most outstanding thing that SG has accomplished this year.

Of course, one has to ask where the SG executive board came up with this wonderful idea. As a senior, I remember that the talk of a campus pub has been around since my freshman year.

That is a great turnover record for SG. Three years to pass this agenda item, but let's not forget the fact that they did not get their proposal passed. It is the administration's counterproposal that was passed by the Board of Trustees.

Furthermore, where did the actual desires come from? I am still amused that some of the candidates ran on the platform of passing Shorty's. Peverley and Goodrich reported that last year, over 90 percent of the students responded in favor of the "Shorty's idea" in the executive officer elections. Of course only 1500 individuals voted in last spring's election.

That means about 1350 students voted for the Shorty's proposal. Since over 3600 students attend the university, that doesn't sound like an overwhelming majority if you look at the numbers. But I guess a majority of students don't have to be concerned with an issue to make it an SG priority. That sure does make me question SG's actions.

If SG does work for the students, exactly what has it done? Since I have been here, the outstanding SG events have been Freshman Orientation, the "Get a Clue" scavenger hunt and the startup of WAKE TV's broadcasts. Finally, there is last year's Project Pro Humanitate II. Understand that I don't want to offend anyone, but "Get a Clue" was not a part of this year's orientation activities, and while I think that Project Pro Humanitate II was a great idea, one should not overlook the fact that SG may still be in debt over this one.

Even the events of the most recent meeting make me question SG's actions. Of the eight bills that were

passed in the Oct. 3 meeting, only one did not approve or support the appointment of students to various committees. It was therefore resolved in Bill #7 that "the Student Government Legislature recommend that the Student Life Committee and the faculty grant a charter to the Anthropology Club." Voting whether or not to approve or support appointment of 29 students to committees and recommending that the SLC and the faculty grant a charter to a club certainly does not take 14 hours. Apart from the 16 set office hours of the SG executives, I surely don't see where the "30-plus hours a week dealing with the issues concerning the students at this campus" come in. At least that's what Peverley and Goodrich said they spend.

Finally, just to add a little more fuel to the fire, it amazes me that Peverley and Goodrich say they "dedicate their time and hard work to uphold student viewpoints with no compensation at all." I know that SG executive officers have received a payment of \$600 per year, and Peverley gets \$800. Not to mention the personal office, personalized stationary and business cards and faculty and staff parking passes they receive.

That sure sounds like compensation to me, especially since this \$2600 could be added to other student organizations' coffers every year. Last year President Thomas K. Hearn Jr. disclosed his salary; perhaps Peverley should have to as well. An extra \$800 a year, personalized stationary and a faculty parking pass surely sound like motivating factors to run SG.

Personally, I believe that Charles Starks was correct in his viewpoints expressed in the Oct. 5 issue. Lately, SG has been acting more like a high school student council than a student government. If you really are a government, then why don't you focus on issues of government?

When was the last time SG passed an amendment to the Student Constitution? I personally submitted an idea to the Judiciary Committee two years ago, and I still haven't heard anything about it. Sometimes I really wonder what is next. You got Shorty's, now how about the Black and Gold Prom?

Scott T. Brawley

OLD GOLD AND BLACK

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