

OPINION

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

SG candidates focus on social life

The *Old Gold and Black* endorses sophomore Richard E. "Trip" Chalk for the position of Student Government president. Chalk is currently vice-president of the Interfraternity Council and co-chair of the Student Government judiciary committee. He has concrete, realistic proposals that are both feasible and, if enacted, will be beneficial to the campus community. These include establishing a bus trip program to away athletic events and creating campus-wide tailgates at football games. Chalk also plans to seek other means of funding for social initiatives on campus which could include soliciting money for the coffeehouse from alumni or other donors.

Chalk's sophomore status will provide him with the opportunity to initiate proposals that may take more than one year to implement, potentially giving him more justification and sway with administrators. We encourage Chalk to use his potential two years to ensure a fully operational coffeehouse is installed on campus.

The *OGB* recommends both junior Jane Claire Choate and sophomore Francesca Winkler for the office of secretary. Both candidates have strong qualifications.

Choate has worked closely with the current secretary, senior Jonathan Willingham, in her position as SG press secretary. If elected, she plans to improve student's knowledge of ARAMARK prices through instituting visible price screens at the cashier and push for better relations within the Winston-Salem community.

Winkler has built a strong relationship with the administration she is a member of the university committee on admissions and attended both the 2002 ACC and President's Leadership council conferences. She is also well established within SG as Public Relations co-chair and a member of the physical planning committee.

While Winkler brings more experience to the floor, Choate outlined a number of good ideas. Both candidates would benefit the student body and SG.

For the speaker of the house position, the *OGB* endorses Junior Amanda Davis. While freshman Karl Brady and junior Amanda Reynolds, her opponents, have several good ideas that should be examined, the primary job of the speaker is to get legislators in the seats for the weekly meetings and ensure that the meetings run well. If elected, Davis will achieve this

objective. Her ideas on how to improve campus are perceptive and more importantly are realistic, particularly her plan to improve diversity one step at a time through increasing classroom discussion and interaction among minority and majority students and expand student involvement in downtown Winston-Salem.

Karl Brady, however, brought a number of good ideas to the table. He proposes extending library hours, for example, an idea that has considerable merit. We encourage Brady to run again next year after he has gained more experience.

For the office of treasurer, the *Old Gold and Black* endorses Casey Mull. He promises to be a responsive, diligent advocate for those student organizations that are responsible with their funding and those organizations that do not receive funding, but has laid out a plan to deal with organizations that are budgeted money but never spend it. His participation in this year's initiative to freeze funding for delinquent clubs and promise to continue and expand this program, as well as his commitment to use the SG emergency fund to get money to student organizations who were not allowed funding through the original SBAC process, shows a proactive attitude and a dedication to ensuring that student organizations get the funding they deserve.

Mull has spent time this semester working with the current treasurer and has made himself familiar with the process. This familiarity will ensure a smooth transition in this office, a necessity when the presidents of student organizations on campus do not carry over from year to year, and the new presidents must rely on input from the previous year's officers to do their jobs.

His opponent, Robert Wolfe, has many good ideas, and his thoughts on the relationship between Student Government and Financial and Accounting Services are not to be overlooked. Along with our endorsement of Casey, we charge him with ensuring that this issue is not ignored in the 2003-2004 school year.

This year's SG executive board has been one of the most successful and efficient in recent memory. We encourage the members-elect to follow the lead of their predecessors and work to institute proposals, such as the coffeehouse project, that needed more time than the current members could give.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Endowment statements ambiguous, misleading

In President Hearn's April 2nd letter to the Reynolda campus faculty, staff, and to the university board of trustees, he made the following statement: "Wake Forest's endowment, particularly our unrestricted endowment, does not yield the income for program support it did in 2000. (Our loss for these past two years—averaging 9.6 percent annually—has been about the average of comparable endowments.)" The first part of this statement is true, but the latter part is wholly at variance with the facts.

First, Wake Forest's endowment has undergone a meltdown during the past two years. Such losses are far greater than the annual 9.6 percent loss claimed above. In 2000, according to the *Chronicle of Higher Education* data (all data herein is derived from the *Chronicle*) Wake Forest's endowment was \$970 million; in 2002 it was \$733 million, a decrease of 24.4 percent. The mean annual loss therefore is 12.2 percent *not* 9.6 percent. Indeed, Wake Forest's endowment lost 16.2 percent of its value in 2000-1 and an additional 9.8 percent in 2001-2002.

Second, the claim that Wake Forest's losses have been "about the average of comparable endowments" is also untenable. The institutions with which Wake Forest most typically compares itself are the nine regional institutions referenced in the annual AAUP salary reports (the so-called "cross-admit institutions"). When compared with these institutions the performance of Wake Forest's endowment is ranked 10th (dead last) over the time period 2000-2002. The performance of the endowments of these ten institutions were in rank order: 1) Washington & Lee +5.5 percent; 2) Virginia -3.0 percent; 3) UNC-CH -3.1 percent; 4) Richmond -6.6 percent; 5) Duke -9.4 percent; 6) Emory -9.5 percent; 7) William & Mary -10.5 percent; 8) Vanderbilt -12.7 percent; 9) Davidson -13.1 percent; 10) Wake Forest -24.4 percent. The mean annual loss to the value of the endowment of these nine institutions from 2000-2002 was 3.5 percent *not* the 9.6 percent referenced above. That is, Wake Forest's annual loss 2002-2002 was 12.2 percent, the loss to comparable institutions 3.5 percent. Clearly, the university's endowment has not performed at the level of "about average." Indeed, Wake Forest's performance is nearly twice as bad as the next worst performing institution in the comparison group (Davidson). Moreover, Wake Forest's endowment has not performed at a level of "about average" even if the standard of comparison is *all* educational institutions for which endowment information is provided by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Wake Forest's performance in 2000-2001 was ranked 579th of the 610 institutions included in the annual report; in 2001-2002, Wake Forest ranked 453rd of 654 institutions.

Of course, the woeful performance of Wake Forest's endowment should concern all who care deeply about the future of Wake Forest's mission – its commitment to future generations of students, and the abiding prime directive of *Pro Humanitate*. The fundamental question, which has yet to be addressed, is why Wake Forest's endowment has performed so poorly over the past two years. The university community deserves an answer to this question.

Hank Kennedy
Professor of political science

Section X-13-1).

Essential service personnel must report to their workstations - period. They are exempt from all weather related announcements. In the case of personnel responsible for essential campus functions such as heating, electrical, etc., this makes sense.

Included in the "essential personnel" category are the custodians and housekeepers in Tribble Hall (and other campus buildings).

But, a few of these fine folks were suspended without pay for three days because they failed to reach campus by their appointed time of 6:30 a.m. on some of the days when the campus was closed or opening under delay.

It seems to follow that our custodians and housekeepers in our classroom buildings who are dependable, hard working, loved, and "marginally paid" are being punished when, through circumstances beyond their control, they were unable to perform a function the rest of us were not expected to perform.

We received 76 signatures to this effect on a petition from the following departments in Tribble Hall:

Education
English
History
Philosophy
Politics

John Litcher
Professor of Education

Activity fee will help SG, SU help students

We're not asking you for money. We are asking your parents for money, and by money, we suggest that your parents pay \$50 per semester in the form of a campus activities fee.

This campus activities fee, what may sound like a revolutionary or offensive proposal to you, is currently in place at almost every university across the nation. Instituting the fee will enhance, increase and diversify student life initiatives on campus. You attended a Wake all Night, you know about Springfest, you've heard about the new Student Government coffeehouse. These examples, and many others, are the sorts of programs that would benefit from a student activities fee.

Some student organization budgets, a mere fraction of those at comparable schools, have been static for years and most are currently facing decline due to the economic climate. If we accept our current state, student life as we know it will suffer dramatically. If you think that free concerts and large-scale entertainment events will flourish in the coming years without this campus activities fee, think again.

To address potential concerns, we would like to begin by stating that the Wake Forest Parents Council initiated this proposal. The leadership of Student Union and Student Government endorse this concept and are more than willing to fight for its implementation. In fact, we have already addressed the Board of Trustees, and they appear receptive to the idea. Finally, scholarships and financial aid will cover the student activities fee for aid recipients.

To close, we would like to remind you that the cost of providing annual free entertainment to the Wake Forest community totals well over \$100 per person.

We urge you to voice your support for this exceptional cause during Student Government elections on April 15.

Millie Kerr and Ryan Ramsey
Presidents of Student Union and Student Government

Suspension a disservice to loyal employees

Let's see if we have this right: We all receive an email or voice mail that the campus will close at (pick a time) due to inclement weather.

The email or voice mail message identifies respondents as staff, faculty and students.

We act accordingly due to the belief that the university is acting out of concern for our personal safety.

But wait, the message we received does not apply to persons who are listed as providing essential services to the university. (Human Resources Policy and Procedures Manual,

angry, disgusted and perplexed. How and why would a busy Wake Forest student decide to write a scathing critique of an event as "by the students, for the students" as Springfest?

To clarify: Springfest offered students more than free giveaways from companies like Volkswagon and Acuvue. Springfest was a four-day event organized for the sole purpose of providing relaxation and entertainment to a stressed-out, and let's face it, overwhelmingly apathetic student body. Student Union had no intention to bombard the campus with consumerism, but we of course welcomed the chance to receive creative and FREE opportunities from willing donors. The Student Union budget doles out a huge chunk of money to our annual Springfest tradition, and it was great to receive support from external forces.

If only our Wake Forest peers experienced the same appreciation.

John Harman: if a free entertainment extravaganza makes you want to shoot yourself, perhaps you should consider applying for a position in Student Union or Student Government (be sure to wear your clown nose to interviews so that we can recognize you). It's not as though we lured "scheming, oily" salesmen into your dorm room to overwhelm you with commercialism. We wouldn't want to make you that uncomfortable, and I would rather, as you said, "poke out my eyes," than chance catching you in your underwear.

Springfest was a social option, not a mandate. You didn't have to attend any of our events, and, unfortunately, many of you elected not to show. For those of you who have souls and a sense for fun, we hope that you enjoyed yourselves. And remember, contrary to what Ms. Zelig stated ("this was the first time I've been treated by the university..."), the Wake Forest Student Union and a slew of other groups and individuals volunteer daily to bring you a little relief from the intellectual agony that is sometimes our school.

Springfest is a success, a tradition, and only one of many such opportunities for entertainment.

Millie Kerr
Student Union President

Angelou deserves better from OGB writers

In the editorial ("Horse Waxes Poetic..." April 3), I don't know whether Kryz Mroczkowski was going for humor -- with terribly ill-fated results -- or whether the attempt was to be inappropriate and disrespectful of one of Wake's best professors - in which case it was a resounding success - but this piece does not belong in the *OGB*.

As a fairly recent Wake graduate, I read the *OGB* online from time to time, and you guys can do better than this.

Take Dr. Angelou's class, as I did, get to know her a little bit, do the research that any credible journalist would do, and then write an article about her that does justice to the quality of her teaching and the fascinating life she has led.

She's an amazing lady who has extraordinary experiences to share. Kryz, you're an editor, you should have axed your own work long before it got to print. Comedy and satire are not your strong suits, nor apparently is enhancing the credibility of the *OGB* or your university. Whatever your attempt was, I doubt Dr. Angelou would find the humor in your "article."

I sincerely hope that for Wake's sake, and Dr. Angelou's sake, I am missing some kind of inside joke here, because otherwise you should be ashamed of publishing something in such poor taste.

J. Blake Nolan
Class of '99

Condemning Springfest poor practice for student

Considering the smooth and uneventful state of international and local affairs, the *Old Gold and Black* currently faces an extreme information drought. To fill its pages and prevent a student revolt, the paper has taken to publishing John Harman's incoherent babble. His latest article ("What message are they sending?" April 3), made me

OLD GOLD AND BLACK

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