

Progressive Action Network holds first open meeting

By Kathryn Spangler
Old Gold and Black Reporter

Twenty-four students attended the first meeting of a new student organization, the Progressive Action Network, held on Jan. 30 in Tribble Hall. PAN strives to work for progressive action on campus and in the local community by educating the student body on issues and maintaining communication with the administration in order to have changes enacted on campus.

"We kind of grew from last semester's Nader Committee and the group of student organizations that protested the School of the Americas," senior Sarah Rackley said.

The United States Army School of Americas, based in Fort Benning, Georgia, trains Latin American soldiers in combat, counter-insurgency and counter-narcotics. Many Americans oppose the school for some of its graduates' records of human rights abuses.

"We can bring about reform by joining together and committing ourselves to action," Rackley said. "We won't just sit around talking."

PAN does not define itself as a political

party, and Rackley emphasized that all members need not agree on every issue to become involved, just that they be willing to go out on campus and work to make change.

"Everyone who gets involved will become the actual leaders of the organization," Rackley said. "The organization is only as strong as the commitment of its members."

Students expressed their concerns during the first meeting about a number of issues, including the construction of a campus day-care center for the children of faculty members, the dispute over faculty salaries, the availability of birth control and the morning-after pill on campus, rape awareness education in local high schools and Jubilee 2000, which is part of a worldwide movement to cancel the debt of developing countries.

The members of PAN intend to select two or three issues they feel are the most feasible in order to form a cohesive vision for the group.

Several members of PAN are also involved with other progressive groups within the university, such as the Student Environmental Action Coalition, the Gay-Straight Student Alliance and the

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Winston-Salem chapter of the International Socialist Organization, which meets on campus.

"We talked about PAN not being made up of representatives of other organizations, but a group of individuals," senior Ginny Bunch, a member of SEAC, said. "The best thing is to work collaboratively. There are certain things PAN can do as PAN without SEAC."

"Two very local issues are environmental issues and the rape policy," Bunch said. Bunch presented several issues that SEAC had been working on independently and that would be compatible with PAN's vision, including the donation of leftover food from campus cafeterias to local soup kitchens, the installation of recycling bins in Polo Residence Hall and the Student Apartments, and the use of silverware and

real plates in the Pit. Currently silverware and real plates are in storage on campus, but are not being used.

Junior Kristen Yocum suggested encouraging Shorty's to buy only Free Trade coffee.

In April 2000 Starbucks Coffee reached an agreement with a fair trade organization to begin buying Fair Trade Certified coffee and marketing it in the company's 2,300 locations in the United States and on its Internet site.

Underpaid coffee growers in developing countries receive 30 - 50 cents per pound of coffee, while middlemen pocket the rest of the \$1 per pound paid by companies such as Starbucks.

Under the agreement, Starbucks will buy Fair Trade coffee at \$1.26 per pound from certified importers who have paid the farmers a fair price. Universities must request that Fair Trade coffee be used where Starbucks coffee is sold on campus.

"We have a hole in that we don't have a secular group on campus working against the death penalty," senior Reagan Humber said. Recently a vigil was held at Wait Chapel in protest of the execution of convicted murderer Michael Sexton, who

was executed Nov. 9, but People of Faith Against the Death Penalty sponsored the vigil.

It was suggested that PAN could encourage Student Government could pass a moratorium on the death penalty stating that students of this university want the death penalty stopped.

The sweatshop movement was also discussed at the meeting. PAN discussed urging the Deacon Shop to only sell brands that adhere to decent labor rights standards, and petitioning the ACC to use brands that don't employ sweatshop workers as well.

Students who attended the meeting were invited to begin circulating a petition calling for Congress to overturn a provision in the Higher Education Act of 1998 that mandates that students convicted of any drug-related offense, without regard to the nature of the offense or the offender, be denied eligibility for financial aid for periods ranging from one year to "indefinite."

"We definitely want to stir up action on campus," Rackley said. "If people disagree with us, that's fine."

The next meeting of PAN will be held at 8 p.m. Feb. 5 in Tribble A202.

Debate

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by the team before it would become a reality, according to Atchison. "It is something that is hoped for, but not expected," he said. The team is most proud of their performance at the Kentucky Round Robin Tournament, which took place Sept. 27 and 28. At this tournament the debate team was tied for first with six victo-

ries and defeated Emory, the eventual winner, in a head to head match-up. "We knew we could run with the others," Atchison said. "We thought we were good before that; now we actually knew pretty well that we were good."

Another important statistic is Atchison and Lotz's 92 percent preliminary winning percentage this season. "They are doing all this against winner," Loudon said. "Seventy percent is good but 92 percent is amazing."

In a tournament this weekend at Navy, senior Mark Yopp and sophomore Andrea Will went 4-2 in preliminary rounds. They then moved on to defeat Cornell 2-1 in the Round of 16. But eventually were beaten by



Seniors Jarrod Atchison (left) and Wes Lotz work on their research in the debate team's resource room. The pair attribute much of their success this year to being prepared and digging for facts. The work has paid off as their preliminary season winning percentage was 92 percent.

Safety

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She estimates that number means that roughly one in nine women on campus is the victim of some sort of sexual assault.

Taylor says PREPAR promotes awareness on campus about these sorts of issues. "While there are steps women can take to reduce their risk of sexual assault, ultimately it will take the men on our campus to come together and prevent rape," she said.

Dr. Cecil Price, the director of Student Health Service, says it's tricky to know accurately how many women have been assaulted on campus. Student health services offers a wide range of options for women who have been assaulted or raped, in addition to general gynecological health. Price estimates that more than the reported number of women raped have sought help through student health this year.

"I think there are more than five women who have had definite unwanted sexual activity this past semester," Price said. He said that students have often told he or his staff about unwanted sexual occurrences that happened in the students' past at the university, but were not reported at the time.

This disparity between reported rapes and the number that actually occur could be due to a variety of reasons stemming from a victims unwillingness to relive a difficult event to a desire to not publicize her pain. Senior Ginny Bunch feels that the disparity is, in part, because of campus ignorance to what really goes on. "I think the more awareness we have the better," she said. "But there are a lot of things that go on here that the greater student population isn't aware of. From reading our own policies in the handbook, I feel that some of the language is condescending and generates a feeling of apathy on campus."

Senior Amy Powell worries about the apparent increase of sexual misconduct. "Something like

seven reported assaults in the last ten months ... that's about triple the usual reported numbers," she said, "The increase of on and off campus sexual assaults really disturbs me. I'd like to see more being done to educate the campus and I'd like to look at other universities' policies and compare ours."

Taylor said, "There is no doubt there is a lot more that happens than is reported." Taylor, along with the rest of the PREPAR organization, is sponsoring Rape Awareness Week Feb. 12-15.

The university has made a number of improvements over the years to better protect female students from criminal and violent attacks. These improvements include a gatehouse at both the Reynolda Road and University Parkway entrances, improved lighting on campus, blue emergency call boxes in strategic locations and shuttles such as the RIDE van.

University Police Chief Regina Lawson said, "I feel like we've been very proactive." She noted that the emergency call boxes with night-visible blue lights have become an "industry standard" and that the university keeps up to date on safety precautions.

Lawson said she feels this campus, compared to other similar universities, rates reasonably well and sometimes better in many areas of women's safety. The university recently won a federal grant award of \$200,000 in collaboration with the Winston-Salem Police Department and Family Services, Inc. to implement a comprehensive program to address assault, domestic violence and stalking on campus.

Other colleges across the country, especially in urban areas, have elected to give additional protection to women by refusing to place female students in dorms on ground floor levels. Connie Carson, the director of Residence Life and Housing, said the university has never had a reason to be worried about women living on ground levels, "The reason most institutions do that is because of some kind of issue that necessitated a change. We have not chosen to go that route."

She felt putting only men on ground floors would imply that the university doesn't care as much for male student safety, when in fact that is not the case. Carson also said that very few female or male students have requested room changes because they feel unsafe in their residence hall.

OFF THE WIRE

Dartmouth murders unsolved, bloody handprint 'irrelevant'

HANOVER, N.H. - New Hampshire Attorney General Philip McLaughlin revealed little more about the Jan. 27 murders of two married Dartmouth university professors, Half and Suzanne Zantop, except that an arrest is "not imminent," and that the Massachusetts Hall investigation is "irrelevant." McLaughlin said the investigation of the bloody handprint in Massachusetts Hall turned out to be unrelated and that, as of now, they "have no idea" who committed the crime.

He refused to comment on any specifics of the crime scene, the killings or whether the police had potential suspects, but did say the documentation of the Zantop residence would likely be finished Jan. 30. McLaughlin maintained that the investigation team still could not rule out the possibility that the Zantops were victims of a random attack.

He also said did not know whether "one or two people or a small group of people" were the perpetrators. Some news organizations reported that there was a small apartment attached to the Zantops' home that was sometimes rented out. McLaughlin said he knew of no such apartment. McLaughlin said he did not think it would be "possible for the president of this university to be more cooperative."

McLaughlin said he is entrusting campus security to Safety and Security and the Hanover Police, but that there was no reason for unreasonable alarm. Meanwhile, Audrey McCollum told *The Dartmouth* that she received an e-mail from Suzanne Zantop at 8:33 a.m. Jan. 27, possibly narrowing the time frame in which the murder could have occurred.

-The Dartmouth

OSU players face media after teammates die in crash

STILLWATER, Okla. - Leaving the floor of the Coors Events Center after a tough 81-71 loss to Colorado, Oklahoma State basketball players probably thought the game against the Buffaloes was going to be the worst part of their weekend.

It wasn't. On the evening of Jan. 27, the third of three planes carrying the OSU contingent crashed, killing all 10 on board. Two of those killed, Nate Fleming and Daniel Lawson, were OSU basketball players.

Jan. 30, for the first time, two OSU basketball players, junior forward Fredrik Jönzén and junior forward Andre Williams, spoke to the media about the loss of their teammates. Williams said the loss of two of his teammates has "been a long process."

"These have been the longest three days of my life," Williams said.

And understandably so. Not only did Williams lose a teammate, he lost a roommate.

"My first step is just being able to sleep in my apartment, just knowing when I get up in the morning that Dan isn't going to be there."

OSU Head Coach Eddie Sutton said it's been a very traumatic experience for the team, and the best way to get through it all was to talk about the good times they had with the people who are gone.

"There's been a lot of happy times we've shared together," Sutton said, "and I think this is part of the healing process that I've tried to drive forward with the team that they need to remember this and they need to talk about this."

-The Daily O'Collegian



Will Wingfield/Old Gold and Black

What dreams are made of

Jennifer Lewin presented a speech Jan. 29 titled "Dreams, Eros and Agency" to an audience mostly of faculty members from the English department. Lewin, who is a faculty member at Sewanee, The University of the South, recently presented her graduate thesis at Yale University concerning dreams in literature.