

Playboy deserves students' respect

Magazine does not exploit women or its models.

Playboy ... a lot of people consider it a bad word, can't think of anything nice to say when they hear it and cringe when they think about it. What do I have to say about Playboy? I say that a lot of people don't know all of the facts. *U.S. News and World Report* currently ranks the university number 28 in the nation, which suggests that our school has some pretty bright

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students among its 5,000 total graduates and undergraduates.

So I ask you, when you study for a test do you only study the facts that suit your views on the subject? Then why start now? All that some people know about *Playboy* are the pictures and a segment of this group completely misunderstands them. They infer from their own view of the pictorials that men's interests, as *Playboy* presents them, couldn't possibly be compatible with women's interests.

From day one, *Playboy* has demystified the battle of the sexes. The idea of improving relationships by improving communication is nothing new to the magazine. It is now, and has always been, about decent behavior between men and women. *Playboy* approaches its portrayal of women from an idealized, romantic and respectful point of view. While far different and less idealized portrayals of women are indeed available in society, men continue to turn to *Playboy* in recognition of their romantic curiosity,

a curiosity that doesn't exploit women or objectify them. Sex is not sexism. Women have been and always will be objects of male desire, and men of female desire. *Playboy* recognizes that.

Playboy also recognizes that women may be bosses or beer buddies or mentors or colleagues. It writes about that. It writes about the possibilities and complexities in male/female relationships. Three and half million people buy the magazine every month and 12 million people read it — that says something, too. Readers trust *Playboy* to draw the line, to define the boundaries and standards of popular acceptance of public sexuality. It says that an interest in beauty and the erotic is a natural and healthy instinct. (remember the Renaissance?).

So you still think *Playboy* has nothing to offer and exploits women with their pictures? The unnamed sophomore who posed for a pictorial in 1988 said in the Nov. 17, 1989, issue of the *Old Gold and Black*, "The people at *Playboy* weren't the people everyone made them out to be. They weren't out to exploit or bribe women ..." You also might be interested to know that *Playboy* started making braille editions in July, 1970, or that movies like *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Fly*, *Nine and a Half Weeks* and *2010* all started as stories in the magazine. The list of prominent people in the world interviewed by *Playboy* is too long, but here are just a few to give you a taste: Malcolm X, Salvador Dali, Barbara Streisand, Martin Luther King Jr. (twice), Fidel Castro, Yasir Arafat, Susan Sarandon and Stephen Hawking.

Still thinking about forcing your conservative views on the less maniacal in order to save the university? *The Bulletin of Wake Forest University* clearly states, "The character of intellectual life at Wake Forest encourages open and frank dialogue and provides assurance that the University will be ecumenical and not provincial in scope, and that it must encompass perspectives other than the Christian." Do you understand why we officially broke

away from the church so many years ago? Tolerance — tolerance for gays, tolerance for other religions and tolerance for views that are not Christian and not wrong.

So, I can understand that you may personally disagree with *Playboy*, but this is my and many others' university as well. This school isn't as conservative and close-minded as it was in the past, but don't worry, being exposed to people with ideas different from your own is beneficial. You can't stay sheltered forever. You might also be surprised that there are quite a few girls interested in starting/continuing/enhancing their modeling experience in *Playboy*. Others are just in it for the money and some are unable to decide for themselves because their sorority will ban them if they apply.

Some pertinent questions still remain. According to the March 5 staff editorial in *Old Gold and Black* ("*Playboy* magazine targets student body"), "... because eating disorders and distorted body image are major problems among women on our campus, having a fellow student pose in *Playboy* could serve to exacerbate them."

Are you serious? I call that petty jealousy. What if the girl is in a fashion magazine modeling skimpy clothes, showing that she feels that her body is beautiful, are you going to ban *Cosmopolitan* or stop watching your soaps or stop ordering from that J. Crew catalogue? Don't they only show the "ideal type," or are you an intelligent enough person to realize that no one is perfect and that no magazine or television show should influence your life so much that you stop eating healthily? Good.

Any questions, comments or ideas about *Playboy* or what you need to do for the opportunity of a lifetime? Feel free to give me a call anytime at 896-1825.

Sophomore Mike DeGroof is the *Playboy* on-campus representative.

Give thanks to others for your success

Take time to appreciate your friends, family, co-workers.

How often do we reflect on our success and find ourselves congratulating ourselves for a job well done? When do we factor into the equation the many different roles the people around us play in our lives so that we can be successful — our parents, our family, our professors, our advisers, our bosses, our professional staff, our support staff,

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our siblings, our children and our friends?

The Hawaiians have a simple phrase which reminds us all of what it takes for us to be successful, "aiohe hana nui ke aluia," which translated means "no task is too big when done together by all."

In the busyness of our lives at the university, how often do we just assume that our success is something which we alone create?

And what happens after a while when we begin to operate from this perspective or belief alone?

What I have discovered is that sometimes we may begin to take certain things for granted, even the people who have helped us get to where we are in our lives.

Granted, while I do not want to downplay the key role we also play in creating our own opportunities and cultivating our success, I think it's important for us not to lose sight of the bigger picture.

And so, perhaps there is no time like the present for us all to be a little more "mindful" of what it is that frames our achievements, accomplishments and success in life.

For instance, as the director of the Benson University Center, I believe that much of my success to date does not rest with me alone.

I am grateful to work with an exceptional professional staff: James Buckley, the associate director; Gale Newport, the facilities coordinator; and Julie Reto, the administrative assistant.

I am also grateful to work with nine student managers, seniors Angela McElreath, Jessica Barker, Willie Kjellstrom, Tara Murphy, Raan Sambandaam and Vicki Bryant, junior Tim Fisher and sophomores Brandon Rozelle and Brian Hughes; over 50 student employees (you guys know who you are), vendors, custodians, facilities management and our Zone 1 maintenance team — all of whom I rely on to make our operation successful.

Then there are my immediate supervisors, Ken Zick, the vice president for student life and instructional resources, and Harold Holmes, an associate vice president and dean of student services, the colleagues and student leaders on campus who help keep me on track.

Outside of these relationships, there are also other groups on campus on whom I rely, such as Paul Escott, the dean of the college, the Academic Computing Center (Information Services support and service staffs), campus mail services, the Print Shop, the Controller's Office and our University Police (just to name a few).

Without all of their help and support, we again could not be as successful as we are, nor could I be as effective as I hope I am in my leadership role at Benson.

Beyond all of this, there is also my family who support me unconditionally.

So, let's take an intentional "time out" right now: Take out that pen and paper (or laptop computer) and jot down the names of people with whom you interact daily or people who have been instrumental to your success (i.e., who you are today). Next to their names, can you recall what they did for you to contribute to your success?

Jot down a few key insights. Notice any patterns or common themes. Who are the people who have contributed to your success?

Are they family members or are they people outside of the family? Are they people you study or work with?

Who are they to you and why are they important to you?

When I think about our larger and successful community-wide events at the university, I think of freshmen orientation, pre-school, family weekend, Project Pumpkin, Black History Month, ASIAfest, our annual theme year celebrations and athletic events.

In order for these activities to be successful, it takes more than one person or group of people to make these happen.

And I also believe this applies to other significant and successful grass roots initiatives we have seen emerge at the university this year.

Certainly, it is always easier for us to complain about what gets in our way to be successful, or even to take for granted what it is that makes our lives, our studies and our work flow together so smoothly. But if we can make a conscientious commitment to take a few moments out of our busy day or lives to be mindful — to extend our appreciation to the people who have been or continue to be an important part of our lives and our success — maybe in our own way we can actualize the truth and power behind what the Hawaiian concept of "aiohe hana nui ke aluia" is all about!

Joanna Iwata is the Director of the Benson University Center.



MORE LETTERS

Praise the beauty of the Quad

I write this letter in response to junior Matthew Smith-Kennedy's March 19 column, "When it comes to beauty, the Quad is no Española," about the Quad being "ugly" since it lacks "natural" beauty.

First of all, Matt, you're absolutely correct when you say that the Quad is no Española; however, this is precisely why the Quad is so beautiful — it is unique.

True, the Quad would not look the way it does without human augmentation.

Our grass has been chemically treated, but the chemicals used do not come from Mars. No, such chemicals come from our own planet.

In essence, what I'm saying is that our domination of our environment is a wonderful gift; granted, we do not always use the gift responsibly. The truth being: No matter how simple or complex, beauty is beauty. SAVE THE QUAD.

Clinton Wilburn
Junior

Irish festival was a shamrockin' success

Thanks to the participation of dozens of students, faculty and staff,

the Wake Forest University Irish Festival was a resounding success.

The festival accomplished what we had hoped it would; it brought students, faculty and friends of the university together outside the classroom.

It offered a varied week-long schedule of Irish films, poetry, music, dance, food and thoughtful reflection; and it gave us all a chance to share our talents and interests in a festive way.

The Irish Festival more or less sprang up out of the earth as a grass-roots effort and we relied on spontaneity, generosity and camaraderie to carry us through and it worked.

The volunteers who gave hours of their time are too many to list individually, but you know who you are.

Students and faculty recited poetry, performed music (including an hour-long concert of Irish music by carillon-naut John Acker), ran a film festival, taught Irish dance lessons, joined in a very chilly vigil for peace in Northern Ireland and blanketed the campus with flyers and posters (one designed by university designer Samantha Hand, and one by freshman Jason Aquilino). Our thanks to all of you.

Our thanks go also to Daniel Tighe, the renowned Irish dancer who traveled from Raleigh to give a fabulous performance at "O'Shorty's" the night of March 21. What a great party that was!

From the Embassy of Ireland in Washington, Irish Ambassador Sean O'Huiginn wrote a letter of greetings

and congratulations to President Thomas K. Hearn Jr. expressing his hope that the "Irish Festival on campus will be an enjoyable celebration for all concerned of the ties that bind Irish people and friends of Ireland alike in a special way in the St. Patrick's Day period."

We think his hope was well-fulfilled.

Candide Jones
Susan Murphy
Cheryl Schirillo
Emily Wilson
Co-chairwomen, (Wake Forest Irish Festival)

GALBA invites all to join in Pride Week

The March 5 edition of the *Old Gold and Black* featured an article "Delta Sigma Theta sponsors forum, calls for diversity" and an editorial, "Open forum about racial issues have value" focusing on recent forums regarding racial issues and cultural diversity at the university.

These pieces, and indeed the forums on which they focus, indicate a growing concern that this university substantiates ideals embodied in the theme of our coming Year of Diversity.

As students and faculty become increasingly aware of the university's homogeneity and search for ways to expand and celebrate our cultural

diversity, special interest groups across campus are uniting their voices to raise a collective cry for validation and appreciation at the university.

As a continuing voice in this collective cry, the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues Awareness Group will be sponsoring a Pride Week March 30-April 5 in celebration of our culture and in consideration of our concerns.

Events during the week will include an open forum on gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender culture, a literary night featuring works by glbt (gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender) authors, a history class following the progression of our culture into the current Human Rights Campaign, an AIDS awareness vigil and a glbt film series.

We invite all of the university to join us for these events during Pride Week. Fliers will be posted across campus with details. Pride Week is an expression of GALBA's position as a valuable and essential part of the university's cultural diversity.

Throughout history, gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gendered people have made inestimable contributions to society.

We are poets and pastors, dancers and doctors, philosophers and philanthropists. Ours is a significant culture and a rich heritage.

We ask that other minority groups identify our common struggles and join us in our cry for diversity, and that everyone recognize our humanity and strengthen our efforts to make the university an affirming and enriching environment for us all.

Martin Price
Freshman