

# Recruitment

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make the major decisions instead of the girls who are rushing," freshman Aubrey Smith, who did not participate in recruitment, said. "They decide whether or not you will be allowed into their perfect little clique. They cut you based on 45 - minute parties."

"Guys' Rush is better than ours," freshman Heather Altenbern, who dropped out of Rush, said. "They get to know each other better before they pledge. Girls' Rush was based on superficial conversations. It wasn't really about you; it was about your image. It was based on what you look like and whom you knew in the sorority."

"I agree that Rush is a superficial project, but it's not like Wake is the only school that does it this way," senior Margaret Morrison, a member of Chi Omega sorority who served as a Rho Chi, or Recruitment Counselor, said. "In a lot of ways, part of the problem is the Rush rules for girls. The rules make it harder for girls to get to know sorority sisters, but I don't think there is really a better way that would be efficient."

Recruitment rules for girls include regulations that do not allow two sorority sisters to talk to more than two potential new members.

"Those rules make it awkward for sorority girls and Rushees," Morrison said. "Also, in a lot of ways it's really good to have Rush second semester, but in a lot of ways it would be nice to have it first semester instead." The National Panhellenic Council, not the university's Panhellenic Council, determines the rules for recruitment. The university's Panhellenic Council is an umbrella organization for all sororities on campus, which meets on a weekly basis to discuss problems, scholarship, philanthropy, and fundraisers. New rules this year included referring to rush as "Recruitment" and Rushees as "potential new members".

"This year we switched over to Philanthropy Day," senior Alex Williams, the president of the Panhellenic Council and a member of Chi Omega sorority, said. "Every woman went to Philanthropy Day at each sorority to see how philanthropy is such an important part of being Greek. At each sorority the women helped to make something to benefit that particular sorority's charity - one group made quilt

squares to make a big quilt, another group decorated IV bags, another group used stencils to make coloring books for children. It was our hope that the women would get to see a different side of sorority life - a more serious and three-dimensional side of the sororities. It provided a less scary atmosphere for the women to get to know the members of each sorority, and to remain comfortable and poised."

"Another change was that on Bid Day all of the sorority members and the pledges met outside Benson Center," said Tricia Richerson, the assistant director for Greek affairs and conference programs and a Panhellenic advisor. "It was a nice time for everyone to get together and celebrate being Greek before going off to their individual lounges."

An already hectic recruitment week was further complicated by an unidentifiable illness Jan. 15 in Benson University Center that caused many members of KD to become sick during their first party of Pref Night. There was confusion about how KD would continue with recruitment week, but the decision was ultimately made to hold the second party the following morning. "Kappa Delta was told that they could have their party on any day that they wanted," Richerson said. "We would have extended Bid Day as far back as they wanted. They chose to continue on with Bid Day rather than leave an extended period between Pref Night and Bid Day."

"Things couldn't have gone more smoothly," Williams said. "Several members of Kappa Delta said that was the best decision they made."

Many girls embraced recruitment as an opportunity to meet new people, and to tighten some of their existing friendships. "When I first came on campus, I thought there was no way I was going to Rush, but the more sorority girls I met, the less shallow Rush seemed," said freshman Joanna Lee, a new member for Tri Delt.

"Once I got to know the girls, the stereotypes started to fade away. I just want to get to know more good girls in my sorority, and strengthen my friendships within the sorority," Lee said.

Thirty-two of the original 387 girls participating in recruitment dropped out before round one due to grades. Three hundred and five girls participated in bid matching, and 278 girls, or 79 percent of the original 387, received bids. Five of the seven sororities filled their quota of 47 pledges, which is determined by the National Panhellenic Council. Most of the girls participating in Rush were freshmen, but there were also between 20 and 30 sophomores and a handful of juniors participating.



Will Wingfield/Old Gold and Black

## Let the bidding begin

Rho Chis, sorority Recruitment Counselors, gather during Rush to discuss the Bid Day ceremonies and rehearse a musical number to be performed the same day. Rho Chis temporarily disaffiliate themselves from their sorority in order to help Rushees to feel comfortable confiding in them.

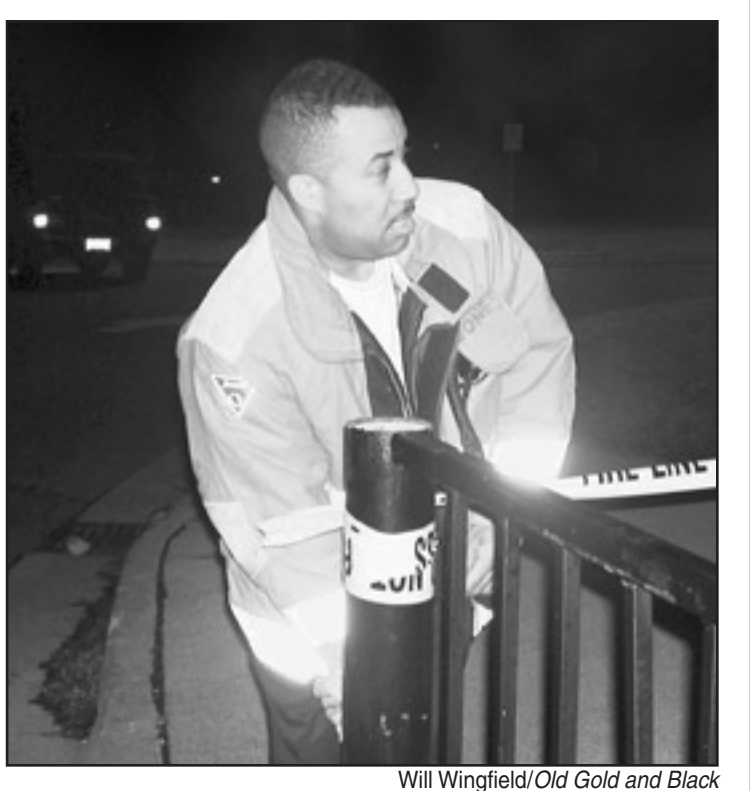
# Transfer

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The newly enrolled students were acclimated to the university with an orientation program that began on Jan. 13 and closed on Jan. 16. Students and their parents participated in many of the same activities that all new students experienced during fall orientation. Students also met with advisers and got assistance in registering for classes.

The students were treated to the traditional dinner with their faculty advisers. Perry Paterson, an associate professor of economics, who together with Paul Orser, dean of freshmen, organized the orientation said, "It was an energetic and happy group that arrived."

Patterson was also impressed with the number of parents that participated in orientation. "For the first time we had a lot of parents attending," he said. One new aspect of orientation was the participation of returning students, who got to know the new students and tried to help ease the transition into campus life for them.



Will Wingfield/Old Gold and Black

## Holding the line

A firefighter places caution tape around a Benson University Center entrance during the evacuation on the night of Jan. 15.

# IN OTHER NEWS

## Meeting in Cairo has little effect on Gaza

Israeli foreign minister Shlomo ben-Ami met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Jan. 17 in Cairo, Egypt. The closed meeting included Egyptian foreign minister Amre Moussa. The meeting was scheduled after well known Palestinian broadcaster Hisham Miki was murdered in a hotel restaurant in Gaza. Israel has denied that its security forces were involved in the shooting.

The meeting was not a breakthrough in peace talks but was scheduled because Arafat was to visit Cairo for his own meetings with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Mubarak then arranged the summit in a separate meeting with Ben-Ami.

"We are trying to double our efforts in order to bring down the level of violence and perhaps, hopefully, to eliminate it altogether," Ben-Ami told CNN.

Palestine and Israel are in the midst of a wave of violence that began four months ago and has killed close to 400 people. The Palestine Red Crescent society has reported that 339 of the people killed were Palestinian. The Israel Defense Forces say that 44 were Israeli Jews and 13 were Israeli Arabs. Negotiators from the two sides met again on Jan. 17 concerning a final agreement to curb the violence. Officials have expressed doubt that such an agreement can be reached before Feb. 6, the date of the Israeli election. The election is expected to be difficult for Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, who is running against hard-liner Ariel Ahoroin, leader of the nation's Likud party. Sharon has opposed almost all concessions proposed to create a peace deal. Israel partially lifted the restrictions on travel imposed in the Palestinian occupied Gaza on Jan. 17. The restrictions were put into place after the killing of a Jewish settler. The Gaza airport is also slated to reopen after all of Gaza was shut down following the discovery of the body of Roni Tsalah, the Jewish settler found shot to death near a Jewish settlement. Fellow settlers then rioted after the discovery, burning Palestinian property, businesses and homes.

The frequently changing travel restrictions are hailed by Israeli authorities as necessary to ensure national security though Palestinians have called them a "collective punishment" of their people.

## Ashcroft confirmation hearing continues

Senate confirmation hearings concerning Republican John Ashcroft's appointment as attorney general continued on Jan. 17. The hearing has been intense thus far and has been hailed by many as a sign of conflict between Republicans and Democrats to come. Democrats, skeptical of Ashcroft's ability to put aside personal political beliefs in enforcing the law, have used his record to demonstrate their opposition.

"When you have been such a zealous and impassioned advocate for so long, how do you just turn it off?" asked Democratic Sen. Charles Schumer of New York, referring to Ashcroft's record of conservative beliefs, specifically those concerning abortion. Schumer also said that many Democrats initially supported Ashcroft's appointment but upon further review of his record have become skeptical. "Now that your record has been more closely reviewed, the burden of proof has shifted to you," he said. Democratic Sen. Herb Kohl of Wisconsin said that it would be impossible for any attorney general to enforce the law "like a robot, as if the law is not subject to feelings of strong convictions." Kohl also said that "it is up to you to explain to us why your convictions will not permeate, dominate or even overwhelm the Department of Justice."

Ashcroft responded by pointing to his record as Missouri's attorney general. He said that he had protected the rights to privacy of people who had abortions and was against the distribution of religious publications in public school. "My primary personal belief is that the law is supreme, that I don't place myself above the law, that I shouldn't place myself above the law. So it would violate my beliefs to do so." He also said that if his religious beliefs ever came into conflict with his enforcement of the law that he would resign. His appointment has triggered negative responses from civil rights groups and women's rights groups. Those groups are upset at Ashcroft's opposition to abortion, though Ashcroft has said that he would not challenge Roe v. Wade. Groups are also concerned with Ashcroft's

opposition to a school desegregation busing initiative in Missouri. Ashcroft was attacked on that point by Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts to which he replied that the plan was not economically viable. "The thing was, the state was going to have to pay for everything the people volunteered to do."

Kennedy then asked "Where in your priorities were the rights of those black students?"

The hearing is expected to last until today, but could last into next week after the inauguration of president elect George W. Bush.

## Sale of convention center, Joel possible

The city of Winston-Salem has proposed improvements to the Benton Convention Center, which includes Lawrence Joel Coliseum and the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds, despite the fact that the property may be sold. The overhaul would cost approximately \$2.5 million and would completely revamp the heating and air conditioning systems. The old system has been in place since the Center's opening in 1970.

If the aldermen approve the project, three companies will be paid a total of \$2.5 million, \$250,000 more than expected to complete the project. The city has hired the consultant KPMG of St. Petersburg, Fla. to study how the convention center is operated and whether it should be sold. KPMG is being paid \$150,000 for the study, which is scheduled to be completed in March. Tom Fredericks, the assistant city manager in charge of the convention center said, "It's going to have to be done even if someone wants to buy it. That would just be figured into the purchase price then."

Joseph Falceto, Manager of the Adam's Mark hotel, said, "We like the situation the way it is, and we are concerned about the aldermen wanting to privatize the convention center. It also depends on who would buy it. It could for all we know be converted into a retail center."

Falceto and others have expressed concern about the city being out of the convention business. The city struggled to find money for the improvements at the convention center after residents voted against a \$7 million for the center in a 1997 bond referendum.

# POLICE BEAT

## Student arrested on drug charges

A student was arrested in Kitchin House for the possession of and intent to sell marijuana, cocaine and Ecstasy just after 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 7. Information about the incident was forwarded to Harold Holmes, associate vice president and dean of student services.

## Damage

An employee's vehicle, parked in Lot Y located in front of Worrell Professional Center, was hit and damaged between 8 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. on Dec. 5.

An employee's vehicle parked in Lot W, located next to Worrell Professional Center, was hit and damaged between 6:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Dec. 8.

The gate arm of the University Parkway entrance was damaged around 4 a.m. on Dec. 9.

## Miscellaneous

A door lock was damaged when a person tried to enter the Pizza Hut in Benson University Center between 2:15 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. on Dec. 6.

The driver's side mirror of a student's vehicle parked in Lot Q, located next to Scales Fine Arts Center, was damaged between Dec. 7 and Dec. 9.

A university employee assaulted a student and was involved in a disturbance outside Taylor House between 12:30 a.m. and 1 a.m. on Dec. 9.

The door glass to a study room in the Z. Smith Reynolds Library was damaged between Dec. 1 and Dec. 20.

The organ in Wait Chapel was damaged with a sharp object between Dec. 27 and Dec. 28. Estimated damage to the organ was \$3,000.

A university employee in Worrell Professional Center received threatening phone calls around 10 a.m. on Dec. 7.

University Police arrested a man at the University Parkway entrance to campus around 5:45 p.m. on Dec. 12 for displaying a fictitious license plate and driving with a revoked drivers license.

Six men were issued trespass warnings after being on campus without a legitimate reason in three separate incidents occurring on Dec. 9, Dec. 28 and Jan. 7.

## Theft

Two university-owned Christ-

mas wreaths were stolen from the doors of the Welcome Center between Dec. 1 and Dec. 4.

A student's wallet and bracelet were stolen from Bostwick Residence Hall between 5:45 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Dec. 10. The estimated value of the items was \$250.

A student's bank card was stolen and used to make purchases between Nov. 30 and Dec. 2. The card was left in the Wachovia Bank ATM Machine in Davis House.

A cellular phone was stolen from Benson University Center around 3 a.m. on Dec. 11.

A university employee's toy ball was stolen from the lobby of Reynolda Hall between Dec. 8 and Dec. 14.

A student's wallet and its contents were stolen and purchases were made with the student's credit card at the Deacon Shop on Sept. 11. The incident was reported to University Police on Jan. 4.

A man was issued a trespass warning after being on campus without a legitimate reason and removing tools from a vehicle parked outside Luter Residence Hall just after 8 a.m. on Jan. 9.

A student's license plate was lost or stolen from its vehicle parked in Lot J, located behind Collins Residence Hall, between Dec. 15 and Jan. 3.

University Police responded to 178 calls from Dec. 4 to Jan. 14, including 25 incidents and investigations and 153 requests for service.