

# Police action ruins ticket campout

Students innocently warming themselves are raked over the coals by Parking Management.

University parking. The very words prompt fear and frustration within virtually every member of the Wake Forest community ... especially students. Yes, students have had their fair share of parking problems, evidenced by the daily struggle to find parking spaces on campus and the infinite

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Fritz Vaughan

OLD GOLD AND BLACK COLUMNIST

amount of revenue the university collects from parking tickets. Some even suspect that the university brings in more money from parking tickets than the entire city of Winston-Salem. But all typical parking problems aside (reserved for another column some day), the problem climaxed on the night of Feb. 19 during basketball ticket distribution check-ins. Last Wednesday, 300 students witnessed what could be described as one of the most ridiculous abuses of power in university history. While hundreds of students attempted to further school spirit in the third rite of winter sports - a.k.a. the final basketball ticket campout - braving the cold every hour and a half to keep their place in line as Student Government called their respective ticket number, the University Police took it upon themselves to ruin the mood of the evening.

For those who do not understand how check-ins work, on the eve of ticket distribution students regroup at Spry Stadium every hour and a half beginning at 7 p.m. to retain their spot on the list. As the temperatures drop to freezing and safety becomes a concern with nightfall, students who live at the far reaches of campus and off-campus tend to drive to the stadium for their own safety and convenience.

Spry Stadium has limited general parking, but ample handicapped parking. For some obscure reason, there are 26 handicapped parking places in this particular parking lot, and I can safely say that half to three-quarters of them are not occupied on even the busiest days. None of them are ever occupied during the typical school day. If the University Police had not set a precedent of ticketing cars that parked in these spaces during campouts in past years, students may have avoided the curb for these lined spaces. But naturally, students assume that parking orderly along the curb for a maximum of 10 or 15 minutes instead of parking in one of the 26 handicapped spots that carry a \$250

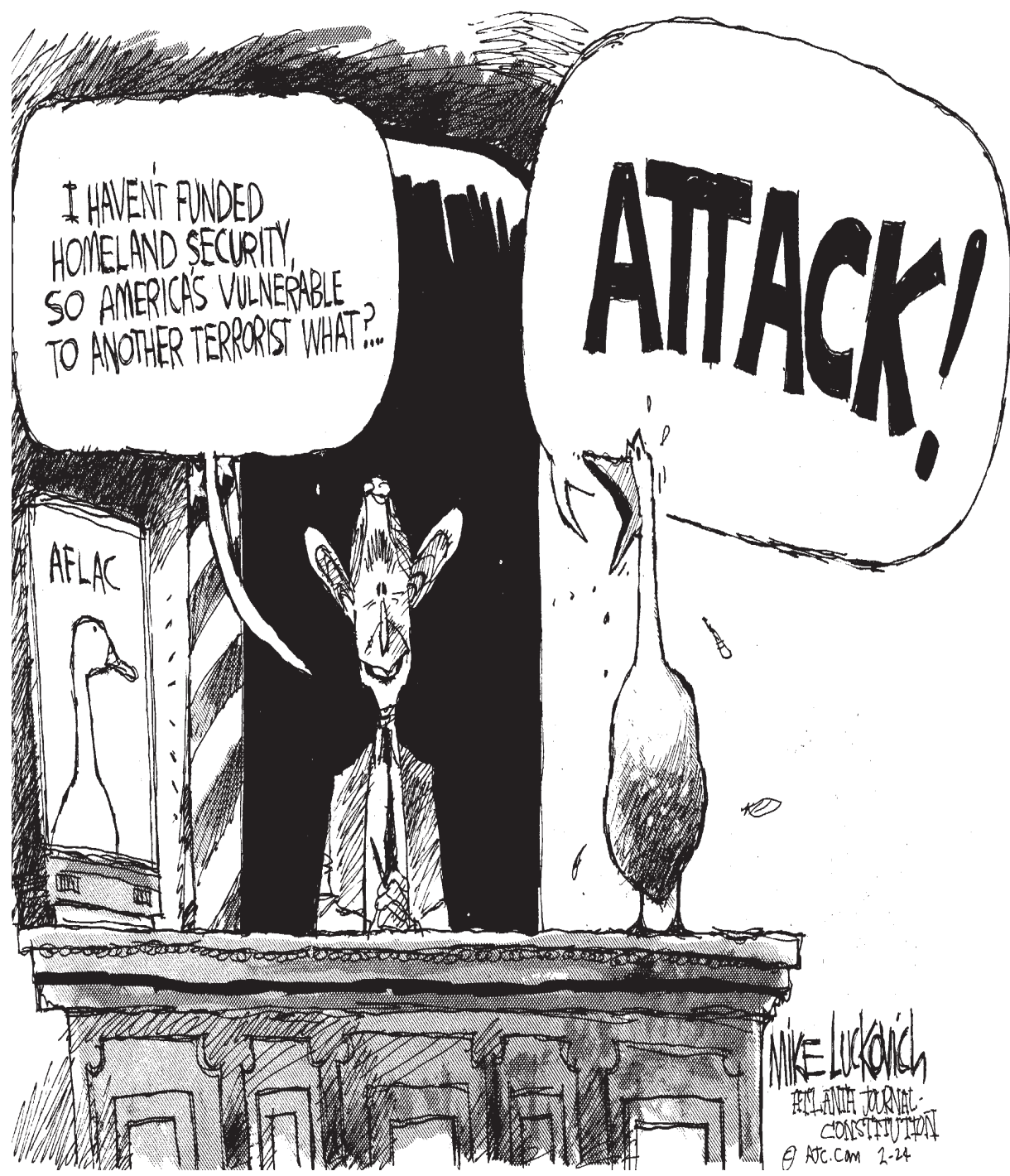
fine when there are no general parking places available is acceptable - especially since there are not any "No Parking" signs displayed. In spite of this, on this particular evening, the University Police decided to ambush innocent students during the 10 p.m. check-in, literally running to place tickets on cars parked in straight lines alongside the curbs. The policemen claimed that such action was necessary because the shuttle could not get through the parking lot during the previous check-in; however, these same policemen did not seem to have a problem blocking traffic with their police cars, parking in the middle of the road as students tried to exit the parking lot. Evidently, the shuttle and police seemed to also forget that North campus dorms and apartments are accessible from another direction than through the Spry Stadium parking lot. Is it really that difficult to go the other way at set times three nights a year? I think not.

Additionally, cars parked along the curbs during soccer games numerous times during the fall season rarely, if ever, got ticketed, which is one more reason why the average student would presume that such parking is legal for a very short period of time. I doubt that I am the only person who finds it quite a coincidence that when the targets were benefactors at soccer games, the University Police restrained themselves very, very well; but when the targets were students on Feb. 19, the University Police came out in full force to ticket cars.

Ironically, there were more policemen ticketing cars than dedicated to maintaining order during the campout. This should be particularly troubling when considering the handful of people who stayed at the campout site between check-ins who could have at any moment been harassed by unexpected assailants.

University Police are supposed to be on this campus to serve and protect. They are supposed to be here for the well-being of the students. Where is it in their job description that they should abandon this premise to take advantage of school spirit so that the university can steal a few hundred more bucks?

Fritz Vaughan is a junior political science major.



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# Not enough money to go around

SBAC must set priorities for the good of all organizations.

I am writing in response to an article in a recent issue of the *Old Gold and Black* ("Lack of support may tune out WAKE Radio," Feb. 13). As the chairman of the Student Budget Advisory Committee

Unfortunately SBAC does not have the funding necessary to meet the desires of every chartered student organization on campus. For the next fiscal year, SBAC only had \$514,209.80 to meet the \$742,814.83 of requests; SBAC has a limited amount of funding for all organizations.

- namely ones larger than ours - all of that funding is centralized in the hands of the respective student governments.

Furthermore, it is necessary to respond to the claim that SBAC was busy and quickly rushed WAKE Radio through the hearing. It is necessary that SBAC maintain a schedule to allow every organization 15 minutes in the hearing to explain why each requested item is essential. If this is not enough time (as hearings take place over the course of five separate days for five hours each day), and the organization feels that SBAC has not appropriated enough funding based on the information provided for its organization to fully function, then each organization is invited back to appeal the decision. The appeals process lasts over two days in three-hour increments. This is the proper venue to address these problems and unfortunately WAKE Radio did not come before SBAC for an appeal.

I appreciate WAKE Radio's apparent over-preparedness for the hearing (which was a comment intended as a compliment but perceived otherwise), but it is not true that SBAC does not support WAKE Radio. As is also clearly evident, it is not true that SBAC was attempting to push any organization out the door. We simply try to work as efficiently as possible to make sure that every organization has equitable treatment in the funding process.

Randy Gray is a sophomore and the Student Government Treasurer.

Randy Gray

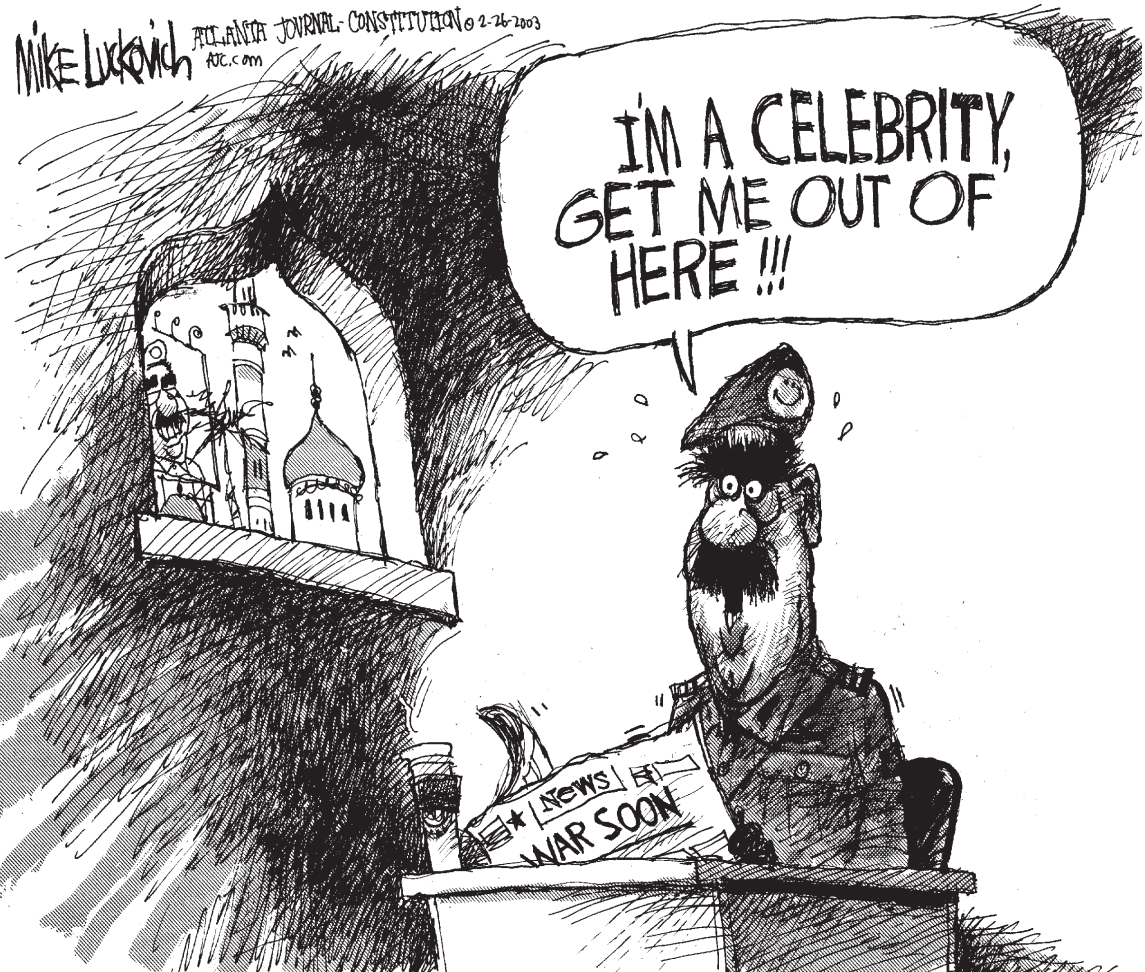
GUEST COLUMNIST

(SBAC), I strongly stand by every decision made by the committee. If an organization does not receive the full increase requested, it does not in any way reflect lack of support for an organization. SBAC supports every organization on campus. However, we have guidelines that we must follow in order to preserve equity for all organizations.

SBAC actually gave WAKE Radio a 1.66 percent increase this year, which means that WAKE Radio will actually receive \$200.66 more for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. This will bring their total for next fiscal year up to \$12,275.66. There are only nine organizations out of approximately 140 that receive more than \$10,000.00 as an operating budget. In addition to this, SBAC funded WAKE Radio, in collaboration with Three-to-Four Ounces, \$1,700.00 to put on a campus wide concert for the student

body. Beyond this, WAKE Radio has the ability to put together a capital plan; they may ask for funding directly from the university in order to update equipment that is vital for their existence. All media organizations on campus have this option.

Unfortunately SBAC does not have the funding necessary to meet the desires of every chartered student organization on campus. For the next fiscal year, SBAC only had \$514,209.80 to meet the \$742,814.83 of requests; SBAC has a limited amount of funding for all organizations - increases in budgetary needs takes away from other organizations. The reason that other colleges and universities do have this ability is largely due to the structure of student financial operations. Our student financial structure is very decentralized; students are able to seek financial assistance from Student Government, Student Union, university administrators, academic departments, corporate sponsors, donors and even other student organizations. However, at other colleges and universities



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# The crucial part of college is not studying, but living the life

The important part of college is the experience, not the knowledge.

As I walk along the worn out path running from my dorm room to the library, I often overhear students arguing about who has more papers to write that week.

Gerry Smith

GUEST COLUMNIST

of the semester. Passing a bleary-eyed freshman on his sixth cup of coffee, I wonder if this is really what college is all about.

It's a crazy world out there and the day we have to trade in our T-shirt and jeans for a suit and tie is right around the corner. But what you and I are really here for is to experience life outside academia, to make memories to look back on when we are sitting in our little cubicles typing up TPS reports.

Far too many people at this school have forgotten the true spirit of college life. It's not about knowing exactly where you'll be or what you'll be doing in 10 years and it's certainly not about finding your future husband or wife. It's about learning the important things, like discovering how one red sock can turn every white shirt you own to a

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pretty shade of pink. It's about learning to live with the freshman roommate who is on the phone for five hours talking with his "shmoopy." It's about perfecting the art of procrastination by checking IM away messages.

Being a student here is about sledding down snow-covered hills on cafeteria trays. It's about having Sunday brunch in the Magnolia room on a Tuesday afternoon. It's about eating Bojangles

chicken at tailgates and storming the court after beating Duke for the first time in seven years. It's about going to the Pat Green concert at Ziggy's and forgetting for a moment that you are not from Texas. It's about making the winning shot in intramural basketball game in the wrong basket. It's about going to the gym every day to stay in shape and then ordering pizza at 4 in the morning.

Wake Forest is about the birds and the bees and the toilet paper in the trees. It's about meeting the kid from Florida who's never seen snow and the kid from Boston who uses the word "wicked" like most people might use the adjective "really." It's about sitting in class between a 13-year-old child prodigy and a guy who is probably as old as your dad. It's about picking your professors according to the review

they received on virtualratings.com. It's about exploring the underground tunnel system and not getting caught. It's about using the light of the Chapel as the North Star when you can't even spell your own name.

I don't think any of us will ever look back and wish we had studied another hour for that chemistry final. Instead we'll look at the scar on our leg and recall the time we fell off the roof of a frat house watching the sunrise. We have the rest of our lives to get gray hairs over mortgages and paying for our own children's educations.

This is our last chance to be irresponsible, don't let it go to waste. So put away those books and follow me - we're streaking the Quad. This is college.

Gerry Smith is a sophomore.