

OPINION

This column represents the views of the Old Gold and Black Editorial Board.

OG&B board endorses best SG candidates

In preparation for the April 7 elections for Student Government executive officers both the outgoing and the incoming members of the *Old Gold and Black* editorial board interviewed the candidates March 31. The board asked each candidate a set of prepared questions, both general and job-specific, in order to evaluate their ability to fulfill the positions.

The editorial board has chosen to endorse the following candidates based on the interviews and the information that each candidate provided in writing regarding his experience and qualifications.

The board endorses Susie Eggers for the position of SG president. The depth of Eggers' SG experience makes her the stronger candidate for the office.

As the 1997-98 SG chief-of-staff, Eggers displays a deep understanding of the office and duties of the president. Eggers' close work with the president has given her experience which would enable her to make a smooth transition into the presidency.

She is willing to embrace large goals, such as improving lower-division advising and establishing a curriculum review, while keeping a practical perspective of the capabilities of the SG.

Eggers' willingness to continue many of the current SG projects, such as creating a Washington, D.C. exchange program and working to build a university recreation center, makes her a strong candidate.

As an active participant in SG this year, Eggers has cultivated a solid understanding of judicial reform. This knowledge would assist her in implementing the new system and increasing the student body's understanding of the intricacies of the system.

Eggers' involvement with many areas of campus life, such as WAKE TV, the Volunteer Service Corps and the Harbinger Corps give her a broad understanding of the student body. However, in order to maintain this perspective, Eggers should continue her involvement with other areas of the campus besides SG.

If elected, Eggers needs to ensure that she serves as a strong voice for the student body and does not falter in the face of opposing administrative views.

For the office of speaker of the house, the board endorses junior Ryan Opel. Opel is a strong speaker and has the ability to verbalize ideas — two essential traits for the office of speaker. These qualities would enable him to communicate effectively with the legislature.

Opel's three-year experience on the SG legislature has provided him with an understanding of how the legislature should discover and address student problems. His knowledge of the mechanics of the legislature will assist him in guiding this body, and his

awareness of the legislature's current projects will enable him to oversee their completion or continuation next year.

Opel has served on many SG committees, including the Judicial Committee, the Committee on Committees and the Charter Committee. His range of committee work has given him a wider understanding of the domain of SG.

His involvement with judicial reform as the co-chairman of the Judiciary Committee for the past three years makes him a qualified candidate to guide the implementation of a new judicial system. This is a crucial trait for any executive officer in the upcoming year.

Opel has laid out specific plans for improving other areas of campus life. Plans to evaluate the health and safety consequences of the alcohol policy to complete a study of campus parking, and to investigate the possible renovation of Reynolds Gym are among the stronger of his plans.

He should remember, however, to focus his energy on the most feasible of his plans.

For the office of the treasurer, the board endorses sophomore Taylor Campbell. His involvement as a member of the Student Budget Advisory Committee in 1997-98 makes him a strong candidate for this position.

Campbell demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the workings of SBAC and presents practical plans to improve the system through which groups receive funding.

Campbell recognizes that newly chartered organizations need to be better educated about the SBAC process before submitting their financial requests. He believes that increased education will allow these groups to realize a greater percentage of the money that they request, thus leading to their growth and proliferation on campus.

Campbell's idea that unspent SBAC funds could be made into grants for students rather than be returned to the university's general operating fund is an idea that promotes the welfare of the individual student.

The board endorses junior Mark Rabuano for the office of secretary. Rabuano is an *Old Gold and Black* Reporter, however, because he is not a member of the board and is not in direct affiliation with members, the board did not fall biased in its decision to endorse him.

Rabuano has tangible ideas about facilitating communication between the SG and the student body, which makes him the most qualified candidate. Good ideas include setting up a booth on the Quad for students to meet with executive officers and publicizing the legislature's projects to the study body.

Rabuano also displays a genuine interest in promoting the honor code. His idea to emphasize honor at the freshman level is the most practical way to build up a sense of honor at the university.

Playboy: more harm than meets the eye

Soft-core magazine breeds hatred and violence against women.

Playboy — the very title of the soft-core pornography magazine sums up its philosophy in a nutshell. The magazine is imbued with the "player mentality," with its promotion of selfish gratification, its stereotyping of women as sex

Lindsay Haler

GUEST COLUMNIST

objects and its exaltation of a lifestyle in which men are urged to shun commitment, responsibility and faithfulness.

In regard to the March 26 guest column "Playboy deserves students' respect" by sophomore Mike DeGroof — who bears the inglorious title of *Playboy's* on-campus representative — I have these comments to make in reference to several fallacious statements made in his article.

His implicit premise is that *Playboy* is harmless and is therefore deserving of respect because it "has always been about decent behavior between men and women." Decent? Since when? DeGroof erroneously states that *Playboy* approaches the portrayal of women in an "idealized, romantic and respectful view."

Since when did nude women posing in lurid positions become respectful and romantic? Lovers sharing a candlelight dinner is romantic. A young man

holding the door open for his girlfriend is respectful. *Playboy* is the antithesis of this and always has been.

DeGroof makes a vain attempt to validate the magazine by telling us that 3 million people buy the magazine each month. This only serves to underscore the fact that *Playboy* magazine must grasp at straws by relying on flimsy logic to defend itself. Millions may choose to read the magazine — does this somehow validate it or lend it credence?

In a last ditch effort, DeGroof gives a long litany of famous and even notorious people whom the magazine has interviewed. For some reason, the knowledge that Fidel Castro was interviewed does nothing but solidify my opinions about the magazine.

DeGroof's condescending tone is evidenced by statements such as "Still thinking about forcing your conservative views on the less maniacal in order to save the university?" Since when did refraining from espousing pornography earn one the label of being maniacal?

My purpose in writing is not to vilify those who enjoy *Playboy* or even to stop *Playboy* from coming to campus. I am writing because I do not feel the truth was told by last week's article.

Why not be honest with ourselves regarding what *Playboy* is and what it stands for? It unequivocally earns millions each month by objectifying, debasing, and demeaning women. Do men read *Playboy* and become inspired to be better fathers and husbands? Absolutely not! If anything *Playboy* breeds discontent among men because the magazine focuses only on the physical attributes of genetically impossible women (who are both computer and surgically enhanced) and cares nothing for what a woman should

be cherished for — her character, integrity and inner beauty.

One of the most common arguments in favor of *Playboy* is that it is soft-core pornography and is therefore not as harmful as harder core magazines with truly vile content. My response to this is that *Playboy* is similar to marijuana in that it is a slippery slope, which is often the opening to much worse things.

One of the saddest stories I have ever heard is about Ted Bundy, the notorious serial killer that brutally raped most of his female victims. A noted psychologist, Dr. James Dobson, interviewed Bundy as to what caused his life to go so awry.

Bundy told of how, at 12 years of age, he found a copy of soft-core pornography in a dumpster near his home. This was the beginning of a lifelong addiction to pornography, which culminated in Bundy finally acting out his perverted fantasies in real life.

Obviously, everyone who reads *Playboy* will not graduate to harder-core filth and eventually end up a serial killer. However, one cannot ignore the link between most rapists and their addiction to hard-core pornography, (which often begins in childhood with exposure to supposedly innocent soft-core magazines).

It is one thing to choose to read *Playboy* — that is a personal right. It is, however, an entirely different matter to sugarcoat reality when dealing with a topic so serious. Regardless of the millions spent in portraying *Playboy* as a mischievous "boys will be boys" magazine, *Playboy's* purpose has always been that of demeaning, debasing and demoralizing women for commercial gain. Period.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Read my poem please, Maya Angelou

The other day, I went to Dr. Maya Angelou, the Reynolds professor of American Studies, to give her a poem that I had written especially for her. I had been inspired to write the poem the night before, when reflecting on my childhood and how I would watch the educational programs on television. Angelou often appeared on such programs, always reading or teaching about children's story books.

As I reflected on the "good ole days" of my childhood, I found it quite ironic that over 15 years later, Angelou would still be teaching me and reading to me — only now the lessons presented in "play-time" form that a child could comprehend have turned into serious life lessons and the intricacies of living accompany those lessons.

Unfortunately, when I presented the poem I had written to Angelou, she told me that her lawyers had advised her not to accept any unsolicited mail so that she would not be in danger of being sued. Angelou told me of a

person who had threatened to have the police present at one of her productions. She also told me about a person who claimed that she had stolen their ideas for one of her poems, based on three words Angelou used in one of her poems.

Thus, Angelou dreaded even looking at what I had written for her, simply because people are so unpredictable. As far as I'm concerned, the only consistent thing you can say about human beings is the fact that humans are consistently inconsistent. Angelou taught me that "I am a human being; nothing human can be alien to me."

I agree with her, and I'm beginning to understand the motto better, especially in this case. If a human can conceive of something, for example, lying, theft, and slander — you should not underestimate a human's potential for doing that thing.

So I am writing this letter, column, editorial — or what ever you want to call it, because the only way Dr. Angelou can read the poem I wrote for her is if it is published. So I'll sneak the poem in right about here,

THIS IS FOR YOU DR. ANGELOU:

how to get to sesame street
how to get to sesame street
can you tell me
that's the question we used to ask
back in my bugga-eatin tooth hidin past
back then i used to dream
funny dreams of things seldom seen
like cookie monsters and yellow birds
speaking in accents seldom heard
on sesame street can you tell me
how to get there dr. a taught well me
these simple lessons i learned in play
that got me ready for college days
it's sesame street i'm destined to see
how to get there dr. a's still teaching me

THANK YOU DR. A
Clinton Wilburn
junior

For more letters see next page.

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OLD GOLD AND BLACK

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY SINCE 1916

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The *Old Gold and Black* is published each Thursday during the school year, except during examinations, summer and holiday periods, by Piedmont Publishing Co. of Winston-Salem, N.C. Questions or comments should be sent via e-mail to comments@ogb.wfu.edu or via mail to P.O. Box 7569, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27109. © 1998 WFU Publications Board. All rights reserved.

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MIKE LICKOLICH AT THE CONSTITUTION

