

OPINION

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

False alarms place campus in danger

During the past few months, we have accustomed ourselves to hearing about anthrax mailings, bombs over Afghanistan and terrorist threats. But few of us expected the threats to hit as closely to home as they did Feb. 12 when students in Huffman Residence Hall and Poteat and Kitchin houses were evacuated due to a bomb threat.

What turned out to be a not-so-practical joke could have posed a serious danger to the university community. Our thanks to University Police and the Winston-Salem Police and Fire Departments, who responded to the threat in a serious and timely fashion. Not only did they fulfill their duties, they fulfilled them under more harrowing conditions than usual, as authorities across the nation were put on the most specific terrorist alert since the Sept. 11 attacks on New York City and Washington D.C.

In the same way that one should never yell "Fire!" in a crowded theater or "Bomb!" in an airport, one should never mail prank bombs, fake anthrax-like substances or the like. It is not only juvenile; it is dangerous and could have lasting repercussions.

Along the same lines, students should take into account that while we have many false alarms at the university and

this latest incident turned out to be a prank, the real thing could happen at any moment. We only have to look back at the dorm fires at Seton Hall university and the University of Missouri for examples.

Nevertheless, it is no secret that many of us choose to carry on through the incessant cries of the fire alarm and continue our naps, reading or shower because we know that chances are good it's not a real emergency. During this last alert, some students stayed in their rooms 45 minutes after the alarm went off. Fire alarms exist for a reason, and when one goes off students must pay attention and react quickly. In the case of an emergency, the last scenario rescuers need is a bunch of students trapped in their rooms because they chose to ignore the warning.

Much of this occurs because we have cried wolf one too many times, because one too many pranksters decided to pull the alarm on the way out. Perhaps stiffer penalties from the university and more follow-through after false alarms would deter students from intentionally setting off the alarm and in turn reassure students that the alarm they hear is real, not false.

In any case, false alarm or not, our nation is on high alert and we should be as well.

Minority center a progressive step

If it sounds like we've been congratulating the School of Medicine a lot this year, that's because they deserve it. Since the start of the school year, researchers at the medical center have had significant breakthroughs in cocaine addiction and stem cell research, and the medical school established a prestigious joint program with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State in biomedical engineering. On Feb. 11, the school announced the new research center on minority health, named after the university's very own Maya Angelou.

The center, which is designed to help bridge the health gap between minorities and the rest of the population, is another great step by Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in becoming one of the nation's leading health care facilities.

The research center is to recruit minority faculty and student-volunteers, providing strong learning opportunities and hands-on experience. While it's disappointing that only 1.7 percent of the Medical School faculty belong to a minority,

according to the *Winston-Salem Journal*, the new research center can only help attract a more diverse group of talented individuals to the area.

Furthermore, the research center will host campaigns to help promote prevention as well as treatment, an area seriously lacking in minority communities, particularly among non-citizens without health insurance.

Maya Angelou's name has helped attract a national board of high-profile figures, such as Coretta Scott King, Andrew Young and Clarissa Pinkola Estés, an award-winning poet and best-selling author. This impressive list of people will add prestige to the center and attract even greater talent to the program.

The university has taken yet another impressive step in furthering the well-being of Forsyth County and researching medical problems that affect us as a nation.

The university's medical program is making leaps and bounds this year and deserves every bit of commendation.

Matchmaker, matchmaker ...

V-Day: a sprinkling of romance, a dash of kerosene and one match.

Here at the *Old Gold and Black* we receive stacks and stacks of personal advertisements that do not make their way into each Thursday's issue.

I maintain that this is because the *Old Gold and Black* does not have a personals section, although some

Jay Cridlin

EDITOR IN CHIEF

might argue that we prefer students to remain single and unloved because they are then much more likely to do something drastic and newsworthy, such as writing their loved one's name in kerosene on the Quad and lighting it on fire. And you thought journalists were callous.

But in the spirit of St. Valentine's Day, I thought I'd play matchmaker and make these Mr. and Ms. Lonelyheartses a match, find them a find, catch them a catch. So without further ado:

SINGLE WAKE MALE seeks Single Wake Female for a night of fun, excitement and then, starting immediately the next morning, a period of avoiding eye contact that lasts for the remainder of the SWM's college experience. Interested parties, here, drink from this red plastic cup.

SINGLE WAKE FEMALE seeks Single Wake Male who isn't such a jerk. SWF wouldn't mind the occasional hook-up, but would prefer it to be with someone other than a SWM

SINGLE WAKE MALE seeks Single Wake Female for a night of fun, excitement and then, starting immediately the next morning, a period of avoiding eye contact that lasts for the remainder of the SWM's college experience. Interested parties, here, drink from this red plastic cup.

SINGLE WAKE FEMALE seeks Single Wake Male who isn't such a jerk.

who only clears the Papa John's boxes off his pile of soiled fleece North Face vests when he's preparing for a James Bond tournament with his suitmates.

SINGLE WAKE MALE seeks Single Wake Female who will hold on a second, dude. Like that wasn't SWF letting some freshmen suck shots of Captain Morgan from her bellybutton on Pledge Night.

SINGLE WAKE FEMALE keeps telling SWM that that wasn't her. If SWM wasn't so busy trying to stick his tongue down the throat of SWF's little sister, maybe he could have seen that.

SINGLE WAKE MALE could still name at least three of my fraternity brothers and at least one pledge with whom SWF has, shall we say, done the humpy hump.

SINGLE WAKE FEMALE will not dignify that with a response. SINGLE WAKE MALE says wow, that's a first.

SINGLE WAKE FEMALE seeks Single Wake Male who didn't spend all of freshman year playing *Resident Evil* alone in the dark and downloading acoustic Paula Cole bootlegs.

SINGLE WAKE MALE is all Biggie, yo. Ask anyone.

SINGLE WAKE FEMALE is sisters with the girlfriend of SWM's freshman-year roommate. SWF knows that SWM also spent a lot of time downloading –

SINGLE WAKE MALE must interrupt so he and SWF can talk this over before saying something they can't take back.

SINGLE WAKE FEMALE is listening.

SINGLE WAKE MALE admits that Single Wake Female has certain qualities that SWM finds appealing on a level beyond that of just the freaky-deaky.

SINGLE WAKE FEMALE's heart is melting, Enrique.

SINGLE WAKE MALE says how about this: Single Wake Male seeks SWF for a Valentine's Night dinner at the Village Tavern, a late screening of *I Am Sam* and maybe the tail end of *Six Feet Under* when we get back.

SINGLE WAKE FEMALE is ... quite surprised. That actually doesn't sound too bad.

SINGLE WAKE MALE will pick SWF up at 7:30?

SINGLE WAKE FEMALE doesn't know...

SINGLE WAKE MALE is sorry for his earlier personals ad in which he embellished SWF's resume, so to speak. SWM knows SWF only slept with one of his brothers.

SINGLE WAKE FEMALE is satisfied enough, she guesses. Valentine's Day, 7:30 it is.

And so once again, love has been discovered between two university students through the cunning romantic strategy of pointing out each other's flaws.

Tune into next year's Valentine's Day issue, when the *Old Gold and Black* will check in on this couple's status. In the meantime, beware of that kerosene smell on the Quad.



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If you wish to submit a guest editorial, call the editorials editor at Ext. 5280 at least two weeks in advance of the issue in which you would like it to appear.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tuition increase does not help pay teacher salaries

Wake Forest has increased its tuition dramatically in recent years. Over the last decade (1991-1992 to 2000-2001) college and graduate school tuition has gone from \$10,800 to \$22,073, a 104 percent increase. More often than not tuition increases have been justified by the administration's claim that the university needed to raise tuition in order to meet the needs of increasing faculty salaries and increasing faculty size.

The impression is given that faculty costs are driving the increases in tuition. Indeed, in the Dec. 6 *Old Gold and Black* John Anderson, the vice president of finance and administration, is quoted as saying "the (tuition increase) is not caused by our endowment, which only contributes 10 percent of our budget. ... It has more to do with our expense increases, mostly salary."

However the administration's claim that tuition increases are needed to support increases in faculty salaries is only partially true. Clearly, the rapid increase in tuition costs coupled with

the more modest increase in student enrollment has led to expanding the tuition revenue base of the university significantly.

Tuition revenue for the college and graduate school has risen 122 percent from \$45 million to \$100 million over the last decade. However, the expenditure on respective faculty salaries has not increased proportionally. Only 20 percent of the additional tuition revenue has been passed on to college faculty during the last decade.

If the administration had decided to spend the same percentage of tuition revenue on faculty as it did in 1991-92, the college faculty would have received an additional \$3.9 million in salary in 2000-01, over \$11,000 more for each faculty member.

If such proportional salary increases had been passed on to the faculty, University faculty would now be paid approximately what one would expect, given the university's national ranking and salaries at its relevant comparison institutions.

Senior administrators are now warning that next year, 2002-03, will be a year of austerity for salaries, one in which tuition will rise to meet "tough economic times." If they are

successful in convincing the board of trustees, next year's projected increases will result in a 5 percent increase in tuition, but only a 2.5 percent increase in faculty salaries.

That is, the administration is seeking an additional \$5 million in revenue from the college and graduate schools of which 7 percent will go to cover increases in faculty costs. Wake Forest may have sound reasons to raise tuition, but do not be deceived, the rise in tuition is not driven primarily by projected increases in faculty salaries.

Carole Browne

President

University Chapter of AAUP

See More Letters, Page A10

Our letters policy

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