

Hoop it up

ACC preview showcases conference teams and players

Sports/Section C



Oh how they lilt

Banshees don't have to search for audience, troupe history shows

A&E/B7



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Old Gold and Black

Thursday, November 20, 1997

"COVERS THE CAMPUS LIKE THE MAGNOLIAS."

Volume 81, No. 13

Freshman dies suddenly, campus mourns

By Jenny Blackford
News Editor

The university community is mourning the loss of freshman Alexander Philip Gedicks, who died suddenly of meningococemia, a bacterial infection, Nov. 13.

Though he was only at the university a short time,

many will miss his presence including friends and members of his community in Johnson Residence Hall. "He had a remarkable excitement about life," freshman Chad Brown said.

A memorial service was held Nov. 16 in Wait Chapel. Around 400 people attended, including Gedicks's parents and three sisters.

During the service several students spoke about

Gedicks as a strong, friendly individual. "He was always there for anyone who needed him, he was just a great friend," said freshman Wes Waters, Gedicks's roommate.

Students told stories of his leadership and faith.

"He lived to better the world in all the wonderful ways that he did," freshman Amanda Carlson said.

"You saved yourself and sought the salvation of

others in your words and deeds," said freshman Ginny Bunch.

The 19-year-old from Orem, Utah was active in ROTC and was deeply involved in his church, the Winston-Salem First Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He was planning on going

See **Gedicks**, Page A3

Kappa Sig closed for hazing pledges

By Danielle Deaver
Editor in Chief

The university announced Nov. 13 that it is suspending the Kappa Sigma fraternity through the academic year 1999-2000 for group responsibility violations, including hazing.

The fraternity immediately loses its housing and lounge privileges and must "cease all operations and activities at Wake Forest," according to a university press release.

The length of the suspension means that even the youngest brothers in the fraternity, who are sophomores now, will have graduated before the fraternity can ask to have the chapter restored at the university at the beginning of the 2000-2001 school year.

"As I see it, the sentence kills the fraternity," said senior Brian Pianca, the president of Kappa Sig.

Harold Holmes, the dean of student services and an associate vice president, conducted the investigation and determined the fraternity's guilt and the sanctions.

Holmes said he constructed the sentence to give the fraternity a chance to renew itself.

"You may want to give the fraternity an opportunity to start fresh," he said.

Unofficial reports suggest the charges against the Kappa Sig included physical abuse of pledges, but the university did not release the exact charges of which Kappa Sig was found guilty, except to say that they fell under the broad context of group responsibility violations and hazing.

It has therefore been difficult for students to judge whether the fraternity was treated fairly.

"Students are very aware of the Kappa Sigma punishment," said senior Scott Plumridge, the president of the Student Government.

"It has undoubtedly been the campus hot talk. Most recognize the need for some disciplinary measures but at the same time have been stunned by the severity of these measures."

Pianca said that the fraternity brothers were unhappy with the results of the investigation. "Obviously there's a lot of displeasure and we're hoping for an appeal," he said. "From

See **Frat**, Page A4



Noel Fox/Old Gold and Black

Freakin' Fans

Sophomore Jeremy Ruddock, junior Eric Palmer, sophomore Tripp McCulloch and other Freakin' Deacons cheer at the VMI basketball game. For more on the Freakin' Deacons, see page A2.

Drunk drivers face new laws

By Mark Rabuano
Old Gold and Black Reporter

In a press conference Nov. 18 celebrating new drunk driving legislation, Lieutenant Governor Dennis Wicker unveiled the laws that would take effect beginning Dec. 1. The new focus of these laws is on repeat offenders like Thomas Richard Jones, who was responsible for the tragic deaths of then sophomores Julie Hansen and Maia Witzl last September.

The provisions of the law, as laid out by Wicker, are the following: A repeat offender would have his car confiscated; he would spend a longer time in prison, with a minimum sentence of one year; and while in prison, the offender would receive extensive counseling and treatment.

Wicker said that this treatment program, Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Treatment, has a high success rate. "This will not solve all the problems, but it will put a real dent in them. It is not the end of what we

can do, but just the beginning of the long journey to make the North Carolina highways the safest in the world," Wicker said.

The repeat offender would be classified as such at his fourth conviction, when he would lose his car. This would prevent many incidents that occur involving fifth or sixth-time offenders.

"We would like to notch this status to the third offense and send a stronger message."

See **Wicker**, Page A4

Community's spirit motivates president

By Sarah Rackley
Old Gold and Black Reporter

He's the man you saw when you first turned on your ThinkPad. He has made the decisions that helped shape the university you chose to attend. His office is on one of the more exclusive halls of Reynolda Hall, but President Thomas K. Hearn works hard to be more than merely an elusive decision-maker for the university.

Since his sophomore year in college, Hearn has known that he wanted to be involved in university education. Hearn said: "I was actually sitting in philosophy class, and I suddenly realized that this man who was standing up there was being paid to read books and talk about them. Now I didn't have any idea of whether he was paid much or little, but I said to myself, 'That's for me.'"

Since then, Hearn has been involved in education as a philosophy professor and later as a provost before being asked to serve as the university's president. Hearn currently teaches a freshman seminar on leadership, where he sees how the technology associated with the Plan for the Class of 2000 is influencing learning and communication.

Hearn said he sees "a stronger sense of interconnectedness" among students and professors that he attributes to the constant communication that technology makes possible.

Rather than alienating, Hearn said he feels technology is fostering community, which he feels is one of the University's most significant attributes.

"The most significant thing about any institution is the values which are involved in its mission. We inherited from the old campus a sense of community, a sense where people dealt with each other as individuals, where learning was not just a matter of the head, but also the heart and the soul," said Hearn.

One time of the year when Hearn strongly feels that sense of community is during the opening of school. "The campus in the August when summer school is over gets strangely quiet. It loses its life," Hearn said.

A sign posted at the entrance to campus one fall, as the upperclassmen returned, seemed to express the feelings of most returning students. It said, "Welcome home."

Hearn also reported feeling a sense of community and school spirit following the University's first ACC Basketball Championship victory.

"I came over to the campus while the campus was being rolled, and someone gave me a roll of toilet paper. For the first and only time in my life, I pitched it," said Hearn.

When not teaching his seminar or meeting with vice presidents and others with interest in the University, Hearn finds time to swim, play tennis, or take walks behind Graylyn with his wife and dog.

Though most lunches are working lunches, Hearn occasionally ventures down to the Pit for a salad. "I'm a big fan of the salad bar."

Moyers addresses packed Chapel

Special fall convocation held for Year of Religion in American Life

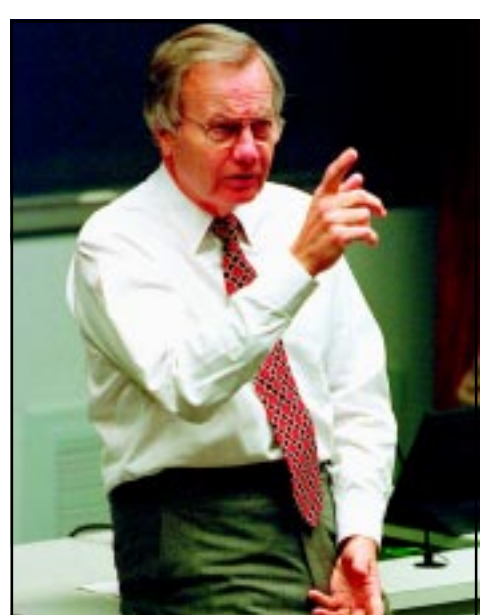
By Suzanne DeBose
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Awareness of religious diversity is crucial in today's pluralistic American society, said Bill Moyers, a journalist and author who spoke Nov. 19 for a special Fall Convocation in Wait Chapel.

In honor of the university's Year of Religion in American Life, Moyers's lecture "Religion in American Life: Reflections of a Long-time Observer and Participant" focused on religious pluralism in America and how the intersection of different faiths affects our beliefs. A crowd of about 2,000 attended.

Moyers recognized the spiritual nature of the university and praised its quest for religious understanding. "I'm glad to be home again. This is one of my spiritual homes," Moyers said. "The life of mind and spirit are divinely linked here at Wake Forest."

Moyers went on to discuss his experience creating a series of televised group discussions between people of different faiths about the stories of Genesis. "Surely we



Courtesy of Wake Forest University

Bill Moyers speaks to students about his experiences as a journalist and religious scholar in DeTamble Hall. He also spoke at Fall Convocation.

were intended to use our minds to think, to argue, and to debate about scripture ... and about God," Moyers said.

As the millennium approaches, Moyers said, the nation as a whole is searching for a way to cope with our multiplicity of beliefs. "We need a deeper dialogue involving all of us," Moyers said. "We are searching for a new vision with the power and authority of religion ... as one nation under God, but who's God?"

In response to our religious diversity, Moyers stressed the value of inter-religious understanding. "In our society we have to move beyond mere tolerance towards understanding," Moyers said.

"Everyone must join in the conversation of democracy, but no one monopolize it. ... Religion has to be part of that conversation of democracy. ... Religion as an interpretation of life itself," he said.

Moyers conveyed the essence of his discourse and reaffirmed the goal of the Year of Religion. "Here's the point: to see what

See **Religion**, Page A8

