

# OLD GOLD AND BLACK

The Student Newspaper of Wake Forest University  
Founded in 1916

## EDITORIALS

### 'Work Forest' not reality

One of the first things that students hear as they set foot upon the Reynolda campus is that the university has one of the most rigorous academic schedules in the nation, earning it the nickname, "Work Forest."

George Kuh was hired by the administration to study and critique the academic and social life of the university. The Kuh report, however, suggests that this playful phrase may be a misnomer.

The report says that "students devote satisfactory, but not extraordinarily high, amounts of time and effort to their studies or educationally purposeful peer interactions." This analysis is based on Kuh's study of other selective liberal arts colleges.

While students may feel like they are exerting an inordinate amount of effort studying, the report shows differently, as more than half of the students Kuh polled said that they spent 30 or less hours a week on academics (this includes classes).

Kuh's poll also showed that 72 percent of the student body participates in less than 15 hours of university-related activities per week and 61 percent of the students said that they are not employed at all, contrasted to 50 percent at three comparable schools and 34 percent at selective liberal arts colleges.

These numbers, when compared with the similar universities, of

which the names have been withheld, are slightly alarming. While it would be helpful to know which universities we are being compared to, the point the survey makes remains clear.

Students at the university take pride in their school and the effort they put into their studies, as they should.

However, students must also realize that there are many universities with hard-working student bodies.

In addition to this, the "yeah, but all they do is work" excuse is not true, either. If anything, that could be argued by other schools toward the students here.

Sixty-one percent is an extremely high percentage of students who apparently have a large amount of free time on their hands. Although this does not take into account students who have off-campus jobs or outside commitments, the same can also be said for the other schools.

The point of the report is that students should be aware of the fact that we are not as prestigious or challenging as we may view ourselves to be.

This is not to say that this is not an excellent school. But, the university is now compared on a different level.

The schools with which we are compared to all work at a high level of intensity and all are strapped for time.

### Scholarships possess universal importance

Financial aid is always a concern when attending an expensive university. Now, with the added tuition, we are excited about the addition of 25 scholarships worth \$2,600 per year. Even more pleasing is that the total will be increased to 100 within the next four years.

The only drawback is that these scholarships are solely for the use of in-state students.

While nobody can fault the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, the source of the scholarships, or the university, for accepting them, it would be encouraging to see some additional funds made available for those students who live outside of North Carolina.

The university has solidified itself as a national university and is obviously making strong efforts to attract the best students possible, especially those from North Carolina.

And though it is important to preserve this heritage, it is also

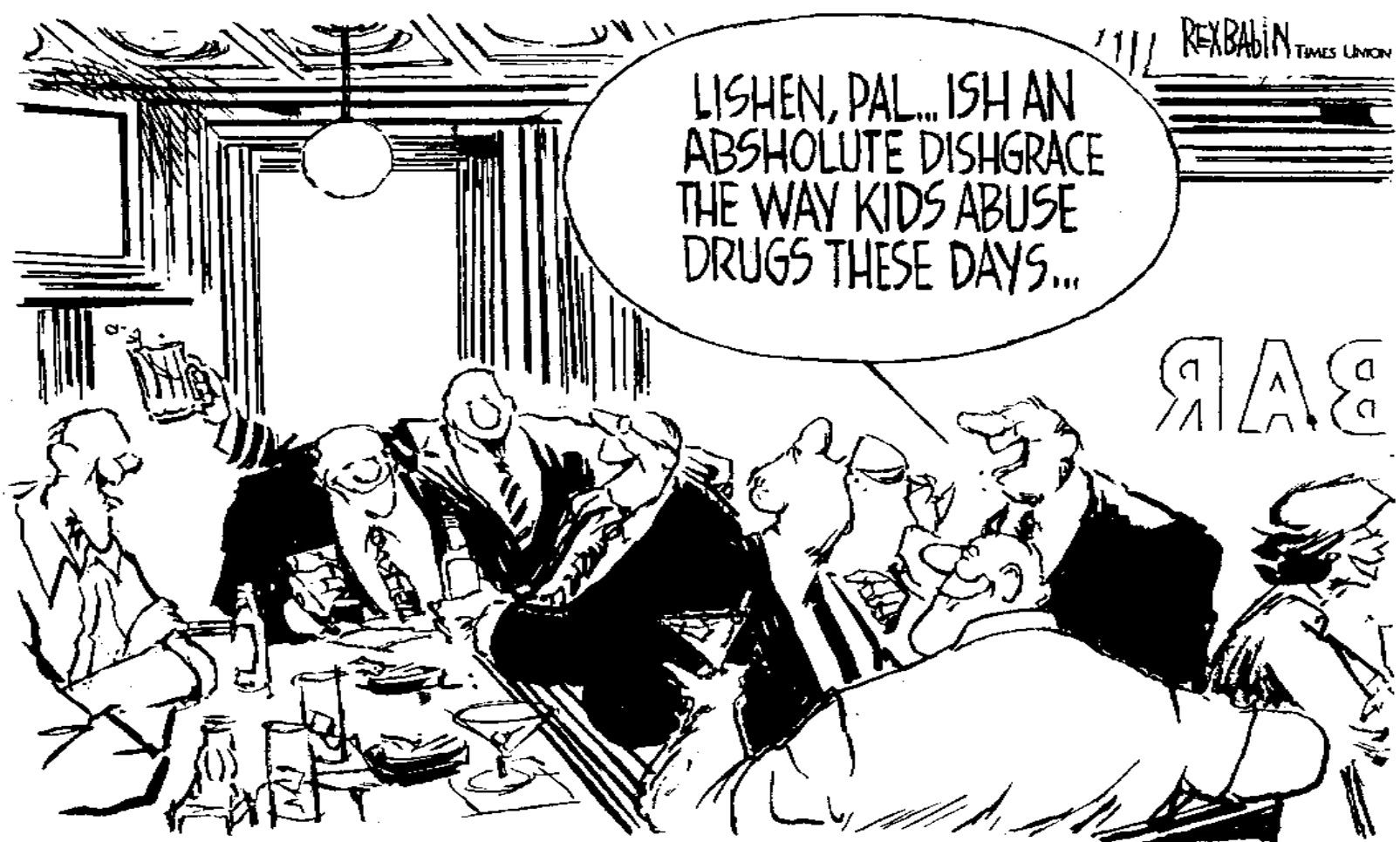
important not to let tradition block the path of the bright future within the grasp of the school.

If we are to be considered a strong national university, the same additional effort should be made for out-of-state students.

With 100 available scholarships for students in next four years, the university is virtually assured of having one-ninth of its students from North Carolina. This is already a sizeable amount, especially for a private institution.

This means that there needs to be a concentrated effort on accruing funds that will attract and entice out-of-state students to attend the university, just like we are doing for in-state students.

Adding 50 new scholarships for over 85 percent of the incoming class is not an unrealistic goal, and it is one that should become a priority. We are already doing an excellent job of funding those who are interested, but this does not mean that we cannot do better.



### Legalization helps society, economy

I have a modest proposal. It is a proposal that would allow police to do their jobs more effectively, catch more criminals and establish a more respectable position in their communities.

If enacted, my proposal would free up court dockets booked for months with frivolous crimes. The wheels of justice would turn a little faster; judges would experience a little less stress.

It would relieve prisons of overcrowding and thus allow violent offenders to serve out their full sentences. It would curtail the violence and crime that plague inner cities. Of course the results would not be immediate, but after this proposal was in force for a while, you might even be able to walk through a park at night.

This proposal ought to be considered a politician's dream, because it would allow the government to enact a new tax, one which would provide boundless revenue and to which no special-interest group could possibly object. At the same time, it would significantly reduce government spending.

Finally, it would give financially strained American farmers a new way to make money. Now, everything I have listed so far would be a secondary result of my proposal.

What, you ask, do I actually pro-

CHARLES STARKS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

pose? To curtail freedoms? Impose a curfew? Mandate school uniforms? Not even close.

Primarily, my proposal would give us back the freedom to do something

market, the street prices of currently illegal drugs have been estimated at approximately 5,000 percent of their natural prices.

If drug prices were at normal levels, users would no longer have to steal to support their habits, and turf wars over drug sales would cease, freeing up police to chase other

and the U.S. government would no longer waste vast sums interdicting drug shipments from abroad. Further, American farmers could grow hemp without having to sell it on the black market.

It might be supposed that a dramatic increase in drug use would result if drugs were legal. While this is a possibility, the chance of it is small if drug use remains socially unacceptable and current anti-drug education efforts remain in place, paid for by the new drug tax.

It's clear that the advantages of drug legalization are overwhelming. What politician could resist such a proposal? Sadly, almost all of them.

The Republicans, who claim to oppose government power, charge that President Bill Clinton hasn't been tough enough on drugs. And to Democrats, the party of government, the prospect of actually repealing a law is anathema.

A few years ago, a surgeon general lost her job for daring to suggest (albeit among other, less worthy, ideas) that we think about making drugs legal.

Yes, drug abuse is a tragedy. But the consequences of the war on drugs have been worse than tragic — they've been catastrophic, wreaking havoc on our legal system, our cities and our schools. It is long past time to end it.

**I do not advocate drug use ... but I continue to be amazed by the reticence of the general public toward legalizing drugs. The advantages of legalization are not difficult to see.**

that was once actually quite legal, but that has been judged evil by those who wield power: Take drugs.

Now I do not advocate drug use, first because it clouds the mind, and second because it can produce harmful side effects which can lead to disease and death.

But I continue to be amazed by the reticence of the general public toward legalizing drugs. The advantages of legalization are not difficult to see.

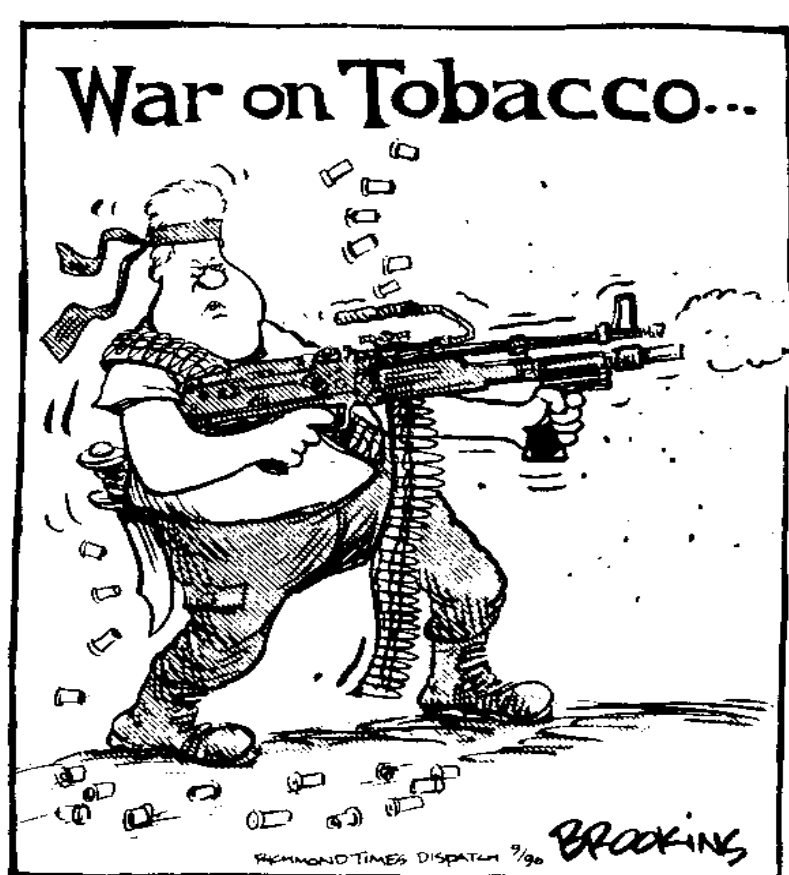
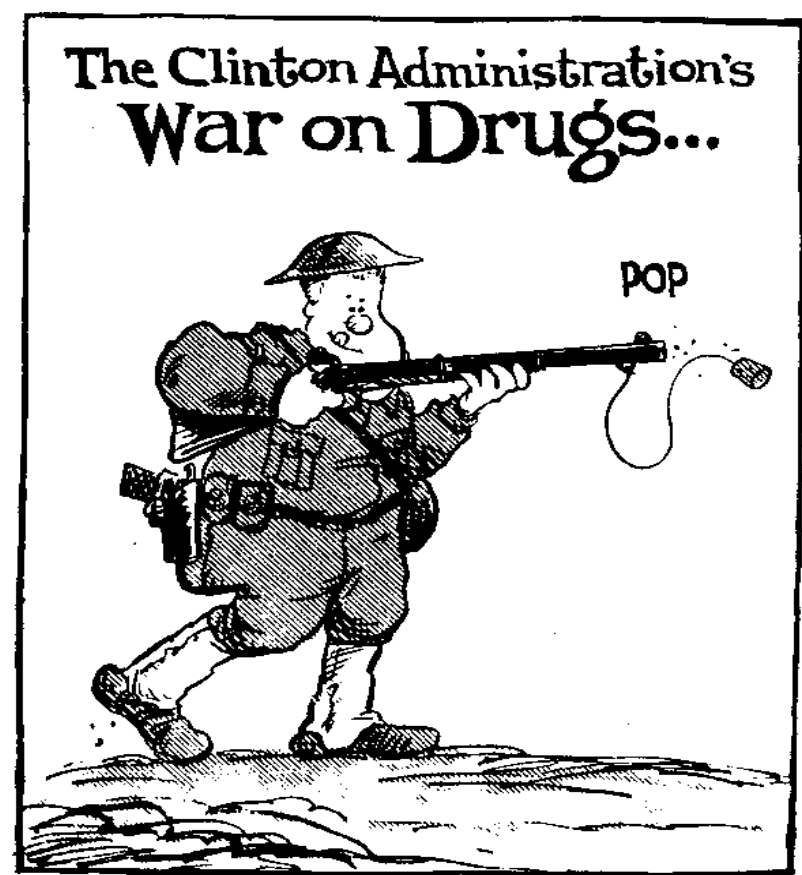
If drugs were legal, their prices would be far lower. Because of the various costs associated with doing business in a very dangerous black

crimes and maybe even prevent a few.

People jailed for using or selling drugs could be released, thus leaving space for offenders who actually deserve to be locked up. Crime at all levels would be lower, and we would all be a little freer to use our cities' streets and parks.

We'd be safer from the government, too. The Supreme Court would no longer be given the chance to allow the establishment of unconstitutional search-and-seizure laws in the name of fighting the drug war.

Our governments' budgets would benefit. Drug sales could be taxed



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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.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SG Update

We are reaching the end of the first month of the 1996-97 academic year. As the year rolls on, Student Government is busily working on several projects that are planned for October. One with pressing importance is the upcoming Student Budget Advisory Committee allocation process.

SBAC will have its first meeting in the form of an information session Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Pugh Auditorium.

The meeting will serve several purposes, including answering any questions groups may have about the budget process.

In addition, each organization will be assigned a member of the committee to help directly with each

group's proposal.

Finally, each organization is reminded to bring its completed information sheet and progress reports to the meeting Tuesday.

Much of SBAC's and, more generally, SG's success relies on effective communication.

This year promises to be a year that SG will make its most productive in terms of communicating with the campus.

SG Updates continue to be posted periodically, and the legislature "door-to-doors" will begin shortly. If students have questions or concerns please feel free to chat with us via our homepage, in Benson 304, or at Ext. 5293.

Chris Cathcart  
Student Government Treasurer

### In Response

I am writing in response to the article, "New Look Not Working" (Old Gold and Black, Sept. 19, by Angela Minor).

I, along with many other freshmen, do not agree with Angela Minor at all.

Her ideas clearly do not represent a majority of the freshmen class.

We are not so different than the rest of the student body other than the fact that we all have the same computer.

The author writes as if we are the only people on campus with computers and that we have no real contact with the campus. I do not see the ThinkPads as isolating the freshmen, rather, it puts us all on an even playing field.

Professors have the liberty of utilizing technology in the classroom freely because they know that all of the freshmen have access to a computer.

Basically, the article was a series of gripes of one student who claimed to speak for the entire freshman class of more than 900 people.

Where exactly is she getting all of these surveys that monopolize six hours of the day? What "cyberclass" is she enrolled in?

My advice to Angela Minor is to wake up and realize that those who have no computer skills will have no future at all. There is no stopping today's technology so just deal with it.

Beth A. Rymeski