

OPINION

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

SG candidates strong, motivated, ambitious

The year is winding to a close for many students. As some are looking forward to summer, others are looking ahead to the coming school year and searching for a way to represent the campus through what they see as necessary changes.

The *Old Gold and Black* endorses junior Ryan Ramsey for the position of Student Government president. Ramsey has served as this year's Speaker of the House as well as a committee chairman and cabinet member in the fall of 2001. His experience with SG, which dates back to fall 1999, coupled with his concrete ideas and organized execution plans make Ramsey an excellent candidate for president.

Ramsey is well known and respected among his peers in SG, demonstrating that he has the ability to work well with his colleagues. Ramsey is also one of few SG executive officers in recent history to seek an executive position two years in a row, a clear demonstration of his dedication and service to the student body.

As a result of his experience, Ramsey has already formed close professional ties with administrators, a crucial aspect of the position. Moreover, his election will give SG a sense of continuity, a strength that would serve him well as president.

If elected, Ramsey hopes to work closely with the admissions office to help increase diversity on campus. To achieve this goal, Ramsey looks to increase minority scholarships, recruit from often-overlooked high schools and compile student opinions in a report for the admissions committee. Should he be elected, the *Old Gold and Black* encourages Ramsey to use his extensive SG experience to enact change in these areas; but cautions him against falling into the trap of complacency that can accompany incumbents.

For the office of secretary, the *Old Gold and Black* endorses junior Jonathan Willingham. Though both candidates are strong and would fulfill their duties to the office, the deciding factor is experience and qualification. Most recently, Willingham has served as the co-chairman of the Year of Unity and Hope, the first student-initiated theme year, while also serving as the 2001-2002 SG parliamentarian and the Judiciary Committee co-chairman.

Willingham's agenda is clearly defined, and he is looking both inward to his position as well as outward to most effectively serve the student body. Specifically, he hopes to see an effective remodeling of the SG Web site to consolidate pertinent information into one homepage. Willingham also hopes to work closely with William

Gordon, the new provost, to help bridge the gap between the faculty and students and administration.

Willingham's opponent, freshman Jeana Harrington is also a strong candidate. Her campaign platform includes many fresh ideas, and we recommend that Harrington be considered for future leadership positions, including committee positions or possibly the chief of staff in the upcoming SG administration.

The *Old Gold and Black* endorses freshman Laura Bergfield for the position of treasurer. Having served this year on the Student Budget and Advisory Committee, she has worked with the current treasurer and demonstrates a clear knowledge of both the committee's strengths and its weaknesses. If elected, Bergfield hopes to make the process of allocating money more consistent while taking a closer look at organizations that spend too much or too little of their allocated budget.

Bergfield also demonstrates strong organizational skills and forward thinking in her belief that the spring semester should be used for putting the SBAC records in order and preparing the office for the next treasurer.

We encourage Bergfield in her desire to eliminate bias from the SBAC process and believe that the way to accomplish this is through stressing the importance of the responsibilities to the other members of the committee. However, we caution her against creating a rigid structure that would eliminate the role of discretion among committee members.

Finally, for the office of speaker of the house, the *Old Gold and Black* endorses junior Andrew Blaisdell. Although he running unopposed, we believe he is a strong candidate and will facilitate communication directly between legislators and executive officers. Blaisdell has proven his ambition through his willingness to campaign, despite the fact that he has no opponent. We agree with Blaisdell in his desire to streamline the legislative process while instilling in legislators the importance of direct contact with their constituents.

Throughout the 2001-2002 academic year, SG has proven itself to be active in bringing changes to the social policy by extending the party curfew, taking strides with the Gym Jam policy, bringing back Midnight Madness and initiating the Year of Unity and Hope. We encourage the next year's governing body to take these steps even further and continue to increase the prominence of student legislature and leadership on campus. However, if students want to see change enacted, they must fulfill their role in the process. To the candidates, we stress the importance of clean campaigning and following the rules, and to the students, we emphasize the necessity of voting in the online elections April 16.

Growing up is more than a diploma

Graduation is a time for fun and games but also a time for reflection.

When I reflect upon my last four years at Wake Forest, I think what I'll cherish most are the "high-on-life" highs. There was the time I nearly blacked out after a 48-hour study session for an economics exam on which I made a C-plus. There were the hallucinogenic

Jay Cridlin

STUDENT COLUMNIST

night terrors I endured one evening after consuming a platter of vinegary Pit noodles. And there was the milky-eyed catatonia I suffered when my retinas were whipped into pudding after I spent an entire night searching for old Camper Van Beethoven b-sides on Napster.

No sirree Frank, I needed no artificial toxins to achieve an altered consciousness at Wake Forest. Believe me, Wake Forest needed no help in that regard.

I bring this up because of a theme that was repeatedly rammed home during an informational session for graduating seniors April 9 in Wait Chapel. Time after time, we were encouraged by the speakers not to arrive at the commencement ceremony drunk.

Apparently, this had happened on numerous occasions in the past, yet I still had to ask myself, "Is showing up to one of the most important days of your college career sober - at eight in the morning, no less - the sort of thing students really need to be reminded of?"

I will be the first to admit that alcohol can be a good friend to many college students. There are certain seminar courses at Wake Forest that would probably be a little easier to sit through with the assistance of a bourbon smoothie, or, if you're desperate, perhaps a flask of Fruitopia

Perhaps we really do need to be reminded not to turn our commencement ceremony into a drunken Country Bear Jamboree, just as I sometimes need to be reminded that the use of the phrase "drunken Country Bear Jamboree" is not the sort of literary technique that most critics would point to as good, insightful writing.

and Bactine.

But showing up drunk to your own graduation? Is this how far we've come as students in the last four years?

Have we devolved from the point where Wake Forest is welcoming us into its student body with open arms through a congratulatory letter of acceptance, to the point where Wake Forest is simply begging us not to stumble across the graduation podium wearing nothing but our "Home of the Whopper" underpants, clutching a claret of 150-proof moonshine and attempting to French-kiss Sen. John McCain?

The question of evolution/devolution over the course of one's college career is an interesting one. I've actually been pondering the idea in my mind for some time.

For example, recently I came across and re-read some of the essays I included in my original application to Wake Forest.

Have I come a long way? Well, let's see. In one of my essays for my application for a Presidential Scholarship in writing, I managed to reference, among other things: Mighty Mouse, Abba's song "Fernando," the Incredible Hulk, *Sanford and Son*, Tony Little's weight-loss plan, and the phrase "steamy, exotic sex scenes." This is all completely true.

You will be shocked when I tell you that I did not receive a Presidential Scholarship in writing.

Now, let's flash-forward four and a half years later, to the most recent thing I've written: this column. I've already found ways to work in references to Camper Van Beethoven,

"Home of the Whopper" underpants, the phrase "vinegary Pit noodles" and the concept of sexually harassing a national war hero.

I think we can all agree that positive progress has not been made.

So you have to wonder, what has college done for us? Has it converted 900 talented, highly motivated high schoolers into a class of lecherous lusers who stay up late and have little to no respect for musical copyright law?

Perhaps we really do need to be reminded not to turn our commencement ceremony into a drunken Country Bear Jamboree, just as I sometimes need to be reminded that the use of the phrase "drunken Country Bear Jamboree" is not the sort of literary technique that most critics would point to as good, insightful writing.

I would like to think that this is simply what all college students do - they stumbled around drunkenly and say funny words because it amuses them in the here and now, if not the there and then.

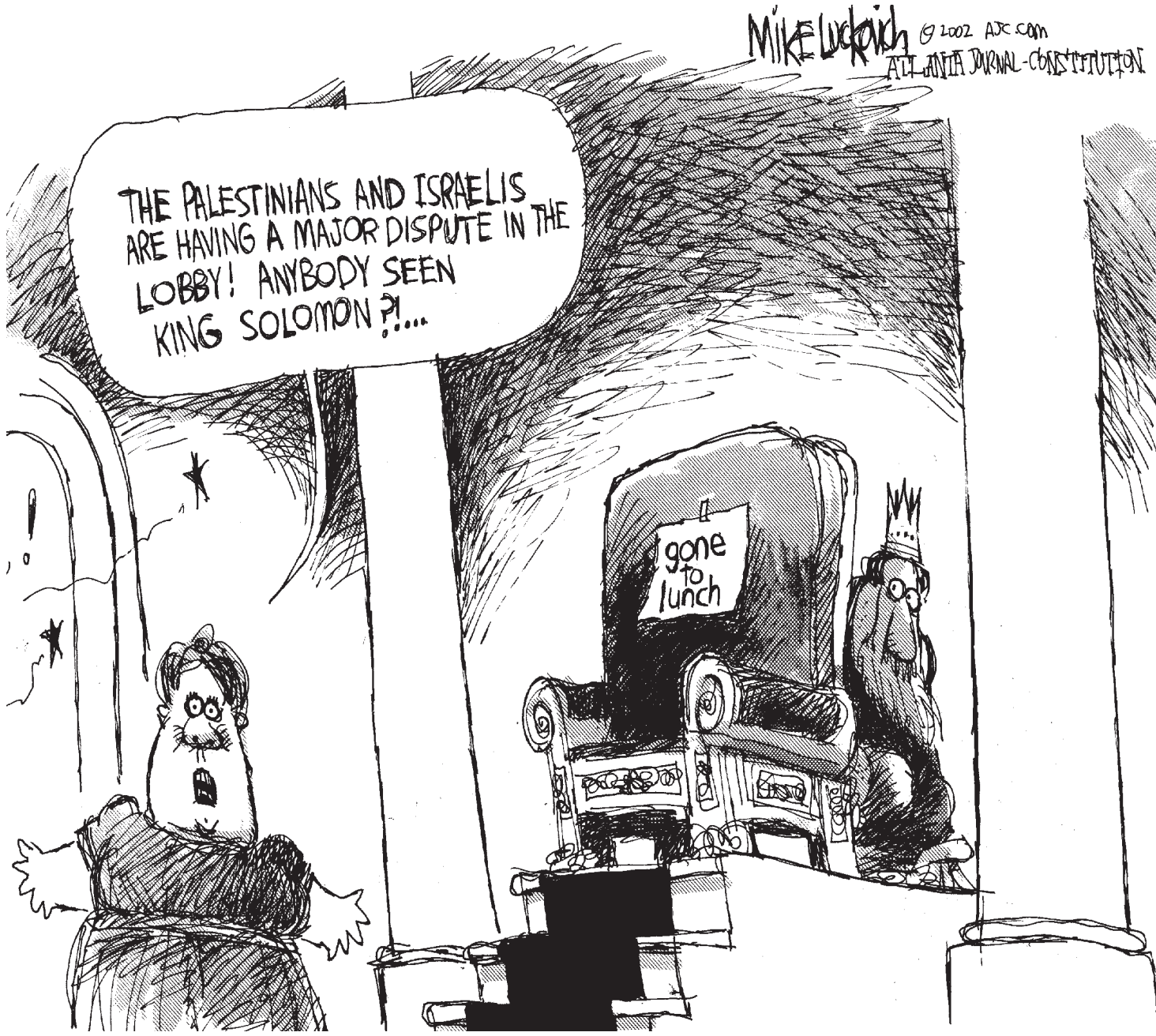
But I know that for too many people out there, we college students are an entirely detestable lot, operating wholly upon the impulses of the id, thinking only of the next way to have a good laugh, score a nice buzz or forge a uniquely inappropriate memory.

So while it may seem enticing to show up at graduation loaded on Tanqueray and mochachino, or to work in a reference to *Jake and the Fatman* in your newspaper column, let us remember that we arrived here with the promise that we could offer more to Wake Forest.

Our class's finest moment should not be marred by drunkenness, as are most of our weekends. The university deserves to remember us better, and we deserve to remember the university better.

Let's let graduation be another step toward a new adulthood, the cup of black coffee that shakes our drunken college stupor. If we all show up sober, no one will be more grateful than the parents, professors and friends who helped get us to that podium.

No one, of course, but John McCain.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Twenty-five years end with rewarding memories

This summer, after 25 years here at Wake Forest, I will be retiring from the university.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to the students, faculty and support staff for making my time here enjoyable and

extraordinarily rewarding.

It has been my honor to work with many talented, interesting and challenging students, and I have been fortunate to have good friends among the faculty and staff. The students, faculty and staff are the heart of the university, and I offer them my best wishes for their continued success.

Dave Weaver
Department of Anthropology

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