

Holiday schedule needs fixing

Has anyone else looked at their calendar lately? In case you haven't noticed, it's early December already. Thanksgiving has come and gone.

KYLE HADEN
STUDENT COLUMNIST

we all get to go home earlier for winter vacation. And then we can get all of the rest, food, and partying that we can stand.

I am sure you know the routine by now. Everyone comes back to school well-rested (and a few pounds heavier) from their break, looking forward to the rest of the semester.

yams? I wanted to go back home and do the usual break stuff: sleep, eat real food, and kick it with my old high school buddies. Instead I wound up writing papers and studying for

Others point out that a schedule such as this allows us to go home and reload before coming back for finals.

Everyone, that is, except for students at this university. Oh, we are all a few pounds heavier, but we are not well-rested or ready to learn. Why? It is once again time for finals, that's why!

Shopping with the family? No can do — got a homework assignment due next week. Thanksgiving dinner? No dessert for me — research to do. Job searching? Couldn't spend too much time doing that — test in eight days. Afternoon nap? Forget it — I need that snoozing time to study.

But think about it. A decrease in time to prepare for exams means lower grades on them too. What is the benefit of me getting home seven days earlier if I drop a letter grade in a class? And quite frankly, as long as I get home before Christmas and get

We've moved straight from one holiday to another: from a holiday of giving thanks and being grateful for what we have to a time where we curse the existence of professors and Saturday exams.

exams. All of my friends couldn't believe how early my finals are.

three or four weeks off, I'm content with my winter break. So my suggestion to the powers-that-be here at this school, this week, is to give us a little bit more time here at school between Thanksgiving and winter break. I know this might be the perfect way for you to combat grade inflation, but this isn't fair to the students. What's the point of having a break if you work through it? Let us have that extra week to prepare for our classes.

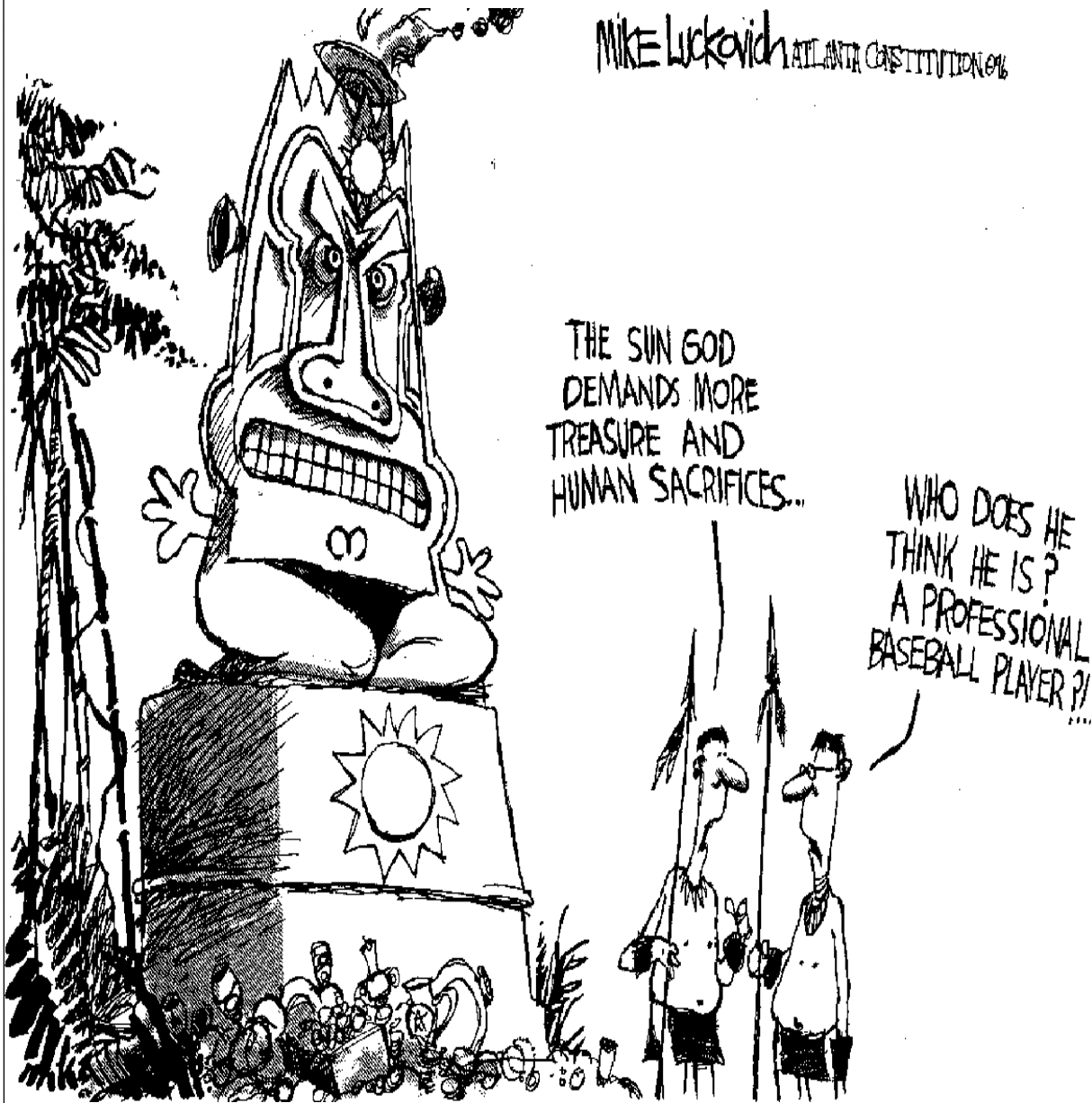
And this year, the schedule-makers have been extremely generous in placing these spectacular celebrations back-to-back, so that we can really enjoy ourselves!

Heck, I can't believe how early they are. I had to radically alter my schedule to accommodate my textbooks. Shopping with the family? No can do — got a homework assignment due next week. Thanksgiving dinner? No dessert for me — research to do. Job searching? Couldn't spend too much time doing that — test in eight days. Afternoon nap? Forget it — I need that snoozing time to study.

Hey, if you're nice to us, we may even bring back some of Mom's candied yams for you.

Seriously, how many of you had your Thanksgiving break totally ruined by the specter of exams looming over your shoulder, like mom with that second helping of candied

Sure, there are some who will argue that early finals also mean that



Women's soccer puts some real kick into fall sports

At a university whose athletic department includes one of the most curiously successful men's basketball programs in the country, and one of the consistently least successful football programs in the country, the Demon Deacon fall sports season is generally not given to episodes of prolonged excitement.

MICKEY KRAYNYAK

SPORTS EDITOR

Sure, now and then you'll get a women's tennis player streaking through a national qualifying tournament, or a cross country or golf team capturing a big win several states away.

(Biggest Win Ever No. 1) and subsequently garnering their first-ever national ranking.

When the planets are aligned correctly, you may even be fortunate enough to witness the gridiron squad knock off a nationally-ranked opponent.

Things didn't stop there, however, as the squad returned home that week to beat Duke 1-0 in Winston-Salem on a dramatic breakaway goal by Schilling as time expired. The win was the Deacons' first ever over a ranked opponent, and qualified as Biggest Win Ever No. 2.

On a less intense level, you and a group of friends might choose to spend a sunny October day out at the soccer field watching the men's team (of course) clash with one of the ACC's soccer titans.

Though the Deacons hit a rough stretch in the latter part of the season, the squad surged when it counted, dropping Florida State on the road late in the season to earn a seventh seed in the ACC tournament and a rematch with the Blue Devils.

But such occurrences are really little more than blips on a radar screen which most students don't even begin to monitor until late in the fall semester. The yearly rise of the Demon Deacon sports scene tends usually to occur at about the same time as the first flu outbreak and "In Search of a Corner." Anything which happens earlier in the year is a bonus. Right?

The squad promptly chalked up their third Biggest Win Ever of the season, besting second-seeded Duke 3-2 in the first round of the ACCs before bowing to Clemson 2-1 in the second round.

Enter the Demon Deacon women's soccer team and Head Coach Chris Turner. Just three years old, the fledgling squad stole the autumn show this season with a campaign which included at least four wins which, when they occurred, could each have been correctly referred to as "the biggest win in the history of the program."

However, the win over the Devils was enough to earn the Deacons their first-ever trip to the NCAA Tournament field of 32, where the squad notched Biggest Win Ever No. 4 with a 2-1 win over the Clemson in the first round. Though the miracle run ended one week later with a 5-0 second-round loss to Florida, the Deacons had made their point: no longer is fall in Winston-Salem a ho-hum sports season.

The squad began its season in impressive fashion, flaunting a highly-touted group of freshmen recruits to the tune of three straight tournament victories. Freshmen Liz Burnette, Anne Shropshire, and Karli Schilling, among others, combined to garner the Deacons a significant amount of regional stature.

Turner continues to persuade that he possesses both a keen recruiting touch and an equally deft ability to coach from the sidelines. Though the term "Michelangelo" is an overused one in the sporting world, Turner's ability to land this year's freshman class, and his subsequent ability to generate so much success from a team which is still very young, beg the term.

Their newfound strength soon translated into two landmark achievements for the squad, as Turner's crew spent the third weekend of September in New Jersey collecting a win of the Rutgers/Umbro classic

A first-ever national ranking. A heart-stopping win over nationally-ranked Duke. An ACC Tournament win over the same Blue Devils. And a first-round win in the NCAA Tournament.

All of this before you had a chance to catch the flu.



MIKE LUCKOVICH ATLANTA CONSTITUTION



Students must reject 'work hard, play hard' lifestyle

In the Nov. 21 issue of the *Old Gold and Black*, Paul Fyfe wrote that the current investigations into the intellectual climate at the university, including the Kuh report, have ignored the social climate as a key to the college experience ("Forget Kuh, Social Climate Is Vital To College Experience").

ANDREW FREY
STUDENT COLUMNIST

Having participated in some of those intellectual climate reviews and read a number of the reports, I think that Fyfe doesn't realize just how much the social climate has been an issue in discussions about the intellectual climate.

istrators making the connection between the social and intellectual worlds at the university, the student body as a whole has responded rather apathetically to any efforts to integrate the social-intellectual climate.

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Put simply, the social climate is the problem with the intellectual climate, and that's why there have been so many reports about it.

Our desire to separate the social and intellectual spheres of our lives is not unique at this university from what I understand of other universities, but it is particularly depressing at a liberal arts university which, presumably, students would choose to attend based on some desire to learn about all aspects of their lives.

Fyfe is right when he says that social interaction is "the medium that we need to cultivate" to inspire intellectual climate, but the problem is that the university has woefully little influence over the social institutions of fraternity and sorority parties.

The question then becomes whether we as students are willing to reject the "work hard, play hard" mentality of our culture and find enjoyment in the intellectual world?

With no other recourse, all the university reports have seemed to stress lecture series and other isolated intellectual events on campus, so perhaps the university seems to have ignored the social climate.

This question is vital to the identity of the university as it climbs into the national rankings; is the university truly a school for intellectual growth, or is it merely another university that happens to have good parties?

On the other hand, the faculty, students, and administrators who have studied the intellectual climate have considered the social climate to have the utmost importance, but they have been unable to implement the necessary reforms by themselves.

There are students who would answer either way. I hope that more students (and faculty and administrators, for that matter, for they also have a role to play) will choose the former option.

The problem is that, although there is a small and perhaps growing group of students, faculty, and admin-

Short of a massive change in the admissions procedure or a heavy-handed re-working of the social institutions on campus by the administration, the university will not change any other way.

