

# OPINION

This column represents the views of the Old Gold and Black Editorial Board.

## Kappa Sigma suffers severe consequences

One of the biggest news stories of the fall semester was that the Kappa Sigma fraternity was brought up on charges involving hazing. Harold Holmes, the vice president and dean of student services, had ruled that the fraternity be suspended through September of 2000, and the Student Life Committee subsequently decided that the Kappa Sigs could apply in September of 1999 to return to campus January of 2000.

Now, the Delta Omega chapter of the Kappa Sigma fraternity has lost its national charter. Their national organization revoked their charter through January 2000 and stipulated that no one currently in the fraternity can become a member if the fraternity reapplies for its charter at that time.

The Kappa Sig nationals are also currently investigating all Delta Omega chapter members for their individual involvement in the violations in order to determine status as fraternity members.

Some members have already been charged with violations and could face either suspension or expulsion from the national fraternity. Current members found not guilty will be dropped to alumni status.

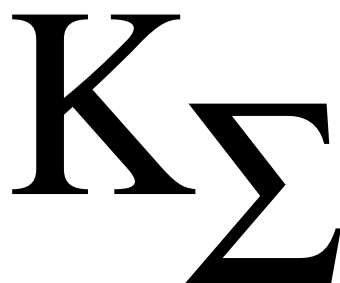
It's good to see that the nationals are investigating each member individually. Not only does it show that they are taking the violations seriously rather than trying to sweep their offenses under the rug, but it also shows that every member of the organization will not be held responsible for the actions of the people who actually committed the crimes.

The national organization was also right in revoking the charter. Fraternities

are often given almost Mafia-like images — big, tightly knit organizations that keep their skeletons locked in their closets at all costs. But the nationals have shown that they really do take action against their unpleasant problems in a productive way.

The actions by the fraternity's national organization also validates the university's decision. The administration at this university is finally wising up to the fact that hazing goes on and has done something about it.

Perhaps the action taken against the Kappa Sigs will serve as a warning to other fraternities on campus. Fraternities now know that they can get caught and penalized severely for hazing. Any disgruntled pledge can bring the hazing actions of a fraternity to the attention of the administration and the fraternity will have to suffer the consequences. So fraternities should start reevaluating their pledge activities. Not only from the standpoint of getting caught, but also from



that of safety, hazing is, of course, dangerous. Most fraternities probably do not set out to seriously injure anything more than their pledges' pride, but they need to keep in mind that their pledge activities can have serious consequences. Even though the repercussions may not have been intentional, fraternity hazing has the potential to land pledges in the hospital, or even sometimes in their graves, as we've seen at other universities in the nation.

As men's fraternity rush rolls around, fraternities on campus should keep the events of last semester in mind, for their own good as well as the good and safety of members of the university community.



Mike Luckovich  
ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### University basketball fans are indeed pitiful

Great job by senior Zach Everson in the Dec. 4 issue of the *Old Gold & Black* ("Wake! Forest! cheer just isn't cutting it anymore"). Everson hit the nail right on the head.

This university's football and basketball fans have the reputation of being the worst in the Atlantic Coast Conference, and among the worst in the country.

The reason is that the fans attend the games and sit on their hands for two hours. A university basketball game should not resemble a Christian Youth Choir performance.

This is ACC basketball folks, not junior high school. Frankly, the fans at my high school were much more animated and spirited.

I for one love the Pep Band and consider it an essential part of any big university sports event. I love virtually everything that they play throughout the game.

But the Freakin' Deacons have their place also. I have watched the Deacs at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum from press row, and nothing looks better than when the Deacs make a play and the Freakin' Deacons are going nuts, not just politely clapping. The Screamin' Demons have long done a great job at games; now the Freakin' Deacons can take the Screamin' Demons to a new level.

As for the charge by graduate student K. Carter Cook in his Dec. 4 letter "Freakin' Deacons show disrespect" which bemoaned the "Duke-ification" of our school: My friend, since Durham is as close as you say, I invite you to take a trip to Cameron Indoor Stadium. Look up and admire all of the Final Four Banners, and pay close attention to the National Championship trophies in the lobby.

Then watch the game and the best coach in America while the Duke fans go crazy and perform their countless game rituals, all to the delight of the alumni and administration. Then ask yourself again, "Why don't we want to be like Duke?"

ous, senior Zach Everson has crossed the line of common courtesy with the Dec. 4 editorial "Wake! Forest! cheer just isn't cutting it anymore."

His disapproval with Barbara Trautwein, the assistant director of the marching band, and Kenneth Zick, the vice president of Student Life and Instructional Resources, is neither newsworthy nor appropriate.

I cannot convey in writing the amount of respect I have for these individuals, especially for Trautwein. Everson's rebuttal was nothing more than mere name-calling.

I would like to think that "pro *humanitate*" meant something for all students fortunate enough to grace this campus. Clearly, I was wrong.

Kerry Ashworth-King  
Senior

### OG&B failed to highlight All American honor

How many All-Americans does this university produce each year? Four, five in a good year.

And, when it does happen, when someone is selected as a member of the NCAA Division I All-American team, that event would probably be newsworthy, correct?

Nov. 24, junior Nolan Swanson became the fourth cross-country All-American in the history of this university and you printed a seven line story in the "Deacon Notes" of the sports section of the *Old Gold and Black*.

No description of how the race developed. No quotes from Swanson or his coach. No mention of the 30-40 friends, family and teammates that traveled to South Carolina to support him. Nothing.

I realize we are not the basketball or football teams, but when any university athlete does something above and beyond the ordinary, he deserves more recognition than that pathetic excuse for an article.

The *OG&B's* coverage of this event was an insult to Swanson's efforts, his teammates and the cross-country program.

Dave Whalen  
Freshman

Jon Russell  
Senior

### Columnist disregarded common courtesy

While I had considered the debate regarding the Freakin' Deacons humor-

### Staff Editorial treated Provost Brown unfairly

As I flipped through the pages of the *Old Gold and Black* Dec. 4, I read an article that was very disturbing to me.

This article, "Computer Consulting Service Not Justified," represents "the views of the *Old Gold and Black* Editorial Board."

The article clearly is an opinion, and I recognize this fact. I believe that everyone is entitled to his own opinion. However, the last two paragraphs were untrue and quite cruel; they depicted Provost David G. Brown as "disliked" and without concern for the students.

I am a firm believer that this is completely false and very much unnecessary.

I have been very fortunate this semester to be a member of Brown's first year seminar class titled "The Ways Professors Think: Examples from Economics, Religion, and Computer Science."

I have gotten to work very closely with Brown, and his interactions with me and the rest of the class prove my point very well.

Everything that this man does at this university is because he cares about the students and has their best interests at heart.

He has spent countless hours doing things for not only us, but for the entire student body as a whole.

He had our entire class over to his house for supper and an evening of fun, including a friendly championship match of Bocce Ball.

He constantly encouraged us throughout the semester to work together, to get to know each other, and to learn from each other.

He brought a smile and a listening ear to class each time we met. Everything that Brown did for us during this semester showed me that he cares. He has extreme concern for this entire university as well.

He is a man of intelligence and consideration, as well as someone I feel I can trust tremendously.

He will greatly be missed as Provost, but we are all very fortunate that we still have him on our side in his new position.

The university is very lucky to have David G. Brown as a member.

Alston Robertson  
Freshman

### Our letters policy

We welcome letters. Send yours via e-mail to letters@ogb.wfu.edu, by campus mail to P.O. Box 7569, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27109, or deliver it to Benson 518. We reserve the right to edit all letters for length and clarity.

## OG&B staff will miss a dedicated member

The community is mourning the loss of the eighth student in the last two years with the death of sophomore Gregory Wilson Jan 6.

Greg worked with us as the sports copy editor and field hockey beat reporter for the *Old Gold and Black*. He was a valuable presence in the office, a warm and considerate person as well as a good worker and writer.

When he was not in the office, he was president of his Theta Chi pledge class and had just been accepted as a member of LEAD.

Although it's easy for students at the university to get caught up in the almost unrealistically safe haven of campus life, we have been reminded only too often in the last few years of the harsh reality of life's precariousness.

As we mourn the death of Greg Wilson and remember his life, we are also reminded of the many others we have lost in the last two years.

The news of these deaths hit home even harder at this particular university because of its small size and intimate community setting. With each student loss, we are all affected.

## OLD GOLD AND BLACK

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Mike Luckovich  
ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

