

SAFE funds distributed to groups accordingly

Students encouraged to think of events for funds available next school year.

I was very happy to see the article about the student activities fee and the lefthand in last week's *Old Gold & Black* ("More discretion needed for SAFE funds," Feb. 17). The Student Activities Fee Allocation Committee

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has worked hard for the past 18 months and I do believe, as was noted in the lefthand, that there have been significant positive changes to the social atmosphere at the university. Of course, there is always more work to

be done. I do also want to take this opportunity to correct some factual errors or misperceptions that appeared in the lefthand last week.

No projects were ever funded for the sake of spending the money. Each proposal was considered on its merits. Activity programmers understand that some events cannot be executed as well indoors as they might have been outdoors.

Unfortunately, we do not have enough appropriate indoor spaces on-campus to move every event that was originally scheduled for an outdoor venue.

This year, student activities fee-funded events ranged in cost from \$575 to \$49,000. The allocation committee is extremely willing to look at more large-scale events. This group does not create or plan activities – rather, it responds to the requests that it receives. We continue to encourage students to "think big" for 2005-2006. The biggest event that we have funded

This group does not create or plan activities – rather, it responds to the requests that it receives. We continue to encourage students to "think big" for 2005-2006. The biggest event that we have funded to date for 2004-2005 has not yet taken place. That event is Springfest, and it promises to be bigger and better than ever.

to date for 2004-2005 has not yet taken place. That event is Springfest, and it promises to be bigger and better than ever. I hope that the majority of the student body plans to attend the "Shag on the Mag" on April 1.

It is my understanding that the Student Activities Fee Allocation Committee will receive a request for more Wake Invasion buses for fall 2005. We agree that Wake Invasion was a huge success.

The group that brought this request

forward also tried to provide Wake Invasion buses for basketball.

Unfortunately, the group was unable to secure basketball tickets for any away games of interest to students.

I would encourage a group of students to bring a request forward regarding the NBA exhibition game next fall.

The same would apply to movie premieres – this is a great idea!

The Student Activities Fee Allocation Committee is actually quite diverse.

It would be more difficult to bring a large group together, often with short notice.

It is our hope to have a web site for the Student Activities Fee by next fall, and I would welcome the help of any students who know how to create such a site.

Currently, students can access the application form and guidelines from the organizations page of *The Student*. Applications may also be picked up in Benson 311.

We definitely want groups to

understand that we can provide assistance in filling out the forms.

The Student Activities Fee Allocation Committee did not create the requirement that funded proposal use ARAMARK.

ARAMARK has a contract with the university and all groups that serve food on the Reynolda Campus must use ARAMARK.

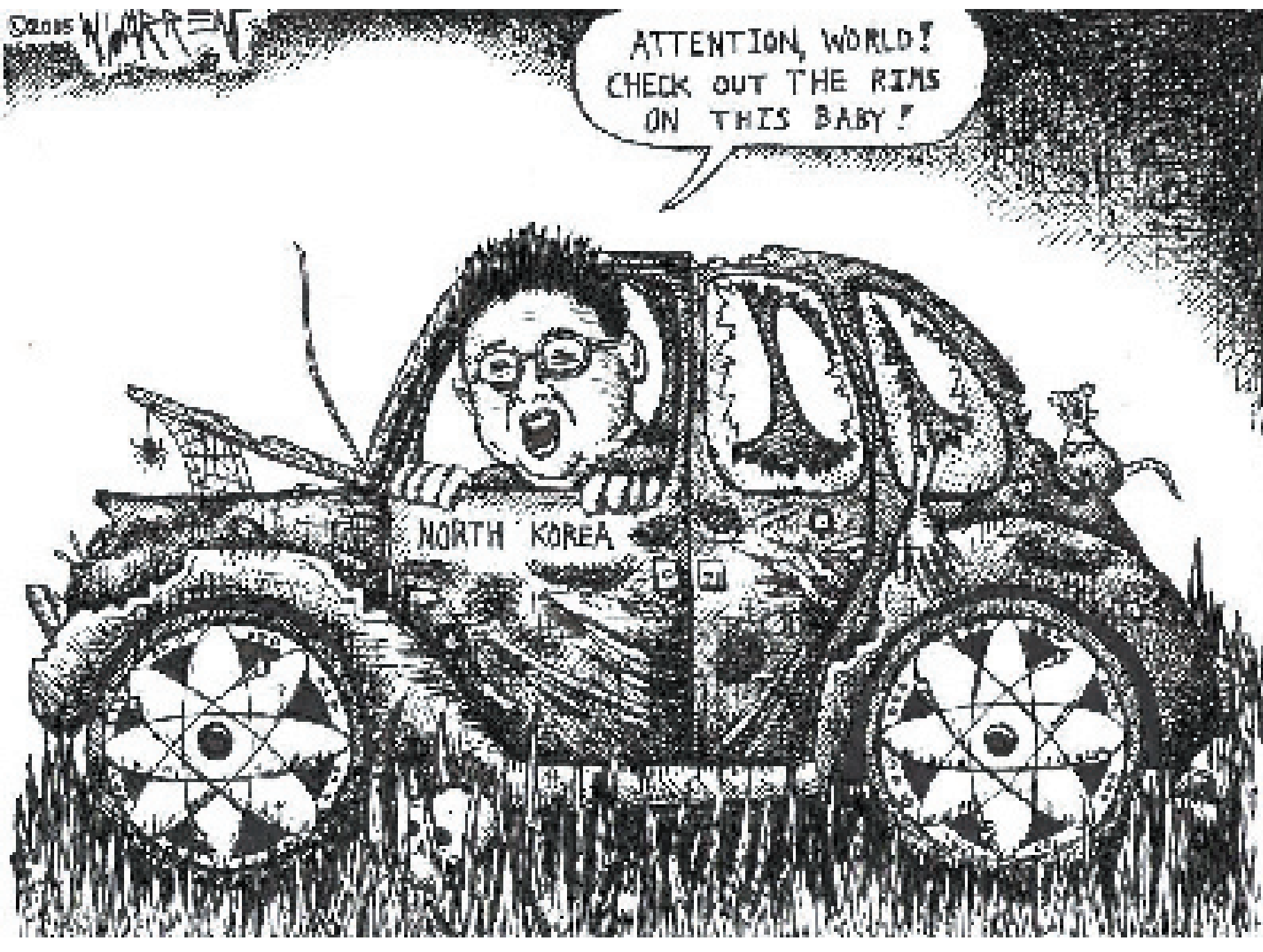
The SAFE requirements do not exclude the use of alcohol. Student groups may have alcohol at SAFE funded events; however, the alcohol must be paid for through the organization's own budget or through a cash-bar with a third party vendor.

I look forward to great ideas from students for next year.

What types of events and programs would make the social atmosphere at the university more exciting?

Please think about it and share your ideas.

Mary Gerardy is an associate vice president of student life.



Republicans misconstrue Christianity

Modern party uses religion as a base for beliefs, but Jesus might object to some of their policies.

Republican Party leaders refer to themselves as "Christian conservatives" and proudly wear their faith as a badge of righteousness before the nation. However, the policies of modern day Republicans are so alien to the teachings of Christ that one may doubt whether



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they have ever read his words.

For starters, Jesus' words condemn using piety as a political campaign tool. In chapter 6 of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus instructs his disciples not to make showy displays of their faith in public for the approval of men, but rather to exercise their faith sincerely and humbly in private.

Furthermore, it is hard to imagine that Jesus would support the trigger-happy war-mongering activities of the Republican party. The prophet Isaiah named Jesus the "Prince of Peace" and rightly so, for his life was the perfect example of peace and non-violence. In his radical sermon on the mount, he instructed his disciples to love not only their friends, but, astoundingly, their enemies as well.

Even when police officers came to take him to his death, his commitment to peace was unwavering. He refused to let his apostles fight on his behalf, telling them, "He who lives by the sword shall die by the sword."

The difference is striking between the gentle Jesus and our president, his supposed follower, who is responsible for the deaths of more than 100,000 Iraqi citizens. One gets the feeling that when faced with a hostile nation already terrorized by a brutal dictator, Christ would not aggravate the injury with bombs, devastating embargoes and military occupation. Rather, he would respond by opening the borders to refugees and opening up international markets to the suffering populace. He would embrace the helpless with the open arms of Christian charity.

Moreover, Jesus rejected political power, in contrast to today's Republicans. When a mob of his disciples tried to make him king, he quelled the potential insurrection by running away from them. While he did indeed seek to change the way people lived, his method of choice was persuasion. He humbly taught the gravest sinners in desperate need of his words and as a result, many of them began leading righteous lives.

But republicans embrace the power of the state to force their worldview on a diverse nation. Instead of taking the time to humbly convince people of the superiority of the Christian way of life, they haughtily assume the reigns of power in an attempt to remake an entire country. They wish to use the force of law to censor what people can watch, to control sex and marriage and to fund Christian groups with stolen tax dollars. Have Christian conservatives forgotten the way of tolerance and compassion found in the gospels?

The only thing more astounding than the hypocrisy of self-styled Christian conservatives is the fact that their deception has been successful in drawing millions of voters to their side. Our nation would be a safer and happier place if these voters remembered the peace, compassion and tolerance of the Messiah. After all, he who lives by the cluster bomb will die by the cluster bomb.

Jacob Lyles is a senior economics and mathematics major.

Facebook shows array of student interests

Everyone can find at least one group on web site that fits their style.

Hours have been wasted in the creation of this column.

But that's okay, because you're in no position to criticize me. Because I wasted said hours on *The Facebook*, and I know you've been



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there before.

The Facebook is an online database available to students in a plethora of colleges and universities across the country including, obviously, ours.

The database allows each student to register with their university e-mail and set up a profile, answering questions about themselves for their fellow students to review at their own leisure.

After setting up a profile, the world is at your fingers. You can coordinate a relationship with another student. You can send messages to others.

You can even "poke" (Facebook-speak for "creep out") anybody with a registered profile at the click of a button.

The highlight of my Facebook career, however, are the groups. Any and every possible organization on campus has created an online Facebook group to be joined by

other members of the organization, but the best part about these groups is that there is no validity required for any of them. They can be created by any student, at any time.

And because any student at any time can likely be found under the influence of one, if not more, mind-altering substances, the creation of these groups is an extraordinary testament to what actually goes on inside the mind of young adults recently broken free from the chains of parental supervision on the Internet.

I recently browsed through the hundreds of groups created on *The Facebook* by university students. Groups created to represent the organizations sanctioned by the university exist, but those aren't the fun ones.

Those are the groups that people look over – because those are not the groups which can be represented by pictures of squirrels Photoshopped into lewd positions.

There are too many quality (I use this term loosely) Facebook groups for me to mention in one 600-word column, but I'll do my best.

I believe that before anything else is said, I should mention "Wake's Top 25 Hottest Girls." How awesome is this? No longer must I torment myself with questions pertaining to this subject – everything has been answered for me. There are apparently more hot Chi Omegas than Kappa Kappa Gammas (nine Chi Os, seven Kappas).

And whenever I need to invite some girls to a party, I have a readily available list of 25 girls to email ASAP.

Along the same lines, I should mention "Boobs are Overrated" – an immensely popular group, as displayed by its nine female members. Sorry ladies, but I feel like the people have spoken with the 20-member "Boobs, a Wonderful Creation" counter-group.

Another contradiction exists with the originally-titled "Kerry's a Liberal Wiener." What of the existence of "Liberals Make Better Lovers"? If I were to join both of these groups, would I be saying that John Kerry is a better-loving wiener?

The influence of alcohol on Wake students is evident everywhere. Check out groups such as "Drink Beer While Doing Homework," "Drunk Scooter Riders Unite," "Frat Boozehounds," "The Fifth, Two 40s and a Half Case of Beer Club," "Lush Puppies" and my personal favorite "Drunkapella."

Fortunately for our university's reputation, and for the sake of my mom, who might believe college life is full of Scrabble and orange soda, there are many groups on the Facebook that aspire to communicate important political ideals.

Students concerned with the university's recent struggles with the development of a dining plan make themselves known on the group "ARAMARK Should Burn," a group which announces that ARAMARK is an example of home-grown terrorism.

Groups developed by students with firm political beliefs include "Dick Cheney is the Devil" and "Hot Girls in Appreciation of

Clinton as a Playa'."

But now it's time for me to reveal the Best in Show awards. Third place for the most creative Facebook group is awarded to "We Are Not Discussing Friday Night." This group features a picture of a female student curled up on a bed with marker-writing all over her body.

Second place is awarded to "Gunther, You Touch My Tralala," a group that honors the infamous Gunther, a musical artist based out of Europe.

And my Best in Show Award is awarded to "I Live With Four Idiots On Barclay Terrace," a one-man-group created by junior Durie O.

Honorable mention goes to "Those Who Urinate," "My Roommate is a Slut," "Iata Pi" and "Team Galph," for the sole reason being that I'm in the background of their picture.

I also feel that due credit should go out to "The Wayne King Fan Club," a group populated by journalism students wishing to honor Wayne King, a journalism professor and the *Old Gold & Black's* very own adviser.

So there you have it, folks. Keep these Facebook groups coming, or else I might have to do my homework – or worse, write a column about something important. And there's no better way for me to end this column but with the name of a final Facebook group: "You Stay Classy, Wake Forest."

Dave Chace is a sophomore English major.