

# Tolerance a two-way street

Tolerance includes majority as well as minority views.

Tolerance is an interesting word. We know what it means and what its practice entails. Or at least we think we do. According to the good people at Webster's, I give you

Jordan Webster  
STUDENT COLUMNIST

tolerance: "a sympathy or indulgence for beliefs or practices differing from or conflicting with one's own." Nothing within that definition, nor within any of the auxiliary definitions of tolerance, hints at majorities or minorities, groups of any sort, or allegiances thereof. But in today's increasingly politically correct world, tolerance has been skewed far beyond its intended meaning. That much is easily gathered from little more than a cursory glance at the editorial section of this newspaper.

But before delving too far into that, a disclaimer is in order. Those individuals that chalked the Quad with pro-Christian rhetoric on April 14, hours before several hundred potential students took their first and/or final look at this campus, before making the most important decision of their lives thus far, should not have done what they did.

It's my opinion that those individuals that engaged in the chalking did not do so to "exclude" or "offend" any person or subgroup of this university's community; instead, they did so to promote this campus as one in which Christianity was alive and well, and that only. Attempting to convey that message (through

The same individuals that beg for tolerance of their minority beliefs should be held accountable for the tolerance of majority views. It seems asinine, and very much a double standard, for one to advocate tolerance and criticize another's use of the freedom of speech in the same breath.

the proper medium) is perfectly acceptable and is protected by the First Amendment. But the manner in which this message was transmitted bordered on obnoxious, apparently ran afoul of an obscure university policy and inconvenienced this school's maintenance staff, which was called upon early the morning of April 15 to rinse the chalk from the sidewalks.

However, these difficulties were not the crux of the issue for many - the message itself was.

"I felt more unwelcome than ever before in the home I chose for four years of undergraduate education," wrote Andrew Rigsby ("Chalking shows narrowness," April 18). "There is no room here for people who feel they have the right to force their views upon everyone else, religious or otherwise," wrote Ernie Hatfield ("Quad chalking offensive vandalism, indoctrination," April 18). Dustin Smith called the chalkers "ideological vandals" and "religious fanatics" ("Religious freedom taken to extremes," April 18).

It was the promotion of Christian ideals that it seems that these individuals took umbrage to most seriously. Had the chalkers chosen to coat the campus with fliers bearing the same messages, and thus cooperating with university policy, I have little doubt that the same people would be up in arms, complaining about how they were misrepresented, and crying for tolerance of their

views. Therefore the question of an honor code violation is irrelevant; it's a crutch used by critics of the chalking.

Also irrelevant is whether or not such a promotion is representative of this campus, or even of the Christians on this campus; any group could have taken the initiative to promote its particular belief platform, attempting to characterize this campus as a pro-(insert issue here) campus. That's the beauty of free speech.

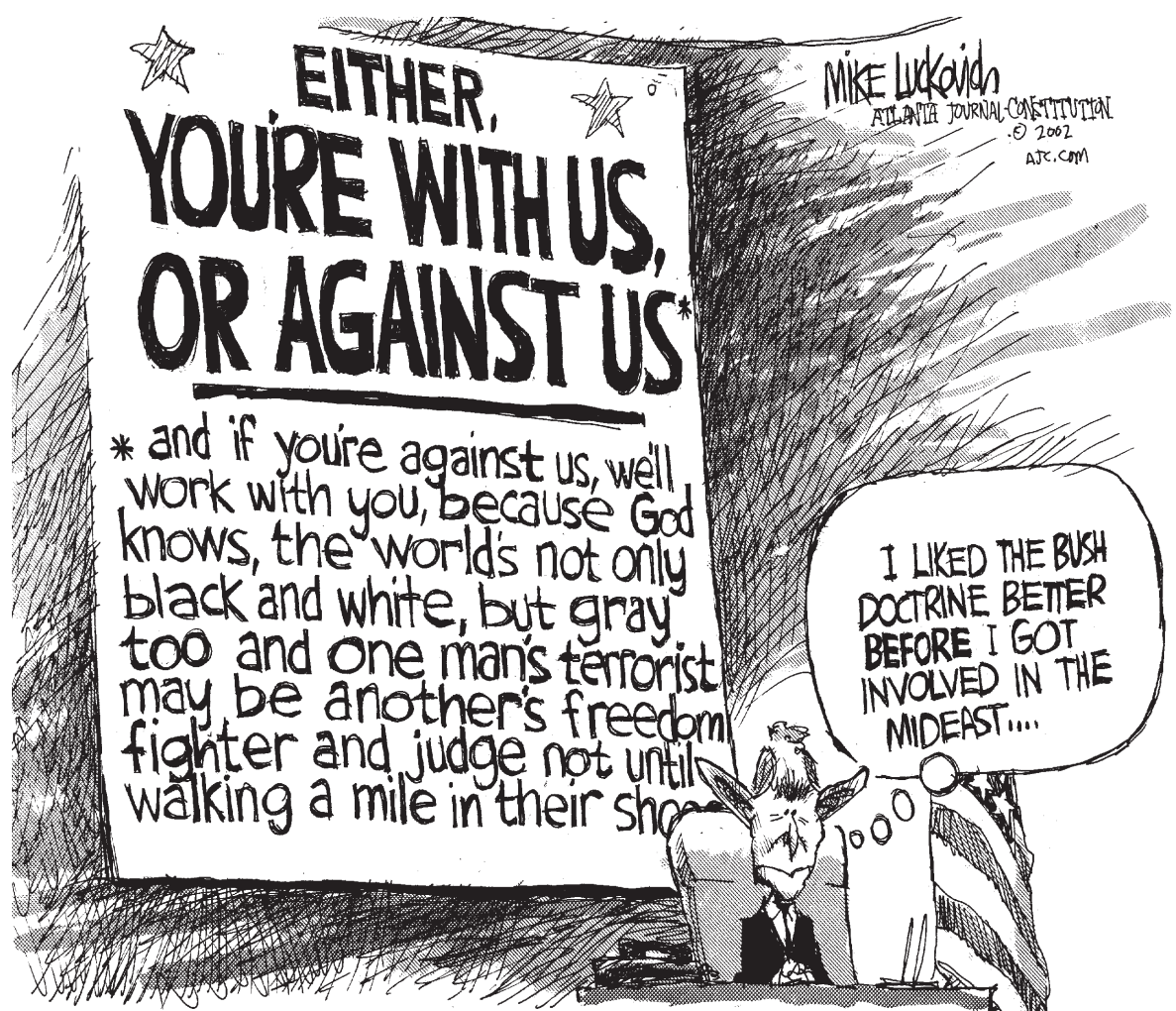
I am sorry that these individuals, and those for whom they may speak, disagree with the messages outlined on the Quad or were offended by them. And I understand what kind of image the chalking could suggest to potential students.

But whether or not Christians comprise the majority of the students on this campus is not important, their beliefs are just as worthy of "tolerance" as those of the minority. The idea of "tolerance" is not intended to preserve the beliefs of a few against the beliefs of many; it's a two-way street.

The same individuals that beg for tolerance of their minority beliefs should be held accountable for the tolerance of majority views. It seems asinine, and very much a double standard, for one to advocate tolerance and criticize another's use of the freedom of speech in the same breath.

Was the chalking on the Quad overzealous? Probably. But is it appropriate for an individual or group to promote the values in which that it believes? Absolutely. This was not, by any means, "indoctrination," as Hatfield wrote.

It was a collection of students supporting ideals in which they passionately believe, something that students all over this campus do every day, in various settings. And anyone who has a serious problem with that - now that's intolerable.



# Changes in European politics merit more concern, attention

With Europe facing dangerous new trends, media coverage must not go unnoticed.

While Colin Powell's peace mission was floundering in Jerusalem and Venezuela's military deposed a president only to restore his power two days later, Western Europe fell below the radar in the past week.

True, Afghanistan and Iraq deserve much

Doug Hutton  
STUDENT COLUMNIST

attention as possible centers of terrorism; Latin America also warrants our interest as many countries undergo tumultuous changes. Yet, for all its stability, we may have missed two key developments in European politics.

Few took notice when the entire executive branch of the Netherlands' center-left government resigned in the wake of an internal report that cited Dutch peacekeepers' failure to halt the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia, 1995.

The prime minister, Wim Kok, said the move was a gesture to atone for the political shortcomings behind the failed mission. Serbians, feeling that the report only confirmed what was already known, cried for further reparations or monetary payments.

Though elections are slated for mid-May with Kok's coalition behind in public opinion polls, the resignation of an entire elected administration is very unordinary. The move was without constitutional precedent and could have plunged an unstable country into anarchy.

Thankfully, the Dutch legislature was able to appoint interim leaders until election day. Certainly this scenario is a peculiarity in a democratic nation.

France, a country finally achieving a degree of stability in post-World War II governance, was shocked earlier this week by the showing of far right candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen in the primary presidential elections. The leader of France's National Front, Le Pen has become synonymous with neo-Nazism and

With Europe growing closer together economically and politically, a rise of extremism in one state can severely threaten the entire system. So while battles rage over territory in the West Bank and President Bush ponders whether or not to invade Iraq, we must remain vigilant over the democracy that has afforded us relative peace and prosperity.

anti-Semitism, claiming that the Holocaust was merely a "detail of history."

In finishing second in the primary, narrowly beating the favored socialist Lionel Jospin, Le Pen will face incumbent President Jacques Chirac in the runoff. What makes Le Pen's victory so outrageous is the policy options he wants to bring to French politics. He wants to shut down immigration in an effort to preserve French culture. Le Pen has also played on citizens' fears that immigrants are stealing jobs that rightfully belong to the French. Staunchly against the European Union, he hopes to undermine the efforts that have successfully achieved peace and cooperation on the continent.

It appears highly unlikely that Le Pen will win the runoff election, especially now that all parties in France have thrown support behind Chirac, regardless of political ideology. Even center-right governments such as Spain support Chirac, while British Conservatives call for Le Pen's defeat.

Extremism of this kind is nothing new to the Europeans and has recently made a resurgence. Austrian citizens have been notorious for voting for the extreme right, as evidenced by Jorg Haider's rise several years ago.

Remnants of anti-Semitism still remain in both Germany and France, with recent incidents of burning synagogues and protest marches.

With Europe growing closer together economically and politically, a rise of extremism in one state can severely threaten the entire system.

So while battles rage over territory in the West Bank and President Bush ponders whether or not to invade Iraq, we must remain vigilant over the democracy that has afforded us relative peace and prosperity.

We cannot drag our European allies into war if they cannot unify within themselves. Multilateral action is only as strong as the players involved.



# Students should approach campus security with common sense

A little extra caution can go a long way in keeping students safe on campus.

How safe do you feel on campus? Have you experienced something that makes you feel for some reason that the campus is not as safe as you once thought it

Chris Plumlee  
STUDENT COLUMNIST

was? With the recent news reports of peeping toms and intruders in the women's showers on south campus, it's no wonder that people are starting to reconsider how safe they are on campus. However, don't worry, because the administration is already working on a solution.

The answer is not to lock down the campus and prohibit anyone not a student or faculty member on campus, but the answer is found in a common-sense approach to campus safety. For instance, the peeping tom found in Chapel Hill is believed to have been at Wake Forest as well and allegedly has tapes and pictures of people from campus in various states of dress.

This could be easily solved if everyone took the time to shut blinds and windows when undressing. I can't imagine that anyone wants to look at me while I'm dressed, much less undressed, but it's just the thing to do to show common decency. Our resident campus stalker, however, requires a few stronger measures to combat.

If you haven't heard yet, you probably will hear about the "nice man" who came to south campus and snuck into some of the women's bathrooms there and generally made a nuisance of himself. He has been caught as well, but that doesn't change

The fact of the matter is that everywhere on campus, there are areas where we need to work on safety.

One instance is people getting into dorms and the Miller Center, as well as other areas where university students are required to use a keycard to enter.

the fact that nobody should be allowed into the dorms unless you either know them well enough to know that they are a student, and not just somebody who comes and hangs around outside the door every day.

I have guests from off campus come visit me, and I always tell them to call my extension from downstairs, and if they fail to get me, call some of my friends to let them in. I know it's sometimes inconvenient to leave your room to let some people in who might be family members or people who go to other schools, but let's face

it, obviously we can't just assume that everybody that wants to get into the dorms has a valid reason for being there. There have been other incidents that bear this out as well.

I don't want to give too much away, but there has been some talk of other people being followed and people being seen in places where they shouldn't be.

We all remember the indecent exposure artist that showed the entire campus what he was made of, so to speak, this past fall, but the horror does not end there. The fact of the matter is that everywhere on campus, there are areas where we need to work on safety.

One instance is people getting into dorms and the Miller Center, as well as other areas where university students are required to use a keycard to enter.

To let somebody in who is just waiting by the door is the height of folly. It may indeed be true that they are just waiting for somebody or that they have forgotten their card, but at the very least if you don't know them you

should take some note of it. If it's a dorm, ask them where they're going and who they're coming to see. If it's somewhere such as the Miller Center, mention it to a staff member there. It's not too invasive of their privacy, nor is it too burdensome on you to at least make the effort.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank all the members of the Wake Forest University security council for bringing this to my attention. I don't want to make this out to be too much of a lecture on security, but I think that our campus is a great place and I hate to see it ruined by a few people who are determined to do things they shouldn't and a few people who let them by not keeping an eye out for occurrences that are out of the ordinary.

Just remember, the campus can be made safer by the students taking action, and the administration can help as well. So, keep an eye on WIN for the campus security survey and fill it out when it appears. It's a small price to pay for a safer campus.