

Parties

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one student-occupied house on the block behind her house. Now there are eight student residences.

Though the problem is not a new one, Lynch says this is the first year the administration has taken action on the subject. "Wake Forest has not been cooperative in the past," she said.

"This is the first year the administration has taken steps toward improving the situation. In past years, their attitude has been that it is not their problem and that we should call the Winston-Salem police if we had a problem."

Harold Holmes, an associate vice president and the dean of student services, said that there has been no change in university policy. "The first level of interaction is the Winston-Salem police. We never characterized it as not our problem; it is a shared responsibility," he said.

The administration is taking steps to alleviate the problem.

"We met with one owner of many of the properties rented by students over the summer and secured from him a commitment that he would attach an excerpt from the Social Regulations and Responsibilities section of our Student Handbook to leases made with Wake Forest students," Holmes said in a letter to the homeowners association.

Students feel that increased party management on-campus is the cause for the

number of students moving off-campus. "The problem is the university is forcing people off campus and unlike some other college campuses (such as UNC-Chapel Hill) this is a residential area," sophomore Charlie Compton said.

Some students feel that this behavior is a part of college life. "I think that if you're going to live this close to a college, you're going to have to expect some of this," freshman Justin Garrett said. However Lynch and some other residents moved here before the university did in 1956.

And community members are unwilling to settle for that logic on a matter that concerns their homes and families.

"They violate laws constantly, yet they blame the police when they cite them for it," Lynch said. Members of the association have complained about behavior such as

students congregating on their yards, urinating on bushes, generally being too loud, smashing mailboxes and even having intercourse in public view.

"I understand that there are noise ordinances and we can't be blaring music at 3 a.m., but they shouldn't be busting people walking home from parties," junior Jason Martin said.

For community members the problem is larger than complaints. Lynch said that some homeowners have been forced to sell their houses \$20,000 below market value because university students live around them.

The administration will meet with community members, students, Winston-Salem and University Police next week, Holmes said. "We are trying to ask (the students) to adhere to the same standard of

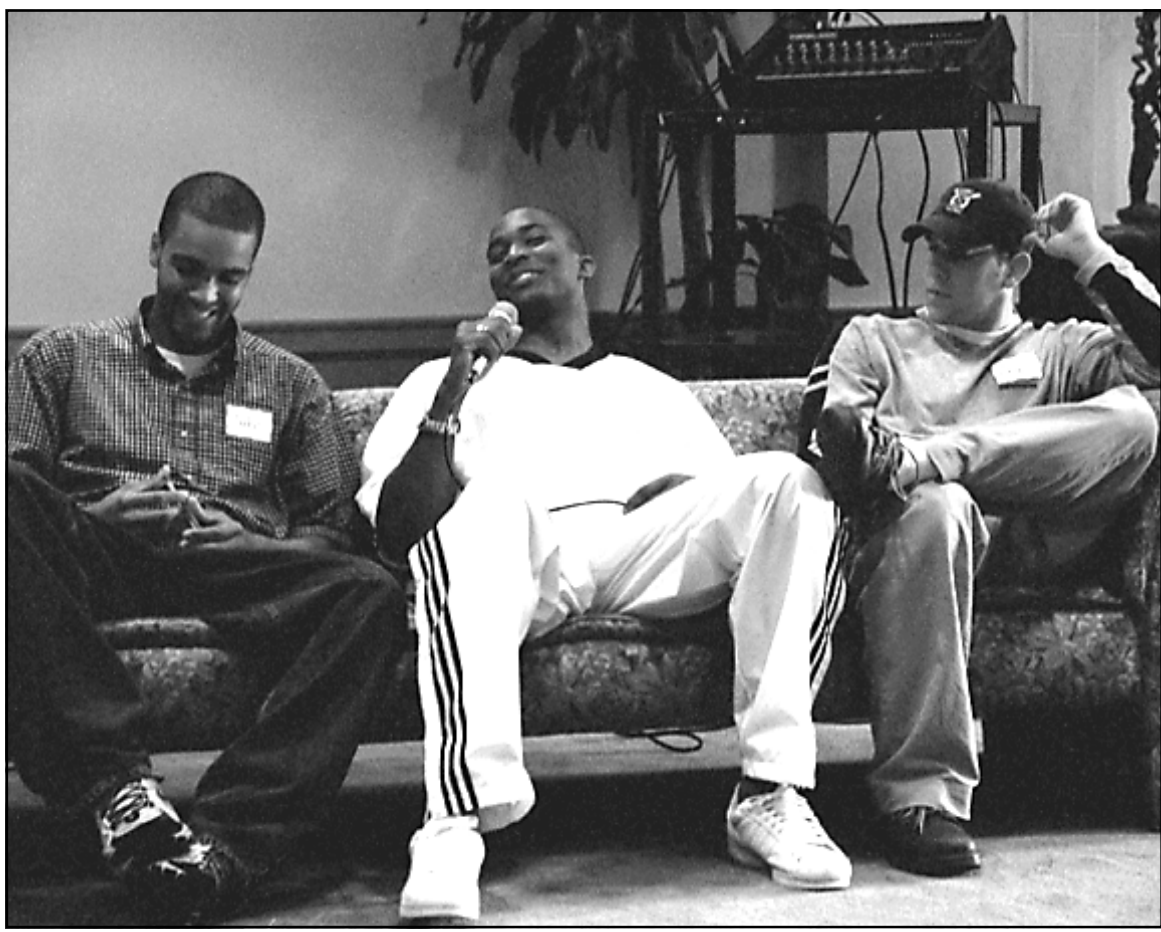
behavior that I or administrators would have to adhere to living in the community," he said.

And part of the association's mission is to solve the problem through cooperation with the university.

"We are not against Wake Forest, we just want Wake Forest and the students to become part of our community," Lynch said.

"We love the students. We have some of the most delightful neighbors, but when they have 250 plus people in one of these small houses within a few hours there is no way to get any sleep."

"We should be respectful of them, but they should realize that college students are going to do what they are going to do. There should be a happy medium somewhere," Martin said.



Kirsten Nantz/Old Gold and Black

Let's talk about sex

Sophomore Luke Fedlam, senior Abdul Guice and junior Brian Hughes participate in a panel discussion for the Discovery Series. The Discovery Series kicked off the semester with its first topic "The Truth About Men and Women" Sept. 22 in the Benson University Center third floor lounge. The discussion focussed on dating, relating and communicating between the sexes at the university.

Westboro

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this is truly a non-violent statement, it is one in accordance with university policy and procedures, the potential is there for it to be allowed."

Sophomore Neha Patel, who is a member of the university committee on student life, said several groups are planning an anti-hate vigil in response to the church's planned protest.

Patel said sophomore Martin Price, a member of the Gay Straight Alliance, is planning the vigil, although it is not strictly a GSA event. Patel said Price wants it to be a "community effort to stand up for the name of Wake Forest."

"We want it to be as much of a community effort as possible," Patel said. "It is very rare that the Wake Forest community stands up for anything or against anything as a group. The last time I remember was the drunk driving issue, and this is just as real."

Patel said they are hoping to have speakers from the administration and students at the vigil, which does not have a set time and place yet because of the ambiguity of the group's planned actions.

"This is just about hatred," Patel said. "We knew it would be hard to get support if this was just a gay issue, but it is not. It is much more than that."

"I think in the next few weeks, there will be a coming together of the university to express our solidarity on the issue," Holmes said.

Holmes said the possibility of the church coming has caused the university to deal with "what Wake Forest stands for" and "what are the central values of the university."

One of these issues deals with how much free speech, especially when it is hateful, should be allowed on a private university.

"Expression brings with it varying perspectives. In a community of learning we struggle to find ways to let as much of it that can be heard be heard."

Although Holmes said the university added a hate speech policy to the Student Handbook this year, it is a student judicial issue and not applicable to others.

Because of issues of free speech, many students feel the church should be allowed on campus. "I don't want them here, but it is freedom of speech," sophomore Kirstin Johnson said. "They have every right to be here, but they shouldn't be here. I wish that society was such that they didn't exist."

At the same time, she said, she would hate for society to get to an extreme that minority groups could not exist and did not have the right to express their opinions.

Other students expressed opposing views. "I don't think they should be granted a permit. I don't think a bunch of people from out of town should come here and be able to do that, especially on Parents' weekend," freshman Michael Bounds said. "The university shouldn't recognize them as a viable institution."

Almost all students said they were shocked that the church could consider itself a religious group be-

"I don't see how they can religiously base that point of view ... It is really extreme. I am not going to object if they want to come here and embarrass themselves. I don't think anyone is going to take them seriously."

Brad Stephenson
Junior

cause of its hate-based nature.

"I think if they call themselves a religious group, they should spread more love. What they are doing totally contradicts any religious doctrine I have ever seen, especially the Christian beliefs. I think to call themselves a Christian group is ridiculous," junior Sarah Brewer said.

"I don't see how they can religiously base that point of view," junior Brad Stephenson said. "It is really extreme. I am not going to object if they want to come here and embarrass themselves. I don't think anyone is going to take them seriously."

Baptist students found the church's views extreme and contradictory of their beliefs. "It is very upsetting. Being a Baptist, I don't want to be associated with those people because they are Baptists," said sophomore Michele Johnson, a Baptist Student Union councilwoman.

BSU council met Sept. 23 and discussed the group's stance on the Westboro Baptist Church. All 15 members of the council, including David Fouche, the associate chaplain and Baptist campus minister, spoke out against the group. The council formulated an official statement: "The Baptist Student Union Council disavows all hate tactics."

"God does not distinguish between homosexual and heterosexual," sophomore councilwoman Brit-tany Neal said.

The BSU discussed possible responses to the situation, including a forum and participation in the anti-hate vigil and will continue to study other ways to respond.

"Christ surrounded himself with persons on the fringes of his society," junior Amelia Fulbright, the BSU president, said. "If we as Christians are to be imitators of Christ, we too should surround ourselves with the marginalized persons of our society."

Students who affiliate themselves with conservatives also thought the church's opinions were right-wing.

"I would consider myself a bit more conservative than the university's stance, but I hate to think that they (WBC) are on my side," sophomore Aaron Miller said.

Junior Kevin Kim had visited the group's web site. He said he found it "quite humorous" that they included sound bites of the sermons they gave to different groups. "It reinforced the fact of their unfortunate point of view," Kim said.

Kim does think the group should be allowed on campus, though. "They're entitled to their opinion," he said.

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Sonnet expert to give lecture

Old Gold and Black Staff Report

Literary scholar and critic Helen Vendler will lecture on "The Art of Shakespeare's Sonnets" at 8 p.m.

Oct. 1 in Brendle Recital Hall.

Vendler, the A. Kinsley Port University Professor at Harvard University, is the author of books on poetry of George Herbert, John Keats, W.B. Yeats, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Wallace Stevens, Seamus Heaney and American poets.

Her most recent work, *The Art of Shakespeare's Sonnets*, will provide the basis for her discussion.

Vendler has received honorary degrees from more than a dozen colleges and universities. She has held Guggenheim and Fulbright fellowships and led and judged the Pulitzer Prize Committee.

The event, which is sponsored by the department of English, is free and open to the public. For more information, call Ext. 5383.



Vendler

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