

OPINION

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

Expulsion only option for vandalism suspect

For weeks students have been forced to watch their campus be vandalized with obscene messages and the acronym "SYST."

The discovery that the culprit was a student of the university was disappointing, but a relief that the graffiti would come to a stop.

What needs to occur now is swift punishment for this disgrace to the campus.

It goes without saying that there are an infinite number of more effective ways of bringing about a change on campus if this student was unhappy. As posted outside the Pit, "Powerful ideas don't drip from walls," and powerful people don't resort to tasteless petty crimes to try to make a difference.

In the end, this student is just as unexceptional as those he claims to detest when he brags about what he has accomplished. A person truly interested in changing his surroundings would not have to resort to such childish means.

This student should be expelled and fined for the damage that he did to the

university. Someone who gets his kicks from destroying property with profane messages, and then shows no remorse, is not a person who should be on this campus.

The graffiti was not a one-night, harmless incident; it was ongoing, premeditated and deliberately harmful.

The spring is an active recruitment time for the university, hundreds of families visit the university for Campus Days, tours and other activities.

To have obscene messages and graffiti scrawled across and in the main academic buildings on what has been named the most beautiful college campus is America is a disgrace.

It hurts recruitment for the class of 2009, and that hurts everyone at the university. It also ruins chances for current members of the university to enjoy the beauty of their campus in the spring.

Expulsion is the only suitable option for these unfortunate offenses against the entire university community, and it is our hope that the Honor and Ethics Committee will recognize that when the student appears for his hearing.

Paul leaves challenges at school by going to NBA

It's impossible whether to say we saw it coming or not, some say they would expect nothing less, others just seem remorseful. What is for sure is that the announced departure of Chris Paul for the NBA draft has left a gap in the Deacon roster that can't be easily understood.

Paul said that he is ready for the challenge that the NBA has to offer.

As students who witnessed a heartbreaking loss during the second round of the NCAA tournament, it is clear that there are still many challenges for Paul left unmet here at the university: an ACC tournament title, a final four appearance and an NCAA championship. The challenge of the NBA will always be there.

Most unfortunate is that fact that Paul will fail to leave a legacy at this university.

Look at some of the most revered players in university history; Josh Howard and

Tim Duncan for example, are legends that come to mind. They will always have their jerseys hanging in the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum and a university diploma, something Paul should've had.

With the possibility of an early graduation, what was just one more year? Another year would give Paul the opportunity to finish his college education, but also an opportunity to improve his standings in relation to his peers in the NCAA; he started off this year a lot higher than he ended it.

The university has not seen a player leave mid-career in many years – we do not go to a school where players leave on a regular basis for the NBA. This institution is unique in that we have regular contact with athletes – we have classes together, eat together and party together. For us, this is like a good friend transferring to a new school.

Senior leadership will be missed

Former staffers set high standards, leaving behind a strong legacy at the *OGB*.

It takes a lot more to produce a good newspaper than fancy equipment, a large budget and a bunch of freshmen with nothing better to do on Wednesday nights than stare at computers – it also takes the dedication and expertise of our senior

Jessica Pritchard and Dave Chace

EDITOR IN CHIEF AND MANAGING EDITOR

staff members, also with nothing better to do on Wednesday nights.

However, there comes a time in each newspaper staff's lifetime where they must let go of their oldest members and watch them sail away into the horizon.

But before we face the reality of our empty-nest syndrome, we should take one last opportunity to thank our mentors for all that they've done for us over the years.

Outgoing co-editors in chief Angel Hsu and Tom Clark leave a void in an office that has largely only known their leadership.

Hsu and Clark helped recruit the largest freshman staff in the recent history of the paper, having aided in their training to ensure smooth transitions during their departure in the spring.

Hsu and Clark also drove the redesign of the paper's style this summer, returning to campus early to discuss and create a new, updated look that the campus could appreciate.

The Associated Collegiate Press presented the paper with a second place Best in Show award at a November 2004 conference for student journalists, thanks in part to the hard work that went into updating templates and styles by Hsu and Clark.

Additionally, both Hsu and Clark left the *OGB* with a clear vision for the future due to their leadership throughout the past year and through the transition period. They leave a paper with a successful staff and bright future.

We wish them the very best in their pursuits after university life, they will be sorely missed.

Former sports editor Jason Mazda will be missed not only because his section was always done so quickly, but also because he was truly a wonderful person to have around the office.

His passion for sports spilled onto the great sports pages he created week after week.

When covering late games or breaking sports news, Mazda could always be counted on to turn out quality work. Sports was easily the most reliable section, thanks to Mazda's hard work.

We'll also miss the after-parties at his apartment, and his continual support of Philadelphia sports.

Former assistant sports editor Peter Bergman, we're sorry you're stuck here another year, but we're sure a master's degree in accounting is way more exciting than anything we have to offer.

Don't forget your roots Kreshawn Peoples, good luck hitting it big on Wall Street and we'll all miss you around the office.

Business Manager Jenny Gow led the *OGB* through one of its most successful business years, selling an incredible amount of advertising space and cultivating a business staff that was able to go out and work to sell ads.

Her hard work and dedication to this very important side of the paper is much appreciated and will be missed in the coming year.

Elliot Nickles, the former graphics editor for the *OGB*, had the miserable task of translating our page designers' lack of creativity into some of the most eye-catching maps, charts and images that the paper has likely ever seen.

His quick eye for detail easily made him one of the most efficient workers in the office.

Without his patience and originality week after week, there's no doubt that every graphic in the newspaper would have been reduced to a bunch of random objects overlapped with another deacon head.

Nickles also ran the *OGB*'s online edition and is largely responsible, along with Hsu, for the paper's finalist award in the ACP's Online Pacemaker award.

Just as Nickles' work broke up the monotony of our front page layouts, he always broke up the monotony of our production nights

Also leaving the university is former Life editor Jennifer Holland.

Jen had a way of always making the office a little more fun to be in, especially during those late nights when only News and Life were around, and the sun was starting to rise.

Her versatility in writing, photography and editing was an asset to the paper that led to beautiful designs and interesting articles. Her creativity and presence in the office have been missed this semester, and we wish her the best beyond the university.

The *OGB* will also lose the help of Editorials Editor Anjali Garg.

Garg was a huge help to stay and work through her final semester at the university, and we appreciate her dedication to our staff as our tireless editorial board column writer.

We hope that these seniors leave the university with as many fond memories of the *OGB* as they leave us with. Just as their stories of former staff members were passed on by us to them, there is no doubt in our minds that years from now, new staff members will be hearing stories about Angel's love for peaches, salsa, and undressing herself in the office,

Tom's strange obsession with Napoleon Dynamite, and also undressing himself in the office, Jason's unrelenting hatred for Duke and New England, and many of the other adventures we've had over the years.

Garg was able to sit through seemingly endless debates, sift through the verbal abuse and jargon, and produce a column worthy of bearing the opinion of our editorial board and the name the *OGB*. We're sure she will go out into the world and do great things, and wish her luck in all that she attempts.

On May 16, the *OGB* will also lose some of its most experienced senior reporters. Jordan Rae Smith will be remembered for her willingness to take important articles, even when she didn't have a spare minute, and turning in a wonderful copy.

She was a reporter that could always be counted on, and we're sure she will see great success at law school.

While Gerry Smith only began working for the *OGB* this year, we were all impressed with the quality articles he supplied and the interesting stories he dug up for print. We wish him good luck in graduate school at Northwestern University next year.

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Hot Sauce says good luck in the real world, guys, and you all will always have a place up here in Benson 518, so come back and visit some day.

And when you do, feel free to lay out some pages.

Jessica Pritchard is a junior biology major and Dave Chace is a sophomore English major.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

President bids farewell to university

My childhood nickname was "T.K." I am glad that students have revived it in recent years.

Your good wishes and prayers supported Laura and me during my illness. I am grateful for the support of the Wake Forest family.

I pass my duties with joy to President-elect Nathan Hatch. He was carefully and well chosen. He will carry this school forward, and I commend his leadership.

Working together, we have pursued the overriding goal of "Pro Humanitate." Wake Forest will continue to succeed if we seek causes and ideals worth working for and, ultimately, worth living for.

Thank you one and all for your support.

"T.K." Hearn, Jr.
President

Vandalism warrants removal of culprit

I was thrilled to hear that on April 17 the student who had been vandalizing the campus had finally been caught and arrested. However, I think I speak for a large part of the student body when I say that I am not satisfied with the relative slap on the wrist that the university has decided on as a punishment for this student.

This student defaced our campus on multiple occasions, in numerous places. To call this a one-time mistake is inaccurate; it would have been that if the

vandal had stopped after the first night that he vandalized the campus. However, he continued, making sure that hardly anyone on campus could miss his "SYST" signatures. His work could be seen in countless classrooms, as well as outside Benson University Center and Reynolda Hall, the campus' two main buildings.

To call these crimes "victimless" is inaccurate as well. Obviously, the people at facilities management have had extra work to do in cleaning the vandalism. Also, while current students have had to put up with seeing our beautiful campus defaced all over the place, every member of the community should be embarrassed that prospective students and other visitors over the past week came away with memories of a vandalized university.

That is why I am calling for this student to leave the university community. If the university, for whatever reason, chooses not to expel him, then this student should transfer, because he is not wanted here. Why stay at a place that you so obviously despise, anyway?

Jason Mazda
Senior

Students take notice of faculty departures

Next year, returning students may be sad to see that their favorite people at the university are no longer around – and we're not talking about graduated seniors. We're referring to the many faculty, hired over the last five or so years, who have chosen to take

jobs at other universities. At least nine that we know of will not be returning. Added to that, several have been denied tenure. Who are these people? Bright, diverse Ph.D.s from prestigious universities, dynamic and energetic teachers, men and women, many of whom are from the west or the northeast; and from the several different departments. We hope the *Old Gold & Black* considers this story newsworthy. We'd like to see a story, next fall perhaps, noting where these folks went and why they left. A couple of years ago, John Anderson, a senior vice president of finance, said that faculty pay couldn't be so bad since he didn't see anyone leaving. Is the faculty exodus a tacit response? Was it an inflexible curriculum? An unresponsive administration? Why have departments struggled to tenure their top recruits?

We want some answers, and surely many students will too, especially when they show up to campus in August and seek out their favorite professor in her office, only to find she is not there.

Dean Franco and Jessica Richard
Assistant professors of English

Prior notice of book lists is only fair

Ever wonder why you are buying your books from the bookstore? For some people it is a matter of convenience, but for many others the opportunity of knowing the books required for their classes is not given in

advance. In a project for my political science seminar, my group researched the price difference between both new and used books in the bookstore compared to those found online at Amazon.com. New books purchased from Amazon.com cost, on average, only 85 percent of the price of the campus bookstore's books, and used books listed in "very good condition" from Amazon.com cost, on average, only 56 percent of their used price at the bookstore.

Our group submitted a letter to the heads of all the academic departments with our results, asking them to encourage their professors to make their list of books available prior to the start of school.

The bookstore holds a certain monopoly over the sale of books on this campus. Our group's goal in encouraging professors to allow students to not have to go to the bookstore is a result of their higher prices than competitors. If the bookstore were able to match these prices then students wouldn't need these book lists ahead of time. I encourage students to get in touch with their professors for next year and ask for these lists.

Vicky Gillen
Senior

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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