

# Displays of intolerance challenge 'Pro Humanitate'

Environment on and around campus needs to be more accepting.

When we applied to come to Wake Forest, we all were required to write an essay echoing our sentiments on *Pro Humanitate* and how we apply this motto to our lives. We all came up with a 500-word essay that somehow

As tolerant as I hope that I have become over the years here, I recently have been shocked at several instances on and around this campus that cause me to question just how *Pro Humanitate* everyone else around here truly is.

Homophobia is rampant at this university, kids. On the front page of the Oct. 24 edition of the *Old Gold and Black*, two students were featured in a color photograph with the caption "Out and Proud" to mark National Coming Out Day. Although the ceremony was worthy of a front-page photograph, the paper didn't feature anything about the origin of National Coming Out Day or how it was celebrated here at Wake Forest. The *OGB* was negligent in not providing gay and lesbian students a forum through which the Coming Out day could be explained, or how various members of both the gay and straight community came together to mark a day that is important in the history of the gay and lesbian liberation movement.

Another instance happened more recently after the Gay-Straight Student

We need to change. All students here at Wake Forest deserve the right to drink a few beers, decorate pumpkins and celebrate holidays, regardless of their sexual orientation. There is a world out there, one that stretches beyond the confines of University Parkway.

Alliance carved a pumpkin that read "Gay = Straight" and placed it on the front step of Huffman Residence Hall. Some idiot out there had the bright idea to carve the "gay" from the pumpkin and place it on the front door of Huffman in a blatant attempt to humiliate and antagonize the gay community here at Wake Forest. I don't even know where to begin as I express my disappointment with the perpetrator of this event.

How can this university say that it actually stands for *Pro Humanitate* when events like this are still occurring around campus? And if you're the one who did it, I really, truly feel sorry

for you. You may be a student at Wake Forest, but you have a lot more learning to do, buddy.

And finally, there is the bar scene. Yes, homophobia has even approached one of the most sacred establishments to the college student - the bar. Which bar? Well, to be honest, I am not allowed to say in print, but why don't you just send me an e-mail and I'll gladly let you know. While a group of homosexual female students were hanging out at the bar, just having a beer or 10, a few managers didn't overtly ask these girls to leave, but they made their sentiments very clear when they loudly voiced their disapproval that these girls were at their bar.

Here's the bottom line - don't give those idiots your hard-saved beer money. Go somewhere that's friendly to all Wake Forest students (Jill at Daytona's quickly comes to mind.)

Something needs to change. We need to change. All students here at Wake Forest deserve the right to drink a few beers, decorate pumpkins and celebrate holidays, regardless of their sexual orientation. There is a world

out there, one that stretches beyond the confines of University Parkway and Reynolda Road. I know, it's hard to believe, but it's true. Don't be ignorant. Stand up for what you believe. Keep off the bandwagon. And as my second grade Sunday School teacher taught me, treat others as you would have them treat you.

I normally don't get on my high horse and preach, but kids, we've got to do something about this problem. There is no reason for discrimination to be so rampant. I would hate to graduate from Wake Forest without leaving my mark (okay, so maybe my mark might be that Poncho Villa's has had it's best year ever, and it's not from the amount of burritos that I've consumed) and I would hate to sit back and not say something to y'all. It's just disappointing to know that at Wake Forest, these things are happening.

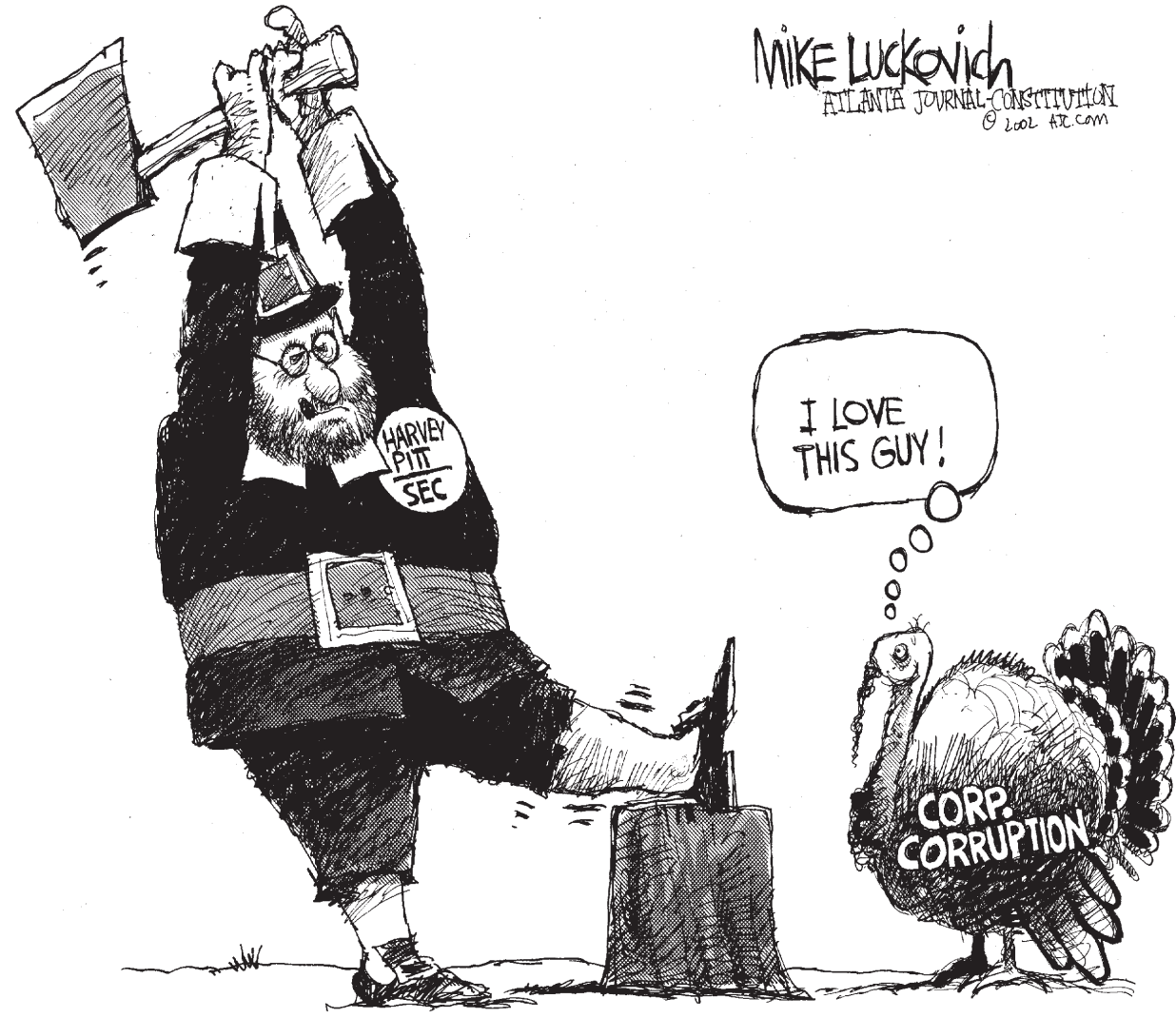
We're a community here - a family - or at least we should be.

Claire Boyette is a senior majoring psychology.

## Claire Boyette

GUEST COLUMNIST

convinced someone over in the admissions office to let us in. My growth and understanding of the idea of *Pro Humanitate* has been manifested in the fact that this small-town southern girl from Shelby, N.C. actually became roommates and best friends with someone from New York City.



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## Voting an overlooked priority

College students need to be more aware and active in political happenings.

Why vote? Why is it important? How does my vote really matter? These are many questions that citizens, especially college-aged citizens, pose when it is time to vote. However, I'm pretty sure that most of us

## Bianca Brown

GUEST COLUMNIST

know that 40 years ago these questions did not need to be asked. During the 1960s, the nation was still reforming itself socially, culturally and politically, and even young people understood that their voices mattered.

Maybe this is because they had to deal with more serious issues, such as racial equality and gender rights, but regardless of the reason, they realized that taking political action was necessary if they wanted to have some sort of control over their lives as American citizens.

Young people engaged in marches, sit-ins, protests and other activities in order to exercise their right to freedom of speech because the way government impacted their lives was important, just like it should be to us now.

We as young adults need to know that every vote does matter. Even though the hectic life of a college-aged citizen may prevent him or her from being active in the political community, it must be understood that the lack of his or her participation in politics can have a profound effect on our government's representation of democracy.

It's astounding that, according to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, national polls show that less than 20 percent of college-age Americans voted in the last presidential election. ("Student voters) have less of a stake in what is going to be happening.

They don't realize that 40 percent of their money goes to government, and they don't realize exactly how critical some of these elections are for their future," Dave Woodard, a Clemson University political science professor, said in an Oct. 20, 2000 article from *The Tiger*.

I mean, if you consider that in the early 1970s during the Vietnam War (before the 26th Amendment which declared the legal voting age to be 18 instead of 21), many 18, 19 and 20-year-olds were forced to fight overseas. but at home they couldn't even choose the politicians

It all comes down to one basic question: Do you appreciate the fact that you have the opportunity to stand up for your beliefs and shape your future? Do you care that many people sacrificed their lives years ago to gain these voting rights?

that made decisions that would impact the course of their lives. We now have the great privilege of being young and able to influence who represents us in the government and who makes decisions on issues that will affect us.

One of the main reasons why college-age Americans don't vote is that most of the issues that politicians address and care about are irrelevant to them. Most political advertisements target voters who are 50 and older because it is logical for politicians to only address the groups of people who are more likely to vote in elections.

"The millennium generation would get a lot more attention from the campaign if they voted more," Woodard said. "If younger people aren't voting, (politicians) aren't going to be so devoted to them or to caring about what they think," Woodard said.

So, basically, if we college-age citizens want to see more issues that concern us put on political agendas, we must first prove to the politicians that we care about voting and they they need to target us as well.

Perhaps it would be helpful if we think in the broader scheme of things. For example, the president has the power to make Supreme Court appointments and the Supreme Court makes decisions that affect people's daily lives. The people who are appointed to the Supreme Court will most likely be on the bench for the next 30 years, and they will have the power to "shape the legal landscape on issues such as abortion, school prayer and freedom of speech," according to William Lasser, a political science professor at Clemson University (*The Tiger*). If we think about this, then it becomes clear how we college-age Americans, are affected by decisions our government officials make.

In reality, it all comes down to one basic question: Do you appreciate the fact that you have the opportunity to stand up for your beliefs and shape your future? Do you care that many people sacrificed their lives years ago to gain the voting rights and freedoms we now possess?

Appreciate the freedom to have choices. Appreciate a life governed by democracy. Appreciate the right to vote, and exercise that right.

Bianca Brown is a junior health and exercise science major.

## Silent stands doom Deacs

Football fans need to be louder, prouder if they expect wins.

The essence of football from the stands is a fan's duty to support one's team with heart, soul and dedication. Body paint, strained vocal chords, \$3

Sure, we cheered when we were winning in the first two quarters - who couldn't? But when it really counted, when the 'Noles neared sections 16-18 and were driving on third and six, where were we? The home field advantage for Wake Forest football is nonexistent.

be effective or we're just not a football school. But look at what our football team pulled off. We were only down by three points for most of the game! Our "Bad News Deacons" have come to play this year, showing signs of a legitimate bowl run, and more recently the possibility of upsetting Florida State. As I always say, size doesn't matter; it's just how you use it. We've actually got something to cheer about besides the glory days of Brian Piccolo 38 years ago.

Wake has a disillusionment that football just doesn't compare to our powerhouse, unstoppable basketball squad; something I refer to as the "Tim Duncan Complex." Does anyone realize that Tim "the greatest man alive" Duncan played basketball for Wake, hmm ... one, two, three, four, carry the three ... five years ago. I barely knew we had a football team when I first got here, but man, did we have Tim Duncan! Can't we move on and understand that our football team has big-time players too? Only until it's too late, it seems, will the majority of our student fans realize what could have been, how much we could have helped our Deacs top the 'Noles.

So let's not let that happen this Saturday against Navy. Besides, they wear those silly white hats. Ha ha, boy, don't they look prissy.

Maybe that will motivate us more than a possible upset of Florida State. It could have been the biggest win ever witnessed during our time at Wake.

We must not forget that lost opportunity and shape up in the stands if we expect Wake Forest to be a top-tier football program.

John Toner is a freshman.

## John Toner

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M&M's, drunken taunting of the other team's towel boy and that ridiculously annoying loudspeaker near the student section (so we can hear all the cheerleading greats such as "go Deacs go," "Deacs get tough," or "first and 10!") converge to create a third team off the field capable of magnificent feats. This army of noise off the field can decide a game. Sadly, however, on Nov. 2 our troops left their guns at home when the Deacs took on the Florida State Seminoles.

As most students fail to recognize, tailgating has a purpose that transcends the hours of pre-game primping and prepping, gallons of delicious cooler punch, rent-a-cops or endless hours of Dave Matthews Band that get you extra hyped before kick-off. See, the fun isn't just before the game. Why, it can be during the game too.

Okay, so maybe you were embarrassed because you forgot exactly how to stand and cheer, maybe a term paper was due Monday or the Wendy's chili bowl before the game gave you an atrocious case of the rumbles. Maybe a contact fell out and you were temporarily

unable to see the scoreboard for three hours; perhaps explosive diarrhea suddenly ravaged our entire student body or football was too hard to concentrate on when arctic temperatures of 43 degrees swept through Groves Stadium.

It is certain, however, that our student section as a whole was void of any outward desire to see our Deacs take down the ACC football powerhouse, not to mention the goal posts. Jumping, sawing or kicking down the posts after a phenomenal upset is the sweet reward of weeks, months, maybe even years of cheering - it's like getting that tingling sensation when Bob Barker hugs you after winning the showcase showdown, hitting the winning homerun in game seven of the World Series or the relief of catching your soap before it plummets onto the hair clogged drain of a communal shower.

Opportunities like the one we had on that Saturday may come once every decade, if that. Sure, we cheered when we were winning in the first two quarters - who couldn't? But when it really counted, when the Noles neared sections 16-18 and were driving on third and six, where were we? The home field advantage for Wake Forest football is nonexistent. Some say we're too small to



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