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# OLD GOLD AND BLACK

"COVERS THE CAMPUS LIKE THE MAGNOLIAS."

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## Lack of racial diversity inhibits academic climate

By MEREDITH BOREL  
OLD GOLD AND BLACK REPORTER

Although most people will acknowledge that the problem exists, few are willing to confront it. According to a recent study of the climate for learning at the university, the subject of the campus's lack of racial diversity and interaction is a taboo one.

These results come from George Kuh, a professor of higher education at Indiana University, who drew his conclusions from the College Student Experiences Questionnaire. Kuh also based his findings upon individual

interviews, focus groups, and on the Montreat Retreat held in late January, where about 30 faculty, students and staff participated in debate and discussion about the intellectual climate at the university.

"Except for a handful of students who work and live with students from racial and ethnic backgrounds different from their own, whites and blacks seem to live separate lives outside the classroom," Kuh wrote.

"Blacks and whites are like oil and water on this campus — we don't mix," a student in one of Kuh's focus groups said.

Other students said they thought the intel-

lectual climate here is "racist."

"I think people see race as a very uncomfortable subject because it exposes things about them that they don't want to admit," senior Pat Clark said.

Claudia Thomas, an assistant dean and a professor of English, attended both the Montreat Retreat and the Presidential Leadership Conference held last weekend, and said that the issue of the campus' lack of diversity was an important one at both conferences.

"This truly is an issue in which there is an across-the-board consensus that we could be

doing better on campus," Thomas said.

Thomas said that at both conferences there seemed to her to be no desire to avoid the issue of racial diversity.

Instead, there was a good deal of frustration expressed about the lack of time to fully discuss the issue, Thomas said.

### Intellectual Climate



"My impression is that people would like to have more opportunities to talk about these things," Thomas said.

Junior Lilly Bekele attended the Presidential Leadership Conference as a Student Government representative. Bekele is also a member of the Black Student Alliance and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Bekele said that there is a lack of open dialogue about race relations on campus, and that there is little action being taken to address this problem. She pointed to broad generalizations, especially Kuh's claim that minority

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Tripp Harrington

### Puppy Power

Junior Amanda Barger and freshman Lizzy Hechenbleikner entertain themselves and their dog friend during a much needed break from studying.

## Hunt vows to strengthen drunk driving legislation

By EMILY BREWER  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Gov. Jim Hunt spoke yesterday at Brendle Recital Hall about his proposed efforts to crack down on drunk driving. The governor, serving on an 11-person panel comprised of state, local and university leaders, came to campus about six weeks after a drunk driver killed two students and injured four others.

Several students addressed the panel, including sophomore Fiona Penney, the driver of the car hit by the drunk driver Sept. 4.

"I did not intend to speak tonight and I know I won't be very eloquent," Penney said. "I hear all these comments that we have all these strong laws. But the man who hit my car had 38 previous offenses. There has to be a void in the enforcement of these laws," she said.

"I don't want to be a statistic. I don't want my best friends to be statistics ... I think it says something about us that (Thomas Richard Jones, the driver of the car that hit Penney's) is still on the road," Penney said.

Hunt, who is up for reelection next month, presented several proposals for improving the system to keep repeat

offenders off the road. He said he planned to speed up prosecutions by using retired judges to deal with the backlog of cases in many counties. He also proposed stricter punishments for driving drunk.

"I want to change a habitual DWI offender from someone convicted of three drunk driving offenses in three years to someone convicted of two drunk driving offenses in seven years," Hunt said.

Hunt also asked Penney to speak at the North Carolina General Assembly's next session in February. Hunt said a packet the panel plans to compile based on the discussion would also be presented then.

According to Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker, the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Treatment Program is working to identify the people who have problems and to give them treatment.

"Alcoholics don't care whether they have a license or not. They will get behind the wheel. While in prison, they need to be treated and counseled," Wicker said.

Jim Kimmell, the district attorney for the 18th district in Greensboro, said that as it is right now, a convicted drunk driver's license is only revoked for 10 days. "I think

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## Disenchanted SG fights for ticket change

By KATE COSGROVE  
SG REPORTER

The night after the first men's basketball practice of the season got underway, Student Government began discussing a new system for ticket distribution that they hope will gain more students admission to games.

Senior Tina Schippers, the president of SG, said that she is "adamant" about changing the proposed ticket policy that would prevent students from obtaining basketball tickets on a merit based system.

Schippers and junior Deborah Tyson, a co-chairwoman of the SG campus life committee, met with Athletic Director Ron Wellman last week in an attempt to make changes to the lottery system that was proposed for the 1996-97 season.

Schippers and Tyson asked Wellman if the ticket distribution could be handled in a similar fashion to distribution last year, in which SG held four ticket pickups for students to obtain tickets on a first come, first serve basis.

Wellman said that last year's system had to be revised because students camped outside of the Benson University Center on the evening before ticket distribution for the game against UNC-Chapel Hill, producing massive areas of trash on the grounds between the Benson University Center and Tribble Hall. According to Schippers, officials at Benson prohibit further ticket distributions that would result in similar camp outs.

SG has collected approximately 2,000 signatures from students who disagree with the idea of a lottery system. Students who signed the petition voiced several concerns with the system, primarily that they would not be allowed to block rows for group seating. Schippers has received complaints about this since the beginning of the year from many groups, including students of the law school and students at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

SG and students argue that the lottery system

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## Survey indicates graduate satisfaction

By JENNY BLACKFORD  
ASSISTANT ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Every year departing seniors have a chance to tell the university what they really think about their experience at school through the senior survey. The class of '96 had a higher rate of satisfaction than its peer universities. The seniors

also targeted several areas which they think need improvement.

The survey is used to help the university discover what parts of the school students are happiest with and which areas need improvement. This year the University Council was given the results and is considering implementing some of the recommended changes.

This year there was an increase in survey participation, with 291 out of 700 surveys completed, approximately 42 percent of the senior class. The survey included questions that covered all aspects of college life from financial background to job goals.

The seniors felt that the Benson University Center, the athletic facilities, com-

puter services, library resources and access to faculty members were all very good.

The climate for minorities on campus was one area of concern to many. Seventy-two percent of the respondents said that they were dissatisfied with the current racial climate on campus.

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## Accident victims at home and doing well

By KAREN HILLENBRAND  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Six weeks after the automobile accident that killed two students, all four women who were injured in the crash have returned home from the hospital.

"Everybody is home and doing well," said Julie Griffin, the adviser to Chi Omega sorority.

Sophomore Aline Iodice was released from Baptist

Hospital two weeks ago and has returned to her home in Pilot Mountain.

Sophomore Paige Warren was released from the hospital Friday and went home to New Bern.

"I'm doing pretty well. I'm feeling pretty good," Warren said. "I have a doctor's appointment next week and I'll find out more then."

Both are in wheelchairs but are expected to fully recover from their injuries. "They will return to totally

normal at some point, but it's going to be a long time," Griffin said.

Iodice and Warren are both taking the rest of the semester off, but will return to the university for the spring semester, according to Griffin. Warren said that she is taking two classes now through directed readings.

Griffin also said that Iodice and Warren plan to visit the university for Homecoming Oct. 26.

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## Campus Police still looking for suspect

By DANIELLE DEEVER  
NEWS EDITOR

Campus Police are still searching for the assailant who sexually assaulted a female student in her residence hall room Oct. 5.

"We still don't have anybody in custody. We have eliminated some suspects. We still don't have one suspect," said Regina Lawson, the chief of Campus Police.

Lawson said that the police are still unsure whether the assailant was a student or someone from outside of the community. The victim described the attacker as a male of average build who might have had a southern accent.

Police have interviewed numer-

ous people in the course of their investigation but are still looking for students who were on the Quad between midnight Oct. 4 and the morning of Oct. 5. "People see things they don't realize they are seeing," Lawson said. "There's still a lot of unanswered questions out there. We feel confident that people may have more to contribute."

Several students who were on the Quad during those hours told police that they had seen strangers in the area. "They all said he seemed strange, it seemed like he didn't fit, but no one picked up the phone to call us that night," Lawson said.

Campus Police received several different descriptions of the stranger,

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Tripp Harrington

### Bongo Madness

Sophomores Brett Wilson and Kit Anderson, a two-man band, practice playing their instruments during an afternoon jam session in their dorm room.



### What's on your mind?

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•For subscription or advertising information call Ext. 5279.

### Not So Substance Free

Ziggy's is a university tradition. Lambda Chi's have always owned it. Get blasted, next week in the *Old Gold and Black*.

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