

OPINION

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

Delta Gamma's closing indicates a problem

The recent closing of the Zeta Tau chapter of Delta Gamma brings into question the nature of sororities and women's Rush and seriously suggests that the system should be reevaluated.

That two sororities have closed their local chapters in the last three years (Delta Gamma just recently and Alpha Delta Pi in 1995) indicates that the current sorority system, especially Women's Rush, is not conducive to the survival of small groups.

Under the current system of women's Rush, all women rushing must return to school early and undergo a very structured selection process, including a short, roughly five-minute interview with a member of every sorority.

When the sororities choose the women they want to be in their organizations, they must follow a quota system, whereby the total number of women rushing is divided by the number of sororities on campus (which until recently was seven). That quotient is the number of women that each sorority must accept into its organization.

This quota and the way Rush is organized, with every woman required to attend events sponsored by every sorority, perpetuates the superficial and image-conscious nature of the sorority system in general.

The system only fosters large groups who establish shallow relationships. During Rush, sorority members make judgements of the kinds of members they want based on extremely brief individual conversations.

Basically, the only other factors that have a chance to factor in are the revealing characteristics of grade point average and wardrobe.

A longer, restructured Rush process is

needed in order to engender a less superficial and image-conscious sorority system, the kind of system we have now that edged out the ADPIs and the DGs.

If women were able to actually get to know each other better during the Rush process, then maybe they would make decisions about sororities based on true personality and character rather than on image. Rushees would be more open to giving all sororities a chance, to really get to know the women, and the sorority members would get to know the rushees better and make true evaluations of them based on something real.

And if the quota system were done away with, then smaller, more intimate groups like Delta Gamma would have a better chance of survival.

Now we hear that into this flawed system, a system that allowed two sororities to fold in the last three years, three new sororities might be coming within the next year and a half.

Why would three new sororities be brought to campus when two just died out? Do these new sororities even have a chance to survive on a campus where many women choose their sorority based on how cool a given sorority's image is?

For one thing, the campus has run out of lounge space. And if your Greek organization doesn't have lounge space, it's just not cool. And it won't survive. Look at the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. It didn't have lounge space, and its members closed their chapter last month.

So what the sororities on this campus need is a true reevaluation of their goals and the means of accomplishing them. A reorganized women's Rush system, perhaps following the structure of men's Rush, should be considered in order to foster a more fulfilling Greek system for everyone.

Student Union should be commended for a great job

Hats off to Student Union for doing an excellent job in bringing national touring acts to the university. With the Adam Sandler and Indigo Girls shows, SU has gone above and beyond in fulfilling what students have been asking for for years.

No longer do students have to wonder why Student Union exists, wonder what they do. No longer will a disappointing Springfest be the highlight of SU's accomplishments. The organization has done a truly excellent job in recruiting acts that students really want to see.

Not only have they brought the Indigo Girls and Adam Sandler, but they have brought more Coffeehouse entertainment and good, current movies. Speaking of

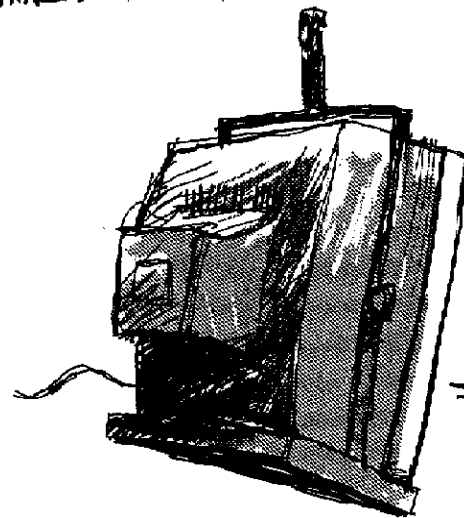
movies, they also renovated Pugh Auditorium with 35 mm film Dolby sound.

SU has endured a lot of criticism, like after the Adam Sandler ticket sales. Student complained about the availability of good seats and about the way the ticket lines were unorganized. In reality, it was the students themselves who lacked the maturity to form a line without fighting and whining.

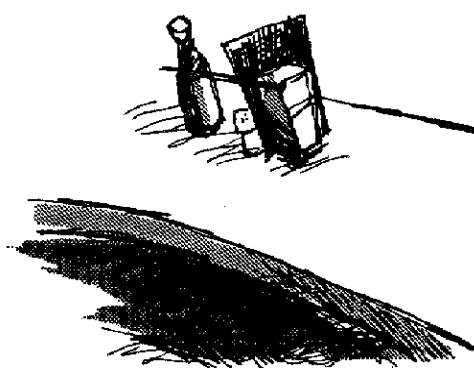
After all, Student Union got Adam Sandler to come in the first place — there's no room for complaint there. And the show went smoothly, with a great time had by all. Also, everyone's happy about the Indigo Girls, especially since they're going to perform in Wait Chapel, which accommodates everyone who wants to attend.

Good job, SU.

MIKE LUCKOVICH ATLANTA CONSTITUTION



TODAY, THE WHITE HOUSE RELEASED VIDEO OF 44 CLINTON "COFFEES"...



I FEEL ESTRANGED FROM THE POLITICAL PROCESS...

YOU A TEA DRINKER?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Computer hacking article was inaccurate

While content found in the *Old Gold and Black* is usually both accurate and interesting, junior Matthew Smith-Kennedy's Oct. 2 article entitled "Internet usage can be tracked" was both poorly written and poorly researched.

From a research point-of-view, the article was highly inaccurate. Several references are made to "Tim Fovey," an Information Systems employee. Even though this name was spelled out for the author of the article as "C-O-V-E-Y" on a tape recorder, it is printed no less than four times as "Fovey."

In addition, Tim "Fovey" is quoted as saying that the "entire Johnson dorm almost beat the hell" out of a specific student.

Covey may have been involved in the technical side of monitoring this individual's computer and network usage, but he was a second or third-hand witness to the events in Johnson Residence Hall.

We actually lived in Johnson on the very floor of the person being referred to in the article and in NO way was the "entire dorm" poised on the brink of beating the hell out of anybody.

The article then launches into the glorification of some "anonymous hacker" that refers to himself as "Big Brother."

What was not explained was that this person was using a program called

Internet Relay Chat (IRC), and that at any one time there are usually no more than two to five people on the entire campus using it.

In addition, in terms of "privacy rights," nowhere does anything indicate that one's activity on this system is not logged or traceable. However, the article fails to mention the extenuating circumstances that must take place before the anonymous source can extract this information.

The anonymous source also indicates that he or she can "listen in" on passwords and E-mail transmissions. In reality, this "hacker" can only "hear" what is going on with a handful of computers at any one time and, in particular, those computers that are in the immediate vicinity of his computer.

With a laptop this might not sound too difficult, but when you think about it, it is highly unlikely. The article, however, makes it seem like an effortless feat that anybody could be doing to you *right now*.

Jay Dominick, the assistant vice president of Information Systems, is quoted as saying that "UNIX is one of the most insecure operating systems on the planet," while time and time again, research conducted by industry and private organizations has shown that UNIX is actually the most secure operating system ever invented.

When it comes to the very specific issue of E-mail passwords transmitted without encryption to a mail service on a UNIX server, yes, that isn't too secure.

But, the author of the article takes the

quote way out of context and makes Dominick, one of the main systems administrators on the campus network, look like he doesn't know what he's talking about.

Poor research or horrible editing due to a lack of understanding of the topic matter is clearly to blame here.

Overall, the article seemed to be saying far too much in the little space it was given.

Had each of the mini-issues been explored with just an extra sentence or two, perhaps it would have been that much more accurate and less misleading.

Couple that with credible sources, the correct spellings of the sources' names and quotes taken in context, and you'd have a printable article.

However, this article, in the state it was in, should never have been printed.

Chris Marts
Sophomore
Wayne Eaker
Senior

For more letters, see next page

Our letters policy

We welcome letters. Send yours via e-mail to letters@ogb.wfu.edu, by campus mail to P.O. Box 7569, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27109, or deliver it to Benson 518. We reserve the right to edit all letters for length and clarity.

Students' lives should embody honor always

Recent news of violations by board members calls the honor issue in to question.

Last time I checked, the magnolias still lined the campus, the chapel was standing proud and *Pro Humanitate* was still the motto. Yet there seems to be one change here at the university, a world that so often seems stagnant and

Nathan Kirkpatrick

GUEST COLUMNIST

immutable. To paraphrase that horrid ballad of summer, "Where has all the honor gone?"

With recent headlines proclaiming the dishonorable acts of two appointed members of the Judicial Board and/or Honor Council and with the recent passage of a constitutional amendment to the rights of students specifying that Resident Advisers must advise students that they are bound by the honor code, I am both disappointed in and bewildered by the university.

I would say that the time has come when we, as students, should remind ourselves what honor means. I don't mean that Daniel Webster should pay a visit to campus or that the Oxford English Dictionary should be required reading. I mean that it is time we reclaim honor as something more than

It is unacceptable to have people sit upon the boards whose records besmirch the integrity and honor of them. Most members of these boards are hard-working, honorable people, but the few whose records are not above reproach damage the integrity of the entire board.

what we agree to on an application. It is time we make the Honor Code our life's code — to agree to act in a dignified and, lest we say it, honorable, manner in all we do, say and are.

There are a few ways we can do this. It is unacceptable to have people sit upon the boards whose records besmirch the integrity and honor of them.

Most members of these boards are hard-working, honorable people, but the few whose records are not above reproach damage the integrity of the entire board.

As we prepare for a year of judicial change, it is important to have boards that students respect, trust and even support with pride, in order to ensure that justice prevails.

How can this happen when there are members of these boards whose characters could be called into question? It is to these members that I write the following: In the interest of honor, resign. In the interest of making the boards reputable and legitimate again, resign. But above all, to clear your own consciences, resign.

It must be hard to sentence students to fair and legitimate punishments when you have been where they sit and guilty of the same charges.

You know that there's a word for that: it's hypocrisy.

Now how do we restore honor to campus life? I would simply say this: It shouldn't really matter if an RA reminds you that you are bound by the Honor Code; but apparently there are people who would stand up in judicial hearings and proclaim for the world to hear, "I didn't know that I was bound by the Honor Code on Saturday nights." That is absurd. That is ignorant. That is inexcusable.

As members of a community, we should hold each other to a high standard of honor.

We should want it for ourselves, demand it for others and cling to it for future generations of students.

William Shakespeare in King Richard the Second writes, "Mine honor is my life, both grow in one; Take honor from me, and my life is done."

I would suggest that this become the new creed here at the university. Maybe the answer to the question asked earlier, "Where has all the honor gone?" is to be found within.

I think we all need to ask ourselves the fundamental question: Are we people of honor? And I hope we all will answer with the speaker in Shakespeare that if our honor was removed, surely we would die.

We owe it to ourselves, our community and our children to be people of honor.

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