

Stop griping and do something

Join *Politics Unplugged* to voice your opinions.

Last semester, in a highly sarcastic column, in the Nov. 20 issue of the *Old Gold and Black*, I poked fun at the students who constantly complain about parking and parking tickets. And for the bold and honor-code-challenged, I outlined plans of action, including — but

Matthew Smith-Kennedy
STUDENT COLUMNIST

not limited to — actually paving the Quad. Buried between the wit and sarcasm were these words, “Instead of cool slogans and witty campus commentary, we need a set of proactive strategies designed to create change...” Now I offer a chance for real change in the parking situation. However, I don’t have the whole solution. What I have are ideas. And I suspect that many of you wear a couple of light bulbs, too. The problem is that administrators often hear ideas and complaints from students in the pages of the *Old Gold and Black*. Check out the treat by freshman Christen Balady in the Feb. 5 issue, “Raindrops keep fallin’ on the campus,”

which graced us with a tale of campus “flooding.” In the same issue, try to stomach senior Matt Porio’s grief regarding his senior class campaign. “It seems as though this university never misses an opportunity to rip us off,” Porio wrote.

If you stash older issues away like a squirrel thinking of winter, read senior Joe Parkhill’s character assassination of the postal workers in the Jan. 22 issue. Students can do better. Instead of lashing out at every university employee, we the students need to communicate effectively and positively with that infamous entity, the administration.

Writing columns threatening the withdrawal of all future support for the university does not qualify as a reasonable attempt for change. If the parking situation troubles students, then we need an opportunity to communicate in an organized fashion with the administrators.

Such an opportunity is coming up on Feb. 19, when WAKE TV’s *Politics Unplugged* will conduct a show concerning parking issues. This show, hosted by sophomore Sam Newlands (*OG&B* Arts and Entertainment editor) and me, will not be a mere discussion of the topic. We will hammer out a proposal for the ideal parking situation with regard to parking space availability, fines and registration fees. We don’t know how long the show will last — it may take 45 minutes,

maybe two hours. In any case, when we leave the studio early Friday morning we will have a consensus document of the opinions of those who participated.

Who can participate? You can. Up to 14 students may join the *Politics Unplugged* crew live over campus cable. Representatives from student groups such as the Resident Student Association and Student Government have already agreed to express their ideas on *Politics Unplugged*. Any student who would like to participate may e-mail *Politics Unplugged* at smitkm99.@wfu.edu.

This isn’t just an opportunity to fill the programming void known as WAKE TV. The *Politics Unplugged* parking proposal will be presented to the administration at a meeting following our show.

At least one senior administrator has already expressed enthusiasm for student ideas (including my idea of ticket-fine money donating to charity). After our meeting with the administration, I will report back to the student body (via this very page) on the contents of the proposal and on how it was received by the administration.

And please, if you have some positive suggestions regarding this issue or any other, write a letter to the *Old Gold and Black*. Follow the example set by Senior Scott Mayne, who defended those employees slain by another writer in the Feb. 5 issue.

Balance of EQ and IQ is essential for life success

Emotional intelligence should be valued as much as intellect.

Self awareness. Managing emotions. Motivating oneself. Recognizing emotions in others. Handling relationships. Daniel Goleman, author of *Emotional Intelligence*, speaks to these five skill sets as being key components of how we ought to measure our success interpersonally both

Joanna Iwata
GUEST COLUMNIST

inside and outside of the classroom, at work and in our relationships. He also says that academic smarts are less important than we think in measuring our success.

So given this, how important is Emotional Quotient versus Intelligence Quotient as it affects the different ways we interact with each other? And how emotionally intelligent are you?

Goleman’s work brings up a lot of questions for me, such as, should we consider EQ over IQ in who we choose to date or marry? Should EQ or IQ weigh more as a criterion for success inside the classroom? If so, should we then consider redesigning our current college admission standards, our hiring practices and our grading system to weigh more heavily on one’s emotional intelligence than on IQ?

I decided to survey students, faculty and staff on this subject (a topic which we will also explore in more detail at our upcoming Discovery Series program Feb. 17) and these were the responses:

Students: Most said that they would prefer being or dating someone who had a higher EQ versus IQ. And to a large extent, they also agreed that in order for people to be successful in life they have to possess a balance between IQ (head) and EQ (heart). Some contended that different types of jobs would require different skills, some higher EQ (e.g., business) and some higher IQ (e.g., science).

Most felt that people with higher EQ’s are more well-rounded emotionally and are more effective in not only dealing with their own needs but being sensitive to the needs of other people. In the context of team sports, it was felt that while it’s important for members to know the sport (IQ), if the players can’t work together on an emotional level (EQ) then as a team

they would always fall short.

Staff: There was a general sense that in the realm of life, EQ serves a person better than IQ as in order for people to be successful in life, they have to be able to know how to function and interface with other people. Most felt that by cultivating EQ, a person gains a sense of being more emotionally centered and self aware. They can then in turn share their knowledge with others to make this world a better place for all of us to live and work.

Faculty: Most generally agreed that in order for students to be successful in life, they have to work on achieving a balance between being both emotionally intelligent and book smart. In some instances, there have been faculty whose work with students have demonstrated to them that the most successful students were those who had a higher EQ.

One professor mentioned that she felt somewhat uncomfortable by qualifying emotional skills as “intelligence” since from her perspective it may inadvertently suggest that these skills are innate or genetic. She stated that individuals develop different skill levels — cognitive and emotional/social — which are then framed by the environment people are raised in. The most poignant observation I received was from a colleague who pointed out that he believed that as a society, as parents and as teachers perhaps we should spend more of our efforts on helping young people cultivate their EQ.

As I was surveying different students, faculty and staff on this subject, I was fascinated by how much overlap there was in their views and opinions on the subject. Clearly, one of the common denominators that seemed to me to weave itself through their comments was the importance of cultivating both EQ and IQ, as in some sense you cannot have one without the other. For instance, to rely too much on IQ would then downplay the importance of being self aware. And to rely too much on EQ would then fail to challenge us to apply our knowledge.

So what is the real value of emotional intelligence as it affects our lives? I guess it may all depend upon what you think you really need in order to be successful. Perhaps it’s more than just being book smart — maybe it’s all about learning to lead your life by listening to your heart and in turn, using your head to know where to go with it from there.

Joanna Iwata is the director of the Benson University Center.



MORE LETTERS

Study abroad tuition change is ridiculous

The recent proposal to change the cost of studying abroad is absolutely ludicrous. Why should a student have to pay Wake Forest tuition when he’s not even a Wake Forest student for the semester? I am writing to ask the administration *not* to accept this proposal. It will only hurt the students that you claim to care so much about. Please, for once, think about something other than how to increase profits, because this issue is far too important.

I was fortunate enough to spend a semester abroad in the spring of my junior year. It was truly one of the most enriching experiences of my college years that I would not trade for *anything* in the world. The things I experienced on my trip are still an asset for me in both my professional and personal lives.

For many reasons, I chose to go through another school for my study abroad program — one of the reasons I made this choice was because of the cost. The tuition of this alternate program was *much* cheaper than a semester’s tuition at Wake Forest, thereby making it not only financially feasible for me, but also a reasonable economic decision for me to make. After paying for airfare, travel and living expenses, however, the cost of studying abroad approached that of a semester at Wake Forest. However, under this new proposal, I would have had to pay Wake Forest tuition and *then* all of the other expenses, making a study abroad program impossible for me.

I was aware that this university discouraged study abroad through other programs — that much is apparent, given the amount of red tape one must go through to get any alternate program approved

(those who have shared this experience with me will also fondly recall trudging all over campus trying to obtain numerous signatures *in order* and then attempting to locate department heads to get courses approved). All this running around, coupled with trying to fulfill the application requirements and deadlines for the *other* school made for a very hectic time for me.

However, in the end I was glad I went through all the trouble to go through another school for my study abroad experience. I feel that not knowing anyone else on my program forced me to become more immersed in the culture and meet more people than I would have otherwise.

The proposal of charging a student Wake Forest tuition to go to another school — what is the justification for this, again? Oh, right — the International Studies office needs this extra money to continue providing the “services” to those students who go through non-Wake Forest programs. Who knows, maybe the situation is different now, but when I went abroad I had little, if any, contact with the Office of International Studies. All of my assistance came from the International Studies office at the school that offered my program, which is as it should be. Of course, I *did* have to meet with the Wake Forest office *once*, to acquire one of the signatures that I was required to obtain.

I read that the International Studies office “even shows us how best to pack.” I do recall receiving a sheet of paper with some “helpful packing hints” on it — so *this* is what a student would be paying an extra \$2,000 for?!!

I realize all of the effort that must go into making copies of this sheet of paper for the students, but I think “needing” thousands of dollars for providing this service is a bit excessive.

return they “also provide a range of services to wrap up their abroad experience.” What, exactly, does this mean? Apparently I missed out on a good “range of services” upon my return to Wake Forest, because they never did anything for me upon my return! Please, at least provide some good and concrete reasons for needing all this extra money from students!

I found the International Studies Office’s reasons for needing these extra funds far too vague and unconvincing to grant approval of the proposal. In that light, I am begging the administration: *Please* do not accept this proposal! For once, please think of the students and not about sucking more money from them. Study abroad is something that *every* student should be able to take advantage of, and this proposal will only hurt those students by making it impossible for them to afford a semester abroad.

Offering additional scholarships does not make the proposal much better — students will be less likely to apply for overseas programs under the new plan (I know that I wouldn’t have applied under this new proposal). Not applying would have denied me one of the most rewarding experiences of my college life, and I would have had Wake Forest to thank for that. Please think of the students who would not be financially able to study abroad as the result of your decision — because these are the students that your proposal will be hurting.

Marla J. McClure '96
Washington

University cannot condone illegal acts

I am writing this in response to sophomore Katy Geil’s letter titled, “University cannot control

drinking” which appeared in the Feb. 5 issue. I find many things wrong and disturbing about what this student had to say.

The student began with the statement, “I don’t know what the university thinks they’re doing, trying to control underage drinking.” I think that that must be one of the most ignorant statements that I have ever read. I am not sure if the person is aware of this or not, but there is a law in North Carolina and most of the United States that prohibits underage drinking.

Therefore, our university officials are merely trying to uphold state law on campus. I would be extremely disappointed in our administration if they did not try to make a stand against underage drinking, for they would merely be displaying the attitude, “Well, they are going to do it anyway so why stop them.” If everyone had this kind of attitude, then why would we have laws anyway?

There are many reasons for having a minimum drinking age in the United States, and this is clear when looking at the example of Louisiana. This state has fluctuated between drinking ages, and just recently switched back to age 21 because of the problems they had with alcohol abuse. The number of drunk driving deaths soared both in the state and in the surrounding states, for teenagers would cross the border with their friends, get drunk and then drive back home.

Also, in response to the student’s use of the example that, “If one is able to fight and die for our country, shouldn’t he be able to have a beer or glass of wine?” It just seems to me that if a student rightly uses that phrase that he or she should have first fought for our country. I would have more respect if this phrase came from my uncle who fought in Vietnam or my dad who fought in the Gulf War, rather than someone like myself who has never come close to fighting for their country.

As for the comment the student made about the potential rise in binge drinking, I ask if this student

has ever been to a party on campus. If she has, then clearly she would realize that the majority of people who drink at parties binge drink. I don’t know many college drinkers who don’t know how to *not* binge drink. It seems like common phrases on campus are, “I can’t wait to get drunk tonight,” or “I am gonna start drinking after lunch.” So if this student’s main concern is about people drinking before parties, then this policy by the administration is the least of their concerns.

The student also discussed the idea of moderation, an idea which I am in strong favor of, but that is not a common practice on college campuses or outside of college — 60 percent of adults abuse alcohol. So, I think that it is a nice idea that this student thinks that, if allowed, the average college student will only have a beer or two, but I think that it is very far from reality. Yes, college is supposed to be a fun time in people’s lives, but there is no place that says that you have to drink to be considered a college student.

As for the comment, “Most students are always going to drink,” this gives rise to a compelling need for the university to issue responsive measures to counteract this blatant disregard for the law. Contrary to this student’s belief, laws were not made to be broken. It is wrong to assume that a blatant disregard for the law will be met with impunity. I know that I will probably fall short of overwhelming reader approval by speaking out against drinking on this campus; however, to let this perspective go unmentioned would weigh more heavily upon my conscience.

Shannon Lally
Sophomore

Reader inferred blame incorrectly

I am glad that my article on Jan. 22 stirred some interest from *Old Gold and Black* readers. Many people have come up to me and

shared similar negative experiences in each of the areas I wrote about, especially the university post office.

Unfortunately, I cannot please everyone and ended up upsetting some people, particularly senior Scott Mayne. I found Scott’s letter to the editor very insightful and his point was true, but I do not believe it was applicable to the column I wrote about the deterioration of services at the university.

All of my experiences were true and all of them I found to be extremely unnecessary inconveniences. Although I found faults with the services here, I never directed blame at anyone in particular, especially at Scott’s “sister”-like postal workers. I in no way deem them responsible for discontinuing forwarding mail over winter break, nor for withholding my *Wall Street Journal* during finals, nor for opening my friends’ birthday cards. But I do deem the post office as an institution responsible for those actions, and I have no qualms about voicing my frustration with such an entity.

I admit the end of my article was an abrupt transition to other areas with which I have found problems on campus. Perhaps my explanations were even too trite. But truthfully, I became sick of complaining.

I will even go so far as to say that I made too large a generalization with the quality of ARAMARK workers. I will still say, however, that some workers do have attitude problems and many people I know concur.

In conclusion, Scott, I agree with your philosophy that getting to know people makes service better. And I am definitely sure that you do a great job in getting to know many people around campus.

But unfortunately I believe you incorrectly directed my complaints with the service onto your beloved friends. If you read the article closely, I never blamed the women at the post office counter.

Joe Parkhill
Senior