

# OPINION

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

## Housing selection causes undue anxiety

Once again the sweat-cursed, tear-plagued season of housing selection has rolled around. The months of planning, searching for roommates and praying for a good housing number are reduced to a few hours of selection and hostile glances shot at those in line who have higher numbers.

Students certainly benefit from the university's guaranteed-housing policy, and Residence Life and Housing runs an efficient selection process. Nevertheless, changes to several policies currently in place would not only help students relax about their choices, but would improve the system the as well.

All housing choices are currently binding.

Once a student makes his or her selection, he or she will be charged the full balance of the semester's rent.

With this policy, students are forced to make important, binding decisions with often less than an hour's notice. For example, students who don't get student apartments have to choose within the hour whether or not they want to live in a Quad single or opt for a double later on or look for off-campus housing options.

If there were a later drop period in which students could apply to be released from their housing agreement without penalty, this would greatly reduce student's anxiety about their choices.

Furthermore, if RLH were to utilize

the university's technological resources with greater efficiency, students could check online throughout the process for real-time updates on availability. In fact, we recommend that RLH and Information Systems look into modeling housing selection after class registration on WIN.

Based upon previous years' selection results and one's current number, RLH could also provide students with a more realistic idea of their chances to get their first or second choice. It would also be helpful to publish the previous year's cut-off numbers for each housing option.

While these odds may be rough estimations at best, giving students an idea about their standing would calm some students' nerves around campus and make the process run smoother.

Keeping records of how many students try to live in each residence hall and how many get in, if such does not already exist, would also give RLH a good idea of student demand for future rooms and buildings.

Moreover, RLH says it receives high scores from its annual survey. However, the survey does not ask compelling questions about the overall value of the process. Perhaps a more in-depth survey would provide truer, more useful results.

While we understand that housing selection is a hair-raising task for all involved, we believe that with a few minor changes it can at least be made slightly less unpleasant for both parties.

## Security Policy reform a big step forward

We would like to commend the university's procedures committee and Ken Zick, the vice president of Student Life and Instructional Resources, for their recent amendments to the Off-Campus Security Policy and congratulate the students who saw a problem, took the initiative to get it fixed and followed through until action was taken.

The Gym Jam policy, which previously had the appearance of racial inequality, has been altered to feature security comparable to that of weekly fraternity parties.

A student group of seniors Sabrina Parker, Jordan Wagner, Jared Klose and Lee Anne Quattrucci investigated the policy and catalyzed the change. They are a testament to others to do

the same.

The former Security Policy was antiquated and needed reforming. We have undergone serious growth at the university, and now, more than ever, older policies should be continually reviewed and changed as deemed necessary. The Gym Jam policy was one such case, and the lessened security is an encouragement to all parties involved.

Furthermore, we believe it was the best decision to allow students the option of more security at parties if they feel it is necessary.

This is one example that of effective communication between students and administration and we encourage both parties to continue on this path of improving our university together.

## Searching for sports greatness

The list of the greatest sporting events is not as clear-cut as it may seem.

A discussion arose recently between my fiancée and me concerning the manliest of manly endeavors: sports.

Now, you must realize that my beloved is as interested in large, burly men running around in circles while dressed in overly constricting

Elwood Hamilton  
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spandex uniforms as she is in differential equations. It's just not gonna happen. Her sports-induced apathy is to be expected, though – she has never once stepped onto a football field, nor would she ever want to. So her natural inclination to detest football is pretty much a given.

The same goes for all sports. Of course, I would never be caught even distributing water to the fourth string roster fillers in fear of getting accidentally pummeled – even if I had on pads – and I'm about as interested in the sport as they come. Sorry, those guys are about seven times as big as me.

The point is, there I was, discussing sports with someone who I knew was only humoring me. Wide eyed but yawning internally, she asked me, "What's the most exciting event in sports?"

Whoa. There was a doozy.

I was flabbergasted; I had no answer. There I was, brimming with confidence harvested by years of boxscore scanning and recap reading, and I was searching for my retort. I blurted out, because it was tourney time, "The NCAA basketball tournament."

Was I right? Was that even what I really thought in the first place? Well, I started thinking about it. And I found myself coming up with some very odd choices:

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### 5. The Masters

Say what? That's right. Golf – it's low impact, sure. It may be a sport, and it may not. That's not the issue here, though.

The greatest thing about golf is that the major tournaments last four days – not too long, but just long enough. There's the grass, the great weather and lots and lots of vendors. I play golf about as well as I fly a fighter plane, and I hardly watch the PGA besides the major tournaments.

But there's just something about the Masters – the mystique of Augusta National and all of the memorable shots made by the great golfers of the last century. You can bet that a premier golfer always wins The Masters. Only the best conquer Augusta National because the course is so blooming hard.

### 4. The Ryder Cup

I swear. I have no incoming checks from the PGA intended to reward me for giving the tour a generous injection of publicity.

I still have the most recent Ryder Cup event fresh in my mind, and for those of you who watched the entire event, you'll agree with me. The performance by the Americans was one of the best comebacks ever orchestrated. And who can forget the players' wives frolicking on the green after Justin Leonard nailed the winning putt? Classic.

### 3. The Stanley Cup Playoffs

The top three could go in any order. I am not a huge hockey fan by any means. Even though I was born

and semi-raised in the North, I don't follow the sport very closely.

My beloved town of Cleveland doesn't even have an NHL team, which makes matters worse. And I won't be able to root for the Blue Jackets for at least another two seasons – they don't quite yet resemble a real NHL team.

I love the fact that the Stanley Cup Playoffs are so long. All of those seven-game series and multiple-overtime games.

Mmmm. Call me superficial, but the Stanley Cup is the best looking of all the major sports trophies.

A trophy needs to be held above one's head with two hands, and a victory lap needs to be like lifting a recliner above your head while sweating and panting for a few hundred feet.

### 2. Men's NCAA Basketball Tournament

64 teams. So much parity, so little time. This year's tournament had its fair share of Cinderella stories, which are simply the best kind, especially in a college arena where players (technically) aren't getting financially reimbursed for their services. It's all about the game.

Most of the battles are ridiculously competitive, and like every year, my bracket was scratch paper only one hour into the tournament. I had lost three games by the end of the first day. I'm no Miss Cleo.

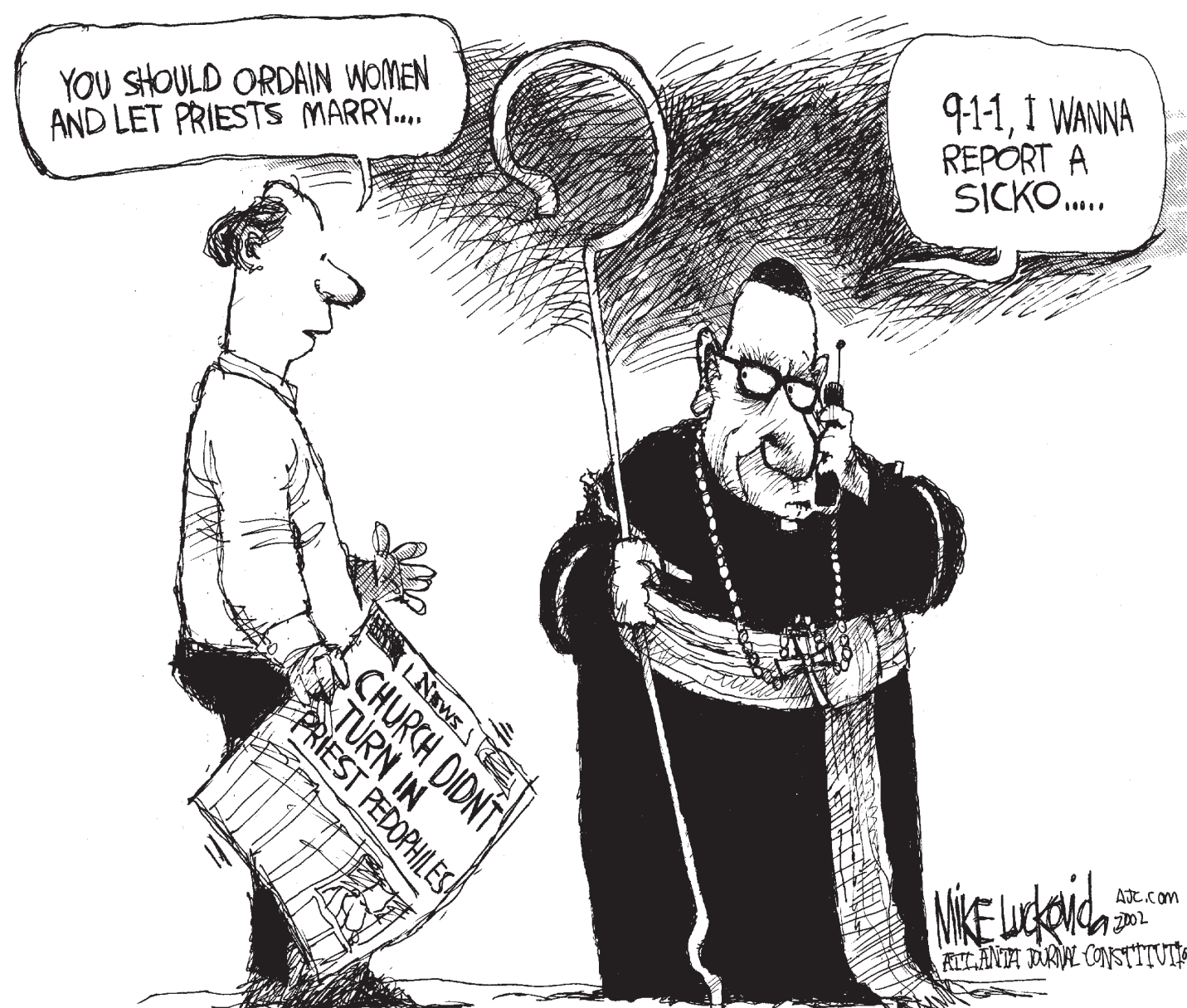
### 1. The World Series

It's been a great year for patriotism: it's gone from being a noble and honorable trademark that emerged from Sept. 11 to a kitschy American flag sticker that people slap on their trapper keepers.

So I'll give in to the trend and declare the World Series, the most American sporting tradition, to be the most exciting event in sports.

Baseball may be horribly mismanaged, but it's still entertaining. What's more entertaining than Bob Costas and Tim McCarver bickering about the validity of the hit and run?

We all know the Yankees will be there come October. But it doesn't make the season and its resulting grand finale any less entertaining.



## OLD GOLD AND BLACK

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Students participate in college sports as fans

I am writing in response to Martin Bageley's article column "Students should stop the sideline squatting." The article suggested that college athletes are in a sorry state, that most of the students do not play the sports and that the whole student body should get involved with intercollegiate sports. I am sorry, but that was the worst idea for college

sports I have ever heard. Students say "WE" because they are a part of the team on the court. The athletes represent the school that we go to. I came to this school so I could sit on the sidelines watching the Deacons play in the ACC. Not everyone is athletically gifted, and we need to put the best athletes on the court. In sports, there are players and there are fans. Should inhabitants of cities race each other instead of having the NFL or NBA? I am sorry if you were not gifted enough to play college sports, but I have accepted the fact that I

am a fan and love cheering on MY school.

Gregory Pulgar  
Freshman

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