

# OLD GOLD AND BLACK

The Student Newspaper of Wake Forest University  
Founded in 1916

## EDITORIALS

### Team's victory converts masses

For the last two years, the stream has been steady. Week after week, the jokes flew out. Like rocks falling down a mountain, they rolled off of our tongues. The football team was chastised, cast aside and disrespected by everyone who knew anything about the sport.

Now, they are conquering heroes. And while this victory should not be a measure of the entire season, as this is way too hasty of a conclusion to draw, every member of the team has a week to turn his head away from the congratulatory voices and say, "Ha. I told you we could do it."

The football team's 28-27 victory over 13th-ranked Northwestern University was special for all involved. It was the first time that a goalpost had been brought down since 1992.

The last time this happened was when the Deacons beat the Clemson Tigers, 18-15, to ensure themselves a trip to postseason action (the Independence Bowl). After the game, the goal posts were not only torn down, they were paraded up University Parkway and brought back to campus.

The victory came as a surprise to the entire sport's world, especially ESPN, whose announcers smirked at the game and assured the viewing audience that the university had not beaten a ranked team since 1979, and that this would not change.

This victory also did wonders for Head Coach Jim Caldwell's stock. After signing a contract extension in the off-season, Caldwell has had even greater pressures from fans to produce some positive results.

A win like this will not only quell detractors, but has the potential to permanently remove the monkey off his back, depending on how well the team finishes the season.

So let us, the *OG&B* staff, be the first to jump on this newfound bandwagon of singing football's praises.

We made jokes and we scoffed along with everyone else, and now we are ready to cheer, along with everyone else.

A wonderful thing has happened to our football program. For the first time in a long time, it matters who the team plays next week (at Georgia Tech).

For the first time in a while, people will be looking at Saturdays as a time to go to cheer the football team, and not just another tailgate to attend.

The players should be congratulated. If anyone has had to weather storms, it is these athletes, especially the juniors and seniors, whose abilities have been continually questioned.

Now, it is the squad's turn to laugh. We only hope that it laughs all the way through December.

### Ranking marks years of progress

Well, here we are. The university had a vision many years ago. A vision, it was said, that would catapult Wake Forest University into a position of national prestige, worthy of being ranked in the Top 25 of all universities.

No longer will flippant statements be made from people outside of this region, like, "Oh, Wake Forest. I have a cousin who lives in Chicago. She just loves it."

For this achievement, the university should be congratulated. This ranking will probably have many positive effects in the future.

Hopefully, the effect of the rankings will strike far and wide. The quality of student who applies to the university will improve, as well as the overall number of applicants.

The reputation of the university will, no doubt, increase and a degree will carry more weight with corporations. Perhaps, endowment will increase, and the university

will be able to keep improving and jump into the Top 10.

With this glory, however, remains a responsibility.

The university has gotten what it wanted. New programs have been instituted, the computers have been handed out and tuition has been raised and people have taken notice.

Obviously, success comes at a price, both literally and figuratively. Recently, the university fell 71 places in *Money Magazine's* Best Buys list. It was, however, 10th on *Money's* list of schools with tuition higher than \$18,000. Most likely, more money will mean less diversity among the student body, which has already become a concern.

The university must be sure that these new funds are used to benefit the quality of the school, not just the reputation. Larger financial aid packages and higher faculty salaries would both be positive uses of available funds.



### Football makes naysayers believe

*I will never leave a Wake football game early again.* In the tradition of Bart Simpson I almost felt obliged to write this sentence 100 times on a blackboard so I could learn my lesson.

I'm sure I was not the only student to have this feeling of self-inflicted melancholy Saturday night. When I called my friends at rival schools to taunt them about the victory they all asked if I was there.

Although I'm not pleased about my whereabouts when the goal posts came down, I didn't take the easy way out and make something up. I told them that I was within the confines of my dorm room.

I'll admit that my judgment was about as bad as that of Robert Downey Jr.'s when he got stoned and decided to make house calls to strangers this past summer, but there's nothing embarrassing about having left early.

Who could blame anyone who has watched Deacon football the past couple years for assuming it would be another loss? (Now ... if only I could convince myself of that.)

Judging by the number of people rolling the Quad immediately after the game, I was not conspicuous in

ZACH EVERSON

STUDENT COLUMNIST

my absence. For whatever reason, many other people either stayed home or left early.

My personal story (which I shared with many a fellow defector Saturday night): I left with about a minute gone by in the fourth quarter. The Deacons had the ball deep in their own territory and it was third and 22. When sophomore quarterback Brian Kuklick handed off the ball, I took off as fast as the running back did.

Why did I prematurely leave a game that featured the best opponent that we will see at Groves Stadium this year?

Simply because I was afraid that Head Coach Jim Caldwell had packed it in and was settling for the "moral victory" as opposed to trying to achieve what really matters, an "actual victory."

I was furious at the play call, as I felt that Caldwell was merely trying to lose by as little as possible. Confident that the outcome of the game would be like so many other games that I've witnessed in my two plus years at the university, I headed for

the parking lot.

Also, I had witnessed two missed field goals and a dropped pass in the end zone. I figured that the squad's window of opportunity was closing faster than a frat party with cops.

Boy was I wrong. The players and

**The players and coaching staff have to be commended for a dramatic comeback victory, the likes of which we're used to seeing only during the basketball season.**

coaching staff have to be commended for a dramatic comeback victory, the likes of which we're used to seeing only during the basketball season. Twice the team was down by 10 points and twice they rallied back.

Who would've thunk it — the football team received 14 votes in the *USA Today/CNN* coaches poll and three in the AP poll Monday. They were even named the Team of

the Week in *USA Today*.

This is remarkably different from two years ago when the only ranking the team appeared in was *Penthouse's* list of the 20 worst college football programs.

Although this victory is only one game, it could lead to greater things. Just think, last year at this time if we had beaten Northwestern University it would not have been such a "quad rolling" event.

That, however, was before Northwestern, a school better noted for its academics than its athletics (sound familiar?) upset perennial football powerhouse Notre Dame in its first game of the season. After that, the Wildcats gathered momentum, won the Big 10 Championship, and earned a trip to the Rose Bowl.

At worst, this victory will be a one-shot deal that will go down as one of the biggest victories our football program has ever experienced. At best, it will cause an increase in confidence among the players, more victories this year and better recruits for the future.

Right now, however, we're 2-0 and guaranteed of a .500 record for at least two more games.

So, what's everyone doing Jan. 1?



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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.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Drunk driving

I have a few personal opinions about the tragedy that impacted our campus last week, in the loss of two of our students in a car accident.

Drugs can harm people in three ways. First, the drug itself can cause physiological problems, as with liver damage due to excessive alcohol consumption. Second, the route of administration of the drug can be harmful, such as getting AIDS or hepatitis from injecting heroin. Third, behavioral toxicity can occur, and this refers to all of the potentially harmful behaviors that the drug activates or disinhibits.

Behavioral toxicity killed two university students last week. The difference between direct drug effects and route of administration on one hand, and behavioral toxicity on the other, is that the first two are usually limited in their effect to the drug user, at least initially. Behavioral toxicity can harm other people as well.

Can you do anything about this tragedy? Yes, you can, and you have been hearing this for years. Of course, you should never drive drunk, nor should you let other people drive drunk. How would you feel if you could have prevented the person in the other car from driving, and did not?

We feel anger towards the driver of the other car, but that person needs our help, in the form of both treatment and prevention.

Consider the fact that, according to the local newspaper, the driver of the other car apparently has several previous driving convictions, including driving while impaired. How many times should a person be allowed to be convicted of driving while impaired before their driving privilege (it's not a right, you know) should be revoked?

Do you think that a letter from you to your senator, congressman, governor, or president would help to get your opinion into the hands of people who control these sorts of decisions? Remember that laws are made by

people, and those people work for you.

Finally, one of the interesting ironies of this situation. On Page 1 of last week's *OG&B*, we have an article titled "Students Die In Crash." Elsewhere in the same issue, we see advertisements for "Beer, Wine, Champagne, Kegs," and "All You Can Drink Draft Night," from legitimate businesses in our community. As usual, the messages are mixed.

These businesses are doing nothing wrong. The *OG&B* is doing nothing wrong. However, this duality cuts right to the heart of the drug issues that we are faced with every day.

On the one hand, we should not restrict advertising for legal products. On the other hand, some legal products can be used improperly, leading to tragedy.

I am not an advocate of prohibition, since I believe that the problem is not the drug, but the way it is used to excess. Rational people usually do not put themselves in positions

that can lead to tragedy. But what do we say if a legal product robs people of their ability to make rational decisions? That is where a friend can try to impose rationality onto the situation, by an act as simple as preventing an irrational person from driving.

Remember that you have a duty to protect the people you love, but you also have a duty to protect people you have never met. That is the price you pay for civilization.

Terry Blumenthal  
Professor of Psychology

### Community

Graham. Julie. Matthew. Maia. Their deaths have had a sobering effect upon the university as many of us have been touched by their presence, spirit and life in different ways. It is during times like these wherein we are exposed to our own humanity — life and death issues, anger, fear, grief, and asking ourselves the series of "why" questions which consume