

OPINION

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

Coffeehouse in limbo, leaves many questions

With the semester quickly drawing to a close, many questions are still up in the air about the status of the new coffeehouse proposed to open in Taylor next semester. The excitement and buzz around campus about the project has understandably died down after the initial announcements and debate, but now the real work of approving and implementing this initiative is in jeopardy of getting bogged down in planning sessions.

Student Government needs to be careful not to lose grasp of student interest in the project. The contest to name the coffeehouse has gotten hung up due to questions about whether or not such decisions will fall under the discretion of ARAMARK or Student Government. Plus, as exams approach and students' work begins to pile up, everyone will have less and less time to devote to offering input concerning the project.

Interest might best be reignited by reaching out to students on a more personal level. Mass e-mails or fliers distributed in post office boxes could serve well to inform everyone as to where Student Government currently stands in the planning stages. A certain degree of responsibility falls on the student body, as well, and all should be encouraged to contact their SG representatives with any questions about the status of the project. There is

a long way to go in a very short time if the goal of opening the coffeehouse by early next semester is to be met, and no one wants to see the initiative fall apart before it even gets going.

Another, similar project has recently been placed on the table. ARAMARK and the Z. Smith Reynolds Library have developed the idea for a "cyber café" to be added to the library, designed as a convenient place in which students could pick up a cup of coffee or snack while studying. The university has yet to tackle this initiative head-on, and they are well advised to wait. Improving student life is not a one-year process, but rather a series of efforts extended throughout a number of years to gradually increase the appeal of the university. We should concentrate on the Taylor coffeehouse first, discover what works and what does not, and then move on to the next project. Perhaps additional coffeehouses simply will not be feasible; better to discover this with only one on our hands rather than two.

Student Government should take one thing at a time and focus first on publicity and encouraging students to take an active role in the decisions being made with regard to the Taylor coffeehouse. It will take all of us working together in order to create an addition to campus that will truly satisfy and serve the needs of students now and for many years to come.

Original student play is the first in decades

For the first time in recent memory, the university is hosting a play generated entirely by students. On Nov. 14, 15 and 16, the Anthony Aston Players will perform *Wisdom Teeth* in the Ring Theatre, a play that will attribute writing, production, directing, designing and acting credits exclusively to students.

Everyone involved with the production should be praised for taking the initiative to bring such an event to campus. The university should always try to maximize student participation in all aspects of campus life, and *Wisdom Teeth* is a prime example of the valuable contributions that students can make to the university community when aided solely by a bit of vision and enthusiasm.

This weekend's performance should set the bar a bit higher and encourage future productions to rely ever more on student participation. Before *Wisdom Teeth*, the university theatre department

had not seen any plays put on entirely by students within its walls for decades; room for improvement certainly exists. MainStage Theatre productions should be persuaded to jump on board and open up more writing, producing and design opportunities to students.

However, *Wisdom Teeth* will not be the only performance run entirely by students on campus this weekend. The Liltling Banshee Comedy Troupe, an organization whose past popularity has been a notable testament to the vast appeal of student-led productions, will offer shows Nov. 15 and 16. Add the Nickel Creek concert Nov. 16 into the mix, and we will be able to enjoy a weekend full of entertainment for only \$21.

With such a full schedule of events lined up on a weekend when so many students will be away at formals, we should be sure to think twice before declaring that there is nothing to do on campus.

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Coffee won't wake up Wake

Finding entertainment on and around campus requires innovation.

In a recently held student/administration open forum about how social life on campus can be improved, a brilliant idea was placed before the congregation that said



Krys Mroczkowski
EDITORIALS EDITOR

opening a late night coffee shop/hang-out would silence all complaints about the homogeneous "party scene." The brain factory that devised this plan consisted of Student Government representatives, administration more worthless than place kicker Matt Wisnosky, and some stoned kid who got lost looking for the office where he could buy tickets for Medeski, Martin, and Wood. While this committee had good intentions, perhaps their intellectual abilities are better suited for solving today's episode of *Blue's Clues*.

Nevertheless, I sympathize with those students who feel there is little to do around Wake Forest and Winston-Salem. I used to feel the same way, before I became too lazy to care. And although I am satisfied watching BET for 22 hours a day with a homemade catheter assuring me I won't miss a single "roof raising" because of a pesky bathroom break, I understand that lifestyle is not for everyone. Therefore, I will give you all a few tips on how to make your time here more exciting than repeatedly checking

For late night fun, Winston Salem offers its residents IHOP and Waffle House; take that, New York City! And although we may be smaller than most college towns, we make up for our diminutive size with our abundance of trashy strip clubs and closed-down industrial plants. Ah yes, Winston Salem truly is a place that ... well, let's just say it truly is a place (I saw it on a map once).

away messages of people you never talk to anyway.

While frat parties can quickly become trite, there are certain ways you can make them more enjoyable. For instance, bring a goat and a video camera to the Deke house on any Friday night. Not only will it make the party much more lively, but bestiality films sell for big amounts overseas. Or, if you are too frightened by the thought of witnessing that, you can go to an Alpha Sig party and ask for a cup of their "special punch," which contains Everclear, Gatorade and GHB. Sure, you'll black out and wake up on Monday afternoon with a terrible headache and colon damage, but it deals with the problem of having to find something else to do for the rest of the weekend.

If you are looking for something altogether new and exciting, then allow me to suggest some adventures you can have right here on campus. You can go to Tribble Hall and play a game I like to call "try and find your professor's office." Only play this game when you have at least two hours to kill. I think the movie *Labyrinth* is based on it. Or, if you want something more exciting, you can go around to all the parking lots and key "Thanks daddy" into all the cars that are nicer than yours (in my

case, that would be every car ... and even that Huffy that some kid rides to school). These activities could easily amuse you for at least one weekend.

But what is there to do for the rest of the weekends? To answer this, you need look no further than the very metropolis that we live in. You can easily spend an entire weekend just eating at all the different Bojangles restaurants we have in town. You can even make a game out of it by seeing how many you must visit before you get salmonella poisoning. For late night fun, Winston Salem offers its residents IHOP and Waffle House; take that, New York City! And although we may be smaller than most college towns, we make up for our diminutive size with our abundance of trashy strip clubs and closed-down industrial plants. Ah yes, Winston Salem truly is a place that ... well, let's just say it truly is a place (I saw it on a map once).

So with all the activities that this campus and this city offer, do we really need to waste the vacant lounge in Taylor by building yet another coffee shop that will only further emphasize the fact that Wake Forest is full of pretentious, yuppie crackers? I say "no!" How many freaking coffee shops do we need? Do we have some sort of contract with Juan Valdez? Let us use the space to build something this campus truly needs something that will cultivate diversity amongst the predictable keggers, such as a cock-fighting arena. You can never truly understand the complexities of life and the future social impact of your college years until you see one rooster cut another rooster using the razor blade tied to it's foot. You won't get that kind of life experience at the university Starbucks.

And there you have it, straight from the Horse's mouth.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

University must practice what it preaches

Our school is one that prides itself on the motto *Pro Humanitate*, for the good of humanity. And yet the current health care policy is so expensive that we believe it cordons off the lower-paid staff members from receiving coverage. Presently, there are 276 full-time faculty/staff employees without insurance through the university, and it is reasonable to assume that many of these employees do not have coverage simply because they cannot afford it.

Under the current healthcare benefits plan, all full-time university employees are entitled to health insurance, provided that they pay 40 percent of the monthly premium. This means that if a full-time single employee wishes to take advantage of the healthcare insurance offered by the university, he or she must pay \$109 per month out of his or her own paycheck just to receive coverage. Regardless of whether the employee is a Dean of the College or a dormitory janitor, everyone pays the same amount.

For a university employee who makes basic subsistence-level wages, this is an entirely inappropriate amount, which he or she simply cannot afford to surrender. This health care benefits policy blatantly discriminates against the low-salaried university employees, denying them of their due employment benefits and the basic necessity of healthcare insurance.

We think the university community should have the right to know about the ethnic and salary breakdown of these 276 employees, and their reasons for forfeiting this benefit entitled to them.

Although the university recently distributed a survey to the 276 uninsured employees, after reviewing the method and response of this survey, we believe that the results are dangerously incomplete and seriously flawed. The haphazard and imperfect method of design and implementation has failed to generate satisfactory responses, and therefore we believe accurate conclusions cannot be drawn from this initiative.

When compared with similar universities, the Wake Forest plan is more expensive. We have been told

our plan is more comprehensive than others, hence the higher premium costs. But what good is a better health care plan when it prevents low-wage workers from getting any coverage at all? The issue is simple and about having the integrity to provide affordable healthcare coverage for all full-time employees. The university must prioritize funds in order to make healthcare coverage affordable to the entire university community if they wish to live by their own motto.

It is not morally justifiable to close our eyes and ears to those who cannot afford the expensive policy. We, as students, faculty, staff and administration cannot accept this type of occurrence on our campus, unless our motto and morality mean nothing.

Nick Bauer
Rachel Coley
Cher Jacques
Mason McWatters
Katherine Nash
Marie Szczurowski
Seniors

Fake smiles cover up worrisome policies

Let's get one thing straight: I'm pissed off. I have been for quite some time, and a lot of it comes from the stress this school places on me. Yeah, I know, I've heard all of you: why didn't you go somewhere else? Go to a state school? Ha, like that would happen.

Plus, being from West Virginia, most respectable universities won't accept an illiterate male that speaks in a tongue unbeknownst to most parts of the country (other than Arkansas and maybe Alabama). So I chose Wake Forest, based mainly on the fact that I filled a quota and that was enough to make me feel wanted. Recently though, a lot of people have been asking me why I'm always so indignant and irritated, so I decided to make a resolution for November, starting now.

I am no longer going to be bitter and angry; it's time for me to put on a happy face. Why should I be Mr. Spoiled-Sport all the time? What's it to me if the university's president cares

more about his salary than what he accomplished today? So he's done nothing of substance over the past couple of years (although those bricks are fun for the drunks to contemplate); at least he's only taking up three spots in front of Benson. And I can't stop grinning when I realize there is no need at all for budget reforms. Hey, it takes a lot of money to run a great university, strangely enough more expensive than most schools ranked ahead of us.

And speaking of reforms, what about tuition raises? Who cares? Ha, the board of trustees knows best - they complain more than the poor people. And so what if the professors don't get paid anywhere close to what they deserve and deal with a painful health insurance plan. I get to pay for their misery and there's nothing I can do about it!

I chuckled to myself as I wrote the tuition check and thought, "What a silly idea to be concerned that my parents are working overtime to send me to a school that's more concerned with its image than the plight of the students?"

So maybe our tuition sucks and our classes are too much for the ranking and some children go to bed hungry because their parents are spending every dime to send their kids to a "top-notch institution." Is that any reason for me to have a frown on my face? And I was real sorry when a student got mugged, but what a joy that it'll never be reported in the crime report; I was wondering what the school would do when it happened to me. Man, what are they going to bury next? Well, that's my time. So until we meet again, I'm going to let a smile be my umbrella.

John Harman
Junior

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