

OLD GOLD AND BLACK

The Student Newspaper of Wake Forest University
Founded in 1916

EDITORIALS

Kuh file questions intellectual climate

Every year the issue of the intellectual climate of the campus is brought into the spotlight and argued for a few weeks. This year the topic is a hot one because the recently released Kuh report said that students do not relate classroom experiences with out-of-class activities.

How much are students striving to learn outside of the classroom? What are faculty members doing to connect with students?

While it is true that there are things both groups could do to improve the academic climate, we are not sure if asking for more is realistic.

Student participation in intellectual endeavours is definitely not at an all-time high.

The Huffman Lecture Series, which featured a faculty member speaking in-depth on an issue of expertise, has been cancelled due to lack of support.

Student Government's Open Forums, in which issues affecting the university are discussed and debated, have been sparsely attended and may be on the brink of extinction as well.

Obviously, some faculty members could take more time getting to know their students outside of class. However, the notion that most faculty are not receptive to their students does not hold merit.

The faculty has a "popcorn fund," which allocates each member \$50 to take students out to a meal. It has been used by over 100

faculty members, and this number is rising every year.

So it appears that many faculty members are least making some kind of effort. Hopefully, these dinners are followed up with other events.

Many students will say that they do not know any of their professors and that the professors are not trying hard enough, but this is not a move that rests solely on the shoulders of the professors. The only way to improve relationships is for both sides to invest some time and energy.

There is no kind of administrative decree that will cause this to happen. A conscience effort on the behalf of both parties will, though. If negative attitudes do not change, then neither will the intellectual climate.

This brings up the question of whether students actually want this climate, or are they content with the "work-hard, play-hard" credo that seems to pervade.

No one has bothered to solicit opinion for this question, and it may very well be the root of the problem.

Further bridging the student-faculty gap will no doubt improve the intellectual climate of the university as both groups will benefit from understanding the other.

Having events that include both parties would be more comfortable and enjoyable, as small talk will be cast aside for interesting discussion.

Students should rank first year seminars

One of the of the most positive aspects of the Plan for the Class of 2000 has been the addition of the first year seminars. These classes give students a chance to meet and engage with some of the best professors at the university in an intimate setting, one that is different from that of almost all of the divisionals.

Also, having such detailed topics heightens interest for students because they are not receiving the same broad smattering akin to divisionals, but a much more specific study of subjects.

The university has done an exceptional job developing themes that are both interesting and applicable to students.

The wide variety of seminars also makes it easier for students to be in a class that they can look forward to, even if it is not their first choice.

There are some kinks in the new seminars, however. The goal of the seminar is supposed to be to increase the intellectual climate

while exposing students to new and different subjects.

If this is the case, why not just let students rank the seminars they want, instead of having a random list of 10 seminars they like and three that they do not like. Give students a chance to get the best possible class for them. This would accomplish two things.

Primarily, students would be in a seminar where they are the happiest. An enthusiastic student is much more likely to contribute and pay attention in class than someone who just ended up there. Students who are not interested in the classes are going to be less inclined to contribute.

Ranking seminars would also allow the university to ascertain which seminars are the most popular.

If there is a program that an overwhelming number of students are interested in, logic says that it would be nice to provide an additional number of these classes, thus satisfying more students.

Football team headed for glory

SCOTT PAYNE

PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

Saturday's performances by both the Deacons and the Wildcats are in complete opposition to the previous

to this statement, but bear with me. The game against Tech is in no way a reflection of the level of play that the Deacons are now capable of.

To anyone who follows Deacon football, it is obvious that the total level of execution has drastically

track to a winning season and eliminate any second guessing caused by the defeat at the hands of Georgia Tech.

With the recent success of our basketball team we dispelled any thoughts that a small, private college is unable to attract the kind of talent necessary to attain national prominence. The football team has also begun to attract the kind of talent it takes to win big games.

This season is by no means over, as there are still eight games to play, and we have a realistic shot to win six or seven of those eight games. If the Football gods deal the cards in this way for the Deacons, Caldwell will get to slip on his *bowling* shoes for the first time in his career as a head coach.

I may be putting the cart before the horse, but if the season turns out as I have envisioned, the Northwestern game will be considered a springboard to greatness and the Georgia Tech loss will have been a momentary lapse during a great season.

Please don't give up on the Deacons. If you begin to expect wins, the wins will start to come easier every weekend.

It is very easy to once again look upon the football team with disdain and say that the Northwestern game was a fluke, but I refuse to believe that is the case. The football players work hard and now they know how to win the big games that have to be won to be considered a national power.

The taste of greatness the Deacons experienced against Northwestern gave the team a winning attitude which will help them overcome this loss and to prepare for the defending ACC Champion Virginia Cavaliers.

weekend when the two teams met in front of 'Deacon Hill' in Groves Stadium. As part of the raucous celebration that ensued, the fans tore down one of the two goalposts and then in traditional fashion rolled the Quad with toilet paper.

The way in which the Deacons played during the game against Northwestern is a foreshadowing of the future of the football program.

Through the past few seasons, the inaugural years of the Caldwell administration, the Deacons took their lumps and paid their dues in one of the most competitive conferences in college sports, the ACC. But as was apparent against Northwestern, the Deacons have come of age, and it is now their time to shine.

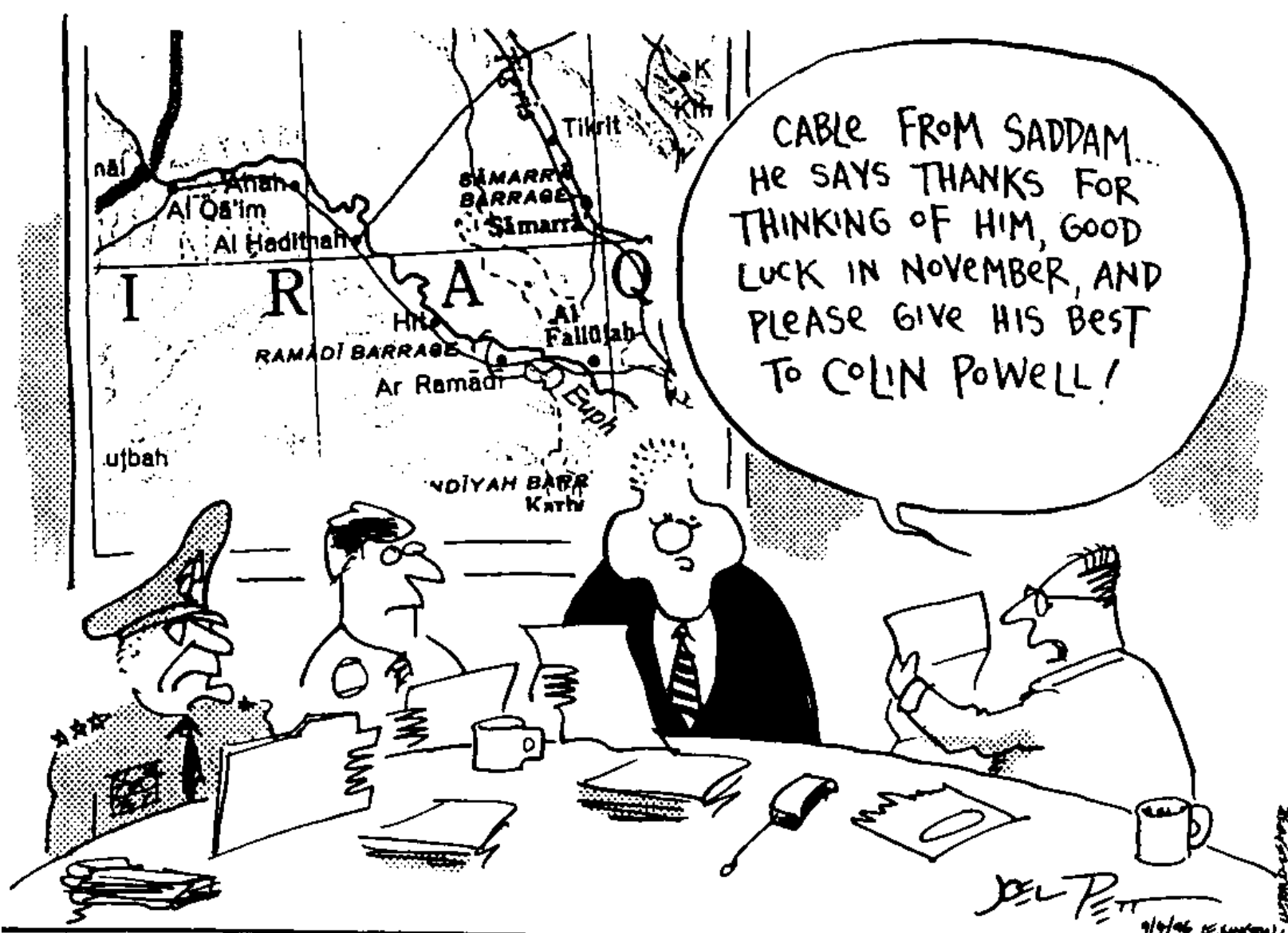
The performance against Georgia Tech may appear to be contradictory

improved, as we no longer make the idiotic mistakes that plagued our team in years past.

It would appear that we are on the brink of greatness. A few more key additions to our very young team could propel the Deacons to the land of football dominance.

It would be very presumptuous to assume that the loss against Georgia Tech will spell an end to the season for the Deacons and send the team into a tailspin. The taste of greatness the Deacons experienced against Northwestern gave the team a winning attitude which will help them overcome this loss and to prepare for the defending ACC Champion Virginia Cavaliers.

If the Deacons are able to defeat the Cavs at Groves Stadium this weekend they will hop on the fast



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In Addition

I am writing in response to the article "University Receives Top 25 Ranking" (Sept. 12), by Patrick McDonough.

In the article, I was quoted as saying that our rise in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings adds to the university's prestige and helps graduates in the competition in both graduate school and the job market.

The quotation was taken from a "posting" I made to an Internet newsgroup in the Wake Forest domain (wfu.misc). My sentences were correctly quoted by McDonough, but they accurately reflected only part of my "post."

I do not dispute our school's right to quote from any postings community members make. I appreciate the privilege of using our computer resources.

However, I did not know that I was to be quoted until I saw the article in print last Saturday. Again, I do not dispute the right to quote me, even without my knowledge.

But because my comments were taken beyond the "electronic forum" and to the attention of the broader readership of the *Old Gold and Black*, I think it is appropriate to supplement my quotation in print as well as on the Internet newsgroup.

I certainly believe that our prestige as a national university has increased. However, even the "Academic Reputation" component of our score does little to express what niche the university has in the market of higher education.

The university leapt from being "the top Southern university" to a very high-ranking "national university" in only a few years. As an alumnus, I can be proud of our rising prestige and, at the same time, concerned about changes.

If professors who represent the essence of the student-teacher ideal grow increasingly disenchanted with the campus, and perhaps even leave the university, this makes me question whether the professors who try to replace them really understand the shoes they are trying to fill.

If geographic diversity has led to Southernness being perceived as "provincialism," perhaps our college is producing a different type of less enlightened citizen nowadays.

Potential alumni donors do not want to see their college change beyond recognition. In 25 years, I want to return to campus and still be able to see what made me love the university.

Emily Cummins, '95
Washington, D.C.

University update

On behalf of Student Government, I would like to announce that on Sept. 30, President Thomas K. Hearn, Jr. will deliver the first ever "State of the University Address" to the university community.

All students, faculty and staff are invited to come and listen to Hearn speak about current university goals and activities. Hearn will also address plans for the future and impor-

tant issues that face our campus. I would like to encourage everyone to attend this wonderful event. The address will take place at 7 p.m. in Brendle Recital Hall in the Scales Fine Arts Center.

Before Hearn speaks, I will briefly discuss SG's goals for this academic year. I will also talk about our current activities, including the Shorty's project, legislature reform and SG's improved communication techniques. Moreover, I will speak about our plans for changes with the new basketball ticket allocation policy, which was recently changed without SG's knowledge or permission.

This address is a terrific opportunity for all students to learn about their community and become more informed about life here on campus. I believe that, too often, students and faculty complain that they do not know what is happening at the university.

Events such as the "State of the University Address" are great ways to acquire the pertinent information that everyone needs to know in order to get the best out of their university experience.

Lastly, I sincerely hope that you all will be able to attend this upcoming event. Hearn and I are extremely excited about this opportunity to inform you all about what we are currently working on and what we hope to accomplish in the future.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to visit the SG office, located in the Benson University Center, Room 304, e-mail us (sg@wfu.edu), or call us at Ext. 5293. We look forward to

hearing from you and hope to see you all Sept. 30 for the "State of the University Address."

Tina Schippers
Student Government President

Moral support

On behalf of the Zeta Lambda chapter of Chi Omega, I would like to thank the university community for the outpouring of support and sympathy that we have received these past two weeks.

It has been a great source of comfort for our entire sisterhood to know that so many people were thinking about us. As often is the case, out of tragic circumstances comes strong community support, and after these past two weeks there is no doubt in any of our minds that the university "family" is indeed just that.

We were overwhelmed by the immediate and abundant care and extensive help that was offered to us, the Witzl and Hansen families, and to all those affected by this tragedy.

We know that we were not the only ones who suffered a loss by the deaths of Maia and Julie. To all those who grieve, we offer our sincerest sympathies.

Yet, while we mourn the loss of Maia and Julie, we celebrate the joy that they brought into our lives and the way that they will continue to touch each of us.

Robin Gelinas
Chi Omega President

OLD GOLD AND BLACK

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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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