

Mother Teresa remains an inspiration for all

Her death will not change the meaning of my trip to Calcutta.

Over winter break, I will travel with 10 other City of Joy scholars to India for 18 days. We will volunteer our efforts for the Missionaries of Charity, helping the poor, sick and destitute of Calcutta. This trip is something that I have been

Andy Ferguson

GUEST COLUMNIST

looking forward to for some time, and something I have been dreaming about doing for even longer.

We are not a unique group because this

trip has been taken before. We are actually the fourth group from the university to take the trip, and literally thousands of people worldwide have gone to Calcutta in an effort to improve humanity.

However, we are unique in that we are the first university group to go without hopes of meeting the famous Mother Teresa. The news of her death last week was met with sorrow, joy and an undeniable disappointment.

I think that every scholar, past and present, would admit that the idea of meeting Mother Teresa fueled many dreams of going to Calcutta.

Let's be honest — there are more than enough problems in the United States. A trip of this magnitude and distance is not warranted because everything is dandy here and I want to go find some "real" problems elsewhere.

Mother Teresa was my inspiration for wanting to make this trip. She represented my vision of humility and selflessness.

She still does. So her passing came with a wave of disappointment. The wave, however, was brief. It came and went, and that was that. I realized I am still going to Calcutta and I am still excited. My next thought was wondering why I was not more disappointed.

The answer, I think, has to do with Mother Teresa herself. She was a celebrity by all accounts, but it was not her status that people cherished. It was the ideals that came along with the fame she consistently deflected off herself. The selflessness and the caring were examples for all who surrounded her.

I tread carefully now because I hate the thought of becoming too preachy or melodramatic in my stance; however, I think that Mother Teresa had a definite place among us, the youth of today and the adults of tomorrow.

She taught us a lesson with the passion by which she lived her life. She possessed an unwavering focus and

chipped away at the seemingly impossible goal of helping the poor.

This passion translated into a faction of over 4,000 sisters spanning the globe, all working tirelessly in their efforts. We should all be so lucky as to find a niche that we believe in so deeply and conclusively that we dedicate our existence to it.

We can all learn from the humility with which she accomplished these goals. Never asking for notoriety or monetary benefits, she continued her work among the poor as a peer. By any standards she was poor, owning only two outfits and little else. When she was presented the Nobel Peace Prize she spoke of how undeserving she was of the award. We should all be so undeserving.

Her work serves as a reminder to all of us that we can do a little more. Her accomplishments show us that the opportunities to succeed extend as far as we choose to reach. I am more astounded by her now than I was while she was alive.

Lack of room poses a problem

Disappointed students were turned away from opening convocation.

Opening convocation is traditionally the first big event of the fall semester. Faculty, students and staff all come together to celebrate the start of another year

Emily Bryan

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and to absorb the inspirational words of a carefully selected speaker.

Now, as we embrace a new theme every year, the opening convocation becomes even more significant since it officially kicks off a year devoted to one particular topic.

Last Thursday's convocation, the much-anticipated starting point of the Year of Religion in American Life, was vastly different from past convocations in one disturbing manner. Where were all the students?

Sure, people came to convocation. The faculty filed in decked in their traditional robes, and many members of the general public arrived up to an hour ahead of time in order to claim a good seat. However, the vast majority of students were noticeably absent.

It's not that students weren't interested in the topic or didn't care to hear Rabbi Harold Kushner's speech. On the contrary, hundreds of students milled around outside Scales Fine Arts Center after the start of convocation wishing they were inside.

Some of the luckier ones crammed into a small, standing-room-only area to watch convocation on a television screen. Still others rushed back to their dorm rooms to see if convocation was being broadcast on WAKE TV. It wasn't.

The majority of us just left with a sense of disappointment, wishing we were one of the fortunate few inside.

It is understandable that convocation couldn't be held in Wait Chapel as usual because of ongoing renovations. Why was it held in the confined Brendle Recital Hall that holds so few people? Why not the more expansive Magnolia Courtyard or even the new Spry Soccer Stadium?

The ceremony might have lost some of its pomp and circumstance outdoors, but the message would remain the same, and that's what counts.

In these alternate locations the message may have been even more meaningful, since more people could have heard it.

If, for whatever reason, convocation had to be held in Brendle Recital Hall rather than somewhere else, why were so many members of the general public allowed, and even encouraged, to attend?

Exempt from the restraints of class schedules, these people arrived early and claimed seats that students later looked at longingly.

When describing the Year of Religion in American Life, the Student Handbook says, "There should be something here to inspire and enlighten everyone." Maybe "if you can get in" should be added to that statement.

Jeff Cook

Sophomore

MIKE LUCKOVICH ATLANTA CONSTITUTION



Alcohol policy should balance right with responsibility

Recent BYOB rules for on-campus parties threaten students' well-being

In college, temptation comes in many forms — cans, bottles, cups, mugs, and let's not forget shot glasses. Now, I read that the university is attempting to curb the availability of tempters, namely alcohol, by instituting a stringent new policy. BYOB will be letters that strike fear in the hearts of many. Or, at least that's what the administration hopes. But is this new policy only the beginning?

Nathan Kirkpatrick

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Earlier this year, in the case of *Hunt vs. Ivy*, the courts ruled that a university could be held liable for a student's actions at a Greek party on campus. The damages awarded to the relatives of the injured party were in the millions of dollars. Also, national headlines lamented the death of a Louisiana State University student from excessive drinking. The student's blood alcohol content was 0.588, which according to CNN is the equivalent of twenty-four drinks. A few years back, two brothers in a Lambda Chi Alpha chapter at the University of California at Los Angeles drowned at a fraternity event. The fraternity has

since been suspended from the university and sued by the relatives of the deceased.

Now I read that two fraternities are leading a nationwide campaign to end the apparently deadly trend of drinking on college campuses. Sigma Nu and Phi Delta Theta have announced that beginning in the year 2000, all houses owned by the fraternities will host only dry parties.

In my opinion, the new policies on campus are only the beginning. With three million students nationwide admitting to binge drinking (approximately half the students enrolled in colleges around the country), I think that universities will return to those glorious days of Prohibition, and, in an effort to curb liability, universities will declare that on-campus events must be dry.

I think that by the year 2010, a student will be hard-pressed to find an on-campus event where alcohol is permitted.

But there will be two large problems created by the dry movement. First, pre-party drinking will increase. Second, off-campus drinking will rise, thereby increasing the number of drunk drivers cruising the highways.

Pre-party drinking tends to be of a heavier sort, because most students favor hard liquor at these events to take the edge off for the actual party. And it is easier to consume an alarming amount of alcohol in a pre-party environment.

Also, for students who end up drinking alone, the feelings of loneliness can compound with the depressing

nature of alcohol into a horrible mix, leading to what could be considered a trend towards alcoholism.

Second, many parties will leave campus, creating an increased danger of drunk driving. I will not drive on University Parkway after 1 a.m. on a Saturday now, let alone when serious off-campus drinking begins.

If on-campus events become dry, then it will be increasingly dangerous to be on the roads of Winston-Salem as countless students try to maneuver large steel death-machines down the highway. Even the short drive from Fourth Street or Student Drive could be deadly.

Even if we eventually move to all-dry party system, danger and dilemma still mix with alcohol. Thus, we all face an uncertain future when it comes to the temptation of alcohol. We all know, in the words of John F. Kennedy Jr., that though we may have learned "a lot about temptation recently, (it) doesn't make us desire any less."

There is no simple fix for colleges and universities, no Band-Aid large enough to heal what ails us, no magic wand to wave and POOF! there goes the problem. As long as doors stand open to colleges and universities, students will be tempted to drink. As long as the news is littered with reports of tragic and untimely deaths, traffic fatalities and pending lawsuits, however, that temptation will always be sobered with a grim reality.

Maybe the solution is not in the new policy or even in a dry policy. Maybe the solution is in learning how to balance right with responsibility. After all, while we all are tempted, we don't always have to fall.

MORE LETTERS

Apology extended for Greek Sing

In response to the letter from Paul Orser, the associate dean of the college and dean of freshmen, Michele Ware, a visiting assistant professor of English and John Friedenber, the assistant director of theater, we can only apologize yet again for the way some Greek members conducted themselves at the Greek Sing last spring.

The actions of these groups and individuals were entirely inappropriate and should never have occurred.

We hope people understand that the actions of some Greek members are not representative of all Greek members.

The Greek Sing is an event which has historically been a place for Greeks to showcase their talents, but last spring this was not the case.

We can assure everyone that we will do all we can to make sure that such displays of vulgarity will not occur again in future Greek Sings.

It is also our hope that those who witnessed these offensive acts will accept this apology and will support us as we attempt to establish the Greek community as a responsible and contributing

member of the larger university.

Matt Kerr

Senior

Interfraternity Council President

Leigh Mildren

Senior

Panhellenic Council President

Are you concerned by what you read?

Attention: On this campus every week we read in the *Old Gold and Black* about the activities of the people in power, namely the administration. Do you like what you read? Do

the things that they're doing ever worry you? What about this campus bothers you?

Do you worry that the university made over \$500,000 from parking last year when the passes were cheaper?

Do you worry about the dozens of stolen bikes that are never recovered? Do you worry that by the time you graduate someone you know will have had a ThinkPad stolen? Do you worry that you only see campus cops when you're at a party and not when you are walking home alone? Do you worry because, like me, the University Police have directly lied and violated your rights, yet students under our beloved honor code get kicked off campus for less?

Do you worry that diversity on this campus is really a joke? Do you worry why it's the Year of Religion on campus and not the

Year of Religions? Do you worry that it is dreadfully apparent that this school is run like a business?

Do you worry because the students were overwhelmingly against the Plan for the Class of 2000 and they were ignored? Do you worry because the students protested the gatehouse system and were totally ignored? Do you worry because students pleaded to say why we don't want a plus-minus grading scale and were totally ignored? Do you worry because you've noticed a trend?

Do you worry about how many people you know that seriously consider transferring every semester? Do you worry what the food in the Pit looks like? Do you worry that you can't fit classes you need for your major into your schedule but still have to worry about fitting in the exercise requirement? Do you worry that

I'm being too serious? It's okay... I'm almost done. Lastly, does a single one of the over 3,000 of you sit up at night, tossing and turning, unable to sleep because someone, somewhere across this campus is intoxicated who is underage?

Or, like me, do you worry most about having another student on this campus needlessly killed from drunk driving as a result of the new policy? It will be someone we all know. Someone who sat next to us in class, or stood in line behind us at the Benson University Center grill, not some name that you never met or a face that you never saw?

Do you worry about how the administration is spending its time?