

Student Government examines election reforms

By Kate Gibson
Old Gold and Black Reporter

As a result of the controversy that has surrounded the student government elections of the past two years, Student Government President senior Amanda Carlson has formed the Student Government Executive Advisory Committee on Elections. This group, led by senior Luke Fedlam, will review and recommend changes to the university's current SG election system.

According to Carlson, the committee will examine issues such as campaign finance, endorsements, and the various ways candidates can advertise their platforms. "Within a limited amount of time, they will investigate those items which they feel are most important and make changes where they can before the election process starts," Carlson said.

The committee is considering raising or eliminating the current cap on the expenditures of candidates. "Right now executive candidates can only spend \$75, an amount which includes gifts to the campaign. We are considering excluding gifts from that amount so candidates could get as many gifts as they want to," freshman Ashlee Miller, a member of the committee, said.

With regards to endorsements, the committee plans to examine the ways that public support of candidates by student groups will affect the nature of the election. "We're looking at whether it would change the election from a grass-roots, personal process to a process of mass appeal," sophomore Ryan Ramsey, a committee member, said.

The major controversy of last year's elections centered on the use of e-mail advertisements of a candidate. The committee intends to discuss legalizing the use of e-mail and voice mail during a campaign, and also the prevention of any abuse of such advertisements, should they become legal.

The committee will also explore the possibility of

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Ryan Ramsey, sophomore
committee member

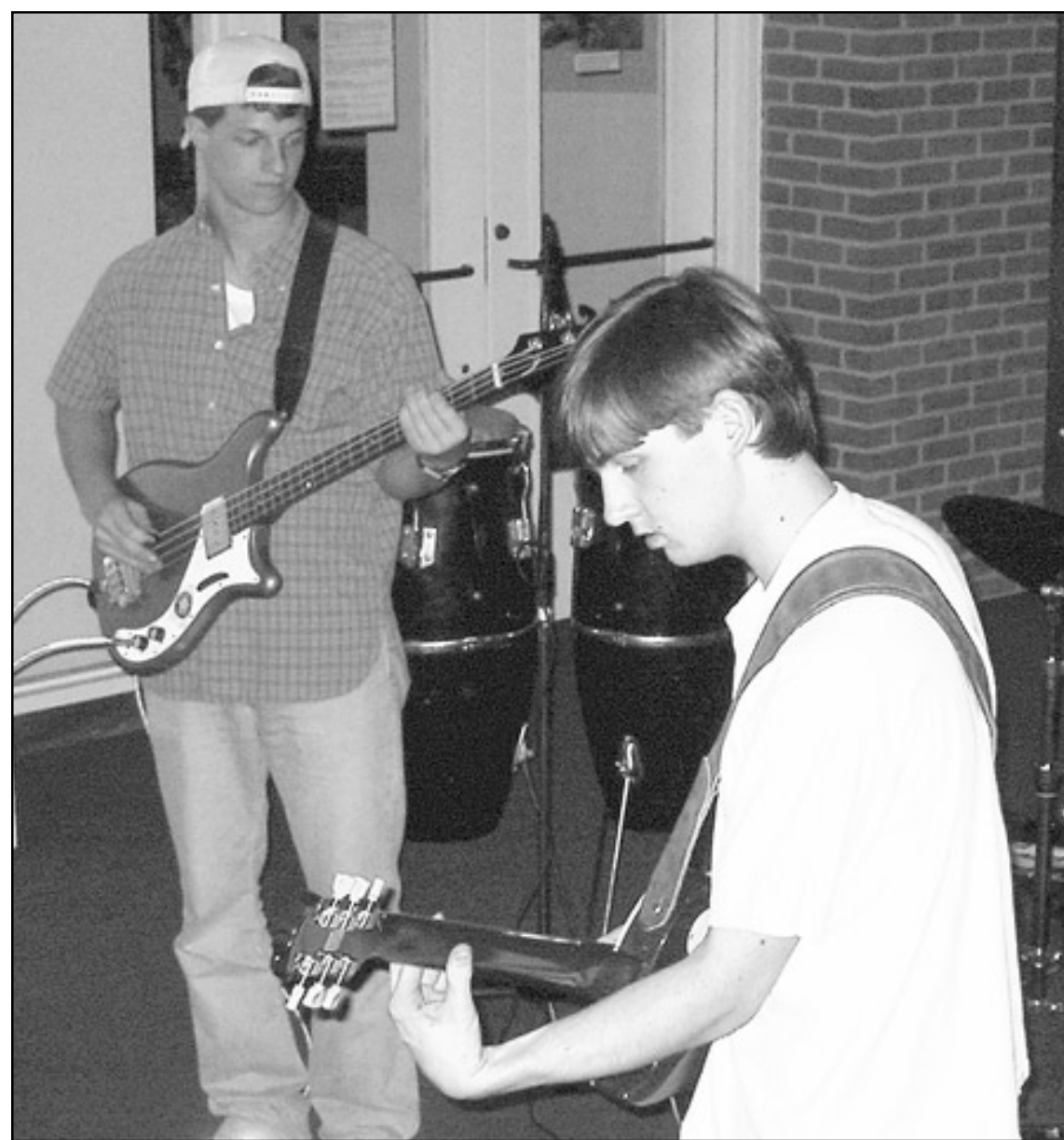
allowing students to vote online through the Wake Information Network. "We expect that since (Internet voting) is a lot easier, we'd have a greater voter turnout," Ramsey said.

A system of online voting would be designed to improve last fall's low voter turnout. Because of changing voting locations and lack of staff to man them, many students found last year's voting process confusing. "I live in student apartments, and we didn't understand where we should go to vote in previous years there had been boxes in the dorms, but not last year," senior Cameron Morris said. "I ended up not voting."

Though the Judiciary Committee studies the election process every year, Carlson felt that the recent election controversies called for special emphasis on the process itself. "We wanted to make sure there were people really pushing this issue. This Executive Advisory Committee working with the Judiciary Committee equals the election process changing," he said.

With the cooperation of the judiciary committee, the SG Executive Advisory Committee on Elections will formulate bills to amend the election system. These bills will be sent to the legislature for consideration.

Carlson also hopes that students who are not involved in SG will contribute to the election discussion. "We encourage feedback or information because we do what the students want to do. I think there were students who were dissatisfied with the elections process, in addition to candidates and that's



Kirsten Nantz/Old Gold and Black

Jammin'

Sophomores T.J. Martin and Miller Harrison of the band Almost There practice in the Scales Fine Arts Center. The band, composed of members of Sigma Chi fraternity, will be playing at 3 p.m. Jan. 27 on the Mag Quad.

Professor releases book on balancing responsibilities

By Phil Glynn
News Editor

For mothers with young children, the decision to work or stay home is not always a simple matter of dollars and cents, says Angela Hattery, an assistant professor of sociology.

Hattery, in her new book *Women, Work and Family: Balancing and Weaving*, takes a look at a timely and important concern of the modern family — whether or not mothers of young children should enter the work force or remain home with the family.

Hattery found that the reasons for the choices women make defy conventional wisdom. "The interviews suggest that economic need is only one of a host of factors which determined the labor force participation of mothers with young children," said Hattery. She said her research "confirmed what I believed but was contradictory to the literature."

For her research, Hattery interviewed 30 married mothers. Ten of those women stayed at home full-time, 10 of them were employed full-time and 10 of them were employed part-time. The women were taken from a variety of economic backgrounds, but all of them had an 18-month-old child at the time of the study.

She said the group was not very racially diverse, but that was a function of the population of the area in which the study was conducted, Dade County, Wisconsin. It was, however, economically diverse. "The lowest income family in the study made around \$20,000 a year for a family of five and the upper end was around \$350,000 a year," Hattery said.

Out of that study, Hattery was able to classify mothers into four groups: conformists, non-conformists, pragmatists and innovators. Hattery said these terms emerged from the interviews and that she had not had any groups in mind that she was looking to place people in. "I hope that people can find themselves in these

pages and feel validated," Hattery said.

"A lot of women feel that they are the only ones doing it this way. So this is a way of validating multiple options for balancing work and family."

Hattery said women shouldn't have to adhere to a model of the mother's role in the home and the workplace.

"There aren't just two options," she said. "There are other ways to combine work and family. If you just ask 'are you employed?' or 'are you staying home?' you are missing a lot of the diversity."

Hattery feels the book is very readable for upper-level college students, but will still be useful to scholars studying the subject. She also said this is an issue many women in college are dealing with already. "When I talk about this issue in my classes, a lot of women are already struggling with it," Hattery said.

Hattery's book began as a dissertation written during her graduate school years at The University of Wisconsin, which won the National Council on Family Relations New Professional Book Award. After winning the award and gaining funding for the project, Hattery thought only a few "tweaks" were necessary in turning the dissertation into a book.

She now says the book is "completely different" from the dissertation and that she had to "start from scratch."

She said, however, that the major changes in the structure of the writing did not sacrifice the integrity of the original work. In fact, she said quite the contrary. "I was so stupid not to write it this way the first time. It's so much better!"

Hattery credits students with assisting her in settling on a final draft of the book. Seniors Rebecca Strimer, Robert O'Kelley, Brenda Mock Kirkpatrick and alumnus Jim Fitzpatrick '00, helped Hattery in editing her manuscript during an independent study during the summer of 1999.

Wogaman

Continued from Page A1

held Jan. 24. He said, "What do you do when the cultural values and the social standards are themselves unjust or immoral and when there is a stigma attached to something that is really good?" Wogaman's response to this quandary seemed to be similar to King's. "We have to sacrifice social approval for the sake of a higher good," Wogaman said.

Wogaman suggested that our society's current view of honor is one that describes honor as the representation of society's moral and cultural ideals.

For example he noted that society honored a hero who plunged into the Potomac River to attempt to rescue victims of an airplane that crashed into the freezing water. "Honor, in some way or another, is a recognition of a person embodying the deeper values, of a community," he said. However, Wogaman also questioned whether honor has some more significant basis. He said, "Can moral life have deeper root or is it only a function of existing norms and values within a given community?"

Wogaman's lectures were relatively free of any references to Clinton.

However, in a press conference with local media

"We have to sacrifice social approval for the sake of a higher good."

Reverend Philip Wogaman
Pastor of Foundry Methodist Church

he offered a description of the former president. "I found him to be receptive, conscientious, thoughtful and extremely intelligent," he said of the former president, to whom he served as spiritual advisor. He also spoke about former Clinton's ability to communicate. "He is extraordinarily good at it," he said. He later said that only time would tell what kind of communicator George W. Bush would prove to be.

When asked about the Monica Lewinsky scandal, Wogaman said, "I would agree with everyone that was critical of his behavior."

In both his lectures and the press conference Wogaman touched on the topic of homosexuality. He said that homosexuals that wanted a committed relationship "should not be denied that opportunity." When asked if he was concerned about the implications of these liberal views for his career, he said, "I don't worry about my career."

Wogaman is a Christian ethicist who taught for 26 years at Wesleyan Theological Seminary and has written over a dozen books on the intersection of religion and politics.

Bush

Continued from Page A1

Bush will be following in the footsteps of such notable speakers as Maya Angelou, the Reynolds professor of American Studies, in 1985; cartoonist Gary Trudeau in 1986; Judy Woodruff, prime anchor and senior correspondent for CNN, in 1995; and most recently John Chambers, president and chief executive officer of Cisco Systems Inc., who spoke last year.

The Bush family is no stranger to the campus by any means. Bush's husband participated in the 1988

Presidential Debate here as did her son, President George W. Bush, this past fall.

"The choice of Barbara Bush is very appropriate since both her husband and son have won elections after having a debate at Wake. It puts an interesting cap on the year," senior Cynthia Mann said.

Bush has made a name for herself through her support of charitable and humanitarian causes and is most recognized for her work in literacy. She is honorary chair of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, serves on the Mayo Clinic Foundation board and supports foundations including the Leukemia Society of America, Ronald McDonald Houses and the Boys & Girls Club

of America.

Senior Jennifer Gunn enthusiastically awaits Bush's speech. Gunn, a Texas native, has seen much of Bush's work firsthand and is excited about the university's choice to invite her.

"I think she's a great choice. The Bushes have a home in Houston, Texas and I know that they have done a lot of great things there," she said.

Gunn cited the Bushes' generous donations to Texas A&M University as further evidence of their devotion to charity.

She also appreciates Bush's role as an advocate. "I support many of the programs she endorses and she's done a lot for literacy," Gunn said.

Inauguration

Continued from Page A1

of the future."

Lindberg traveled to Washington with some friends he met while working for the Ohio Republican Party over the summer. The event completed the political trifecta for Lindberg, who also was present for the Republican National Convention and the debate at the University.

While Potter and his friends went to enjoy the spoils of their hard work, others came with a different purpose.

A local group organized by Christy Carter, a researcher at the Wake Forest Baptist School of Medicine, went to Washington with protests in mind.

The group consisted of many local residents, as well as some students and teachers.

Participating in the widespread protests, the group marched on the Supreme Court.

"It was a great rally, probably one of the most diverse groups I've seen — with regards to race and age," said Nagesh Rao, an assistant professor of English. "It gave me a real sense of a rising activist movement, and I think that in the next four years you will see a lot more people getting involved and being heard."

"The protests were important because they send the message that even though voters were disenfranchised, the people will not be silenced," senior Sarah Rackley said. "We had to let Bush know that he will not be allowed to follow his right wing agenda."

By all accounts the ceremonies surrounding the inauguration of the 43rd president were very eventful.

There were parades and parties, protests and screaming fans, all culminating in a speech by the president described as "brief, elegant, generous, and even inspiring," by *Time* magazine.

The speech, given in front of an audience that included former presidents Bill Clinton

and Jimmy Carter, as well as former opponent Vice President Al Gore, described an America that in the coming years will be conservative, inclusive and above all, dominated by the will of the people.

Bush touched upon some of his campaign promises, vowing to "reclaim America's schools, before ignorance and apathy claim more lives."

In addition, Bush renewed his promise to rework social security and Medicare, cut taxes and to rebuild the military.

"We will build our defenses beyond challenge, lest weakness invite challenge," he said.

But the theme of the speech centered on Bush's desire to "return the government to the people."

"The most important tasks of democracy are done by everyone," he said.

"What you do is as important as anything government does. I ask you to seek a common good beyond your comfort; to defend needed reforms beyond easy attacks; to serve your nation, beginning with your neighbor."



Photo courtesy of Reuters News Service

George W. Bush is sworn in as the 43rd president by US Supreme Court Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist on Jan. 20. Bush's inauguration drew a large crowd of supporters and protesters.