

# OPINION

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

## The challenge of replacing Hearn

This week, university President Thomas K. Hearn Jr., announced that he will retire at the end of the 2005 academic year. Recent concerns about his health have kept him from assuming his regular duties this spring, leaving Provost William Gordon in charge of the university. With the announcement of his retirement, the board of trustees has swung into action to begin the search for a replacement. It is incumbent upon the board and the student body to make sure that everyone is involved in the process of searching for a new president, one who will continue to represent and speak to the concerns of all the university's stakeholders.

Murray Greason, the chairman of the board of trustees, said that he wants to make sure that the students are involved in this search. With the recent investiture of junior Jamie Dean as the student trustee for the next academic year, the opportunity is tailor made to get involved from the ground up. Students should not be afraid to contact Dean with any concerns they have about the search process or about the qualifications of certain candidates. We feel confident he will be more than willing to provide insight into how the search is progressing with interested students.

However, concerned students should not rest there. No one is limited to only contacting the student trustee. If students have concerns that they would like to share with other members of the board, we encourage them to by all means contact the members directly.

They represent the university community in this nationwide search for the university's new leader, and as such they are accountable to every member of that community for how the search progresses.

This decision may not affect any of the classes of students at the university now to a measurable extent.

However, the next leader for Wake Forest will help determine if the university's national reputation rises, stays the same or drops. This new president will almost certainly determine how much a degree from Wake Forest is worth in the next 20 years.

This affects every student, and as such it is vital that students stay connected with this process. Keep an eye on the university Web site over the summer, and we should all work to ensure that the trustees do not begin their search without significant student input.

Whoever is chosen to be the next president of the university will have the opportunity to build upon the things that Hearn has achieved. During his tenure, the longest to date at the university, Hearn has overseen the renovation or construction of all

the current academic buildings. He has also implemented the Plan for the Class of 2000, mainly in providing technology to students and committing the university to becoming one of the most wired campuses in the nation. Most importantly, he has guided Wake Forest from a small, regional university with a decent reputation to a nationally-ranked top-25 caliber school in terms of both athletics and academics. Under his administration, admission standards have consistently been higher from year to year.

The new president will face many challenges in his or her first few years in office. The university is facing a financial shortfall that could change the way the educational experience is structured.

Faculty and staff already resent the administration freezing salaries this year, and if those sorts of measures become the norm, then there could potentially be problems with keeping some of the professors that make the educational experience here what it is.

To ensure that a solution to this problem is feasible, we recommend that the new president have some sort of financial or business background. Hearn helped run the university more like a business in the handling of financial matters, and in this uncertain economic climate, there is no reason to alter this methodology.

In addition, we recommend that any candidate for the position have a strong commitment to improving student life.

There are constant complaints that the administration seems distant and withdrawn from the interests and concerns of both faculty and students. Improving this perception should be a priority both for the board of trustees in selecting a candidate and for the person stepping into the job.

If the new president can improve on the perception that the administration does not care about students by increasing visibility on campus and by being accessible to all faculty and students, the resentment that so often characterizes students' and the faculty's discourse about administrators will be significantly improved.

Even if the incoming president does not stay as long as Hearn has, they will need to have a short and long-term vision for the university.

In the short term, getting out of the financial crisis should be a top concern, but in the long term, this president will have an opportunity to lead the university in a new direction, much like Hearn has done in his tenure.

What that direction is should perhaps be the determining factor in who is selected by the trustees to fill the position.

We wish the best of luck to President Hearn in his recovery, and we can only hope that the next president will be a shadow of what Hearn has meant to the university.

# Saying goodbye to senior staff

Editors bid farewell to a group of dedicated *OGB* seniors.

While it takes the average student approximately 30 minutes to skim the pages of the *Old Gold and Black* each week, the amount of time it takes to put together the paper each week exceeds the

Angel Hsu and  
Tom Clark

EDITORS IN CHIEF

order of sanity.

Students who work at the paper are full-time students and often are involved in a multitude of other extracurricular activities, but somehow, we manage to dedicate an inordinate amount of time in Benson 518 churning out the paper late on Wednesday and into the wee hours of Thursday morning.

Because of the sheer hours spent together in heated debates during editorial board meetings, stressed out over many a production night and having a crucial story fall through at the very last minute, we extend our sincerest gratitude to the seniors who will leave us in May.

Elizabeth Bland, the outgoing editor in chief, truly turned the paper upside down (in a good way, of course) when she took office and redesigned a paper whose look was becoming stale after years of the same style.

She modernized the design of the paper to make it look sleek, professional, and more inviting to our readers. She also created the new Life section by merging the former Arts and Entertainment and Perspectives sections, and in the process, it gave birth to the very popular Life Tabloid.

The Students of the Year, which featured 10 of the most outstanding students on our campus, was also her brainchild. Bland (as we all

Elizabeth Bland modernized the design of the paper to make it look sleek, professional, and will be sorely missed for her dedication, down-to-earth sensibility, and experience.

affectionately call her) will be sorely missed for her dedication, down-to-earth sensibility and experience. We wish her the best of luck finding a job!

Austin Harris, the former business manager (we think – he still spends a lot of time in the office so we can't really tell if he's gone for good yet), was one of the best business managers the paper has ever had.

Not only was he instrumental in negotiating the *Sports Illustrated On Campus* deal, but he also fought hard during our SBAC appeal to obtain funding for the magazine next fall. Because of his smooth talking and negotiating skills, our paper is really going to be chocked full of features, from *SIOC* to the magazine. Austin was also the original designer of our Web site, and he has saved us several times this year from server and computer meltdown. Austin's shoes will be hard to fill next year, and we hope he doesn't forget us when he's on Wall Street!

The sports department is graduating some key players.

We say goodbye to Jim Gleitman, the former sports editor, his roommate and assistant sports editor, Alex Myers, and senior columnist Mike Scott. Although the field hockey team will probably miss Jim just as much, we will definitely miss his ability to run a tight ship. With Gleitman at the helm, the sports section was almost always the first section to be done with production on Wednesday night, sometimes as early as 6 p.m.

Jim has a bright future ahead of him in sports reporting and editing.

As for Alex, we will miss his unhealthy obsession with Josh Howard and his exceptional sports writing on men's golf and men's

basketball. We appreciate the time he spent helping out sports production each week, because we know, as a senior, it is really difficult to keep climbing the Benson stairs when you're one of the only seniors left.

As for Mike Scott – no long, complex and convoluted sentence we could write could express the void we feel as we lose our first ever weekly sports columnist.

Week after week, Mike has shared his witty insights with us, ranging from tractor pulling to new backyard sports for one's amusement. We appreciate his dedication to the paper, as shown through his many roles from reporter to editor to columnist.

We also say farewell to Chris Plumblee and David Irvine, our former editorials editors.

We will miss Davie-I's ability to articulate the sentiments and opinions of our sometimes passionate editorial board discussions. We also appreciate the commitment he has shown to the paper, as he came back after studying abroad to continue as editorials editor his senior year.

As for Plumblee, we thank him for the hours he has spent sifting through editorial submissions, laying out pages, and writing the staff editorial for us.

He also stuck it out when the position of editorials editor was difficult, specifically during our five-page editorials section swells to the very difficult decisions he had to make in deciding which columns to run when the section shrunk to two pages.

Seniors, we wish you the very best of luck in all of your future endeavors. We sincerely appreciate all the time you have dedicated to the *Old Gold and Black* over the years, and we hope you will remember us no matter where your talents take you.

Angel Hsu is a junior political science and biology major and Tom Clark is a junior spanish major.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Professor initiates dialogue with Provost Gordon

I am writing to respond to a remark you (Provost Gordon) made, quoted two weeks ago in the *Winston-Salem Journal*.

Commenting on faculty responses to the salary freeze, you are quoted as saying, "we are disappointed, just as the faculty is disappointed."

Perhaps you are disappointed, but certainly not "just as."

When members of the administration speak of their disappointment over the budget they are talking about Wake Forest's ability to garner positive national attention, or more immediately to provide an excellent education – the "Wake Forest experience," as you put it in the press release yesterday.

Speaking only for myself—a tenure-track assistant professor making well below the average salary for my rank – my disappointment about my salary freeze extends to my fear that I might have to pull one of my children out of pre-school because I can't afford it; that we cannot afford my wife's routine health checkups; that we will continue to ask ourselves, when in the middle of the night one of our children can't breathe because of croup or pneumonia (we had both last year), "Can we afford to go to the emergency room?"

Because of the inevitable increase in insurance premiums, my take home monthly check will actually decrease next year, and in the three years I've been here it's only increased a total of about \$200.

To backslide to about where I started is more than disappointing.

It is frustrating, demoralizing and pushing us to a financial breaking point.

When we talk about the Wake Forest experience, I wish we were talking about the same thing.

My Wake Forest experience, however, has not really matched the university's projection of itself to the community at large.

One well-connected alumnus whom I happen to see around town likes to ask me, "Did you go to the game the other day?" I always tell him the same thing: I can't afford the ticket. He laughs as if I'm pulling his leg, but it's true: I can't even afford to buy a *new book*.

I love my department and I generally like my job very much, but I'm not

sure how much more of the Wake Forest experience my family can afford.

And I write this with depressing awareness that my friends who staff the department offices, as well as the custodial and facilities staff are just as – no, considerably more – burdened than I am.

Dean Franco  
Assistant professor of English

Posing nude could be a feminist statement

Does posing semi-nude in *Playboy's* "Girls of the ACC" make you a playmate? These "hand-picked beauties" are "the pinnacle of female perfection and have *Playboy* centerfolds in *all* their naked glory." As of December 2002, 589 women have been Playmates.

According to *Playboy.com*, Playmates earn \$25,000 while Playmates of the year earn an additional \$100,000. (The Playmate fee in 1964 was \$1,000, while the Playmate of the Year received an additional \$250.) Monetarily speaking, being paid less than \$1,000 for an entire shoot would not make our fellow classmate, "Madison" a playmate, even in 1964.

While we may not agree with Madison's labeled Playmate status, we will give her credit for a few things. One, her "reason" for doing this was for herself. Two, *Playboy* is a step up from *Hustler* in the "class" department, however not a huge one. Finally, it *is* true that today some look upon this in a more positive light.

These things being said, we do have one major concern. If this is something to be proud of, why not use your real name? Not only will your name not appear in the "Girls of the ACC" but it also did not appear in last week's *OGB*. Obviously, you weren't able to "brush off" someone "passing judgment." Is it considered "passing judgment" for us to ask you to take full credit for your "courageous" act?

If this is not something you are ashamed of and you hate being "controlled" then why haven't you told your parents? Were you afraid that they would try to control your decision?

In last week's article, it was Robin Porter, the coordinator of

Greek Affairs, who sent out an e-mail asking leaders to "strongly encourage" women to not participate in such photo shoots. So why is it the university officials that are trying to control women?

It seems that it would be the sorority instead. And if posing for *Playboy* is not a negative action, why are you afraid that the national organization will not approve? Why did Emily Wade say that she "shouldn't have" used her real name, especially if "not much" changed for her here at Wake Forest.

It may seem that we are taking the typical conservative stand, but we have even looked at this through a feminist lens. How is this action a liberating one when you have imprisoned your mentality?

Your sexuality has not been fully voiced if people are only seeing what you are and not who you are.

Ashley Bumgarner, a member of WISE made a valid point in last week's article.

She said that "women are autonomous" and the conscious decision to pose nude in a magazine deserves respect. Society's views of pornography "and the uses of it, subjugate women specifically which make it wrong." As she points out pornography, still objectifies women today.

In the fight against superficiality and objectivity, pornography of this nature sets us back. How are we supposed to have respect for your decision when your actions say that you do not? After all, we are not just four people that have seen "plenty of nude women." We are your fellow classmates. We are your future colleagues.

In 25 years will we know your name and not just your face?

Jenny Billings and Miranda Mills  
Sophomores

### 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.

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