



# Accounting for every penny

## New rules for finances in student organizations.

In the past year, Student Government has strengthened its policy concerning chartered student organizations on campus. We feel the need at this point

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To ensure that funding from the Student Government was being allocated to active and effective organizations, the Legislature passed a bill calling for SG to evaluate all organizations who receive funding each year from the Student Budget Advisory Committee (SBAC).

this Spring, to be carried out annually hereafter. The original submission date for the President and Advisor forms was March 19th. However, because several organizations were delinquent in providing these forms, two follow-up emails were sent to the organizations who did not comply, dated March 21 and 26. The March 26th email clearly stated to these organizations that if the mandatory evaluation was not submitted by March 28th then SG, with authority from the SLC, would freeze their funding for both the 2002-2003 and the 2003-2004 fiscal year. If the evaluation forms were then submitted, next year's funding would be unfrozen; the current finances, however, remain frozen. This was not done to be heavy-handed or authoritarian, rather, in order to ensure that the money that we disburse is being spent for the enhancement of student life, organizations must cooperate with the evaluation process. Our requests cannot be ignored or the integrity of the process is lost and so there had to be consequences for non-compliance.

Because this process is new (although all organizations were exposed to it in the fall), the CAC again contacted the organizations that did not comply with the final email and provided the

further extensions. Twenty-one organizations still failed to submit an evaluation, which led to the freezing of approximately \$34,000 in funding. The CAC advertised to these organizations an appeals process that includes a hearing before the Committee on Funding Appeals, consisting of three executives, three SBAC members, and two CAC members. In this appeals hearing, organizations could provide explanation of why they failed to comply, with the possibility of none, some, or all of this year's funding being released, at the discretion of the committee. Only seven of twenty-one organizations filed a Funding Appeals Form. April 14th, once all appeals have been heard, the SLC will give a list to Financial and Accounting Services informing them of what funding is to be released, and what will remain frozen. The funding that is not given back will be used by the SG before the conclusion of this fiscal year to enhance student life in whatever capacity is possible with the little time that remains.

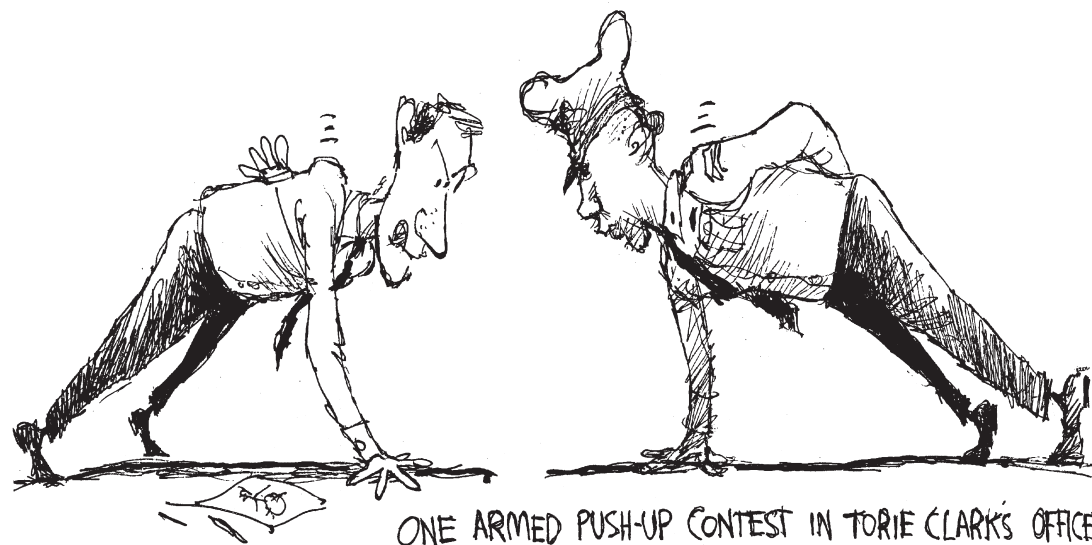
SG would like to make clear that this evaluation process was established by the Legislature composed of your student representatives. Furthermore, it believes the process to be integral to ensuring a vibrant and active student experience at Wake Forest by requiring those same characteristics of student organizations.

Eventually, this process will become routine and actions such as these will not need to be taken. We hope that this explains our actions and is seen as emblematic of our concern for the students.

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to present the entire story to the students so that they may be informed about our recent actions. It was decided in the Legislature last year that many organizations existed on campus who cater to only a very small segment of the population or are entirely defunct. To ensure that funding from the Student Government was being allocated to active and effective organizations, the Legislature passed a bill calling for SG to evaluate all organizations who receive funding each year from the Student Budget Advisory Committee. This task of executing this evaluation process was delegated to the Committee on Appropriations and Charter, a committee of the Legislature. This process requires two forms, a President evaluation and a Faculty Advisor evaluation, from each organization. These forms are then analyzed by the committee and recommendations are passed, through the Legislature, on to the University-level Student Life Committee.

After conducting a pilot test in the fall, the evaluation process was officially begun



# Editorials vital for free thought

Guest writers should remember the mission of the editorials section before criticizing.

Why does the editorials section of the *Old Gold and Black* exist? It's clearly a time-consuming endeavor for the section editor, who must layout and edit pages upon pages of columns, and for the paper's Editorial Board who must formulate and research an opinion for the staff editorial or "lefthand."

With the buildup toward war in Iraq and increased interest in matters of student life, the section has consistently been one of the largest in the newspaper, which has come at great expense to the paper's budget - each column costs nearly

The reason the editorials section exists - and it's so well read - is that it represents the purest expression of student viewpoints and opinions on campus.

Every member of the university community has equal access to freely express their views in print, as long as it is submitted on deadline, within a particular word limit, and is not blatantly incorrect or profane.

While I appreciate Eric Morris' nod as the newspaper's former "patriarch" ("*Old Gold and Black* columns lack quality," April 3), I think he and many others fail to understand that none of editorial columns published are solicited or assigned by the *OGB*. So if the views expressed within are misguided or incorrect, they are not so much a reflection of the newspaper's staff but the student body as a whole.

The only article or articles that explicitly claim to represent the views of the Editorial Board is the staff editorial or "lefthand." This column is highly read by the faculty and administration for good reason - it is designed to represent the views held by the student body as a whole.

The controversial stances we have taken in the past have, for example, caused students to storm our meetings and caused an administrator to rail me for 30 minutes straight, even as I was trying to extend the olive branch. For those convinced otherwise, the *OGB* has no ulterior agenda nor is a part of some vast conspiracy. It's editors draw from many majors, backgrounds, Greek affiliations and political ideologies. Thus is the benefit of a school that doesn't offer a journalism major, yet has a paper that wins national awards.

Instead of exercising your freedom of speech to complain about the freedom of the press, consider devoting your energies to creating reasoned, public dialogue. Thus we all benefit.

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Will Wingfield

SENIOR COLUMNIST

\$40 to print.

To make matters worse, there's no end to the number of complaints that we receive across the e-mail, people who were offended, angered or thought a column was inaccurate or - my personal favorite - "unethical." And they all lay the blame squarely on the shoulders of the *OGB* and its volunteer staff.

After all the headaches, why don't we all just cut our losses and eliminate the section entirely? The role of the fourth estate is difficult enough without having to serve as the whipping boy-in-chief for the entire university community.

The reason the editorials section exists - and it's so well read - is that it represents the purest expression of student viewpoints and opinions on campus. Every member of the university community has equal access to freely express their views in print, as long as it is submitted on deadline, within a particular word limit, and is not blatantly incorrect or profane. Doing otherwise would censor discussion on important campus issues.

On the first page of the editorials section, just below the staff listing, is one oft-ignored

# Music files incriminate students

The totalitarian iron fist of the "entertainment" industry has closed its grip upon the little guys now. It wasn't enough for them to destroy Napster and other "corporate" file swapping systems. It has now decided to target individuals who swap files, not with just warnings, but with lawsuits.

Students attending the universities of Princeton, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Michigan Technological

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U-WIRE

are being sued for having computer systems that, without charge, transferred thousands of songs to people interested in listening to fresh music not readily available on corporate radio or that costs up to \$20 on a CD.

While it probably would have been possible to warn the students and have the universities shut down their systems, the Recording Industry Association of America instead decided to file lawsuits in New York, New Jersey and Michigan. The RIAA, having been made very sad and infinitesimally poorer by these individuals, has decided to ask the

courts to make these students pay reparations for their heinous deeds. The amount? A maximum of \$150,000 per song.

That seems like a lot of money to charge for file sharing. How does it break down? The worst case involves the Michigan student who stored 650,000 songs on his server, in addition to 1,866 of which he actually owned, that were available to everyone on his network. At \$150,000 per song, that means he would owe the RIAA \$97.5 billion. Just to compare with other monetary statistics, the cost of the space shuttle Endeavour was \$2.1 billion, the projected sales of Kellogg's cereal in the year 2000 was \$2.5 billion and the gross domestic product of China was estimated to be \$1.2 trillion in 2002. As we can all see, ladies and gentlemen, these songs are worth a lot!

How long would it take these students to pay off their debts to the RIAA they ripped-off and humiliated so shamelessly? Let's take a smaller example. Recently, the RIAA told Verizon to sell out a client suspected of allowing people to download (for free) 600 songs, which the company had to do, thanks to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act.

Assuming the maximum fine the RIAA seems to believe every song is worth would be levied against this individual, he would be forced to pay \$90 million. Next, let's assume this individual has a good job that allows

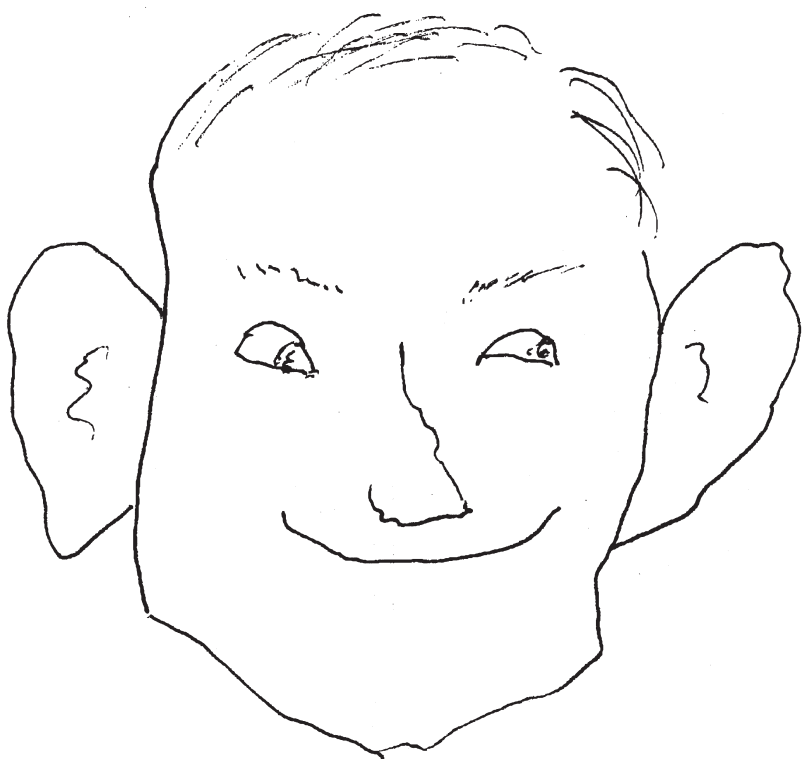
him to make \$20 an hour. Since everyone is required to sleep, we'll assume he works 112 hours a week, and since everyone needs to eat and pay rent, we'll assume at least \$3 an hour go toward food and rent. This means that, at \$17 an hour, at 112 hours a week, it would take roughly 909 years for this man to pay off his damages to the RIAA.

Just how much money is intellectual property worth? Does this money outweigh the privacy and fair use rights of the average American? It is a tricky issue indeed. Nevertheless, it is difficult to conceptually support a very rich and powerful industry who only seems to be interested in strengthening its hold on what people listen to and how much they must pay for it.

It is equally difficult to support an industry who obviously has an inflated view of its worth to the point of having a Napoleon complex even the Smurfs couldn't compete with.

I'll leave you with more numbers. The American census of 2002 estimates the population of the United States and her territories to be around 288,000,000 people. Next, let's assume one out of every 50 of these people have five or more MP3s on their computer that they have, with or without intent, shared since the destruction of Napster.

Ken Hamner writes for the *Harvard Crimson*.



Paul Wolfowitz