

OPINION

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

Founder's Day tradition continues

A number of aspects of the recent Founders' Day Convocation ceremony deserve recognition. The ceremony as a whole is one of the most important of the year, as deserving members of the faculty, students and alumni receive recognition for their accomplishments of the past year. This year's ceremony included some particularly notable figures, including Pulitzer Prize Winner Anna Quindlen and Ed Wilson, provost emeritus. Quindlen's address was intriguing to everyone from business students to journalists and biologists. It is refreshing to see the university seeking out speakers who are not necessarily political but are of general interest to people with many different viewpoints. Furthermore, Quindlen's address was inspiring on many levels. Student publications striving to find their voice could find insight in many of the points of her speech on the role of media in today's society. Next to Quindlen's speech, Wilson's recognition as the recipient of the Medallion of Merit was the highlight of the event. His years of dedicated service to the university, his willingness to serve in any capacity

from professor to provost and his lasting impact on every student he meets embody the ideal character of the Wake Forest community. The greatest testimony to Wilson's popularity, as Provost William Gordon said, is that Wilson is the most-requested speaker at events both on- and off-campus. In addition to Quindlen and Wilson, President Thomas K. Hearn, Jr. made an appearance to present Wilson's award. It is inspiring to see Hearn involved in this most important of traditions, even though he is ill. His perseverance and desire to be involved in this ceremony at this difficult time speaks to his dedication to the university, and we wish him a continued recovery from his recent surgery and illness. Convocation is one of the most important days in the academic calendar. We hope that in the future more students will choose to participate in this tradition, as convocation provides the opportunity for students to hear first-rate speakers and allows them to participate in the recognition of some of the university's finest. It also symbolizes the unity of the university community, bringing students, faculty, administrators and alumni together.

Drag show a step in the right direction

Feb. 27, the Gay-Straight Student Alliance will host the first ever Drag Revue show on campus in Benson University Center. This is a bold initiative by GSSA to bring an unconventional and remarkably different event to enhance the diversity of social and cultural life on campus. We hope that students will attend the event to become exposed to an alternative lifestyle and culture different from their own. In a rather homogenous campus community that strives to embrace diversity, the Drag show should be no exception to the university's commitment. Not only will the event serve to open students to a different culture, but it will also benefit the local AIDS Care Services. As the AIDS epidemic has increasingly been an issue of concern and focus for many student groups, such as the Students Against Global AIDS, on campus, we applaud GSSA for dedicating their time and the proceeds from the show to such a worthy cause. We commend GSSA for their initiative in bringing such a unique

event to campus. At a university with a history marked by incidences of prejudice directed toward the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, we recognize the courage GSSA had to have in order to host the show on campus. As history has proven, events such as the drag show has the potential to serve as an impetus to create a more open campus that is accepting of alternative lifestyles. Other student organizations should follow GSSA's lead in finding groups in the Winston-Salem community that could benefit from student commitment and participation. Taking the motto of *Pro Humanitate* and extending it to the greater community will not only provide students with a broader outside perspective, but it will additionally bolster university relations with the Winston-Salem community. The event has the potential to broaden the horizons of everyone who goes, and both the GSSA and the Wake Forest community deserve praise for supporting it.

Editors explain 'Duck Fuke'

Editors discuss the rationale behind running graphic.

In response to a very few complaints, we, as editors of the *Old Gold and Black* feel compelled to address some of the concerns regarding the front-page graphic of the Wake-Duke game in the Feb. 19

As a student newspaper that strives to reflect the student body's opinions and act as the student voice, we felt that the graphic conveyed the emotions of the students after such a high-intensity game that itself was even marked by some ill will in the first half.

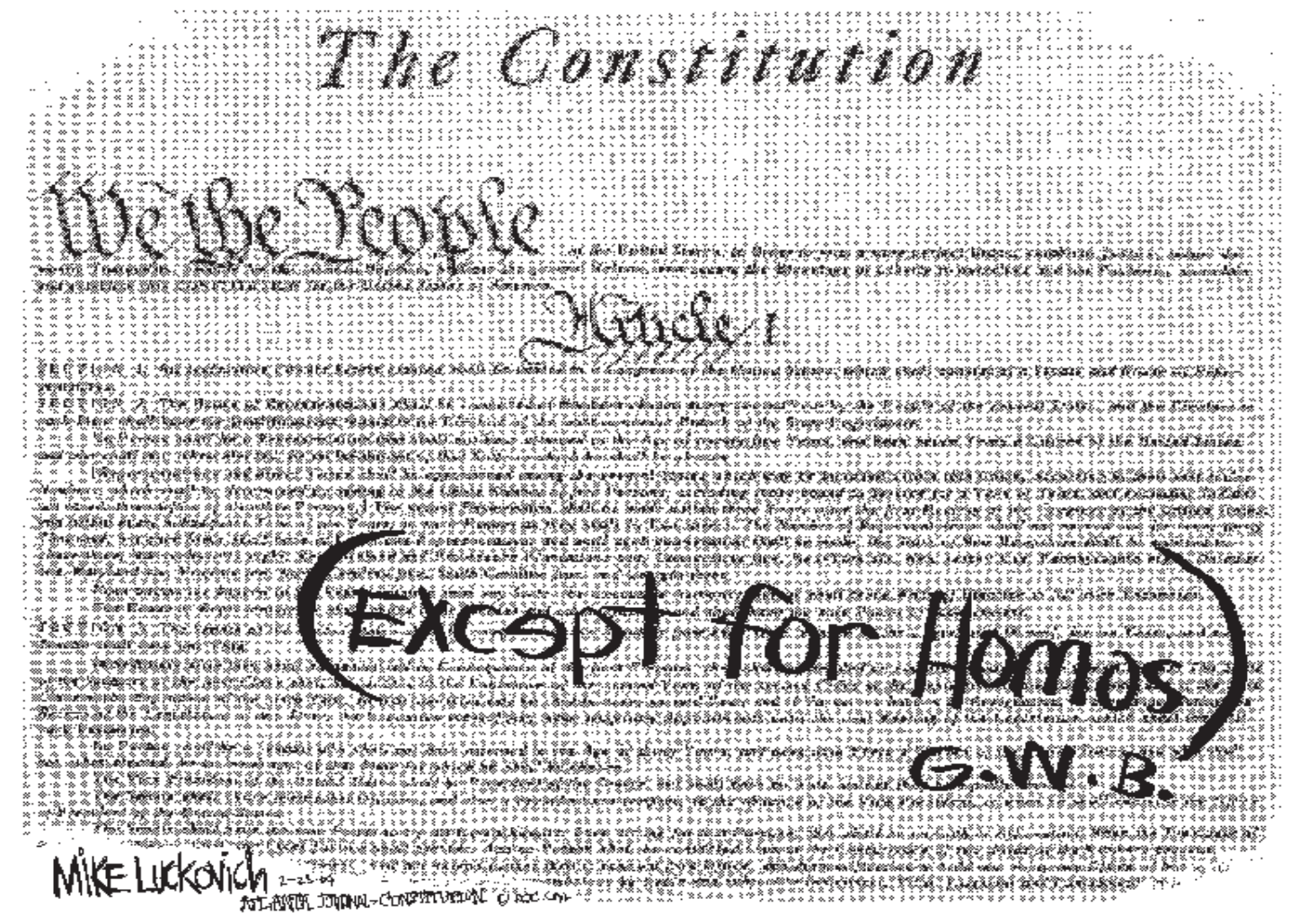
Tom Clark & Angel Hsu

EDITORS IN CHIEF

when students' bodies and personal property were checked at the entrance to the game. Unfortunately, due to our impending Thursday morning deadline and publication time crunch, we were unable to cover the happenings in that issue, and we apologize for its omission. While we understand and respect Coach Prosser's decision and confirm that student fans should reflect the good sportsmanship all Wake Forest athletics strives to exhibit, many students felt that their rights were violated. In many instances, students wearing t-shirts and undershirts were asked to remove some of their clothing so that security guards could ensure that no students smuggled them into the game. Although searches for weapons and potentially harmful objects for security reasons is justified in today's post-Sept. 11 era, searches to ban t-shirts, which reflect one's rights to freedom of expression, seems questionable. Given the outrage many students felt over the bodily searches at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Coliseum and the confiscation of their t-shirts in addition to the overwhelming excitement of such a tremendous victory, we felt that "Duck Fuke" most accurately captured the sentiment of the student body. As a student newspaper that strives to reflect the

student body's opinions and act as the student voice, we felt that the graphic conveyed the emotions of the students after such a high-intensity game, which itself was even marked by some ill will in the first half. Anyone that celebrated the Deacs' victory on the Quad knows the level of emotion the students felt as they rejoiced with the basketball team and Prosser, many even chanting "F - - Duke" while rolling the trees with toilet paper. If the *ÖGB* is to be condemned for our actions, then we feel that the entire student body should be criticized as well. The *ÖGB* is a student newspaper, published for the student body, and, while we realize that our readership extends to the larger university community, our primary responsibility is to the students themselves. It's unfortunate that competition and rivalry sometimes brings out the negative, and sometimes offensive, in people, and although it can be taken as disrespectful and unsportsmanlike, it is nonetheless all too common and accepted in sports. Simply put, the line between offensiveness and rooting for one's team is very gray. As editors of the *ÖGB*, we received no complaints from the student body and very few from the others in the campus community. We are in no way attempting to displace responsibility for our actions. While we recognize that the graphic was probably not the most appropriate for the front page of the *ÖGB*, we strive to maintain the quality and reputation of the publication, and we hope that the university community will not base future judgment on this one incident.

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OLD GOLD & BLACK

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Member of the campus community takes offense

Your headline on Feb. 19 ("Duck Fuke") was crass and disrespectful. I thought for a second I was in College Park. It showed a total lack of class and that is not the reputation Wake Forest has or wants.

Lisa Persinger
Z. Smith Reynolds Archivist

Apathetic fans infuriate dedicated Deacon

As I watched the lead between Wake and Duke see-saw back and forth from my seat in Section 233, I was jealous. Green with envy more like it. I would have given anything to be 20 years old again, standing and cheering in the student section—emphasis on standing. Because when I stand up to cheer for a defensive stop or celebrate a basket, I get yelled at by the people behind me. By Wake Forest people no less. (I have to call them people

because I can't call them fans.) It starts with a "Sit down darling" or "she needs a seat belt" and by the second half turns into terse "Sit Downs." The people that yell at me are not my fellow season ticket holders that I always sit around. Those wonderful people are used to my exuberance and frequent standing. Every time it happens, I am dumbfounded. Aren't we at a basketball game? Isn't wonderful Coach Prosser always encouraging our fans to show their support and make our presence felt?

I have been a Wake fan my entire life. My Raggedy Ann doll wore a gold and black dress with a Demon Deacon on it. My mom and I would toilet paper the tree in front of our house when Wake won a big game. I was a fan through the lean years, and I was fortunate enough to go to Wake when Tim Duncan laced 'em up. And I have never witnessed atmosphere like last night at the Duke game. The lower level stood and cheered their hearts out in their black and gold tee-shirts. And I watched from the upper deck like a kid with my nose pressed up against the window of a candy store, standing momentarily when I couldn't take it any longer. I don't apologize for standing up. I should probably apologize for my language or my

occasional rude comments about the other team's integrity but not for standing up and cheering. I think the only thing that would keep me from standing would be Skip Prosser telling the fans in the upper level to keep their seats during the game. Until that happens, I have some advice for the people in Section 233 that think fans should sit during the game—don't yell at the blonde girl to sit down. It's futile because I am not going to sit. Use all the energy wasted yelling at me to cheer on the Deacons. Isn't that why we all go to the games?

Anne Randall
Class of 1998

Our letters policy

We welcome letters. Send yours via e-mail to letters@ogb.wfu.edu, by campus mail to P.O. Box 7569, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27109, or deliver it to Benson 518. We reserve the right to edit all letters for length and clarity. No anonymous letters will be printed.