

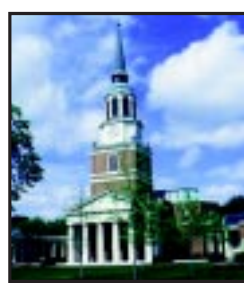
## Wildcats prove tame

Deacons stymie  
Northwestern again in  
opener win  
Sports/B1



## New year begins

Kushner starts Year  
of Religion with  
convocation  
message  
Features/A3



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# Old Gold and Black

Thursday, September 11, 1997

"COVERS THE CAMPUS LIKE THE MAGNOLIAS."

Volume 81, No. 3

## Kushner gives convocation, memorial speeches

*Speaker, friends of four students celebrate lives, remember feelings of loss*

*Audience packs into  
Brendle for annual  
opening assembly*

By Zach Everson  
News Editor

On Thursday, over 200 people attended a ceremony in memory of four students who died last year.

The service, held in Brendle Recital Hall in the Scales Fine Arts Center, featured remarks by Rabbi Harold Kushner, the author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, as well as music and statements from students.

The ceremony was held in memory of Matthew Alexander, Graham Gould, Julie Hansen and Maia Witzl – all university students who died last year.

Kushner's comments dealt with coping with the death of loved ones. "How can we trust the world after what this past year has taught us," he said.

In his speech, Kushner related how he dealt with his grief after the death of his son.

Kushner said that he was able to still find God despite his anguish. "God is found in the intelligence of human beings to solve these problems," he said, referring to student's actions against drunk driving in the wake of last year's car accident that claimed the lives of Hansen and Witzl.

"I can believe in God because I am always seeing ordinary people do extraordinary things," he said.

According to Kushner, the advice he formulated to help others grieve, the methods that he used as part of his job, did not work when he used them on himself.

"When I tried the words on myself they didn't comfort me," he said.

"These words did not help me because they were not supposed to," he said. Instead he simply justified God's actions.

"What saved me was going back to the Bible and rereading the book of Job," he said.

In an attempt to understand his grief, Kushner put himself in the place of Job, a righteous and prosperous man whose



Noel Fox/Old Gold and Black

Rabbi Harold Kushner delivered the Opening Convocation address Thursday to a standing-room-only crowd in Brendle Recital Hall. See page A3 for a feature on the Year of Religion in American Life, which Kushner's speech kicked off.

fortunes take a dramatic turn for the worse.

He said there are three basic ideas in the book that people want to believe: that God is all-powerful, that God is all good and that Job is a good man.

After Job suffers a great deal, his friends come to the conclusion that Job must not be as honorable as he seems. "They are doing what we call blaming the victim," he said.

Job, on the other hand, blames God

**"I can believe in God because I am always seeing ordinary people do extraordinary things."**

Rabbi Harold Kushner

for his troubles. Kushner said that Job thinks that God is so powerful that he doesn't have to play fair.

Kushner, however, said that this book led him to a different conclusion – the belief that God is not all-powerful. This was not an easy resolution for him to reach. "I came to this conclusion very reluctantly," he said.

From that conclusion, he was able to believe that God is good, as are the people who endure hardship.

Kushner said that he believes that

See **Students**, Page A5

By Tim MacPhail  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Students, faculty and community members packed Brendle Recital Hall in the Scales Fine Arts Center last Thursday for Opening Convocation, where noted rabbi and author Harold Kushner spoke on the importance of God and religion in meaningful life.

Kushner delivered his address, "What's the Point of Being Religious?" as a kickoff to the Year of Religion celebration at the university. His book, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, written after the death of his son, was an international bestseller.

Before moving to a serious discussion, Kushner began his speech with a joke comparing the subject of his book to the Deacon football team taking on nationally ranked Northwestern two days later.

Kushner said encountering a power greater than that of humans helps us to define our place in the universe. Idol worship drains our lives of meaning, and while we quickly become bored with human achievement, the miracles of God's world never cease to fascinate us.

He added that a person who believes in God is better off because God demands righteousness and is the only one who understands every aspect of each of us.

Kushner also said that God and religion give people the confidence to know that their lives are important and that their souls are immortal. "People are not afraid of dying; they are afraid of never having lived," he said.

Near the end of the speech, Kushner stressed two ideas for the audience members to take with them: "Never forget the community of which you are a part," he said. "Never forget that God exists."

"God is with you," he said at the end of the address.

Convocation, which is traditionally held in Wait Chapel, was moved to Brendle due to the ongoing construction in the chapel. Seating in the smaller auditorium proved cumbersome due to the limited space.

Other proceedings at the Convocation included the presentation of the new members of the Honor Council and Judicial Board, as well as the Student Counselors.

See **Outstanding**, Page A5

## Publications rank university based on cost, overall reputation

By Mark Rabuano  
Old Gold and Black Reporter

With the annual publications of *Money* magazine's and *U.S. News and World Report*'s rankings of colleges, discussion will inevitably erupt about what the university's rankings really mean. This year the discussion has focused on the

rankings of the financial value and the overall reputation of the university.

In *Money*, the university was placed 96th, four spots above last year's ranking of 100. The year before that, however, the university was ranked 25th in the nation. The severe drop occurred the year that the Plan for the Class of 2000's

tuition increase was enacted.

"I doubt there was any reason beyond tuition here (for the drop). I think we are still viewed as a bargain," said Paul Escott, the dean of the college.

Escott stressed that the university is not trying to shape the university's future in relation to any magazines.

"We are always pleased that we are rated high, but we are trying to build a better Wake Forest. It would be a mistake to try to shape our goals by what a magazine says about us," he said.

In *U.S. News and World Report*, the university placed 28th overall, a drop of three spots from last year. Perhaps the most disconcerting part

of the ranking was that the university's reputation ranked lower than many schools it was ranked above in quality; these schools include Penn State, Syracuse, Georgia Tech and Tulane. In fact, the university's reputation rank was a 2.70 on a 4.0 scale.

"Reputation ranks are all just about that, reputation, and what the

university presidents have heard. A lot of school presidents haven't known much about Wake Forest," Escott said.

The main reason for this, according to Escott, is the university's lack of Ph.D. programs. Schools with large doctorate programs have

See **Magazine**, Page A5

## Anthropology department revises policies

*Status of undergraduate major will be decided in January by deans with input from faculty*

By Zach Everson  
News Editor

Over the past few months, the anthropology department has undergone several changes in an attempt to deal with problems noted in a program review that was finished last spring.

That review led to the suspension of admissions to the graduate program and raised the question of whether the department should continue to have an undergraduate major.

According to Paul Escott, the dean of the college, a final judgment on whether or not to retain the undergraduate major will be made in January by Escott, Provost David Brown and Gordon Melson, the dean of the graduate school.

Escott said that there were a number of issues outlined in the self-study that need to be addressed. He mentioned the improving of the department's curriculum, strength-

**"The main accomplishment to date is that the curriculum has been revised."**

Carole Browne

Professor of biology and the chairwoman of the anthropology department

ening teaching and improving both scholarly work and relations among the department.

"All of these are underway," he said.

"The main accomplishment to date is that the curriculum has been revised," said Carole Browne, a professor of biology and the chairwoman of the anthropology department. Browne's one-year tenure as chairwoman began four weeks ago.

According to Browne, the anthropology department's curriculum proposal is nearly complete.

Most of the other concerns raised in the

program review have also been addressed.

In order for the new curriculum to be implemented it must first be approved by the curriculum review committee.

"There are not major changes," she said. Some courses will be eliminated, and others will be reworked with new titles.

She said that the proposed changes are largely the result of suggestions from two external reviewers, Malcolm C. Webb from the University of New Orleans and Linda D. Wolfe from Eastern Carolina University.

An example of such a change is the addition of a course on the role of gender in anthropology, which had been recommended by Wolfe, the chairman of the anthropology department at Eastern Carolina University.

Wolfe said that many other universities offered such a course.

See **Anthropology's**, Page A5



Noel Fox/Old Gold and Black

**Go, speedracer!**

A Pizza Hut delivery man cruises in his company golf cart. Pizza Hut added on-campus delivery this semester.