

# ThinkPad loaners considered to cure class disparity problem

By ANGELA MINOR  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Do freshmen have an unfair advantage over the upperclassmen due to their standard issue ThinkPads? This question, a nagging one since the announcement about the plan, was addressed once again at the President's Leadership Conference at Smith Mountain Lake Oct. 11-13.

The President's Leadership Conference is an annual retreat where student leaders from the various organizations meet with faculty, staff and administration, including

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SG Speaker of the House

President Thomas K. Hearn Jr. Issues and problems at the university are discussed.

During a discussion about the freshman ThinkPad advantage, one solution suggested was providing loaner ThinkPads for upperclassmen.

Provost David Brown said, "The idea is still in the initial stages. Right now, we're just exploring our options."

With Internet access and a powerful Microsoft Office suite, the Class of 2000 generally possesses technology superior to that available to students in the computer labs.

"One of the options we're looking into is increasing the number of computers in the labs that carry the standard load," Brown said.

The standard load includes Microsoft Windows 95, Microsoft Word 7.0, Microsoft Excel 7.0, Microsoft PowerPoint 7.0, Netscape Navigator Gold 2.0, Lotus Notes 4.1 and Eudora Mail.

"This can greatly enhance the computing capability of the computers in the labs," according to Brown.

"Another aspect of the idea is to develop a plan that would allow upperclassmen to purchase the ThinkPads that will be available to the next freshman class," Brown said.

Computer technology is constantly improving, and the computers of today are by far outdated by tomorrow. This was also discussed along with the possibility of having used ThinkPads available for upperclassmen.

"Obviously, the used computers won't have the computing capacity of the newer models, so we have to take that into consideration," Brown said. If the purpose of this plan is to put everyone on an even plane in terms of the availability of computing technology, these factors must be probed and examined, he said.

Junior Will Ashworth, Student Government Speaker of the House, said, "We're looking into maybe loaning the computers with the wireless equipment to the departments for, say, an out of class activity. We also talked about possibly having the computers available for loan in hour long periods."

Ashworth said that the project is currently being transferred to the academic committee.



Carlton Ward

## Yes Sir!

Sophomore Chris Corrado leads his fellow ROTC cadets outside Reynolds Gymnasium.

# Homecoming offered many events

*Various campus groups sponsor activities over weekend for alumni, students*

By HEATHER MACKAY  
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

Homecoming, held this weekend, featured numerous activities for alumni, families and students.

Friday, a music renaissance festival was held on the Magnolia Quad. Numerous bands performed in the afternoon and, according to sophomore Camille Breathette, the Student Union Homecoming Committee chairwoman the event attracted a good crowd.

This was the first year the festival was held, Breathette said. "It was a big success. I look forward to doing it again," she said.

Saturday morning, the Student Union and Student Alumni Council sponsored the fourth annual carnival on the Quad for alumni and their families.

Junior Matt Lane, the president of Student Alumni Council, said that it went really well this year.

"We think we attracted about 300 alumni and their children," he said.

At the carnival there were face painting, games, drinks, prizes and

candy for parents and children alike.

According to Jack Overman, '54, "The carnival was obviously enjoyed by all of the kids, old and young."

The Alumni Office also held alumni tailgates and club events which were staffed by members of the Student Alumni Council. There were reunion events for the different classes, Lane said.

Of course, the football team also

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provided both alumni and students with an afternoon of entertainment on the gridiron.

Despite the Demon Deacon's 47-18 disappointing loss to the Navy Midshipmen, most people had an enjoyable time, both inside the coliseum and outside, tailgating in the parking lot.

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A Homecoming King and Queen were announced at the football game. This year's Homecoming King is junior D' Angelo Solomon, the Queen is senior Michele Scriven and the Princess is senior Tycely Williams.

Solomon is the defensive back for the football team and therefore was not able to come out on the field during half-time, Breathette said.

Saturday, the Student Union sponsored a Greek Extravaganza Step Show.

It featured the Zeta Phi Beta sorority and Phi Beta Sigma fraternity from Winston-Salem State University, and Pi Beta chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, Xi Eta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and Pi Omicron chapter of Delta Sigma Theta sorority from the university.

According to Breathette, the show went really well and there was a huge turnout. "Brendle was packed and it was a crowd-pleasing show," she said.

"Overall, Homecoming went smoothly. I was real pleased," Breathette said.



Carlton Ward

## Off the wall

Sophomores Erin Dowdy and Greg Stone have a conversation on a wall by the post office.

# Football office employee dies due to cancer

OLD GOLD AND BLACK STAFF REPORT

Patricia Alwine, an athletic department secretary who worked in the football program, died Oct. 24. A memorial service was conducted Monday in Wait Chapel by Chaplain Ed Christman.

"She was a true friend," said Mary Parsons, an administrative assistant in the athletic department and one of Alwine's co-workers. "She and I worked well together. I'm going to miss her," Parsons said.

Alwine, 36, had been battling cancer for three and a half years and had left Aug. 1. "She put up a real fight against the cancer she had," said Bill Faircloth, the assistant athletic director.

Alwine worked extensively with the program's recruiting efforts and was a loyal, hard worker, Faircloth said. "She was a real asset to the football department," he said.

Originally from Johnstown, Pa., Alwine was hired by the university in 1987. Her husband, Gary N. Alwine, is an administrative coordinator in the biology department. She is also survived by a 7-year-old daughter.

"She was a great person," Faircloth said. "She meant a lot to us."

# SBAC

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last year the Alliance for Racial and Cultural Harmony, did not apply for funds.

"The most difficult aspect of the process is balancing the requests of established organizations, who need solid funding to continue their programs with the requests of fledgling groups that need money to grow," Cathcart said.

For the first time, SBAC has used a series of progress and development reports to evaluate the needs of student organizations.

"We created the progress and development reports in response to concerns from both newly-funded organizations and groups that SBAC has funded for years, since both groups voiced the need for objective criteria to evaluate student organizations," Cathcart said.

"So far, it has been a helpful tool in the process," he said.

Student organizations need to plan their budgets carefully, since any funds unused at the end of the year return to the general operating fund of the university. "We'd

love to have those funds carry over, unfortunately, that's not how the system works. Most organizations do an excellent job of staying within their budgets," Cathcart said.

The process to receive SBAC funds consists of four nights of hearings, in which each group that applies for funding is allotted 15 minutes to explain their budget and answer questions for the SBAC. "We then take the notes from the interviews to help with decisions during our deliberations," Cathcart said.

The committee met Sunday for 10 hours and met again on Tuesday for more discussion. The official list of allocated funds will be released Friday.

# SG

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emergency telephones both on parking lots and near academic buildings.

Eckert also emphasized the importance of investigating new modes of strengthening campus security.

"If you think that the gates alone will keep you safe on this campus, you are wrong," Eckert told legislators.

The physical planning committee also reported that it is investigating the idea of allowing students in south campus residences to gain access to their buildings through back doors.

Currently the key card system allows students to enter only through the front doors of these buildings.

The committee also announced that it is working toward establishing a memorial garden for university students who have passed away. The committee is considering creating such a garden near the campus entrance to Reynolda Gardens.

**Remember to vote Tuesday.**



Carlton Ward

## Don't wipe out

Rob Machado spends some spare time by enjoying the weather and skateboarding on the Magnolia Quad.

**You like art,  
don't you?  
You like  
entertainment,  
don't you?  
If you answered  
yes and want to  
write for the  
A&E section,  
pick up the phone  
and call  
Ext. 5280**