

OPINION

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

University should take stand on note-taking

The Sept. 10 article "Student paid to take notes" raises important issues regarding the manner in which the university treats its student athletes.

According to the testimony of a junior business major, the university's athletic department paid her a stipend of \$25 a week to photocopy notes and give them to an athletic department employee. The notes were in turn distributed to varsity basketball athletes in her religion and theater classes.

Ron Wellman, the director of the athletic department, said that such a practice does not violate NCAA regulations. An NCAA representative describes it as a "gray area." The Honor and Ethics Council is not sure if it constitutes a violation of the honor code.

No one seems to want to take a stand on the ever-perplexing issue of what a school *should* do to keep its athletes academically eligible and what it *needs* to do to remain competitive with other universities.

After last week's findings, it has become embarrassingly obvious that the university cannot ignore the fact that students have been paid to help certain athletes remain eligible. The university needs to reevaluate the measures that it should take to assist its athletes.

Paying a student to take notes for another student is not a gray area. It is an ethical violation of academic principles. A student earns a particular grade in a course based on his or her attendance and mental awareness in class.

If a student pays someone else to attend class and take accurate notes for him is his test score truly an accurate reflection of how he has garnered

knowledge from the class? How can a university not only allow this to happen but facilitate its existence?

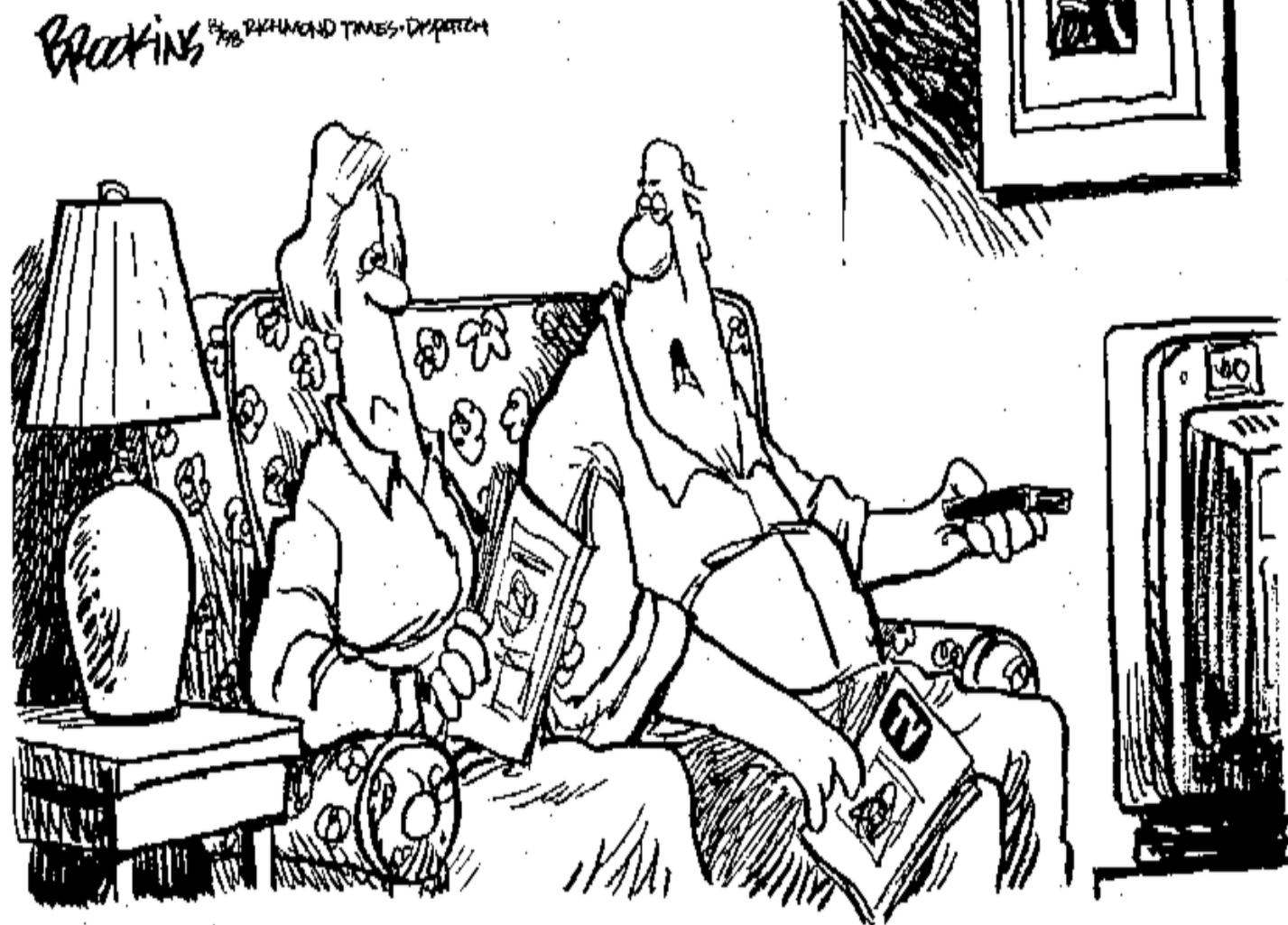
Athletes are a valuable asset to a university. They bring fame and money to an institution that an average student does not. The amount of time that an athlete must dedicate to his or her sport, including classes that must be missed due to games, decreases the amount of time that he or she can dedicate to academics. Additionally many athletes are not selected from the same applicant pool as the rest of the student population. As a result, athletes do need additional assistance in academics.

The university has an obligation to assist its athletes, but there are ethical ways of doing so. The practice of providing tutors and study halls should continue, as it helps athletes, while promoting the academic ideals upon which the university is founded. Hiring a student to pay attention in class, however, is a clear contradiction to every principle which the university is supposed to represent.

A student athlete's primary function is to perform athletically during his or her stay at the university. However, the word student is not to be eliminated from this title. The athletic department should enforce that a college education is a valuable asset, and it is something that is not to be squandered.

After all, the majority of student athletes will not turn professional and will actually need this education someday.

The university should send the message that working to gain an education is a worthwhile goal. When the athletic department allows other students to do the work for some of its athletes it lucidly states its position on education.



"SO, YOU WANT WATCH THE ALL-CLINTON SEX SCANDAL NETWORK OR THE 24-HOUR BABIES-SWITCHED-AT-BIRTH CHANNEL?"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Destruction of flyers perplexes administration

Two weeks ago the Gay Student Alliance posted flyers announcing its first activity of the year, a freshman mixer.

The Gay Student Alliance is a student organization which has been recognized by the Student Government, the Student Life Committee, and the undergraduate faculty.

Several of these announcements were defaced with obscene, harassing, intimidating, and abusive comments and epithets.

Such comments express hostility toward these students and certainly have no place at Wake Forest. University policy declares that "Wake Forest rejects hatred and bigotry in any form and adheres to the principle that no person affiliated with Wake Forest should be judged or harassed on the basis of perceived or actual sexual orientation." (Student Handbook, pg. 41)

We are deeply troubled that members of our community would engage in tactics designed to alienate and intimidate students whom they do not know as individuals solely because they are

members of a recognized student organization.

Such conduct undermines the spirit of community dedicated to nurturing and sustaining the dignity and worth of every individual on our campus.

We can only hope that the authors will come to understand that the destructive nature of their message is not shared by the community in which they live.

Kenneth A. Zick
Vice-President, Student Life & Instructional Resources

Paul Escott
Dean of the College

Peter Weigl
Chairman, Student Life Committee

OG&B misnamed convocation speaker

Wake Forest is honored to have Nobel Peace Prize-winner Oscar Arias Sanchez on campus to kick off the Year of Globalization and Diversity. The organizers of this theme year should be commended for arranging the visit of such an esteemed citizen of the world.

Nonetheless, in its coverage of Dr. Arias' visit, the *Old Gold and Black* consistently refers to him as "Sanchez." Sanchez is Dr. Arias *segundo apellido* (second last name), which is his mother's last name.

Referring to Arias as "Sanchez" would be equivalent to a Latin American newspaper referring to our President, William Jefferson Clinton, as William Jefferson (though this is the president's middle name, I am sure you get the point).

An important part of the spirit of the Year of Globalization and Diversity is understanding the customs, norms, and ways of other cultures. A good way to start off the year in this spirit would be to refer to Dr. Arias by his proper name in future coverage of the event.

Peter Siavelis
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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.

Neighborhood should not confront school

University officials and the University Police met with the University Area Homeowner's Association and the Winston-Salem police Sept. 10 to discuss the school's responsibility to control off-campus parties.

The outcome was that the leases of various off-campus houses will contain a clause stating that students are accountable to university policy even when they are living off-campus. Therefore, a student can be given an administrative hearing for receiving a noise violation during an off-campus party.

Problems that arise in these houses should be dealt with by the students, the police and the neighborhood residents.

It is obvious that the homeowner's association is peeved and frustrated. But honestly, what were they thinking when they moved into a neighborhood less than a mile from a university?

The homeowners association is trying to throw the responsibility of off-campus parties into the lap of the university. However, this attempt will prove to be fruitless. Under the new stipulation, even when a student is brought before an administrative hearing for noise violations he cannot receive a hefty penalty from the school, according to policy.

It is likely that the association will find it more beneficial to resolve the problems with the students rather than to drag an uninvolved party in as arbitrator.

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.

Big Mac hits the spot for baseball

The hottest player is an all-around good guy.

We'll never forget the summer of '98, the summer of Big Mac. It was a time when baseball was larger than it has been in decades, a time when on the first weekend of the National Football League season the biggest news was about home runs, not touchdowns. St. Louis Cardinals slugger Mark McGwire isn't just the sports story of

pay greater homage to what has happened in the past. That's the stuff of legends. What's happening before our eyes is the stuff of news.

There is an almost unanimous opinion that baseball players today are more athletic, bigger and stronger than their predecessors.

There's also near unanimity that pitching is better. The starters throw harder, have a larger assortment of off-speed pitches and are stronger because they throw fewer innings than their predecessors. Specialization in the bullpen has brought starters out of the game earlier to bring fresher and more powerful arms to the late innings.

None of that has fazed McGwire. By his actions and deeds, he has elevated himself to the role of great American sports hero. In that capacity, he is surpassed only by Michael Jordan.

His performance on the field may be "Ruthian" in nature, but off the field he's no Bambino. He prefers the background, not the spotlight.

He appears to be an eminently decent fellow who'd make a great next-door neighbor. What he gives back to his community is overwhelming. He's not contributing \$100 for every home run he hits, not to suggest there's anything wrong with such a gesture — instead, he's giving \$1 million to charity to help abused children.

He has turned his back on a large fortune in endorsement deals to concentrate on his season. He's a natural for one of the biggest advertis-

ers in the country, McDonald's. How many more hamburgers would they sell if we knew Big Mac just loved Big Macs?

McGwire will step up to the endorsement trough in due time, but that he didn't do so when he was hottest speaks to his character and his commitment to his profession.

He has put money into the pocket of every team in baseball because of the crowds he draws, and he makes his \$8 million salary with the St. Louis Cardinals seem like grossly unfair wages.

He's done one other thing that sets him apart. Almost through his personal efforts alone he has brought dignity and respect to the late Roger Maris, whose record he broke.

Maris was largely despised when he broke Ruth's record of 60 homers in 1961. That he never came close to duplicating that season certified him to some as a bit of a fraud, a man who parlayed one lucky season into immortality.

McGwire has made it a point of honoring Maris, and for that he deserves immense credit.

Some have suggested Maris for the Hall of Fame. That's a reach. He hit 275 home runs and had 851 RBIs. Those are not numbers compatible with Cooperstown.

McGwire, however, will be enshrined there some day. He'll get there on the total package — great season, great career, great man.

Joe Gera

GUEST COLUMNIST

the year, he's the sports story of the past 50 years. He went after the most storied and cherished record in American sports and hasn't just broken it, he's threatening to splinter it. Seventy home runs - unbelievable six months ago - are within his formidable powers.

It's easy to underestimate what McGwire has done, because there is a tendency to underappreciate what we see for ourselves. The tendency is to