

# Senior Class Campaign doesn't buy Lexuses

## Donations benefit students through the College Fund.

When I received a letter from the Senior Class Campaign last semester asking for donations, my first impulse was to ball it up and toss it away. However, when I'm going to be a cynic about something, I at least try to be an informed cynic, so I did a little research. What I found changed my response to that letter.

Keith Krut

GUEST COLUMNIST

Let's get one thing straight from the start, I am not employed by the university or at all affiliated with the Senior Class Campaign. Furthermore, I can tirade all day about the numerous methods of financial exploitation on this campus. If you don't believe me, dial my number and when someone picks up, say any phrase such as "parking management" or "ARA" and hold the receiver away from your ear.

I think I even saved enough money to purchase a small country by shopping at Office Max instead of the bookstore. I am also of the belief that money is often misspent in many ways. Still, our tuition cannot completely fund all of the best assets of the university, and gifts to the Senior Class Campaign are neither extorted nor misdirected.

I do not mean to pressure anyone into doing anything. I just think that there are some general

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misconceptions floating around. To clear them up as much as I can, here's some of the information I found.

Senior Class Campaign gifts, for which each of us has already received a letter and possibly a phone call, go entirely and directly to the College Fund. The College Fund, for those not acquainted with the term, exists for the benefit of students and professors. Basically, it assists scholarships and financial aid, faculty development, academic programs, student activities and campus maintenance.

More precisely, last year, the College Fund supported 80 Presidential Scholarships, additional needs in financial aid, new library resources, the increase in faculty salaries and funding for the university study abroad programs. I draw particular attention to the last item on this list, as recent policy changes will make studying abroad even more financially difficult to manage in the future. The Fund further helps to support distinguished professorships on campus (not including Maya Angelou, Charles Longino and others who are supported entirely by the Reynolds Foundation).

The College Fund is flexible, allowing gifts to be distributed to the most critical academic needs. A

general survey of the distribution is the past shows thirty-nine percent of gifts directed to instruction, 20 percent going to student aid and 16 percent for institutional support. Of the remaining 25 percent, five percent supports the library, five percent goes to student services, seven percent funds the physical plant, three percent goes to academic support, two percent goes to organized activities and three percent remains available.

Again, this is as objectively as I can write this information. I understand that now is a terrible time to ask seniors for spare change, let alone \$50. But before you laugh out loud on the phone when the Senior Class Campaign calls you, think about where the money will be going.

Every university depends on alumni support to supplement tuition. That money is absolutely necessary to provide the most important elements of higher education. And by that I don't mean the construction on the university's northern frontier or the journey to the center of the earth between Calloway and Carswell Halls. This has nothing to do with the fact that parking management will probably ticket you if they don't like the color of your car, or that ARAMARK charges \$53 for a box of Lucky Charms in the Sundry Shop.

What the Senior Class Campaign and the College Fund relate to are scholarships for students, smaller teacher-student ratios, our international programs, better campus resources and the money we expect the university to provide to fund our ideas and activities.

Those are some of the most important components of a college education, all worth pulling that letter from the Senior Campaign out of the recycle bin.

# Responsibility for drinking rests within individual

The administration cannot be blamed for following federal laws.

Every time the university implements a new drinking policy, it illicitly a response from the students. The common cry seems to be that the university is making things harder, thus more dangerous, for students as we are forced to flee the safety of our campus parties and binge drink in obscure locations.

In the *Old Gold and Black* issue of Feb. 5, sophomore Katy Geil wrote a letter to the editor, "University cannot control drinking," denouncing the school's policy and arguing the merits of moderation. There is

Andy Ferguson

STUDENT COLUMNIST

nothing wrong with moderation and it can be argued that many students are able to successfully drink within these boundaries. It is, however, quite disconcerting to see so much of the burden placed on the school and not where it should be — on the students.

The bottom line with underage drinking is that it is illegal. If you are under 21 and are consuming alcohol you are doing it illegally and the burden rests on your shoulders.

This is not to say that I do not condone these actions. Whether or not I see 21 as the appropriate age limit for alcohol consumption is insignificant. As citizens of the United States we are bound to her laws. Thus by drinking underage each student acts on his own volition and is responsible for his actions.

The university has a responsibility to follow the same laws as the rest of the country. I may not like or agree with that, but I accept that and act accordingly. The university does not make people drink off campus and drive around Winston-Salem. This is a choice that individuals make and that these individuals need to take responsibility for.

There is a pervading belief that because students are on a college campus drinking should be made more accessible to them. There is also a parallel belief that because more students in a concentrated area will be drinking, the school should ignore the national rules to create a low-risk atmosphere where the fruits of moderation can be explored and enjoyed. The problem is that it is not the school's responsibility.

The obvious counter-argument is that the administration knows that underage drinking will occur and should take this into consideration when making rules. While I agree that the administration is put in the difficult situation of trying to balance the two, this does not mean that it is responsible for making sure that underage students are going to drink safely. This is the responsibility of the students and should be viewed as such.

Truth be told, I am in favor of lowering the drinking age. Much like Geil, I think that this move would have a positive effect on our country. However, before I was twenty-one I drank at my own risk. Now, if I should choose to serve someone under twenty-one, I do so at my own risk. If I get caught I fully accept the blame and do not look to the university to change the rules because drinking is prolific.

Ultimately a solution rests with the individual. There are steps that the government can take to make drinking laws in our country more realistic to the social scene. There are paths that the administration can follow to enhance the social environment. Ultimately, though, it is the responsibility of the students to be accountable for their actions. Binge drinking is a choice. Driving drunk is a choice. All I am saying is that students should start accepting the responsibility that they have to make these choices.

MIKE LUCKOVICH ATLANTA CONSTITUTION



# MORE LETTERS

## Administration is unfair to Greeks

I find it great to think about the many acquaintances I have made at this university in the last four years and how, given the proper set of circumstances, those acquaintances so often became close friends. I think that speaks highly of the student body and shows how truly unique this university is in its college culture. But why then, when a freshman recently informed me he was considering transferring, did I find myself agreeing with him that he probably should?

I agreed with him because of the sole fact that I have lost faith in this place. When I was a freshman, I often heard upperclassmen remark about how they had witnessed the university changing during their time, and how it really was not as fun anymore. Regardless, the last four years have been the best times of my life. But I, too, have noticed disturbing changes that have had an adverse effect on this university commu-

nity. One might point out that this is a common belief of many seniors who are now quite content to graduate and move on. However, it is very true that the opportunities to have fun and socialize are becoming increasingly rare here.

I hold the administration and its actions solely responsible for this phenomenon. On this college campus where the Greek system is so prevalent, it is unfortunate that the administration is so against it. Their policies to limit Greek-related activities have increased with each year that I have been here. The Greek system is now watched over with such a close eye that it is hard not to wonder whether the administration thinks that it is watching over juvenile delinquents. Remember, these are intelligent students with reasonably strong values who attend this school.

It is when I look at the administration like this that I become grateful for how my parents brought me up and for their different beliefs. My parents understood that I would make some mistakes, but that I would

also learn from them and, in the end, become a better person. They avoided taking on a dictatorial role in hopes of correcting me. Unfortunately, the administration has been a poor parent to the student body these last few years. It seems entirely too caught up in attempting to control the Greek system and nit-picking at what it considers to be the system's faults.

Last semester, the administration made a mockery out of justice in order to prove that one particular fraternity makes its pledges clean after parties, act as sober drivers, and, God forbid, do push-ups. Furthermore, their subsequent punishment was anything but corrective. The administration chose to suspend that fraternity until every current member would have graduated. What, then, is a likely reaction to come from those fraternity members?

Well, I am in the Kappa Sigma fraternity, and I would like to tell you how I feel. I feel taken advantage of and unfairly treated. History demonstrates that people who are too severely punished often rebel that much more against the system, and I would think the

administration would be aware of that concept as well. I, for one, have since distanced myself from the school, and I feel less inclined to give funds back to the school when I graduate. I am sorely disappointed in the logic employed by the administration, as I see no benefits coming from the severity of their mandate.

That is enough regarding the Kappa Sigma incident. Consider this: What exactly was going through the administration's head when it put six fraternities on probation last weekend because 15 guests had messy handwriting? Is the administration that bored that Monday's and Tuesday's working hours were spent dissecting the names on the past weekend's fraternity sign-in sheets?

Incidents like these lead me to question their motives, as nothing beneficial comes of this either. Handwriting sure isn't going to improve. In fact, I think it says a lot of the ability of the fraternities to monitor a social function, since illegible signatures were limited to such a small percentage of the overall number of guests. No one would question the need to regulate these functions; however, implementing a zero tolerance policy, as has been done with the sign-in sheets for example, is unrealistic and absurd.

By the way, is the administration so blind that it does not realize that many fraternities still had parties last weekend anyway — but off campus? Here's something for the administration to ponder if it has been too ignorant to consider before: drunk driving. And if it is not that, it is young, female students walking the streets of Winston-Salem to get home. The gates only protect those within them.

Students are now choosing to leave for the weekend and head to other college campuses, for a lack of anything better to do. Even worse, those students who do not have the resources to get away for the weekend, but also choose not to go off-campus for a party, have no choice but to hang out in their dorm rooms all night. Is that what the college years are all about?

I am in favor of the way it used to be, and if it ain't broke don't fix it. Ten fraternities would have on-campus parties with sororities each weekend, and students could easily move from party to party. The majority of the campus would go out for a few hours to meet up with buddies and share some laughter, enabling them to take their minds off of their academics for a moment. Life at the university was fun, in addition to being an enriching educational experi-

ence, and sometimes things would even get a little out of control. If it did, students could expect to receive a visit from Officer Thomas Slater and the University Police, who would then take the necessary action to get the students back in line.

Those were my glory days, and I hope future classes can experience similar good times as well if they choose. Our parents' generation said college was the best four years of their lives, and I would agree. But, the way this university is heading, I sometimes doubt whether that will remain a possibility for future students at this institution.

The administration must remember that students choose to attend this university over others because in the past it has offered a superior education, but also because students here appeared to be happy.

I think it is great that the university is striving to be an even stronger school, but no matter how bright the student body is, the students will always need to enjoy being here. I do not want to feel the need to recommend to any more freshmen that they should transfer.

Ashley Parker  
Senior