

# Students' relaxed attitude toward money irritating

Financial irresponsibility encouraged by casual attitude toward Deacon Dollars.

Sunday mornings. This time of year, Sunday mornings are the best mornings of the week. "Why?" you ask. No, it's not because of the loads of homework I wake up to. And it's not because of the extra early rising I occasionally attempt for church attendance. In fact, it's not even the week's dirty laundry that makes me all giddy inside. It's the hand delivered breakfast,



Miranda Mills

OLD GOLD AND BLACK COLUMNIST

Unfortunately though, marketing techniques by said fundraisers have roused a rather important question. When did Deacon Dollars become play money? Because every time I contemplate turning down a donation or I'm harassed to purchase multiple boxes of doughnuts, there's always one dumb guy in the group that chimes in, "It's just Deacon Dollars. It's not real money." So now that I know it's not real, where do I turn in the Monopoly bucks? My account could sure use the help, especially when I buy more books or pay more parking tickets. If Monopoly is not the right game, let me know what is. Do I need poker chips, or a year's salary from The Game of Life? Somebody tell me so I can quit wasting "real" money.

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Yes, I'm bummed to learn only after a whole year that my huge bank account depletion last year was for nothing. Or at least the donut guy seems to think it was a waste. Of course, when it comes to thinking, those frat guys are pretty good at sweet-talking a thought into a girl's head.

Actually, on second thought, they're really not. But maybe if I try some of their techniques and go sweet talk the dining services staff I can get them to punch a few buttons on their computer and make my Deacon Dollar balance look a little better. Obviously, from the way it looks now I'm not very good at the Wake Forest game. The dining staff shouldn't care about that though. After all, it's just play money. If it wasn't, Wake Forest vocabulary might include words like "negative balance" or "money management." Although I'm quite certain that, for a vast majority, that's not so.

However pardon me if I'm wrong, or if my sarcasm's uncalled for. Maybe everyone *does* understand those concepts. And maybe Deacon Dollars aren't real money. In fact, maybe I just grew up too fast and had my play money taken away from me before you did. In that case, enjoy childhood while it lasts. The rest of us will live in reality.

Miranda Mills is a sophomore.

otherwise known as Krispy Kreme donuts.

You know, the ones the frat boys and charity-slaving girls deliver to your door for supporting whatever said cause—a ploy to get the selfish to donate money. My Deacon Dollar account plummets like a mountainside every fall as they ask me to support cancer research, the Salvation Army, starving children in third-world countries and other countless charities. For supporting a good cause, they provide my roommate and me with the week's breakfast. However, breakfast is not the issue here nor is the charity.

They are all very important causes. Were they not, I'd spare both my thighs and my Deacon Dollar account a lot of unnecessary size fluctuation.

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When did Deacon Dollars become play money? Because every time I contemplate turning down a donation or I'm harassed to purchase multiple boxes of doughnuts, there's always one dumb guy in the group that chimes in, "It's just Deacon Dollars. It's not *real* money." So now that I know it's not real, where do I turn in the Monopoly bucks? My account could sure use the help, especially when I buy more books, or pay more parking tickets. If Monopoly is not the right game, let me know what is. Do I need poker chips, or a year's salary from The Game

# America rightfully on top

History validates American political pre-eminence.

Dramatic change has overtaken the world in just the last century. A century ago the British Empire still ruled much of the world and the United States

Brian Kirstein

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was an isolationist nation with no will to involve itself in the increasingly tense affairs of the Imperialist European powers. There was no Cold War, NATO or United Nations, and the very political power that forever transformed and rivaled American foreign policy, communism, was only in its infancy. But most importantly, national security was not even a consideration for many countries, including America. Terrorism was completely unheard of.

This was the world at the start of the 20th century, a century that some would argue has been the most volatile and changing in human history. From the four or five superpowers that engaged in the First World War now only one remains, the United States of America – a country that only 227 years ago declared its independence from Great Britain. Replacing Britain as the dominant naval power in the world has brought America into a unique position of being so dominant in war that oftentimes there is a sense that many nations are beginning to hate America.

The war on terror began on Sept. 11, 2001 with the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Since then America has been at odds with much of the world over Iraq. But there are many

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things which have caused nations to openly or secretly fear the United States. Due to America's incomparable industrial base the British strongly attempted to entice us into both world wars long before enemy action provoked direct involvement. It is this industrial capacity that has enabled us to maintain an intimidating military created from the necessities of WWII and maintained as a product of the Cold War. Our rivalry with the U.S.S.R. prevented us from retreating to prewar isolationism and instead brought us to the forefront of world affairs.

Many of the nations, such as France, which were at the forefront of the largest period of imperial expansion in human history, lost the economic capacity to maintain their former power and prestige, and so have reverted to liberal foreign policies to counter American dominance. We are being accused of trying to "Americanize" a world that has already become the embodiment of American culture and ideals beyond the world's willingness to recognize it.

Democracy was made practicable by America, all of the large protests of thousands of people would never have been allowable without the tradition first being set forth and encouraged by America. The Eastern Bloc and U.S.S.R. collapsed because of what America introduced as the

ability to disagree with your government openly and without persecution. From restaurants to clothes, movies and music, much of the world has become America.

America's economic advantage following WWII created a gap that in modern days has led to the creation of such organizations as the European Union to establish a collective currency hoping that with the combined power of several economies Europeans could finally compete with the American dollar. Other countries and private organizations have given up hope competing with America conventionally, instead choosing deplorable means to achieve their goals.

Al-Qaeda is perhaps the most well known terrorist organization, along with groups like Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade with its direct ties to Yassar Arafat. It is a fact of international politics that the primary goal of terrorist organizations is to acquire control of a nation-state, as in Afghanistan. Such groups have proven relentless in their drive to attack America, Israel, and other western nations. The war in Iraq, regardless of WMDs, was important because of documented Iraqi ties to terrorism against America and Israel.

America has already claimed a high rank among the powerful nations of the world's history in the last century. With the benefits this brings also come dangers and responsibilities. Wealth and power attract those who do not have them and those that desire them, and so the war we fight is ongoing and will not stop by catering to Middle Eastern terrorists, but only with the defense of freedom by the only major power left that still seems to care.

Brian Kirstein is a sophomore.

# Homecoming not the only expression of spirit

Efforts to heighten the homecoming experience fail in some crucial respects.

So this week is homecoming. It seems like homecoming in one way or another has been here for weeks. Everyday I see more and more fliers posted all over campus by Unified Rhythms and other organizations. I have heard announcements about this week and the festivities on WAKE TV. In the process of all of this, I have noticed that our campus seems split. Some are scared to be apathetic

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I didn't even notice that it was school spirit until she said something. I don't know about you but when I wear a Wake Forest shirt it is usually because I slept in it the night before.

This brings up an interesting point though. Am I, and people like me, the main reason that homecoming has suffered in the past? Is it not enough school spirit that I got up and went to all my classes this morning after going to bed at 5:30 A.M.? Is it not enough that I love Wake and watch all the football games? Is it not enough that every time I go home I high-five my dad who graduated from here 30 years ago this year? According to her and many others – no, it's not. Actually Monday I was wearing an Eve 6 shirt for what Miranda Mills and I call, "Weenie Roast Appreciation Day."

To tell you the truth I am not real sure how to look upon this week. Even though more measures have been taken in order to get the homecoming hype up, I'm still not really feeling it. Maybe I'm not because I did not attend the *Slam* Sunday night nor did I play powder puff since it contradicted with my astronomy lab. Maybe the "homey" feel will come when I attend the comedy show Thursday at Wait Chapel or when I go to the game on Saturday.

What do I know? Homecoming might be fabulous. I am, I admit, quite interested in seeing how things turn out. For our campus sake and the paper's sake I hope that this homecoming makes us forget about the negative aspect of the past few weeks. And by that I do not mean to forget the cause or blow anything off. But why not put all this behind us and make this year memorable for everyone in some way? I wonder what I will remember about this year.

Jenny Billings is a sophomore.



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towards it all while others are scared to be energetic and get involved. I am somewhere in between. I do think that we as a student body need to help out the homecoming cause. However, I am not going to fret if I can't participate in all the activities.

Due to an improvement in advertising, I actually do know some names on the court this year. I have seen voting tables set up in Benson. I didn't vote though. I can't say that I care who wins this year. Let the best man and woman win is how I feel every year – no matter what color they are.

I decided to look at myself today and analyze how I have been acting toward this whole homecoming thing this year. Before I could do this though, a girl says to me: "Haven't you written about homecoming and diversity – yet still refuse to participate on school spirit day?" Baffled by this question and why it was such a big deal I answered, "Yes, I have written about these things and no – I am not wearing anything Wake Forest-oriented today." In fact,

# An extended holiday season

October at Wake is the other 'most wonderful time.'

I was on my way to my morning class the other day when I realized that there was something different on campus. I couldn't quite

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pinpoint it, but when I sat down and wrote the date on the top of my notes I realized what had happened – it was October. After fainting, I still could hardly bring myself to come to grips with the fact that the semester was almost half over. I took upon myself to completely ignore the discussion topic for that day, and jot down several thoughts about the month of October. For your convenience, I have narrowed the list down to 10 simple things you need to remember this month.

First, don't forget about midterms. While a genius such as myself might be able to not study at all for a test and still pull off an amazing 36 percent, you might want to actually pass classes and graduate on time – I hear future employers love that.

Second of all, while we're already a full week into the month, don't forget to spend some time celebrating Oktoberfest with your hall-mates or your RA. Typically the Germans celebrate Oktoberfest on the first weekend of the month, but since we're Americans we can celebrate their holidays whenever we want!

Next, Halloween is coming quickly. Be sure to get your

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costume early – or else you might just have to be the 92nd prostitute at your sorority's Halloween party, and that would just be awkward.

Batting cleanup, don't forget to plan your fall break well in advance.

This university has a tendency to shut down each and every day that there aren't classes scheduled, so if you're not off campus you're going to wish you were.

Smack-dab in the middle, be prepared for cold weather. Well, be prepared if you're from the South – if you're from anywhere north of the Mason-Dixon Line, wear your shorts as long as humanly possible and be sure to laugh at all the Southerners who are bundled up when its 50 degrees outside. And for the Southerners, now you know the real reason you weren't accepted at Harvard.

Continuing on, there's always hockey! Not only does October mark the beginning of the NHL season (aka the official export of Canada), but it's also right in the middle of women's field hockey season. Now, I don't know anything about field hockey, but I hear the women's team here is pretty good, and I've met more than a few girls on that team who could beat me up, so it's best to support them rather than go to class with a black eye.

Up next, be sure to spend lots of time shopping this

month. Winter is just around the corner, and we all know what that means – rush season! How do you ever expect to get into the sorority of your choice looking like *that*? I recommend you call off your entire fall break and spend those three days down at Hanes' Mall, particularly in the Abercrombie store. That way, when January rolls around, you'll have the same top as two out of every three people on campus and are sure to get that bid!

Probing further, it's still football season! Forget weekends, plant your butts on the sofa and worship that hypno-box, as every Saturday and Sunday you are treated to a barrage of non-stop man-on-man action that isn't gay porn. You'll be kicking yourself in the butt come February when there isn't any football to be found.

Of course, it wouldn't be October without the trees changing colors! How awesome is that? I mean, with all the powers of modern science you'd think that they'd have figured out why the leaves change colors like that, and still they haven't! One of the great-unsolved mysteries of the universe, like "who framed Roger Rabbit," and "how the hell did I get into school here?"

Lastly, October is a great month because of baseball. There's nothing more difficult than hitting a round ball with a round bat, except maybe intro to communication, and even I should be able to pass that once every four tries.

And so our journey has come to an end. If you're like me, you've learned something from this journey – it's worth failing that intro to communication class one more time just to spend another October at this university.

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