

OPINION

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

Deacons disappoint with overtime upset

Last weekend, the university's alumni came home. However the football loss to Appalachian State University may not have presented the home-sweet-Homecoming feeling that the alumni had returned to find.

The atmosphere was perfect — a crisp autumn evening, utterly appropriate for a lift-your-spirits victory at home.

Returning from an away victory at Clemson, the football team should have been hyped to rock Appalachian, a Division I-AA team that appeared to pose no threat to the Demon Deacons.

For the first time in several seasons the football team seemed to live up to its Atlantic Coast Conference stature.

A bowl game was in sight for the Deacons, and both team and spectators were charged with an unprecedented surge of confidence.

However, as quickly as it takes to fumble the football, the spark of hope for a revamped football program flickered, and the university returned to the dampened morale of three season past, when Appalachian had once before defeated the university.

It is difficult to place the blame on any one factor when a team unexpectedly loses a game.

Many will point their finger to the coaching, the team's ability and mental preparation, or the factor of having too much confidence. The team may retaliate with the claim that fan support is lacking.

At this point, such questions of appropriate blame emerge as irrelevant. Additionally, for the average spectator, perhaps these are unfair assertions to make. The only feeling that remains and one which can be justifiably claimed is a sentiment of disappointment.

Fans had reached a point where they felt that they could count on the team to bring home a victory, especially on Homecoming. They had come to view the team with confidence and respect. And admittedly, Oct. 3's defeat drove this confidence down a notch.

However, rather than dwelling upon this loss it would be more beneficial to both team and fans for the university to move forward. A challenging season lies ahead and the team deserves at least another chance from the fans to demonstrate its skill.



Horatio provides needed laughter

Poor Horatio, the university's newest student publication circulated its first issue last week.

The publication, which is a monthly satirical magazine, is a welcome addition to the catalogue of existing university publications.

Providing a fresh and humorous perspective of student life and of life in general, the magazine has filled a void in a lacking aspect of student life.

At the university there are so few elements that unite the student body, aside from the academic routine that all students shoulder. Segregated by social organizations and categorized by extracurricular interests, there are not many opportunities for students to recognize their commonalities as students at the university.

Poor Horatio has capitalized upon this weakness and has succeeded in forcing students to acknowledge their common life at the university.

In the same spirit as "In Search of a Corner" the traditional production by the

Lilting Banshees, Poor Horatio unites a diverse student population through laughter.

The magazine sheds light on the frustrating aspects of campus life and of college life — the parking ticket patrol — and makes them laughable. It forces students to recognize that they all endure the same aggravations. Furthermore it highlights the inherent cynicism that characterizes all college students.

Highlighting the flaws of the university through artistic expression enables students to channel their frustrations and observations in a positive manner.

Rather than complaining endlessly at the lunch table about things that cannot be changed, why not bring them to the forefront and at least derive pleasure from them as a student body?

The staff of Poor Horatio is to be commended for its fine first issue and for its initiative to develop a satirical magazine. It is hoped that the magazine will remain a permanent fixture at the university and will continue to unite the campus.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hearn deserved warmer welcome

As a member of the faculty at the Hawthorne Campus, I was one of the 70-80 individuals who attended President Thomas K. Hearn Jr.'s excellent address to the students and faculty on Sept. 29. We were, or should have been, celebrating the 15 years of Hearn's presidency during which the university has experienced remarkable changes for the better, aiming for the best.

I was in fact astonished at the small turnout and at the lack of proper preparation for a historic event. The stage, which was a very large one in Brendle Recital Hall, was completely bare — no flowers, no decorations, not even very good lighting — and Hearn spoke eloquently to an almost empty large auditorium in which no effort had been made to decorate it as would be appropriate. Both the Reynolda and Bowman Gray Medical campuses, as well as the faculty and students, should have done much better.

Dr. Eben Alexander
Professor emeritus, of surgical sciences-urology

years ago, "Get that green pea out of your nose!" No, wait. Wrong advice. What I meant was, mother told us, "Just ignore them and they'll go away."

Because they will. True, it's tempting to express our disagreement openly through such enlightened techniques as pitching eggs at their, um, prominent foreheads, but that also gives them an importance they do not deserve. Let them know themselves for what they are: a bump in the universe. Quickly here and quickly gone, with no real impact on your life or your opinions. Just nobody very important.

Ask yourself: How much could you get done if all your efforts were greeted with a mild shrug of the shoulders? Me, I'd give up after a while. I'm betting the "church members" will too. So, just don't show up. Leave them alone; totally alone. Forget they're here. And keep your eggs in the refrigerator; they're better for making omelets.

Dorothy Kuykendal
Freshman

Hearn's address should have been publicized

I read with interest the Oct. 1 article "Hearn addresses issues of diversity" about President Thomas K. Hearn's State of the University address.

I, and a number of other people I know, would have been very interested to hear his thoughts on "issues of diversity" at the university, a topic which seems to have been overshadowed by the note-taking scandal and (controversy over) off-campus parties. I was insulted, however, by Hearn's intimation that students and faculty were not interested in the state of the university.

In the future, if Hearn wants students and faculty to attend, he should consider publicly announcing events with flyers or through the *Old Gold & Black* (neither of which he did).

Christian Stevenson
Senior

Students should act with responsibility

On behalf of the Alcohol Task Force, I am writing to express our concern about dangerous behaviors that are occurring at the university.

Over the last few weeks, several students have been found alone on or near campus so intoxicated that breathing assistance and other medical

intervention has been required.

Without this intervention, more serious consequences, even death, might have occurred. Theuniversity is a community of learners. As a community, we have certain responsibilities toward each other.

One responsibility is to look out for each other with care and concern. When someone has consumed too much alcohol, he or she should not be left alone.

Several years ago, at our first ACC DrinkThink Conference, university student participants suggested use of the slogan "Notice, Care, Act" as a reminder to look after your peers.

We have included at the end of this letter some things that you should do when a fellow student is in distress from too much alcohol or other drugs. As illustrated in the story of the "good Samaritan," we urge you to stop and attend to others who might need your help.

Ignoring a fellow student in need is not a helpful response. By noticing, by caring and by acting appropriately, you may save a life.

Guidelines for Immediate Care:

- Find someone (preferably sober) to stay with the intoxicated person.
- If the person is unresponsive, get immediate emergency care. DO NOT ASSUME that the intoxicated person is merely sleeping. For immediate emergency care you can dial 911 or call the Student Health Service at 5218.
- Protect the person from injury.
- Keep the person from ingesting any food or alcohol and other drugs, including aspirin or Tylenol.
- Try to keep the individual still and comfortable.
- If the person is in bed, make sure he/she is on his/her side. Make sure airway stays open in case of vomiting. Prop something behind person to keep him/her on his/her side.
- Check on the individual as often as possible (every 15 to 30 minutes) to be certain that they continue to be responsive.
- If you cannot monitor the individual, get him or her to a medical facility such as the Student Health Service.

Mary Gerardy
Assistant vice president for student life

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.

University needs to ignore Westboro group

In the immortal words of somebody-or-other, "What if we had a war and nobody came?"

I don't remember who said that (don't write and tell me), but the relevance is still there. It has to do with the current hot topic around campus: the arrival of the Westboro Baptist Church, a hate group which will arrive on campus on (pay attention, here) Parents' Weekend in order to picket the university for its program of tolerance toward homosexuals. Oh, and let us not forget the fact that we also lay claim to that "pervert," professor Maya Angelou.

But Maya Angelou is never here, you say. Well, never mind. We can leave that to the Lilting Banshees. There are far better defenses to be found!

First of all, let em come. Give them their dinky little permit, set them up in some corner and let them march in a circle and wave signs until their arms get tired.

Second is the key step: after they get here, forget about them.

That's all. Just forget they're here. Don't go to see them march. If you happen to walk by, don't even look at them. Total indifference. In other words, just like mother told us all those

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