

OPINION

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

MIKE LUCKOVICH ATLANTA CONSTITUTION 04/8

Study abroad should not be profit-maker

The chance to study abroad is an enriching and unique opportunity for college students, an opportunity that a large percentage of students at this university take advantage of each semester.

But the chance to study abroad may soon become a more exclusive and limited one if the administration, particularly the office of international studies, has its way.

A committee including Controller Maureen Carpenter; Richard Sears, the director of international studies; and Judith Shannon, the assistant to the director of international studies, will be submitting a proposal to Paul Escott, the dean of the college, and Sam Gladding, the associate provost, that would require a full semester's tuition payment from any student studying abroad with a non-Wake Forest program. Sears is the mastermind behind this idea and one of the creators of the committee.

Ultimately, if the Board of Trustees approves the proposal, students going abroad with other university programs starting in the fall of 1999 will end up paying, in most cases, significantly more than such students do now.

Currently, if a student goes abroad with another school, he does not pay Wake Forest anything for his semester abroad. (Technically, he has withdrawn from the university for that semester.) He only pays the university with which he goes abroad. Which makes perfect sense.

Why should a student pay Wake Forest for a semester's worth of services that he is receiving from a different university? A student should not have to pay Wake Forest when he is not taking Wake Forest classes or even stepping foot anywhere near the campus for an entire semester. Technically, he's not a Wake Forest student for that semester.

Under the new proposal, a student studying abroad with another university would pay Wake Forest tuition, and then out of that tuition payment, Wake Forest would pay the other university for the student to study under its overseas program. A large majority of overseas programs at other universities are significantly less expensive than Wake Forest's program. For instance, Wake Forest's semester Venice program costs \$9,725, while the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Venice program costs \$4,440. Under the new proposal, Wake Forest will keep that extra \$5,285.

This extra cost would be slightly offset for some students by a new scholarship program for study abroad. Starting for all current freshmen and sophomores, 175 \$2,000 scholarships will be available for study abroad. These scholarships are nice, but obviously \$2,000 falls short of, for example, the previously

mentioned \$5,285 difference.

Overseas programs that send students to countries where Wake Forest doesn't have programs are also much cheaper than a Wake Forest semester's tuition. The University of Nevada has a program that sends students to Santiago, Chile, for \$3,295. But starting in the fall of 1999, students could be paying \$9,725 (Wake Forest tuition for one semester) for that program, the difference of \$6,430 going to Wake Forest.

Specifically, the extra money will go to the Office of International Studies to be used, according to Sears, for counseling, information sessions, application assistance and the mysterious and ubiquitous "other services." These must be mighty expensive and glorious other services. How has the office possibly survived thus far without the excess thousands and thousands of dollars that it will potentially be getting in 1999? Why does it need to make such a large profit off of students?

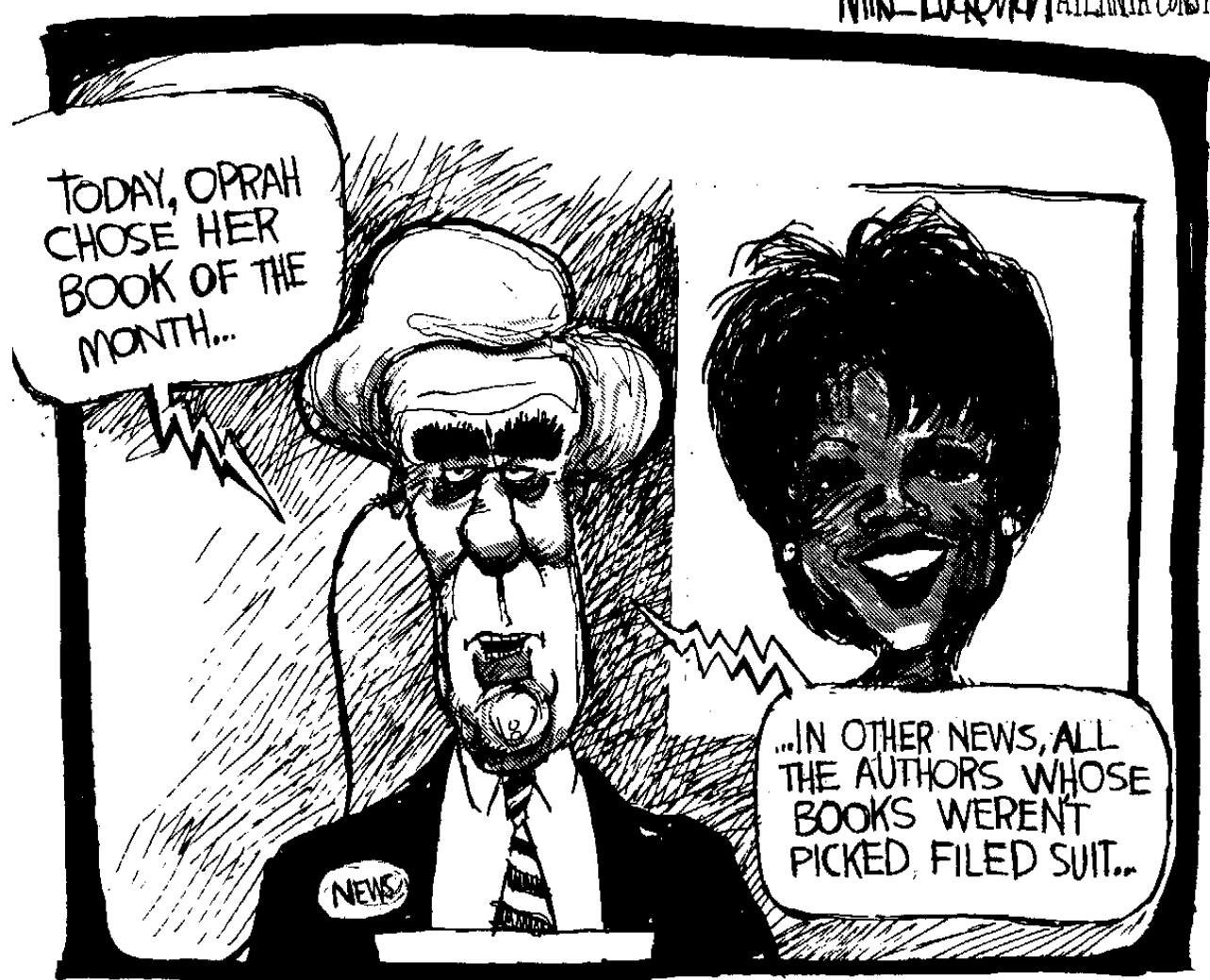
This new proposal will likely hinder many students from being able to study abroad. Securing a spot in Wake Forest overseas programs is very competitive and, once accepted, studying overseas under Wake Forest is very expensive. Many students are still able to study abroad through other universities now. But soon the excess cost may not be worth it.

And aside from the principle of the matter, many students will simply not be able to afford going overseas with the burden of the extra tuition payment on top of airfare, spending money and other travel expenses. Contrary to popular belief, not every student here is a Reynolds heir or a Poteat heiress, and many students are only able to study abroad precisely because programs at other universities are so affordable.

What's next? Will the administration start adding up how much the average student shells out in parking tickets in a semester and make overseas-bound students pay that before they can study abroad?

The university should make it easier, not harder, for students to study elsewhere. After all, the school prides itself on the high percentage of its students who study abroad. This proposal just falls into the typical patterns of this university's administrative moves — springing a big change on students after they enrolled under different premises and sucking as much money out of students as possible.

Let's just hope that if Escott and Gladding approve it, John Anderson, the vice president for finance and administration, and Ed Wilson, the senior vice president, do not approve it at the next step. And if it does go to the Board of Trustees, we can only hope that they have the intelligence to say no.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Theta Chi thanks the university for support

To the Wake Forest community: On behalf of the brothers of the Gamma Omicron chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, I would like to thank all of those who expressed their sympathy and support in this last month.

Sophomore Greg Wilson was a valued brother and a friend to all, and we will forever miss his presence. His goodwill and care for others will live forever through the spirit of this university community.

Brad Preslar
Junior
Theta Chi Fraternity President

continue on March 18, also from noon to 5:30 p.m.

Tickets will be distributed from the University Theatre box office in the Scales Fine Arts Center. A limited number of tickets will go on sale to the public March 23, priced at \$20 and \$18 for senior citizens and non-university students.

I hope that many in the university community will take advantage of this rare opportunity to hear one of the world's greatest musicians and humanitarians.

George Trautwein
Secrest Artists Series Director

Dave Odom made the right decision

It's time to put aside all of the discussion of what kind of basketball fans we should have at Wake Forest and show what kind of support we can give to our team (and to the individual players) when they really need it.

First of all, I'd like to offer my full support to Coach Dave Odom's decision to have sophomore Loren Woods step away from basketball for a while. We all love watching the Deacs win, and we are a better team with Loren on the floor, but his health and happiness are much more important than any basketball game will ever be.

Now's the chance for our fans to show what sets them apart from other programs in the country. We truly care about our players, not just about winning games.

I offer a challenge to everybody in the campus community. Keep up the

support for the team which you've shown so well the past few years. And especially keep up the support for Woods. We need him back, but not until he and his coach decide that he is ready.

While he's out, give the freshmen all the support they need to build their confidence. We've got more talent across the team than we've had in a long time, and they're going to be back at the top of the league with a little experience. Come Atlantic Coast Conference tournament time, when these guys have a lot more playing time under their belts (and hopefully they'll have their leader back in the middle) — watch out ACC!

A tournament championship is still a real possibility. And wouldn't it be great to see Dave Odom win his fourth ACC Coach of the Year award after making what had to have been one of the toughest decisions in his career?

Good luck to the Deacs, good luck to Loren, and kudos to Dave Odom for having the guts to do what is right, not what is easy — that's what this university is all about.

Tom Berry '93
Chicago

For more letters, see next page.

Our letters policy

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OLD GOLD AND BLACK

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MIKE LUCKOVICH
ATLANTA CONSTITUTION
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