

OPINION

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

Lottery system infuriates students

It's a typical situation in these typical times, too many instructions... This semester the Student Union has done a fabulous job of finding an act almost every student on campus wishes to attend — Dave Matthews and Tim Reynolds playing Feb. 9 in Wait Chapel. And after displaying such competence in assembling this phenomenal event, it was assumed that the Student Union would consider all options of ticket distribution, that it would have learned from Student Government's removal of the lottery system for basketball tickets, and chosen the best of what's around so far as ticket distribution goes. Instead, die hard Dave fans returned to campus to find a nine-part list of instructions lying in wait in their post office boxes announcing how to go about the Dave Matthews ticket lottery procedure. After wading through this document and a process that covers an entire week, bewildered students come to a common realization. No matter how much they love Dave Matthews, no matter how willing they may have been to camp out for weeks in advance for tickets, they will have no control over not only how close their tickets will be to the stage but whether they get any tickets at all. What would you say? Well the adamant Dave fan would say that the lottery system is far from the best of what's around. Wait Chapel will provide one of the most intimate settings in which Dave could ever be seen, an experience that is truly much more meaningful and exciting for some students than others. Yet, because of the lottery system, the student who just discovered Dave's music last week, who is only moderately interested in going because all his suitemates plan on attending, has just as good of a chance as the student who holds every bootleg album and a fan club subscription. The lottery system does not ensure that those who truly want to see Dave get that chance because getting a wrist band from Benson 335 at the crack of dawn Monday or even at noon tomorrow does not ensure a ticket for that student. In fact tonight all those wrist band wearers should eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow they will find out who holds the magic wrist band number which will decide who gets into the Chapel and who will have to settle with lying on the Quad grass and soaking in the Dave vibrations in the cold February air. But don't eat, drink or be too merry: You could lose your ever-important wrist band! That would mean that you've worn the

now smelly, itchy, nasty and blindingly yellow wrist band for days would get you absolutely nothing. According to our nine-part list of instructions, "Your wrist band MUST remain secure to your wrist until after you purchase your tickets," and "Student Union will not replace wrist bands that have been lost, stolen, broken or tampered with." If your wrist band falls off, no tickets for you, and then you'd just be left crying in despair, "could I have been anyone other than me?" As if this whole wrist band concoction weren't ridiculous enough, Saturday there will be innumerable students packed into the third floor of Benson waiting to buy their tickets, thinking of a time before these crowded halls. With approximately 2,500 seats up for grabs, students will surely have been standing for a long, long time. Treading trodden trails in Benson for a long, long time until all the tickets are sold. All the while, these students will be like ants marching in line fearing above all to leave and lose their space in line because also on our nine part list of instructions is the threat, "Once sales have begun, if you are not present when we get to your number, you lose your place in line." By the way, Saturday also happens to be the same day as one of the most popular basketball games of the season ... poor planning? You decide. Overall this whole process just seems like an extreme attempt to exercise Student Union power and a very unfair process for those who really desire Dave tickets. Everything good needs replacing, and, well, in this case everything bad needs replacing even faster. So, next time a big name comes to campus, instead of going for the lottery, Student Union should consider doing a regular old camp-out for tickets. Reverting back to the camp-out system has already returned an aura of fairness and has taken the role of fate out of acquiring basketball tickets. On a campus of our size, managing a camp-out for tickets out by Spry soccer stadium is not only feasible, but also fun for those who participate. This same certainty would be greatly respected by those students who will discover Friday afternoon that not only their wrist band but the four other wrist bands they paid friends to wear for them are all at the tail end of the lottery list. It will be a horrible feeling to know that what I want is what I've not got but what I need is all around me. By doing a camp-out, first-in-line system those who are willing to spend their time ensuring that they will get a good seat will be able to say that you pay for what you get.

ACC landmark is no more

Reynolds Gym is closing its doors.

For 50 years now it has been the center of the college basketball universe. Reynolds Coliseum, N.C. State's on-campus 12,000 seat arena, has likely hosted more NCAA basketball games than any

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GUEST COLUMNIST

venue on the planet. In addition to hosting the Wolfpack men's team every season since 1949, it has hosted 13 ACC tournaments, 12 Dixie Classics and several NCAA regionals. The stadium looks like a place more likely to host Milan and Muncie Central playing for the Indiana state title than an ACC basketball event. Still, the building provides one of the best home-court advantages in the country. The long building creates a feel unparalleled throughout the conference. The students surround the floor and have continued to show passion for their team despite the school's inability to produce remarkable teams in the 1990s. Two national-championship banners hang from Reynolds Coliseum's rafters as symbols of the Wolfpack's storied basketball tradition. We've all seen pictures of the late Jim Valvano running to hug his team after Lorenzo Charles dropped in Derek Whittenburg's errant 30-footer to beat Houston's Phi Slamma Jamma. The 1974 team, which won the national title in Greensboro, was led by the player most ACC diehards consider

the best in conference history, David Thompson. Despite State's long standing tradition of not retiring numbers, Thompson's number 44, which was also his vertical leap, rightfully hangs next to the 1974 championship banner. Next season, in a Demon Deacon-like maneuver, N.C. State will move out of their old barn into a brand new off-campus, state-of-the-art, \$157 million dollar arena. The Entertainment and Sports Arena, which will also host the Carolina Hurricanes hockey team, will be complete with sky boxes, escalators, jumboscreens and \$10 parking. Within the next few years, Maryland will also replace Cole Field House with its own mega-plex. The ACC will never be the same. There is no denying that the building would have to be replaced eventually because major college athletics have always will be about money. But the ghosts of Everett Case, Norm Sloan and Press Maravich won't follow the Wolfpack down I-40 to their new location. Like their neighbors down the road in Chapel Hill and Winston-Salem, the high priced alumni will have their air-conditioned suites, cup holders and comfortable leg room. But they won't take their grandchildren to the same court played on by Lennie Rosenbluth, Ronnie Shavlik, Charlie Davis and Michael Jordan. Unlike Wake's administration during the move from the old Memorial Coliseum to the Joel 10 years ago, the N.C. State administration has insisted that the new arena be designed in a way that allows the students to stand around the floor and continue to wreak havoc on their opponents while the high-dollar alumni can sit, enjoying their wine and cheese, directly above them. In my four years here, I've grown to love the old Reynolds which always seems to be 90 degrees and filled with the best basketball fans in the country. The N.C. State faithful are always

willing to spend premium dollar for tickets and have even more hatred for baby blue than most of us do. With the exception of a C.C. Harrison buzzer beater at Joel Coliseum in 1997, erroneously called a three by referee Mike Wood, the Deacons have beaten the Wolfpack in every game dating back to the 1993-94 season. It wasn't always so easy. This year's Demon Deacon media guide shows that we have an 83-119 record against the Wolfpack dating back to 1910. Predictably, our record against the Pack in Reynolds is significantly worse. Despite winning the last four and seven of the last nine within the hallowed walls, we have only an 18-43 record. But counting all those Dixie Classics, ACC tournaments and NCAA Tournaments, the Deacons stand at 52-68 against all opponents including winning back to back ACC Championships there in 1961 and 1962. In 50 years, the Deacs have played 120 games in Raleigh, which is pretty remarkable considering we've played only 142 games in Joel Coliseum's short history. Places such as Wrigley Field, Fenway Park and Cameron Indoor Stadium will likely stand a few more decades (hopefully longer) before joining the ranks of Ebbets Field, Carmichael Auditorium, Boston Garden and old Comiskey as places any sports fans wish they had witnessed a game. But you have only one more opportunity to watch the Deacons play in Reynolds Coliseum. Barring any construction difficulties on the new ESA, the Demon Deacons will make its final trip to Reynolds Jan. 28. Do not let this amazing building fade into the history books without experiencing it first-hand. Make the two-hour drive to Raleigh and pay the ticket scalper in the parking lot \$20 to watch this chapter of the ACC come to a close. This time, there is no next year.



King's message resounds today

A P.C. attitude halts racial dialogue.

In his "Letter from Birmingham Jail," read Jan. 18 by Reynolds Professor Maya Angelou, Martin Luther King Jr. heavily criticized white moderates who don't seem to care about the race issue. King said that the white moderate is "more devoted to 'order' than to justice; who prefers a

these days we'd call these horrid white moderates wishy-washy and non-committal politicians. Or, perhaps we would call them politically correct. That's right. Those heroic and honored people who revolutionized dictionaries, textbooks, classrooms, workplaces, political debates and every facet of the media would probably have been the target of King's wrath had he lived to see the day. The P.C. people strive to take the bite out of our daily language. The movement has done some good. No longer is it polite to refer to someone based on the color of his skin. We must now presume to know their ancestral origins.

can the subject be broached without fear of insulting the other person? The line has been clearly drawn between what can and cannot be discussed. Asking people about their religion is not taboo, so why is asking about their race? One subject should not be more offensive than the other. As soon as it becomes offensive to ask someone about an important aspect of his life then that aspect becomes as insult to that person. If it is degrading to speak of blackness, this makes blackness offensive. Drawing any sort of attention to someone's race has become like drawing attention to an ugly blemish on his face that he would just as soon forget about and hope it goes away.

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PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: 'I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action.' "Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will," King wrote. Today we might call these white moderates wafflers, or maybe politicians. These people seek to please everyone at the same time, trying not to offend either side of the debate. They don't want to belittle the oppressed by refusing to accept their suffering as legitimate. They also don't want speak out and risk alienating the oppressors, the ones in power, for obvious reasons. Yes,

Political correctness is the high-point of white moderateness. It is designed to reduce friction between the races (even though it is no longer politically correct to refer to "races"). Their terms are neutral. They sought to aggravate no one's last nerve or to injure anyone's delicate sensibilities. They try to make everyone ignore the ugly past we shared and move on. This is a very dangerous motive. It seems this P.C. movement is just another form of segregation — the true "separate but equal" paradigm. The long, almost clinical, titles remove the familiarity of history and alienate races. With differences between groups of different ancestral origins limited in the language, it is taboo to discuss things such as race and culture, especially among those people of different races. If it is not correct for someone to refer to another as "black" or "white," how

Race shouldn't be an ugly blemish to be ignored and forgotten; it should be a celebration of singularity and, to use an over-used word, wonderful diversity. Don't be a moderate American and refuse to get involved in the race issue. Don't act as though race doesn't exist. Far too many look so far beyond the color of one's skin that they miss its beauty altogether. If this new attitude causes a bit of tension between races, so be it. King saw tension as a phase in the healing process. We must suffer through it and solve this problem naturally and with effort, not artificially by ignoring the conflict. The great flaw of King's moderate white was that he saw the end of racism and segregation as "their" goal, the black goal. It was not his business. It's everyone's goal, and we must begin to treat it this way, out in the open.

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. If you wish to submit a guest editorial, contact the editorials editor at Ext. 5280 at least two weeks in advance of the issue in which you would like it to appear.