

# OPINION

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

## Eugenics program haunts university

A recent series of articles published in the *Winston-Salem Journal* has brought to light the historic involvement of Wake Forest's School of Medicine with North Carolina's involuntary sterilization program. In 1941 the department of medical genetics at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine was established under the direction of Dr. William Allan, an early proponent of eugenics – the movement to control human reproduction in an attempt to prevent hereditary diseases. Two years later, Dr. C. Nash Herndon, who succeeded Allan in 1943, wrote in favor of eugenic improvement of the population of Forsyth County. While the medical school today has condemned the eugenics research, the university's past involvement with North Carolina's sterilization program should be scrutinized and clarified for the future prevention of such acts. Wake Forest's history with eugenics goes back even further than the 1940s to one of the founding fathers of the university, William Louis Poteat. Poteat, a university graduate and President of the college in the early 1900s, openly embraced eugenics and advocated eugenics through his speeches and teachings. Although Poteat died before the creation of the Eugenics Board of North Carolina in 1933, he was influential in its acceptance. Poteat, however, cannot be solely blamed for the university's tainted past in the advocacy for eugenics research, and must be viewed in the context of his times. Whereas eugenics was at the forefront of medical science 60 years ago, genetic engineering and human cloning issues are at the edge

of science today, which makes the lessons of the past even more pertinent to the current medical school. In attempting to become the leader of biomedical engineering and research, the medical school should carefully examine the ethical standards which the school intends to follow when pursuing research – a measure perhaps overlooked by the founders of the department of medical genetics in the 1940s. The medical school needs to do more than simply condemning and disregarding the events that occurred in the past; instead, the school should work towards ensuring that the past is not repeated. Gov. Easley has already publicly apologized for the state sanctioned sterilization practices based upon eugenics, and the medical should follow the governor's precedent. Although the university of today cannot be held responsible for the events of the past, an apology should still be made. William B. Applegate, dean of the school of medicine, is on the right track in his stated intentions of formulating a committee comprised of faculty and administrators to look into the school's past affiliation with eugenics research and sterilization programs; however, the public should demand for the release of the committee's findings to set the record straight. Whether good or bad, the university must take ownership of its past. While the university's past role in sterilization programs and eugenics research is a definite blight on its record, the university will ultimately have to reevaluate how the past will reflect upon the current and future image of Wake Forest.

# Pledge Night is the new DDT

Stupidity and hormones reign supreme on this night of nights.

Wake Forest has some very enjoyable traditions, such as toilet papering the Quad, late-night breakfast with professors before exams, and getting punched when trying to change your order at Benson. Unfortunately, we are host to another tradition every year,



Krys Mroczkowski  
EDITORIALS EDITOR

a tradition that ranks right behind female circumcision in stupidity and pain. I am speaking, of course, about Pledge Night. According to my new Mary Kate and Ashley calendar, the syphilitic holiday is almost upon us, much to the delight of the losers who can't get any play throughout the rest of the year. But APO members aren't the only ones who look forward to this orgy of alcohol and boot-wearing floosies. It's a campus-wide event that somehow sweeps everyone up in its maelstrom of 24-hour retardation. Unfortunately, many students cannot remember what took place on Pledge Nights past, and this Friday will undoubtedly take its toll on the memory of a majority of campus. Therefore, I submit to you a diary of Pledge Night to serve as a substitute to any of you who may be wondering how you ended up with a colostomy bag and third-degree burns on your crotch. 10:05 a.m. – Woke up, took a

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shower and drove to Harris Teeter. I bought 80 dollars worth of beer. My parents are proud of me. 10:34 a.m. – Got back to my room and began drinking. I put in some Bon Jovi to get pumped up for the night. The song "Bad Medicine" comes on, making ominous references to the penicillin treatments I will need. 11:42 a.m. – Broke the seal and it's not even noon. I'm going to have a long day. 4:08 p.m. – Finished my first case. I'm starting to feel pretty woozy. When do these damn parties start anyway? 7:25 p.m. – My suitemates and I get ready to go out by funneling a couple beers. Unfortunately, I forgot that I had used that funnel earlier in the week to put oil in my car. My suitemate tries to convince me that the oil will give me brain damage. I assure him that the damage has already been done. 7:59 p.m. – I try to get dressed to go out. I have lost vision in one eye and find out that depth perception is crucial when putting your pants on. I leave the pants. They were going to end up coming off anyway. 10:45 p.m. – I head out. First stop, Lambda Chi! Just kidding. 10:49 p.m. – Arrive at the Kappa Sig

"lounge." They had already reached their capacity of 12 people, so I just chugged a couple more and headed elsewhere. 11:01 p.m. – Made my way to some frat's patio. Some girl comes up to me and says I'm on her "kiss list." I begin drooling, not because I'm excited, but because my face has gone numb. She moves to kiss me and I dry heave. She runs away screaming. I didn't even get to sign her book. 11:14 p.m. – I meet a kid named Mike Hock (say his name fast). I laugh for the next 30 minutes. Everything is hilarious at this point ... except the Banshees. They still aren't funny. 12:12 a.m. – I'm somewhere out by North. I've lost a shoe and urinated on a table. I think I just drank some Drain-O. Officer Slater is coming to talk to me. After all I've had to drink, he's starting to look somewhat attractive; the Kappa pledge class, however, still isn't. 12:25 a.m. – I ask a girl if she has seen Mike Hock. She punches me in the kidney. It doesn't matter because they stopped working about an hour ago. 12:41 a.m. – Where the hell am I? Everyone is speaking Vietnamese. I have soiled myself to keep warm. ??? – I can no longer read my watch and all I smell is bile. I think I'm having a religious experience. 4:01 a.m. – Ha-ha. Mike Hock. 4:02 a.m. – I'm vomiting more than a bulimic at Thanksgiving. I'm pretty sure I just threw up one of my ribs. Pledge Night is sweet. So here's a little toast to Pledge Night: May the beer be cold, the hook ups hot, the transmitted diseases limited and the rectal bleeding temporary. And there you have it, straight from the Horse's mouth.

Krys Mroczkowski, better known as "Horse," is a senior history major.

## New Grobe contract gold for Deacon football

At a Jan. 24 press conference, athletic director Ron Wellman announced the signing of a 10-year contract extension with current football coach Jim Grobe, solidifying a future of success for the Demon Deacons football team. In Grobe's two years at Wake Forest, he has managed to completely revitalize the football program. Grobe took the Deacons from a losing season of 2-9 in 2000 to two winning seasons with bowl eligibility in both seasons. With recruiting classes continuously improving, Grobe has ensured the promise of a football team with nowhere to go but up. The renewal of Jim Grobe's contract could not have been timelier. With his

success in reinvigorating the Demon Deacons' football program, rumors of Grobe's name circulating for high-profile head coaching vacancies had some fans apprehensive at the end of the season. Grobe's acceptance of the contract renewal, however, prove his commitment to the Wake Forest program and his tenacity in accomplishing the task he was set to complete – to take Wake Forest football to an even higher level of achievement. Grobe should be applauded for exceeding and outperforming the expectations surrounding a small school and for his commitment to making the football program a success.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Office of Multicultural Affairs deserves praise

While the Editorial Board's column ("Race relations is an issue for all students," Jan. 16) was well written and informative, it made a couple of assumptions regarding the Office of Multicultural Affairs that, quite simply, are not correct. First, there seems to be some confusion as to the purpose of the office. The Office of Multicultural Affairs has been established to provide a haven of sorts for the minority community of Wake Forest University. To that end, it has the ability to bring in speakers, conduct programming, and provide academic resources such as tutoring, mentoring and scheduling assistance for the express purpose of easing the transition (and experience) of that portion of the student body. The responsibilities of the office do not extend to the larger community of Wake Forest, insofar as the diversification of student life is concerned. That particular charge – the creation of a vibrant, inclusive, culturally varied milieu at the university – falls under the purview of such organizations as the Resident Student Association, Student Union and Student Government. In terms of the administration's responsibilities, perhaps more attention should be directed at the umbrella organization under which the Office of Multicultural Affairs falls, the Division of Student Life, rather than at the only segment of that structure dedicated to the betterment of minority students. Secondly, despite the fact that the office is not required to accommodate majority students, Dr. Oakes, Lamaya Covington, and Teresa Earl have gone to great lengths to involve, encourage, and unite students of all backgrounds at Wake. The office maintains an open door policy, readily extending assistance to anyone who takes the trouble to stop by. Its efforts have helped bring speakers like Cornel West, Sandra Guzman and Jonathan Kozol here; its multilateral approach has included co-sponsorships with various departments, student groups, and organizations on the local, state and national levels. Additionally, the relationships the office has cultivated with area universities have increased the exposure of, created opportunities for, and improved the perception of Wake Forest students. However, despite these facts, majority

attendance at office-sponsored events remains low. In short, the office of Multicultural Affairs – which has only three full-time staff members and limited funding – has done more than any other campus organization to achieve majority-minority interaction, though that particular responsibility is not a part of its purpose; majority students just do not show. It seems that whenever the issue of race relations is brought up, majority students look to minority students to take the first step. Apparently, the choice to attend an institution in which 88 percent of the students cannot relate to, and evidently are not interested in the life experiences of, their underrepresented peers does not constitute such. Moreover, minority attendance at majority functions, both social and academic, has failed to engender a reciprocal response. Perhaps, then, the real problem lies in the expectations and biases of the majority population. What would happen if they decided to step up?

William Perry  
Junior

## ROTC officer receives highest award

In many respects, this past fall semester was one of noteworthy accomplishments for Wake Forest University; witness the superlative success of the Demon Deacons women's field hockey and football teams to name but two stalwart campus institutions. I would like to respectfully point out an additional recent accomplishment, unknown to most, to all faculty, staff and students. This singular accomplishment was the selection of Captain Bill Ryan of the WFU Army ROTC Detachment as the U.S. Army Cadet Command General of the Army Douglas MacArthur 2002 Leadership Award Winner. This award, named in honor obviously of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, arguably the finest officer and gentleman ever produced in American military history, is awarded annually throughout the Army to outstanding junior officers who demonstrate superior leadership performance that exemplifies the ideals of duty, honor and country. An officer must not only have an understanding of human nature and the ability to develop cohesive teams, but also have exhibited intangible

aspects of leadership to include people skills, mastery of leadership climate and interpersonal communication ability. The competition is intensive for such an award, involving over 500 junior officers at some 271 colleges and university level ROTC programs nationwide. To be nominated, much less selected, for the MacArthur Leadership Award is in itself an accomplishment. Capt. Ryan, the detachment training officer and junior class military science adviser, has performed with exceptional distinction this past year. Bill has improved upon a strong program as witnessed by our Demon Deacon Battalion Cadet's performance at the summer 2002 National Advanced Leadership Camp. Our cadets excelled at Fort Lewis Washington, posting the highest scores of the 18 colleges and universities within South and North Carolina; in fact, their scores on such skills as physical fitness, land navigation, drill and ceremony, rifle marksmanship and leadership placed us within the top 10 percent of all Army ROTC programs throughout the country. These results were a direct reflection of Capt. Ryan's zeal, professionalism and selfless service. General MacArthur, as the Army Chief of Staff in 1933, in response to a question from a young college student about the profession of arms as a career, commented that: "In the commissioned ranks of the Army success depends solely upon ability and honest effort ... an efficient officer does not have a month-to-month or year-to-year job. He has a real life's work beyond this he has little – but to many men it is more than sufficient." Our great nation in general, and Wake Forest University in particular, are indeed fortunate to have such officers as Capt. Bill Ryan.

Major Bob Seals  
Assistant Professor of Military Science  
U.S. Army Special Forces

## Our letters policy

We welcome letters. Send yours via e-mail to letters@ogb.wfu.edu, by campus mail to P.O. Box 7569, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27109, or deliver it to Benson 518. We reserve the right to edit all letters for length and clarity. No anonymous letters will be printed.

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