

OPINION

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

University needs to clean up its act

Although this university supposedly supports the environmental through the fabled slogan "reserve, reuse, recycle," past experience has proven the true campus recycling motto to be "remove, replace, re-semble."

"Remove" due to the interesting Benson workers' practice of removing recyclable items from recycling bins and placing them in regular trash containers.

"Replace" due to the new plastic and paper products, which must be replaced after each use in the Pit, and which replaced the permanent, environmentally sound, reusable dishes and metal silverware from years past.

"Resemble" due to obvious impression the university is trying to project on its recycling standpoint which, in actuality, resembles a true recycling program only on the surface.

Recycling containers are spread across this campus, seemingly around every corner. However, the probability that any of the waste products placed in these containers will actually be recycled is doubtful.

Although the university's policies on recycling clearly outline the proper procedures for the treatment of recyclable waste, the administration needs to enforce these policies. University employees should know about and be trained in the proper removal of recyclable wastes so incidents when do not occur.

If the university is going to say that it recycles and is environmentally conscious, it needs to take a stand and follow through with these claims. Otherwise the administration must drop this facade of an earth-conscious, recycling campus.

ARAMARK Director Mike Bellefeuille said the Pit quit serving on

reusable dishes and using metal silverware because the items were being stolen.

Because of the resulting economic loss, ARAMARK decided to switch to disposable plates and plastic silverware, which has caused the trash consumption in the Pit to escalate massively.

Presently the 55 gallon trash bags in the Pit are switched 29 to 34 times per day. This results in a total trash consumption of 1,595 to 1,870 gallons of trash per day from the Pit alone.

Also, paper products such as paper plates take up to 50 percent of America's landfill space.

Surely the Pit, which has the dish-washing equipment and facilities to enable the reuse of dishes, should reconsider its new "throw-away" policy in favor of their previous environmentally conscience "reuse" policy. However, if ARAMARK is to reinvest its employees' time in washing these dishes and their funds in purchasing disposable plates and silverware, students need to be honest and ethical and refrain from doing their dining-room utensil shopping at the Pit.

Also, the wax-coated paper cups used in dining facilities across our campus are neither recyclable nor biodegradable.

While ARAMARK is rethinking its plate and silverware policy in the Pit, it should also follow the example set by Shorty's and switch to biodegradable cups.

ARAMARK already uses biodegradable, paper coffee cups and sells reusable mugs to students; however, the use of paper cups would be a great step towards a more environmentally sound dining experience.

Please, students, keep faith in the recycling system.

If students refuse to place potentially recyclable items in their proper containers, changes in current university practise will never take effect.

As usual, the university is left to clean up the students' messes. Maybe this year they'll do it right.

Football receiver is deserving of praise

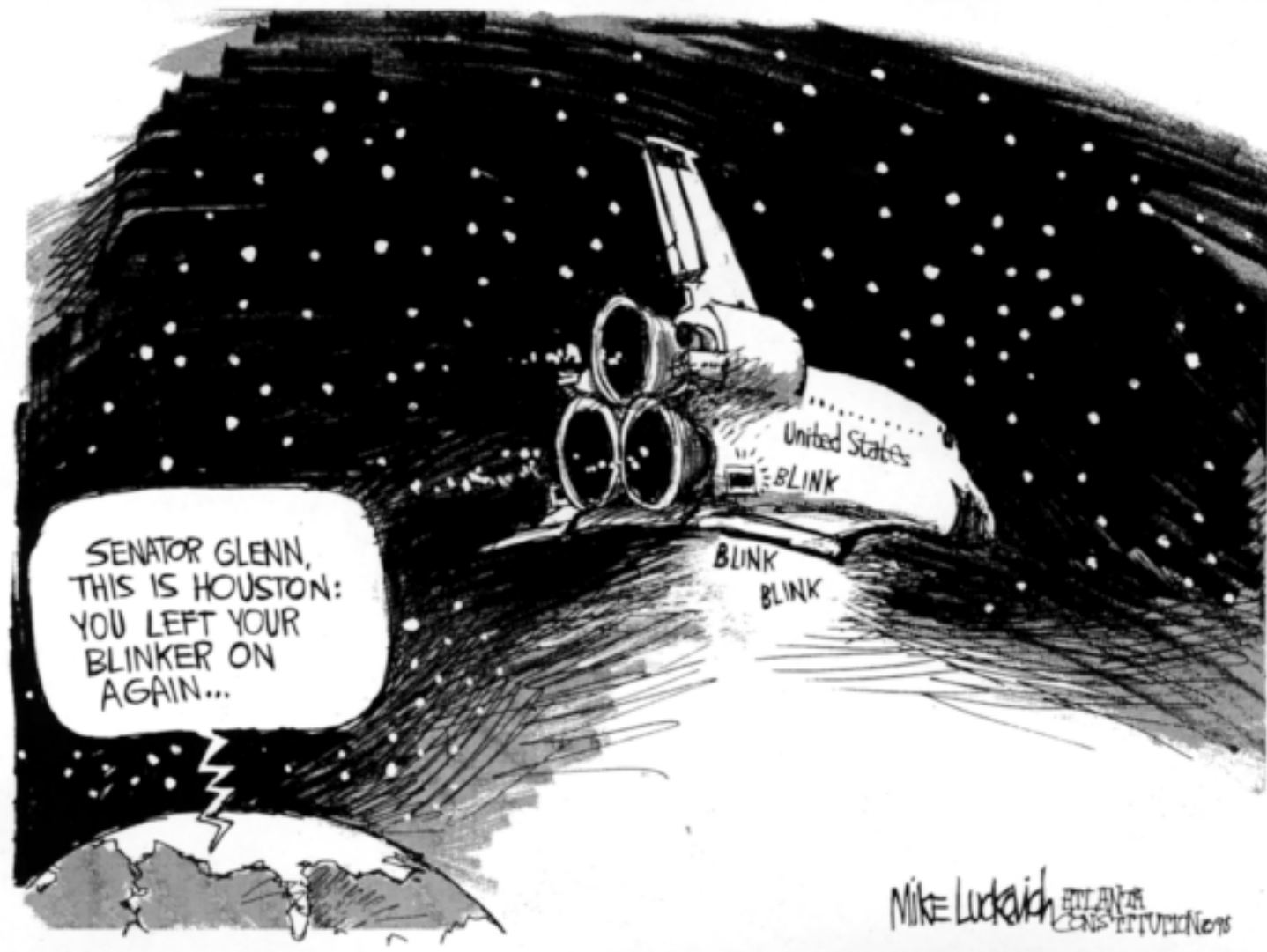
Congratulations, Desmond Clark, for not only becoming the Atlantic Coast Conference's all-time leading pass receiver, but also for giving fans something to cheer about this season.

Not only has Clark topped the ACC, but he is fifth among receivers nationally and continuously challenges this standing at every game.

This feat is truly impressive, considering the quality of the football team Clark has been forced to work with throughout the season.

It's sad to see his moment of glory clouded by his team's sad performance.

However, through Clark's success due praise must be paid to Rusty LaRue, '96, and Brian Kuklick, senior, whose passes have made Clark's receiving yards possible.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ignoring hate group is not the solution

Hmmm ... as was said in the Oct. 8 editorial, "What if we had a war and nobody came?"

I don't know who said that either, but I have some ideas about the answer. I guess if we had a war and nobody came, then the "nobodies" would be making a silent concession.

The difference is that instead of conceding land or territory to weapons and brutality, we would be silently conceding moral authority to bigotry and narrow-minded fanaticism.

Also, to forget about the Westboro church and ignore them would also be forgetting about their message of hate and intolerance, and that's something that I just can't pass by when I pass by.

This group in particular may be quickly here and quickly gone, but can just as easily be replaced by a different group with the same sentiments.

What are we to do then? Place the blinders back over our eyes again?

And if so, then at what point does it stop? In other words, like the wise words of our motherly admonition, "That room isn't going to get clean all by itself!"

And although I tried ignoring the clutter and hoping it would go away, it never did until I put some effort into tackling the problem.

And now, many years later, there are

more problems. Just like the dirty clothes on the floor, and the cluttered closet, this mess won't go away by just looking the other way.

So do please save your eggs; they are better for breakfast, but it's the message of avoidance that may be a little scrambled.

Khalid Jones
Junior

School should turn Westboro Church away

I was appalled to discover that the university had sent a damaging message to the members of Westboro Baptist Church (who are planning to come here and picket this month) by not refusing them a permit to assemble.

This "church" is actually a family cult whose sole purpose seems to be to proclaim hate. The members of this church are offensive and hostile. I urge anyone who has access to a computer to visit the below web site to shed light on this matter.

I am sure that it will become evident, to all those who read this, that to provide Fred Phelps and his church members a protected forum to air his views perpetuates his pervasive pattern of abuse — particularly as it relates to the children of his church.

If we tolerate this kind of behavior,

we are condoning the abuse of children, who often are participants in his hate crusade.

Please visit the Web site below and get informed on the nature of just who Fred Phelps is and just what he stands for. I would include his church's Web site as well, but the name is offensive.

I am sure that we would agree that we would not allow a group with a racist agenda to congregate and preach a hateful message within our midst.

I, for one, do not want one penny of my tuition money spent on providing Phelps with the protection he would require just so he may offend and provoke the students and faculty of this campus.

Here is the Web site address: <http://www.killcreek.com/devolution/addicted.html>.

Christina Rama
Medical Student
Wake Forest University Baptist
Medical Center

See more letters, Page A9

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.

False fire alarms steam student

Chefs need to watch when cooking up midnight snacks.

As I write this letter, it is 3:47 a.m. and I have just spent 20 delightful minutes in the temperate Winston-Salem climate, huddled over an air vent for warmth. I was barefoot and said vent was probably spewing toxic sewage gas that

Jelisa Castrodale
STUDENT COLUMNIST

has vaporized my crucial organs.

Why the hell were you outside, you must be saying to yourself. For fun? Profit?

Nope, I was outside because someone in my dorm decided that it would be a great time to get a head start on that recipe that they just clipped from *Martha Stewart's Living*.

Now I'm not Mr. Wizard, but if you leave something in the oven for an extended period of time while you ponder over how many calories are in tap water, you are going to cause a miraculous phenomenon that the Cro-Magnons recognized as fire. If any of you ever were in, oh let's say third grade, you'll realize that fire causes smoke, and smoke causes those neat-o things called smoke detectors

Now I'm not Mr. Wizard, but if you leave something in the oven for an extended period of time while you ponder over how many calories are in tap water, you are going to cause a miraculous phenomenon that the Cro-Magnons recognized as fire.

to start shrieking like an asthmatic bagpiper.

So, when students are awakened by the gentle 400 decibel alarm system, they have to spring out of bed, try to conceal their Thundercat underwear from their roommate and exit the building without uttering more than 14 obscenities. Meanwhile, your confectionary treat has developed the smell of a Barbie doll in a waffle iron and is coughing up puffs of smoke that would make RJR blush.

This is great to walk through on the way out to stand in the lawn waiting for the Fire Brigade to come and place the charred object in a container for storage until it is offered for dinner in the Pit the next day.

So why am I writing this diatribe? To warn you of the effects that occur after late night fire drills. First, your hallmates are all waiting for the fingerprints on the cake pan to be identified, so we know who to torment for the next two semesters.

If you wake up with your eyelids stapled shut, chances are you are a victim of what is known as "getting you back for being a moron."

Second, you have very possibly ruined the night for your hallmates.

Let me give you a scenario. After standing in the lawn barefoot, rogue grass clippings seek refuge between someone's toes, then form a new colony in their sheets after the person goes to bed.

This person wakes up the next morning looking as though she spent the night in the blade of the Yard Weasel lawnmower.

Not wanting to project this pollinated image to her peers, she is forced to take an early morning shower, causing her to be late for her public speaking class.

She was not there for the drawing of persuasive speech topics and is forced to give a speech on the cons of teaching children how to read.

Long story short, her speech is a failure, she fails the class and is forced to get a job as a television repair man in Amish country.

The bottom line is, before you get out Li'l Debbie's Make Your Own Snack Cakes Kit, make sure 1) that it's not after three in the morning, 2) that you've read the instructions 3) that you're not stupid enough to just leave it resting on the hot oven coils.

This is just a friendly reminder from the kid with the staple gun.

Now if you'll excuse me, the alarms are ringing again, and this time I'm wearing shoes.

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.

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