

Raindrops keep fallin' on the campus

The drainless grounds drown students on their way to class.

I wake up and poke my head out the window, only to find that the campus is enveloped in a thick blanket of gray and continuous drizzle of cold, pelting rain. The weather isn't my main vexation, since Mother Nature has never shown particular mercy upon college students, forced to walk through her wrath.

Instead, I fume as I slosh along my wetted way, about the drainage problem at this university.

It's 8 a.m., and I'm running late. I wade

Christen Balady
STUDENT COLUMNIST

through a body of water too vast to be considered a puddle but worthy of its student-coined name Great Lake Wake. My feet are immersed to the tops of my shoes.

Despite the obvious raindrop collection that has accumulated, there are no drains, grates or holes anywhere in the immediate area. I get to class wet, late and with cold feet. I am not pleased.

Nine o'clock and it's still raining. On my way to the Quad, I decide to cut through Reynolda Hall. I figure it's dry in there, right? I climb the stairs to the Mag Quad patio and am greeted by a new swimming facility.

Overnight, the patio collected enough water to be a penthouse pool. I tiptoe around the waterhole and proceed to my next class. The rain has already ruined my day, but the campus's 24-hour transformation into a swamp has irked me over the edge.

Someone in my next class hears my loud complaint about this waterlogged institution, and explains to me that once, long, long ago, the administrators were actually concerned with the students' comfort and well-being as they traveled to class.

In fact, they were so concerned, they constructed underground weather-proof tunnels for the students to pass through, to arrive at their classes dry and on time.

The tunnels turned out to be a grand feature for the university, until there was an unexpected accident in one. Gossip says it was a flood, or maybe it was an explosion inside these element-shielding cocoons. They were, sadly, deemed unsafe and shut down from student use.

Without these tunnels students had to once again brave the rain, wind and occasional snow, and a new problem arose. The tunnels had consumed all underground space. The elements now had nowhere to go but stay on university ground.

Now, instead of simply worrying about grades, sports and whom they were planning on asking to the most recent Greek function, pools of water and fields of mud became a new concern among the students.

In short, the tunnels were a curse disguised as a blessing.

Wonderful, I think. The administration tries to solve a problem and in the attempt, complicates matters further.

Because someone's construction plans weren't 100 percent foolproof, I'm forced to tread to class for the next four years every time the barometers drop.

Someone suggested I write about this so that students know they aren't the only ones annoyed by the lack of drainage on campus and so the administration realizes that the problem needs to be addressed. I did. Guess what? My shoes are still wet.

Tuition payment for study abroad is justified

The Office of International Studies needs the extra money from students.

The editorial "Study abroad should not be profit-maker" and the article "Overseas tuition might increase" in the Jan. 29 issue of the *Old Gold and Black* contain some serious misperceptions about the reasons for the proposal to charge Wake Forest University tuition for participation in non-Wake Forest overseas programs. Most broadly neither piece mentions the fact that

Richard Sears
GUEST COLUMNIST

students who have entered Wake Forest beginning in the fall of 1995 are now under a new system governing credit for overseas in non-Wake Forest programs. The new system stipulates that all such students will receive direct Wake Forest credit for approved non-Wake Forest programs, not transfer credit.

There is a reasonable argument to be made that if you are receiving direct Wake Forest credit you should be paying Wake Forest tuition.

The two pieces do give adequate attention to the fact that more and more students are studying in non-Wake Forest programs, carrying sizable financial aid overseas and receiving substantial services from a variety of offices at Wake Forest, yet not contributing any funds to the university. For reasons that I will indicate below it is unlikely that this can continue. The options may be to scale back on the services and financial support provided or to find a new source of funding for international programs.

Several things should be noted by way of background before discussing the proposal under consideration itself.

The Office of International Studies, supported by the International Studies Advisory Committee, has had as its mission since 1986 to promote the internationalization of the campus and the curriculum. As part of that mission we have sought to expand participation in study abroad programs by Wake Forest students. To that end we have sought to make study abroad both easier and more affordable.

Specific steps taken to accomplish these goals include obtaining approval for Wake Forest students to

The Office of International Studies also does a wide variety of other promotional activities, visits overseas sites to check their adequacy for Wake Forest students and helps students find programs that suit their needs and interests.

carry their regular financial aid packages overseas in both Wake Forest and non-Wake Forest programs, offering need- and merit-based study abroad scholarships and sponsoring the Study Abroad Fair each year. The Office of International Studies also does a wide variety of other promotional activities, visits overseas sites to check their adequacy for Wake Forest students and helps students find programs that suit their needs and interests.

In addition, the Office of International Studies has been heavily involved in the creation of new Wake Forest programs in Japan, China, Cuba and elsewhere. Once students are overseas, especially in Wake Forest and non-Wake Forest programs, we help them with needed course changes, serve as a contact with the sponsoring institution and generally try to see that their experience is a good one.

When the student returns we also provide a variety of important services, including helping them with credit and other problems and soliciting student evaluation of the programs they used so that we can utilize that information in advising future students. Other offices of the university also provide important services before, during and after students return including the Office of the Registrar, Residence Life and Housing and Financial Aid.

There is no "mystery" about the services that the Office of International Studies and other offices provide for students studying overseas in non-Wake Forest programs, although the general student body may not be fully aware of them. Nor is there any doubt that, at the present time, students who study in these programs are not paying for the services they receive from Wake Forest.

However, the editorial raises two reasonable questions when it wonders how all this was paid for in the past. Why is it only now that we need to find revenue to pay for these services? One answer has already been mentioned: In the past students did not receive direct Wake Forest credit. However, just as important is the

fact that in the past we did not have as many students studying overseas, and we have been fortunate enough to be able to cover many of the increased costs from outside funding. Since 1986 the Office of International Studies has applied for and received approximately \$750,000 for international programming.

Most of this should be seen as seed money with the granting agencies hoping that Wake Forest would eventually pick up the costs of continuing the programs. We are now at the point when this outside funding is gone and we must find an alternative source of funding or lower support of internationalization, including study abroad.

The proposal which will be made to Paul Escott, the dean of the college, and Samuel Gladding, the associate provost, this week is one way of accomplishing this goal. It is not a way of "making a profit." Rather it is a means of continuing to fund programs that students have voted for with their feet. In 1987, 78 students studied overseas, while last year it was 330.

The article in the *OG&B* points out correctly that at some schools such as Duke University the need for funding is dealt with by charging a fee for study abroad. This idea was considered by the International Studies Advisory Committee but it was not put forward because we were told by the provost and others that this would have little chance of approval by President Thomas K. Hearn Jr. or the board of trustees.

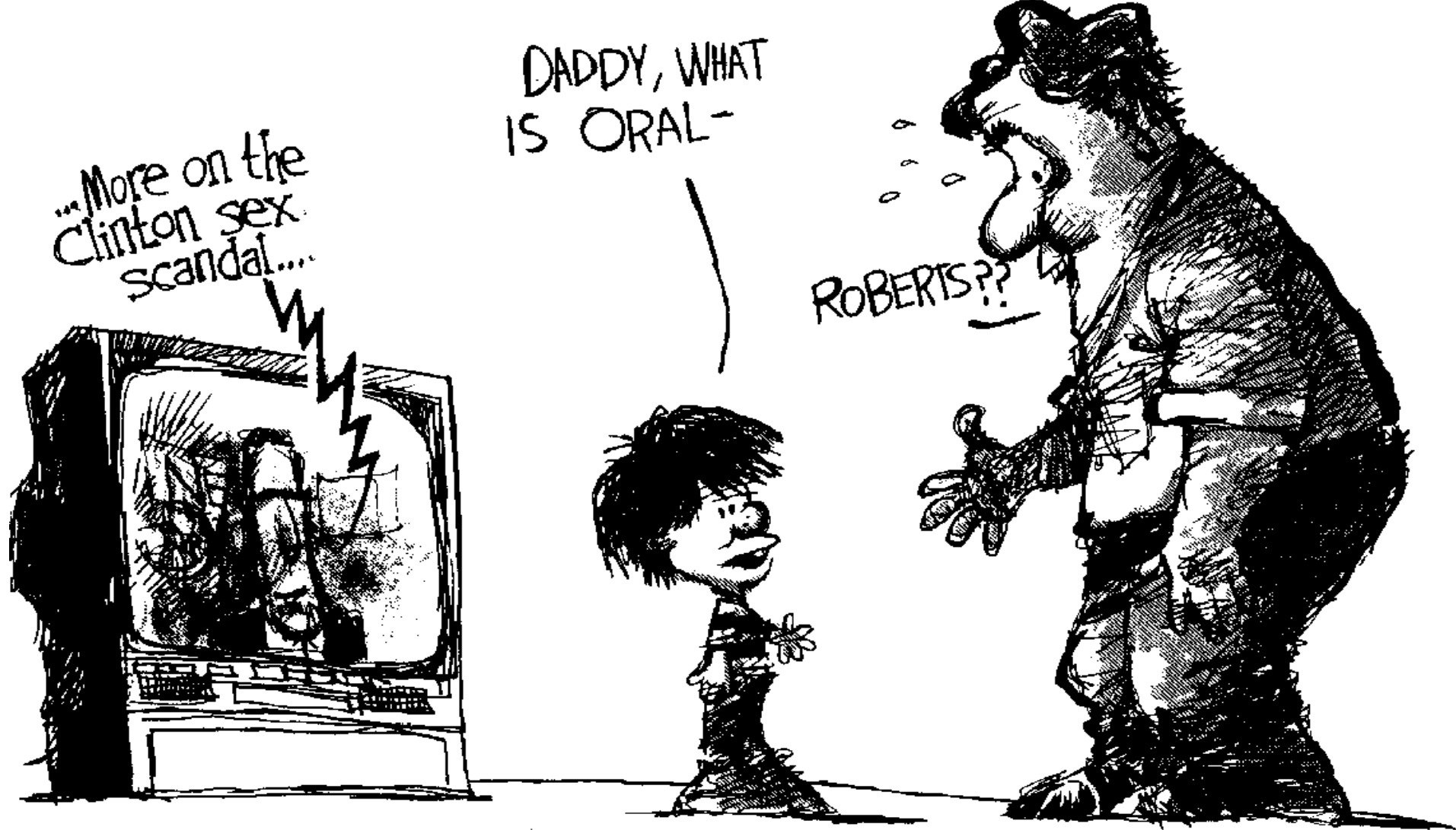
The proposal to charge Wake Forest tuition for non-Wake Forest programs was arrived at in part by process of elimination. It was not the starting point and it needs to be stressed that it has not been approved. Perhaps there is a better solution, but in my view, doing nothing is not the answer.

It also needs to be noted that the amount of revenue that would be gained from the implementation of the proposal we are discussing is not huge. It is estimated at \$30,000-\$40,000 a semester.

We are proposing that some of it be used for need-based study abroad scholarships, program evaluation and development, as well as for defraying some of the costs alluded to above. Let me note finally that I would be happy to meet with any student group or to host an open forum on this issue. None of us want to raise the cost of study abroad, but we do have a problem that needs to be addressed.

Richard Sears is the director of International Studies and a professor of politics.

MIKE LUCKOVICH ATLANTA CONSTITUTION



MORE LETTERS

University cannot control drinking

I would like to address the reality and negative aspects of the "new" alcohol policy.

I don't know what the university thinks they're doing, trying to control underage drinking. If they think they are controlling the students, they're wrong. Not all students choose to drink, and it's wonderful that they are doing what they think is right for them. All people who follow their individual beliefs, values and morals are what makes this world so diverse and interesting to live in.

Non-drinkers, I totally respect you. However, the reality of underage drinking (not only at this

school but at universities and colleges everywhere) is that *most students are always going to drink*, and, personally, I think having a beer or two at a party is not a sin.

Before all this reform started, students were able to drink responsibly, safely and on campus.

The new alcohol policy is making drinking a bigger deal than it was before. Underage students will continue to drink, and making alcohol more inaccessible (and therefore more desirable) means that underage students are going to go up to their rooms, "pound" beers and binge drink before the parties. They will therefore end up more intoxicated and out of control than they would be had they been allowed to have that beer or two at the party.

They'll be thinking, "Okay, I

can't drink at the party, so I'm going to drink enough to last me the whole time." What does that accomplish? Most likely, alcohol poisoning, binge drinking and drunk driving, just to name a few. The new alcohol policy is not the answer to controlling underage drinking.

Secondly, the new policy will force parties off campus. I think one of the neatest things about this university is that students are able to go to a series of parties without having to drive.

From experience, people drink and drive, regardless of the mounting deaths caused by drinking and driving. Two sophomores, Julie Hansen and Maia Witzl, were mindlessly killed last fall in a drunk driving accident at the hands of Thomas Richard Jones. Therefore, not only am I

worried about our students drinking and driving, but the hundreds of ignorant and irresponsible men and women driving around Winston-Salem. Which brings me to the point that this is not only a matter for our university to consider, but our states and our country.

Drinking is not the only way to have fun, but students above the age of 18 should be allowed to have a drink or two. If one is able to fight and die for our country, shouldn't he be able to have a beer or a glass of wine?

Think of the French and Italians — drinking is not about getting hammered. It's about socializing and fellowship. It's a part of everyday life and viewed not as a binge or a "drunk-fest," but literally as just a drink.

Scientists have proven that a glass of wine a day actually is good for you and helps you live longer. If drinking wasn't made out to be such a rite of passage and a big deal, I believe that the

country's crime, sexual abuse, spousal abuse and alcoholism rates would go down. I'm not saying lowering the drinking age will solve the world's problems and make everything perfect and la-di-dah, but I truly believe that lowering the drinking age would have a positive impact on the future of the United States.

A friend once said to me, "This transformation is not going to happen overnight, and it will take years to seriously change it." And he was exactly right. This *isn't* going to happen overnight, but how will we change anything if we don't even try?

I realize that I am making a grave statement by writing this letter as an underage student. But my parents always taught me to remember moderation — with health, with work and with play. I come from a family with a strong Christian background and have been rooted to believe that moderation is key to everyday life. Not only will this "new" alcohol

policy discourage moderation and self-responsibility, but it will be another large step towards this school becoming the administrators' university — not ours.

And to the administration: I truly respect you and appreciate everything you do to make this university a better place. However, this is not the answer.

Why not take an active step towards the education of moderate drinking? Why not make a statement to the country that our students can handle themselves in these situations? Our university has been a leader in so many aspects of the community; why not show North Carolina and the United States our concern?

You cannot control human nature; however, you can educate and prepare the future of the university and of this nation about moderation and the positive effects of self-control.

Katy Geil
Sophomore