

A campus divided: Two forums examine racial issues

Alpha Phi Alpha leads discussion on pros of historically black schools

By Susannah Rosenblatt
News Editor

Being lost in a sea of similar faces or sticking out uncomfortably as a conspicuous minority? That is the choice facing many black students when deciding which college to attend.

Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) versus multiracial or predominantly white institutions in their "Alpha Enlightenment" panel discussion Feb. 19 in Pugh Auditorium.

The panel was comprised of seven students: blacks, whites, women, men, students here and students from historically black schools Winston-Salem State University and North Carolina A&T University.

A crowd of about 50 students, mostly black, posed questions to the panel, which was moderated by junior Derrick Thompson, the Alphas' treasurer, and Tricia Richardson, an assistant director of Greek life.

Panel member Stacy Perry of A&T explained the benefits for African Americans in attending a predominantly black institution. "An HBCU is smaller than a Division I school, so you know about 70 to 80 percent of the people on campus," Perry said. "(HBCUs) come with a rich history, often with a civil rights attachment. (For black students) going there you'll get an up-close, in-your-face, personalized education; your whole experience is tailored to you being African American," he added.

"At a majority (white) school, you have to scrape ... to find a segue to get the same benefits as majority students."

Other panel and audience members disagreed. Panel member sophomore Hattie Mukombe found being a black student at this university, which is 11 percent minority, a positive experience.

"The community with minorities here at Wake is stronger than it would be at a



Amanda Jones/Old Gold and Black

Panel members (left to right) Stacy Perry of North Carolina A & T, senior Wayne Miller and Kevin Green of Winston-Salem State University field questions at the "Alpha Phi Alpha Enlightenment" Feb. 19 in Pugh Auditorium.

historically black school," Mukombe said. "The population tends to be like brother and sister; there's not that many of us here so we stick up for each other and stick together."

A white WSSU student on the panel, John Shilt, did not feel the same unity being in the minority group at a largely black school. "The white students at WSSU aren't like that," he said.

Other black students expressed mixed feelings about the stigmas attached to attending a predominantly white school.

"Sometimes I have to prove that I'm black, or, that I can still dance," Mukombe said in regard to attending a mostly white university. "The stereotypes are still out there."

Other expressed concern at the disproportionate state funding afforded white versus black institutions when schools like the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill afforded nicer facilities than an HBCU.

Financial concerns played largely into the decision of many of the minority students present to attend the university. The crowd laughed when Thompson asked if they would have come to school at the university without an offer of financial aid.

Freshman Nefertari Rigsby mentioned the cultural divide accompanying the simple racial differences between her and majority students here.

"I can't really relate to a lot of people who talk (disparagingly) about welfare and have stereotypes about people on welfare," Rigsby said. "How can you say (things about them) if you're never been in those communities before?"

Freshman Kimberly Jones explained she was the first individual in her family to go to college and that her family "didn't care if there was a sea of white parents or a sea of black parents at graduation, as long as I got a diploma."

Some felt the university had abandoned them after recruiting them. "I definitely feel disenfranchised here (as a black student)," said senior David Tann, president of Alpha Phi Alpha. "The university did everything it could to get me here, and then forgot about me."

Others cited how the university, consistently low in national rankings for diversity, lags behind comparable schools such as Duke University and Chapel Hill in minority recruitment.

Professor of psychology Charles Richman offered his thoughts on the university's accessibility to blacks.

"There's been an influx of African Americans since I got here, a great change there, but not in the number of African-American faculty and what's happening in the curriculum," Richman said.

Thompson, who helped organize the Enlightenment, was "basically trying to raise awareness (of racial concerns), and address topics that don't necessarily get discussed in the classroom."

Although no definite conclusions for easing racial tensions on campus were reached, students of both races presented and discussed their ideas. "The insights raised were very beneficial," Thompson said.

Panel addresses racial profiling and security discrepancies at Gym Jams, frat parties

By Jeff Harvey
Old Gold and Black Reporter

The policing of certain parties and not others on campus has led some to question the campus' racial policies. A diverse group of students and faculty met Feb. 20 in Pugh Auditorium to participate in the Student Government's Committee on Race Relations' panel discussion titled, "Racial Profiling and Security at Wake Forest University."

The committee held the forum to address concerns regarding racial profiling in the form of metal detectors at Gym Jam parties, traditionally sponsored by historically black groups, and random stops of minority students by University Police. Sitting on the panel were sophomore Chris Plumblee and Sergeant Robert Fisher of the University Police. Beth Hopkins, an adjunct of American Studies, served as moderator. Hopkins opened the discussion with a brief account of her experiences as one of the first black female students to attend the university. "But we're not here to talk about the 1960s and '70s, we're here to talk about today," Hopkins said. "It is obvious that some issues still remain at Wake Forest that were a problem when I arrived in 1969."

The core of the discussion focused around security measures at Gym Jams. Gym Jams are held in Reynolds Gymnasium a few times each year and are sponsored by traditionally black organizations. Such parties are typically attended by approximately 300 students from the university and area colleges. To enter the Gym Jam, a student must present a college ID and pass through a metal detector. Three University Police officers — two operating the metal detector and one roving the gym — attend these events, at which no alcohol is served. These parties were formerly held in the Pit and were often attended by upwards of 600 students. In 1995, though, university police responded to an overcrowded Pit Jam party by pepper spraying the crowd. The spraying was a controversial reaction to a situation in which university police officers monitoring the party felt in

danger. This incident resulted in the parties' move to Reynolds Gym and intensifying security measures at such functions.

The discussion focused on how Gym Jam parties are subject to so much security while other on-campus parties, even those at which alcohol is served, have virtually no security. According to Fisher, since the implementation of metal detectors at Gym Jams, only one razor blade has been confiscated at the entrance to the gym. "We can easily have 20 parties with no problems," Fisher said, "but it only takes one party with a gun to create a huge problem."

Fisher explained that these security measures are in place at the Gym Jams because the events, unlike fraternity parties, welcome a great number of non-university students. Fisher added that parties on the Quad are restricted by Party Compliance Officers, graduate students assigned to monitor alcohol issues at parties.

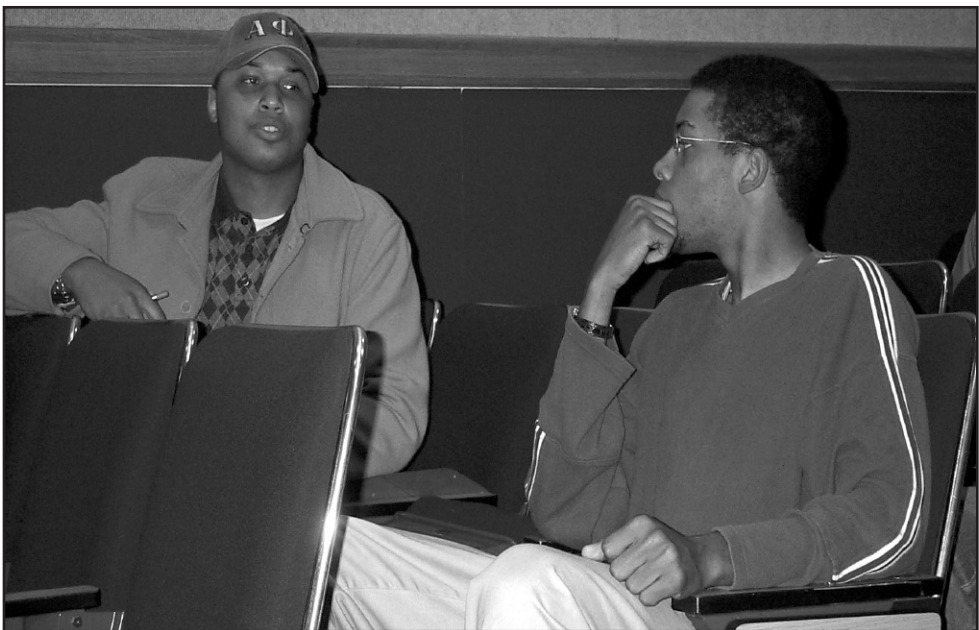
Many audience members argued that non-university students also attend campus fraternity parties. Additionally, many claimed that alcohol is virtually unrestricted at these parties regardless of age, which could cause problems not present at alcohol-free parties like Gym Jams. "This is a big issue that is often overlooked and avoided," said junior Jana Desouza, a Race Relations Committee member. "If the issue is security, then I want all my fellow students to be safe, but I don't feel that security is the problem. We held this forum to get this issue out into the open."

Fisher defended University Police against allegations of racial profiling regarding party security and stopping students on campus for questioning. "Our main purpose is to provide security for everyone," Fisher said. "Is there a need to stop people? Yes. We stop African Americans; we stop non-African Americans."

Some members of the audience, however, believed race was a factor in such issues. "From this discussion I sense there is a need for some action here," Hopkins said. "But let's get something going. There is always a lot of rhetoric on campus, but very little action."

The Race Relations Committee is prepared plans to make recommendations to SG and the administration in hopes of resolving issues of racial profiling on campus. "Racial profiling is a dirty reality in America and in the rest of the world," Plumblee said. "I think going to the administration is a step in the right direction."

"I think the panel discussion was excellent," said senior Sabrina Parker, the panel's coordinator and a Race Relations Committee member. "I am really hopeful. ... I believe we are making the biggest step toward our goal since I've been here."



Amanda Jones/Old Gold and Black

Alpha Phi Alpha president senior David Tann (left) discusses his experiences as a minority during the Alpha Phi Alpha Enlightenment in Pugh Auditorium.



Will Wingfield/Old Gold and Black

Professor Beth Hopkins and sophomore Chris Plumblee discuss racial profiling Feb. 20.

BRIEFLY

Campus organizations may have their announcements listed by sending e-mail to news@ogb.wfu.edu, faxing to Ext. 4561 or writing to P.O. Box 7569. The deadline for inclusion in each week's paper is 5 p.m. Monday.

Major declaration due for sophomores

Sophomores should declare a major by signing up for an advising appointment at the desired department Feb. 25 to March 1. Students who do not declare by March 1 risk being unable to register for major courses at the appropriate time. Advising conferences will be held March 25 to April 5. Students who do not plan to declare a major at this time, or who do not plan to return to the university in the fall, must notify Hallie Arrington in the registrar's office.

Theme year event features Time writer

Doug Waller, a congressional correspondent for *Time* magazine and university alumnus, will speak at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 25 in Pugh Auditorium.

Art student seeking video participants

A studio art honors candidate

is seeking participants to be in four videos on art and math. Students can sign up in the critique area of the art wing of Scales Fine Arts Center. For more information, contact Tamara Dunn at Ext. 8175 or dunntd02@wfu.edu.

Information available on health policy

Students interested in the interdisciplinary minor in health policy an administration should schedule an advising session with Michael Lawlor, a professor of economics.

The health policy minor combines health related courses in public health, economics, epidemiology and a number of electives. For more information, contact Laura Covington at Ext. 5534 or covinglm@wfu.edu

HES major information session scheduled

An information and major declaration meeting will be held for students interested in health and exercise science at 11 a.m. Feb. 26 and 3 p.m. Feb. 27 in Reynolds 209. This major is appropri-

ate for students with an interest in a number of health care fields. For more information, contact Gary Miller at Ext. 1901.

Applications available for Dijon program

The department of Romance languages is currently accepting applications for the fall 2002 program in Dijon, France.

Applications are available in Greene 323. For more information, contact Stephen Murphy at Ext. 5492 or murphy@wfu.edu.

'Life Changing' grants available

The Richter Scholarship Program provides up to \$5000 to students conducting independent study projects requiring travel outside Winston-Salem and internationally. Projects/experiences should be "life-changing."

Undergraduates with at least a 3.0 GPA are eligible to apply. Application forms are available in Reynolda 126 or Winston 243.

Contact Robert Browne at brownera@wfu.edu or Ext. 5569.

Application deadline is March 22.

Philosophy guest to give lecture

The philosophy department presents a Roebuck lecture with Alexander Nehamas of Princeton University on "Taste, Style and the Art of Being Unselfish" at 4:30 p.m. March 1 in DeTamble Hall in Tribble.

Information on Oxford program available

Students interested in summer study at St. Peter's Oxford in Medieval or environmental studies should contact Gale Sigal at sigal@wfu.edu or Ext. 5388 by Feb. 28.

Author to speak on life in ghettos and slums

Harvard-educated author Jonathan Kozol will speak at 8 p.m. Mar. 19 in Wait Chapel on his practice of living in ghettos and slums and then writing eye-open-

ing accounts of the realities of inequality and poverty.

Speakers to present talk on Old South

The department of history is hosting John Boles of Rice University and William Pettus Hobby, editor of the *Journal of Southern History*, who will give a talk entitled "What's New About the Old South: Reinterpreting the Past," at 7 p.m. Mar. 5 in DeTamble Hall in Tribble. For more information, call Ext. 4270.

Travel scholarship available for classics

The department of classical languages is accepting applications for the William Royall Scholarship, which provides an award of \$500 for excellence in classical studies, with preference given to students who plan to travel abroad to classical sites.

Students invited to enter poetry contest

The English department announces the annual Academy of American Poets poetry contest with a prize of \$100. Students may submit up to 10 pages of original poetry, having no more than

one poem per page. A cover sheet with the student's name, phone number, university address and the name of the contest is required. Poems should be turned in to Tribble C204 by Mar. 26.

Applications available for Salamanca

The Department of Romance Languages announces openings for its Salamanca, Spain program for fall 2002 and spring 2003. The deadline for fall applications is April 1.

Contact Justin Peterson at Ext. 5866 or petersjr@wfu.edu.

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