

Confederate flag's meaning debated

Students discuss flag's history, symbolism

By Daveed Gartenstein-Ross
Contributing Reporter

Senior Eboni Cohen's voice shook with emotion as she recounted what the Confederate flag symbolizes to her: "Those families hung black people from trees, killed black people — why can't they admit that this heritage embodied lynchings, beatings and living off other people's work?"

Several powerful narratives displayed the awareness that both minorities and white students possess of the dark side of the flag's history at the forum on the symbolism behind the Confederate flag held last Feb. 26 in the Benson University Center.

Discussion included a four-member panel composed of freshman Lamaya Covington, sophomore Katy Geil, junior Mike Simons and sophomore Jocelyn Womack.

An extremely active audience also contributed to the dialogue.

Charles Richman, a professor of psychology who moderated the event, later commented that this was one of his proudest evenings in his 30 years at the university.

"It was one of the first times I saw an open, up-front dialogue between black and white students," Richman said.

"It was done with respect, people listened with respect and people cared," he continued.

Among the panelists, both Covington and Womack said that it is impossible to separate the Confederate flag from the racism that many associate with it, while Simons and Geil wanted others to realize that the flag at least has a "dual meaning," in Simons' words.

After Geil spoke in her opening statement about how the Confederate flag represents a heritage to her, Womack asked: "Instead of taking pride in this flag, why don't we take pride in the American flag? America was composed of not only whites, but also African slaves and Asians. This heritage is not what America is about — it is about a melting pot."

Womack also spoke of the Ku Klux Klan rally held last semester in Winston-Salem, in which Klan members were "flying the Confederate flag saying that the only good nigger is a dead nigger."

She said: "I'm offended by the Confederate flag. I'm trying to tell you why people are so sensitive about it and what it represents."

The audience lent its support to Womack's position. Sophomore Shannon Hayes spoke of the difference in the ways those in power deal with the Confederate flag and symbols of the black power movement.

He recalled the 1972 Olympics, in which two black athletes were stripped of their medals for holding their fists in the air.

Furthermore, he said that he knew of a student at Cornell University who was kicked out of his room just for having a Malcolm X poster.

Former student Joseph Golden said that most individuals who would fly the Confederate flag know that people of color will find it offensive.

However, he said that he loved it, be-

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Jocelyn Womack
Sophomore

cause "most people fly it as a warning, like a giant glowing bumper sticker saying 'Don't waste your time during the day with me — move on.'"

Sophomore Vaishali Patel, who is Hindu, said that the panelists supporting the Confederate flag may be surprised to learn that she could identify with their position, since she would love to wear a sweatshirt bearing a swastika around campus.

The swastika is a Hindu religious symbol, and yet she wouldn't wear it around because she realizes the effect it would have on people.

Patel said that she must either educate everybody that the swastika is more than just a symbol of Nazism or else not display it.

"For me it is easier not to show it," she said. "If you want to display the Confederate flag, you must first educate everybody about its other meanings before you show it."

Many people expressed satisfaction with the discussion's direction.

Sophomore Yemi Adegbonmire said, "It was my first real collegiate experience with this free exchange of ideas."

Others expressed satisfaction that most everybody was afforded the opportunity to speak and that in turn their voices were heard.

Womack said, however, that most likely the people who really needed to be at the forum did not attend.

After the meeting she said, "If prejudice is so embedded in your consciousness that you know you're right, you probably won't want to sit down and talk about it."

In his closing remarks, Richman expressed satisfaction that the discussion had not focused exclusively on what the Confederate flag symbolizes, but had instead encompassed the broader issue of societal racism.

He likened racism to an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, in which the first act of attendees is to recognize that they are alcoholics.

"We white folk as a function of society, its traditions and histories, are racist," Richman said.

"All of us. We are all responsible and it is an inevitability, but like alcoholism it's something we have to work at on a day to day basis."

"You must admit, in your own mind, that you are a racist," he continued.

"I am not concerned about Aryan Nations. I am concerned about the ones who say nothing — those who have sufficient apathy to go through life with blinders," Richman said.

New buildings on schedule

Construction slated to be finished by original deadlines

By Ben Donberg
Contributing Reporter

The campus construction work, which has been taking place since the beginning of the school year, is on schedule, according to Bill Shotton, the construction manager for the university.

At this time there are three main construction areas on campus.

The Information Systems building, the Connector Building and Polo Residence Hall building are all scheduled to be completed according to the original time frame.

The classroom building, currently known as the Connector Building, is being constructed between Calloway Hall and Carswell Hall.

"That building is going to house all the languages and psychology," Shotton said. The building itself is 80,000 square feet and has five floors.

The first floor will be underground, the second floor will be half underground and the other three floors will be above ground.

According to Shotton, the site work will be completed in the next two weeks. After that the general contractor will move in and begin building.

The Connector Building is scheduled to be complete in July 1999.

The dirt from the hole being dug there is being transferred to Davis Field in order to help level the field.

The Information Systems building is being constructed just north of the Worrell Professional Center. The building will contain the university's technology services and the ROTC office.

"The IS building will be completed in June of this year, as originally scheduled," Shotton said.

Once the IS building is complete the ROTC office will move out of the bottom portion of the gym and that area will be-



Noel Fox/Old Gold and Black

The new Information Systems building nears completion behind the Worrell Professional Center. A new food court, ROTC and computer support will occupy the building.

come the new student health facility.

The Student Health Service, currently located in Kitchin House, will be doubled in size when it moves to the bottom floor of the gym.

Shotton said that the actual construction of the Student Health facility will start at the end of this summer and continue through January 1999.

Polo is scheduled to be completed in July. Shotton said it will be ready for students to move in at the beginning of next school year.

With all the construction abounding some students wonder what happened to their beautiful green campus.

Freshman Trey Wells said, "When I got

here at the beginning of the year the campus was so beautiful, and now it looks so bad."

Others wonder if what the campus is gaining is worth the price of all the construction.

Sophomore John Leonard said that what makes this campus so beautiful is the open space.

"If the school is going to expand, then expand on new land."

"The school is building on the space that makes this campus beautiful. Pretty soon we will have no place to sit and play outside," he said.

Leonard said the construction is isn't entirely negative; he said he likes the idea of leveling Davis Field.

Campaign solicits senior funds

Seniors may donate financial gifts to benefit future student programs

By Carolyn K. Lay
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Despite tuition hikes, many seniors are still giving back to the university. With less than two months to go, the Senior Class Campaign is going strong.

According to Mark Aust, a planning assistant in major gifts and annual donations, 40 percent of the current senior class is participating in the campaign.

The goal of the steering committee is to have over 50 percent participation.

"There has been excellent leadership because of the executive board this year, from the chair to the class agents. They, and the senior class, are why we will meet the goal," Aust said.

The campaign kicked off Oct. 1 and will end April 25 with the senior class party. The campaign is entirely run by seniors.

At the end of the fall campaign, Nov. 21, \$25,000 of the

\$40,000 goal had been met. Most of the donations ranged from \$50-\$100, although Aust said any amount is accepted.

There are five classifications of gifts, the lowest being a pledge of \$50, for which the donor receives a letter of recognition. The other gift classifications are of \$100, \$200, \$300 and \$500.

Senior Lee Beckmann received a phone call from the committee. He has pledged to give money over several years.

"I am grateful to the university for my education and the resources and I want to make it as good a school as possible in the future."

"As an alum, I can be proud of the university and hopefully it will go towards getting better students, technology and resources," Beckmann said.

Last year 57 percent participation brought in \$41,000.

Aust said the amount of money raised generally stays

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David Romhilt
Senior

the same but participation differs annually.

In the fall, letters go out to all the seniors. The letters are then followed up with a phone call or a face-to-face visit.

Aust said there were 920 students classified as seniors and at the end of the fall campaign, 365 seniors had been reached.

Senior David Romhilt said he will most likely not donate this year to the campaign, though he has not yet been contacted.

"All my expenses are going towards college-related things

right now. I probably won't have too much money in the next few months. Besides, the school is already getting a \$23,000 donation from me every year," Romhilt said.

The committee gave several reasons why seniors should donate to the campaign: The campaign supports student programs such as study abroad programs, scholarships, faculty salaries and financial aid to students. The first year of the campaign was 1985.

"The Senior Class Campaign was used originally to bridge the gap and keep up with alumni. The main objective was to remain connected after graduation," Aust said.

Senior Ana Maria Arciniegas said she has not been contacted at all about the campaign.

She still plans to donate though, if contacted.

"I think it's important to keep contributing to the school and to keep the bond," she said.



Courtesy of Facilities Management

Tomorrowland

The new Language and Psychology building, as shown by an artist's rendering, will house the departments of Romance languages, German and Russian and psychology. It is under construction between Carswell and Calloway halls.

Safe Break shows nicer side of law enforcement officers

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lights with safety messages on them, during Safe Break. "As subliminal as it is, it is effective. If it is effective, I'll do it," Horosko said.

They also distributed tips about travelers' safety and booklets on personal safety.

Besides University Police, the Winston-Salem Police, including its mounted patrol, participated, along with the Forsyth County Sheriff Department, the North Carolina State Highway Patrol and the Kirksville bloodhounds.

Horosko started the event four years ago based on an idea of Regina Lawson, the chief of the University Police.

"I love the concept. It happens the week before break. Anything that will enhance personal safety, to me, is a valuable tool," Horosko said.

According to Horosko, Safe Break also allows students to have positive interaction with law enforcement agents, who are usually encountered in bad situations. "It is an opportunity for students to ask lots of questions and gain insight," Horosko said.

The main focus is educating students about personal safety. "People think personal safety is inconvenient, but once you get into a habit, it is very convenient," Horosko said.

"If I could stop one person from making a simple mistake, then I have been effective."

Donna Horosko
Prevention Specialist

Horosko said that 98 percent of crimes could be prevented if the victim took active steps toward safety.

The other two percent can be attributed to bad luck and being in the wrong place at the wrong time, she said.

Most people can protect themselves by using common sense, Horosko said. Resisting and making loud noises are good ways to minimize the chance of crime, she said.

Horosko also said that body language can make one more susceptible to a crime. By walking with your head down (a sign of low self-esteem) and being unaware of your surroundings, you make yourself a more viable target for a crime, Horosko said.

Though college is often a time for experience and risk taking, Horosko said she hopes students don't make it a time of reckless abandon.

"If I could stop one person from making a simple mistake, then I have been effective," she said.