

# OPINION

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

## ARAMARK begets fiscal famine

An interesting experiment is currently underway. When freshman Tori Borowski announced her plans to eat free on campus for an entire week in this week's Life section of the *Old Gold and Black*, it initially seemed like little more than an amusing way to find some free food around the university and avoid the pains invariably associated with yet another meal at the Pit or Benson. Unfortunately, however, her plight is all too familiar to many students. At the end of the semester, just about everyone begins to run a bit low on Deacon Dollars, and many must follow courses of action that mirror quite closely the "eat for free" test that Borowski is currently performing. The reason? ARAMARK's products are entirely too expensive. Just check out the cost comparisons that Borowski makes in her article this week. Some products at Sundry border on double the price for which you would find them at the local grocery store. And spending \$12 for a meal at the Pit, Benson and IS has never been particularly appetizing. Unfortunately, students have little

choice in the matter.

While the savvy student can attempt to bargain shop, most of us will simply swipe our card and move on—but that doesn't mean we should put up with price-gouging.

It's nice that ARAMARK has improved campus cuisine with the addition of Chick-Fil-A and the updated convenience store options, but in reality the quality doesn't equate with the cost.

And though ARAMARK attempts to get students excited about food offerings with events like the "battle of the chefs" co-hosted with Elon University, we'd just prefer reasonable prices.

Students fork over enough money to go to school here as it is—and while the quality of our education is usually worth it, the food isn't.

When it comes time for the university to renegotiate their contract with ARAMARK, we urge the administration to solicit student's input and take a close look at what we're getting.

After all, we're the ones who eat every meal here.

## Editorial policy changes lead to a better section for everyone to enjoy.

Perhaps some of the regular readers of the editorial section of the *OGB* have noticed recently that the section is shorter than it has been in the past. Whereas we have run sections as long as six pages, this semester has been between three and four for the most part.



Chris Plumblee

EDITORIALS EDITOR

While that change has little effect on most people at Wake Forest, it is an important change for some. In recent weeks, the *OGB* editorial staff has been attempting to reach a position that meets both the demands of the columnists who wish to have their material published weekly and the demands of having a section that is high in quality and allows new voices to be heard. Though this standard is a difficult one to meet, I believe that it is possible to do so through the application of stringent guidelines to all writers.

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which is largely successful, to put personal politics and opinions aside when judging articles for publication. It is not our intention to censor anyone or change their opinion as they expressed it. There are editorial changes that must be made before columns meet the length and space guidelines of the paper, and sometimes that necessitates more drastic changes than merely shortening sentences.

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appear are not solicited as such. They are a representative sample of what is turned in by regular writers and guest columnists. We do not choose columns based on political biases or our like or dislike of a particular writer.

That being said, we definitely do have a discriminating policy, because we try to choose the best-written, most current columns for publication from week to week.

Sometimes that means holding columns that are pretty good but not time-sensitive. Sometimes that means holding things that are not as good but might appear to be more time-sensitive.

The standards on the *OGB* Web site and in the box at the bottom of the first editorials page are complete. As a part of meeting those standards, it will no longer be the case that we publish everything we receive. No newspaper of repute does that.

Our shorter word count this semester is an effort to rein in some of the lengthy columns that have been submitted in the past that could have been much better had they been 500 words instead of 1000.

Making efforts to move to a more directed philosophy from a more open system is always difficult. In the next step along that road, the editorial board of the *OGB* has decided that the editorials section will be two pages long.

So, aspiring writers, sharpen your pens and be concise. Brevity is the soul of wit.

Chris Plumblee is a senior communication major.

## Students must work to improve relations

Based on discussions with students, faculty and administrative leaders over the past week, an article in this week's *Old Gold and Black* has found the campus climate toward gay and lesbian students to be a work in progress.

Sadly, in the recent past several incidents have occurred around campus with the purpose of specifically targeting and persecuting homosexual students.

Last year, Huffman Residence Hall was vandalized with derogatory statements concerning homosexuals.

GSSA often cannot place fliers up around campus without having them immediately torn down and students often use language derogatory toward gays in everyday conversation.

Such actions are unacceptable in a university environment.

Although ideological divisions will always exist, everyone is capable of treating others with respect.

Many steps have been made in the right direction, however.

A letter written by President Hearn in 2001 that called for tolerance

toward homosexuals, and the resulting appointment of Mary Gerardy, a vice president of student life, as coordinator of gay and lesbian student concerns, have both been helpful in providing improved resources and support to students.

The administration has further shown that it is aware of homosexual concerns through the inclusive comments made by Chaplain Auman at Fall Convocation, as well as widespread support of the "Safe Places" initiative.

Moreover, comments made by GSSA President Dylan Morris concerning positive responses by gay alumni returning to campus, straight "allies" attending GSSA meetings and the success of a recent T-shirt sale are all encouraging.

Many on campus have begun the process of creating an accepting environment.

The *Howler* incident this fall reiterated the need for legitimate discussion of racial issues on campus—and this is yet another area where work still needs to be done.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Will technology overtake Wake Forest?

For all of their vision, the Wachowski brother's should be ashamed of the world they've created in *The Matrix*. Think about it, in the future the machines are able to enslave humanity and hook them into a computer-program of a world called the matrix, but they have to hook them up with wires! How 20th century!

How could they have had so little vision? Here we are only four years after the first movie and just after the release of the end of the trilogy, and wires are already going out of style – you don't have to look any further than the technology policy of this university to see my point.

Wireless service is just around the corner for those IBM ThinkPads the university hands out. What better way to experience the beauty of this campus than sitting on the Quad, checking your e-mail, IMing your best friend and never looking up from your computer screen! You'd think that the social behavior that I was ridiculed for in high school would take longer than four years to become the norm in society.

Internet service is only one part of the picture. Soon phones that are plugged into anything at all will go out of style. Cellular phones are all the rage on campus and I can't go more than five steps on campus without hearing somebody's custom ring-tones interrupt my natural skulking to class. Not only that, but phones provide great access for your friends to get a hold of you while you're in class! Forget about learning anything, what you're really in class for is to hear about your best friend's weekend even though you live next door to one another and you'll be able to hear about it face-to-face in less than an hour anyway!

Wireless internet, the lingering rumor of PDAs for incoming freshmen, and the abundance of cellular phones on campus has led me to conclude that we need to wave goodbye to the Magnolia Quad and say hello to a cellular phone tower! Think how picturesque that would be: you can take a picture from between Johnson and Bostwick and are able to get Reynolda, the Chapel, and the Cell Phone Tower, all in one picture! Don't worry about the hike in your tuition, this university has shown itself perfectly capable of selling the rights to things on campus – you thought the PepsiCo Entertainment Center was a great corporate endorsement, say hello to the Verizon Wireless/Cellular/Sony/Doo-Dad Wireless Deacon Tower!

Humanity will become enslaved to the machines? It will never happen – never mind the fact that my

handwriting is illegible, I can't spell to save my life, I can't go more than five minutes without checking my friends away messages, e-mail is the primary means that I communicate with my parents and that I'm more embarrassed by having to end a phone call because class is about to start rather than having my phone go off in the middle of class. Enslaved by machines? I'm perfectly in control of my life.

Brett Gray  
Junior

### Few choices for classes potentially problematic

As registration time rolled around again, I pulled out my course schedule and Undergraduate Bulletin and sat down to figure out my classes for next semester. While thumbing through the Hours book, I noticed a trend which has become all too common over the last few semesters: there is an alarming lack of classes to choose from when it comes time to register.

All history majors are required to take at least one pre-modern history course to complete the major, and yet there is not a single pre-modern class offered next semester. I would hate to be the senior who left his or her pre-modern requirement for the last semester, only to find that he or she cannot graduate due to the history department's failure to offer even one pre-modern class in the spring.

This is not limited to history classes, though. One can find similar problems in almost every academic department. Spanish majors, for example, must take three courses in 300-level Spanish literature in order to graduate. There are exactly three of these courses offered next semester, each of which is limited to 15 students.

At least those classes are available, though. A Spanish class that would benefit both Spanish majors/minors and prospective law students, Spanish 228c, Spanish for Law and Law Enforcement, has not been offered in my three years at Wake. In fact, I have been specifically told by a Spanish faculty member that that class "will not be offered anytime soon."

Upon my arrival at Wake, I read the undergraduate bulletin and was amazed at all of the classes I would have the opportunity to take during my stay here. Yet only a small fraction of the courses listed in the Bulletin ever make it to the course schedule. Philosophy majors, for instance, will see 34 non-honors/independent study classes in the Bulletin, but there are only nine

philosophy courses offered next semester.

Clearly, this scarcity of options is detrimental to the students' ability to take classes that they need or find enjoyable. But it is also harmful to the university. In recruiting prospective students to apply here, Wake makes numerous mentions of the small average class size, which is also a factor in the *U.S. News & World Report* college rankings. If more classes were offered, the average class size would decrease because students would be spread out over these extra classes.

Therefore it is time for the academic departments and the university as a whole to reexamine the policy of offering classes. The lack of courses hurts both students trying to fulfill their requirements and those looking for a broad, liberal arts education. Students must have more class options, so that we are not left to search in futility through the course schedule when registration time comes around again next semester.

John Engel  
Junior

### Professor points out important distinction

As an instructor and researcher on East Asia, I was very excited to read your article on the establishment of the East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALC) Department ("New department recognized," Nov. 6). The university should be commended for its strong commitment to international learning and global cultural understanding. However, I do want to clarify one point so as to be most helpful for students who are considering this major, as well students who are considering the interdisciplinary East Asian Studies minor, which was also mentioned in the article and which, as I understand, remains under the jurisdiction of the interdisciplinary East Asian Studies Committee. I would not want to leave students confused about these similarly-named but different courses of study.

Wei-chin Lee  
Professor of Political Science

### 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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