

OPINION

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

Wake the Neighbors a mixed success

When the official start of this year's men's basketball season conflicted with fall break two weeks ago, the university was forced to abandon its beloved Midnight Madness pep rally, which traditionally provides a late, rowdy celebration of the first basketball practice. Students aching for a preview of this year's team were not left entirely disappointed, however, as the Wake the Neighbors event last weekend provided considerable compensation for the forfeited Midnight Madness. Although the pep rally may have been a week late, the enthusiasm displayed by the coaches, players and fans in attendance suggested otherwise. Coach Prosser was great. With a stirring speech concerning his decision to come to the university and the quality of its basketball fans, he won the hearts of students all over again. Prosser played to the crowd even more by wearing a Screamin' Demon shirt and joining the students in the bleachers, adding fuel to a fire of fan support already well ablaze. Just as exciting was the interaction that students had with players. After showing off some of the talent waiting to be let loose in the ACC this season, the players stayed around for an "autograph session" after the pep rally. This opportunity for fans to chat with players and get their basketball posters signed provided a valuable point of contact and contributed significantly to

the overall sense of enthusiasm. Unfortunately, the gym was not nearly as packed as it tends to be for a regular Midnight Madness event. To some extent, given the unusual circumstances, this was to be expected. Because Wake the Neighbors was a new creation, devised only to serve in the place of the traditional Midnight Madness, many students may simply have been uninterested in something to which they were unaccustomed. More extensive advertising in the week leading up to Wake the Neighbors, including letters in students' post office boxes, may help to increase attendance in the future. Also, even though no one was counting down the minutes until the basketball team could officially begin practice, perhaps the event should have been held at midnight instead of at eight o' clock. This would have preserved more of the feel of Midnight Madness, made for a truer replica and perhaps drawn a greater turnout. Although Wake the Neighbors did not live up fully to previous success enjoyed by Midnight Madness, the university should be commended for not letting the start of the basketball season pass us by without some form of celebration. Wake the Neighbors succeeded in providing a fun way to hear from the coach, see the team in action and stir up a great deal of school spirit before we take to LJVM for the real competition.

China's space race troubling

Chinese government ignores citizens in favor of technology.

China no longer has to sit at the kids' table. With the Oct. 15 launch of the *Shenzhou 5*, China now joins the "adult table" along with the Soviet Union and the United States as the only two nations to send humankind into space, according to

Sure, the money that went to launch China's first man into space could have been better spent in the country's much needed infrastructure or for research of an AIDS vaccine - both pressing issues in China.



Angel Hsu

MANAGING EDITOR

an Oct. 27 article in *Time* magazine. While this is no small feat to be accomplished, China's launch was indeed an estimated \$2 billion publicity stunt aimed to boost national pride, assert the success of the newfound prosperity of the Chinese Communist Party's recent economic reforms and industrialization, and to gain the green eye of every other country vying for a space program. Amid all the hoopla, I couldn't help but worry at a headline recently featured on the cover of the Oct. 18 issue of *The Economist*. "Congratulations, China," the headline reads, but the subtext beneath the congratulatory remarks read, "(So, no need for any more aid, then?)" The corresponding article implies that because China has the supposed "wealth" to have a space program and to successfully launch a man into space, then the country no longer needs the \$1.8 billion it receives in foreign aid each year. This allegation has serious implications for China. While the article recognizes that China is the

poorest country to achieve such a feat, the economic and political repercussions of their insinuation that China no longer needs aid are indeed troublesome. First, the article fails to realize that China has been and continues to undergo economic reforms under a communist regime that still holds tight control over a highly centralized budget. What this means (and this is why we can only guess at the *Shenzhou 5*'s real price tag) is that the government can decide to allocate government funds toward a space program while the gap between the urban and rural workers continues to widen and China still lacks crucial social support and welfare programs. China's excessive military spending is a testament to the government's questionable priorities, and perhaps it shouldn't have come as such a surprise to the western world why China would choose to invest money into a space program rather than work to improve its infrastructure. And this is the real problem with China's decision to launch a man into space: while the excitement and international attention may have been the exact designs of the Chinese government, in reality, the commotion has only clouded the actuality of China's current economic situation. The simple fact is that just because the Chinese government may have launched a costly publicity stunt, China's gross national income index, formerly known as the gross national

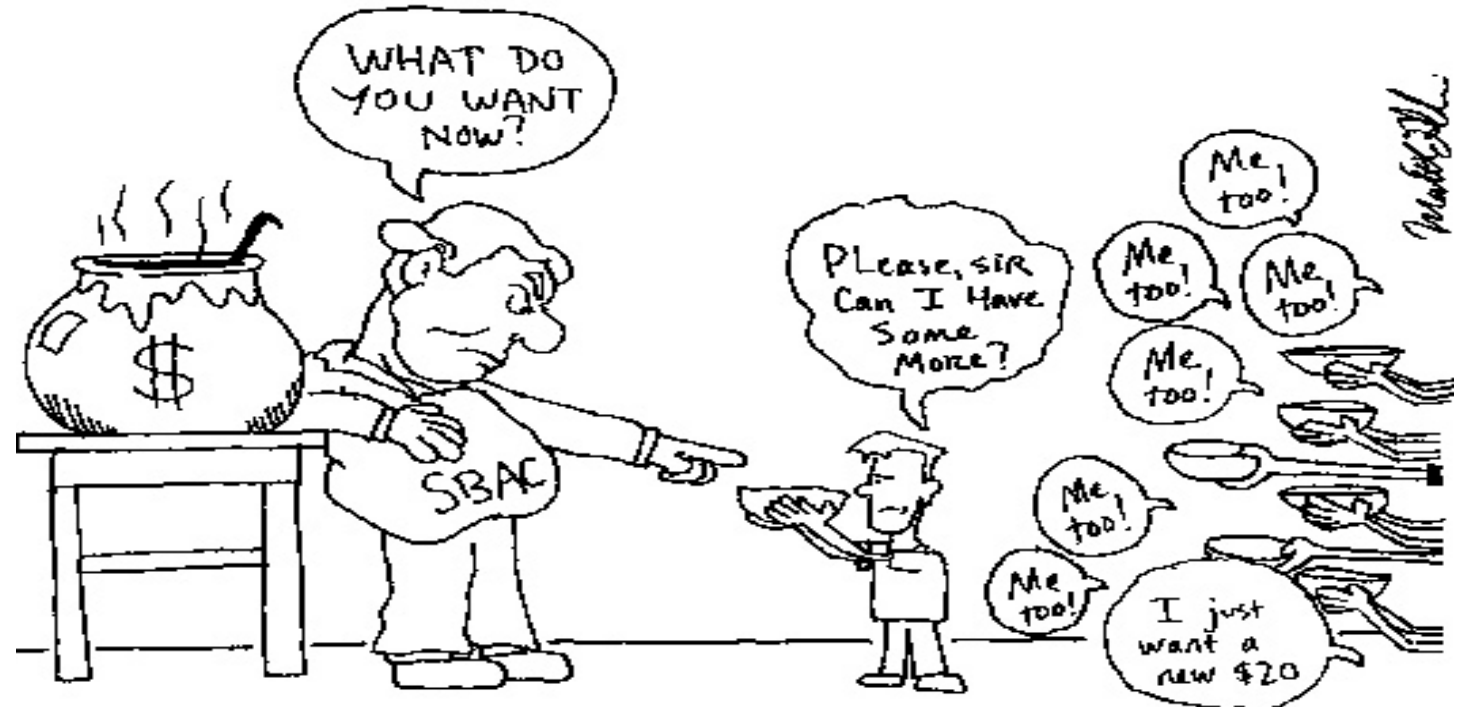
product or GNP, according to the World Bank's World Development Indicators (2002), is merely \$940, compared to the \$35,060 of the United States. Clearly, the Chinese are not driving around in BMWs and living extravagant, lavish lifestyles. Furthermore, with the government's continued shutdown of state-owned enterprises, many more urban workers have been left jobless without any assurances for future employment from the Chinese government. Sure, the money that went to launch China's first man into space could have been better spent in the country's much needed infrastructure or for research of an AIDS vaccine - both pressing issues in China. While *The Economist* hints at the fiscal irresponsibility of China's decision to invest in their space program, perhaps most damaging within the article's implication that China no longer needs foreign aid is in the perception of independent donors that might have contributed to non-governmental organizations that are establishing lasting impacts on grassroots China; of course, China has not helped the situation either. China may be merely the first in a new space race that may have been potentially spurred among other developing nations in similar shoes as China. According to the same article, India, China's primary rival in the developing world, is now prodding its scientists to outdo China and send a man to the moon. India's sights are set for a moon-landing by 2008. Could China's space program be a launchpad for other developing nations to propel into space, perhaps prioritizing the development of space programs above the development of infrastructure in other nations as well? Congratulations, China. You've got our attention and have us all wondering, what next?

Angel Hsu is a junior biology and political science major.

SBAC appeals rewarding for many

The Student Budget Advisory Council allocated nearly \$30,000 in additional student organization funding this week through its appeals process, providing an extra boost for some student groups originally left strapped for funds. The *Old Gold and Black* especially benefited by the results of its appeal, which resulted in an added \$10,000 to put toward operating expenses next year. This bonus is quite significant, as it will allow the Life tabloid insert that is now included in the first newspaper of each month to remain a part of our pages next year. Other organizations were well deserving of the additional money that they received. For example, the important work done by PREPARE makes it particularly worthy of sufficient funding, and the organization's appeal resulted in an extra \$2,100. Additionally, SBAC should be

commended for its generosity. After the student literary magazine *Three to Four Ounces* failed to place a request for funding in the initial stages of budget allocations and received no money, SBAC was responsive to their appeal and granted the group nearly \$8,400. Given the success that SBAC has enjoyed in distributing its funds fairly, perhaps it should consider some changes for next year. Making its process of determining how the money is allocated more open to the public could be beneficial for everyone. For example, when city councils convene to plan budgets, the decision-making process is a public affair, allowing for more participation and influence on the part of citizens. Opening up SBAC's deliberations to the campus community would give groups more incentive to plan strong budgets and provide insight on how an organization might best tailor its proposal.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Piccolo programming promises to thrill

The Chi Omega sorority is raffling off a parking spot to kick off their brand new fundraiser this year for the Brian Piccolo Cancer Fund. We will have a raffle for a year-long parking spot in the lot between Benson University Center and Davis Residence Hall, so come down to Benson this week between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and purchase a ticket for \$10 before the drawing at 3:00 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31. Mayor Allen Joines will proclaim Friday Brian Piccolo Day in Winston-Salem to honor Brian on his birthday. Everyone on campus is invited to enjoy the free pizzas and drinks and to find out the lucky winner of his or her very own designated parking space! Believe it or not, there are many more exciting prizes and items to look forward to this weekend. Interested? Bring your parents and friends down to Benson this weekend and check out the exciting items, plus the raffle for two lower-level Wake vs. Duke basketball tickets at \$5 per raffle ticket. Auction items include a Derek Jeter signed baseball bat, a NY Yankees ticket, Arnold Palmer and Josh Howard autographed paraphernalia, spa treatments and gift certificates to some of your favorite Winston-Salem restaurants, plus more!

in Benson, in front of Pizza Hut throughout Family Weekend. We close at noon on Sunday Nov. 2, so keep tabs on your bids throughout the weekend. Deacon Dollars are accepted on all raffle items. Chi Omega looks forward to seeing you at our various events this weekend starting on Friday Oct. 31, 2003 with free pizzas and drinks in the parking lot between Benson University Center and Davis Residence Hall at 3:00 pm. Please contact Fundraiser Chairs Claire Crotzer and/or Kate Leonard if you have any questions.

Catharine McNally
Sophomore

Republican faux-pas appalls student

As I was walking down a hallway in Tribble, I saw a poster advertising a meeting for College Republicans. It read, "Viva Bush! Amazingly, there is a use for French!" My point is very simple; however I will lay out my personal biases in advance so as not to appear like I have ulterior motives. First, I am not affiliated with any political party. This is not an attack on College Republicans. As a proficient speaker of French and someone who has much affinity for French and Francophone culture,

I was unquestionably appalled by the second part of the announcement. We as Americans, members of the most pluralistic society in the world, cannot truly be so ignorant as to believe that choice words and phrases are the only use we have for other languages. We have the great sociologist and philosopher Emile Durkheim. France and the United States are considered the birth places of modern democracy and the implementation of the *laissez-faire* doctrine. René Descartes, the great philosopher, gave us Cartesian geometry and the famous supposition "Je pense donc je suis" (I think therefore I am). Nobody could forget their culinary contributions such as Brie and Camembert cheese, wines, croissants, baguettes and Nutella. I could continue. Where lies my problem, you ask? "Viva" is Spanish.

Alex Reyes
Sophomore

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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