

OPINION

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

University's relief efforts deserve praise

With "Pro Humanitate" as the university's motto, it is not surprising that there has been an outpouring of resources going to those affected by the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina.

The decision to accept 15 new students from Tulane University and the University of New Orleans on Sept. 6 shows the caring nature of the university, aiding students who were left without an opportunity to continue their education.

While many students have complained throughout the fall that it has been difficult to get into classes, we feel that the least the university can do is allow a small number of students into its classes and residence halls.

During this crisis, students should not assume that only the working population will be able to donate to the relief efforts. Students have many opportunities to assist in the relief efforts. All someone needs to do is go into Sundry and purchase a non-perishable food item and donate that to the effort – this is still an effective donation. It is also

commendable that students are launching their own ventures to support the victims. A benefit concert is being planned, and we encourage students to attend. The small amount of money it costs each student to attend adds up quickly and does make a significant contribution to the relief efforts.

Survivors of Katrina will need more than just food and clothes – many children have been orphaned, and simply donating a coloring book and a box of crayons will provide an outlet of relief for these children.

The Red Cross is also an organization that should be remembered – many people sustained injuries as a result of the storm and by donating blood, it is possible to save a life.

"Pro Humanitate" is a centerpiece of the mission of the university, and now is a time to embolden this motto. We have members of our community that have been directly impacted by these events, and it is imperative that everyone pitches in to the relief efforts in an attempt to remedy a disastrous situation.

SG seeks clarity in objectives

President wants students to know his goals for the year.

I would like to take point on last week's editorial appearing in the left hand. I feel that many of the issues discussed are inaccurate and need to be addressed to assure

Reggie Mathis

GUEST COLUMNIST

that the student body is well-informed of what Student Government and I are working on to address these issues. I feel that a clarification to parts of the article and an assessment of the editorial are in order.

The first issue that needs to be addressed is that of Student Budget Advisory Committee and funds allotted for different student organizations. SBAC elections for the freshman member, along with that of SG Representatives and Honor and Ethics Council and Board of Investigators offices, have always been held during September and are on track with elections of past years. They are in fact ahead of elections of last year and will be held on Sept. 13.

We cannot begin to address these issues until these elections

take place. Any notion that SG is behind and insensitive to student organizations' needs is hastily assessed and the suggestions are inaccurately prescribed.

SBAC funds for this year have already been allotted to organizations and the President's Leadership Conference and Atlantic Coast Conference Leadership conference have no effect on this year's organizational budgets or next year's organizational budget. The funds for the PLC are being paid for partly out of SG's own personal funds – not those allotted for organizations – and the other half from the Office of President Nathan Hatch.

This conference has been in place for almost 20 years and is a forum for leaders of different organizations to voice their opinions to the administration and provide feedback to SG on plans for the year.

Support for the ACC Leadership Conference comes from the SG's personal budget and in fact most of the funds come from the ACC itself. They are not from funds allotted to student organizations. The ACC Leadership Conference was started at the university 15 years ago and is a forum for the student governments of all ACC schools to share ideas with one another, much like conferences that other organizations attend.

The reason the issue of student tickets has been brought up

and made an important idea of my administration is because it is one that has caused great divides among the student body over the past few years. SG has created a committee that will be formed after elections to help address this issue, thereby freeing SG executives to deal with other issues brought ahead by the student body. SG is also working closely with Sports Marketing to help obtain tickets that can be given to non-Screamers' Demon members.

SG is making progress in the dining issue on campus and is listening to the students. This year a committee has been formed to help voice student opinions and other concerns with the new meal plan.

This committee is made up of four SG representatives, a SG executive officer, the Director of Residence Life and Housing, ARAMARK, the dining manager and three members at large appointed by RLH, including an athlete, a resident advisor and a member of the student body. This committee will begin meeting in October and will address all issues concerning dining and give students a chance to make their issues known.

Finally, SG and I feel that the Archway Project is a noble idea, whose goal is to help educate the student body of the past.

We are an institution of 1834 and the archway exemplifies this idea. The Archway has been defaced to the extent that it no

longer bears the university's name. Why the archway? I say why not the archway.

We as students should not settle for replications of the real thing, when the arch itself is a piece of our history.

If it were important to the people of the town of Wake Forest, then it would still bear the name of the college, or at least the town.

One thing appears clear as students learn of this monumental initiative, they support it fully and I believe if they support it, it is worth the fight to erect a piece of the past connecting us to the present.

I feel that all the before-mentioned issues need to be addressed as soon as possible to ensure the student body has the information it needs to make good decisions about the future of our campus.

I, along with the rest of the executive members, have been working all summer long on a number of issues.

I am thankful that the views and opinions of the editorial board fail to represent those of the student body.

Now that the student legislature is falling into place, we will be able to act on these important issues and show that we are dedicated to this university.

SG will – and is – moving forward.

Reggie Mathis is a senior religion major.

Alcohol Speakout raises broader appeal

This year's annual Alcohol Speakout, hosted by the Greek Alcohol Advisory Council, took a much needed departure from the norm by inviting Michael Lanahan, whose step-son died last fall at the University of Colorado due to binge drinking to speak at the event.

The planners of the event, by adding a different perspective to the event will enable students to truly see the dangers posed alcohol.

The terrible memories of two university sophomores dying nine years ago in a car accident involving a drunk driver has taught us the harsh lessons of drinking and driving.

However, the dangers of binge drinking are overlooked far more often than the dangers of driving impaired. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 35 percent of adult alcoholics have developed a tendency to binge drink by the time they are 19 years old. While statistics like

this do shock people, students have yet to face the reality that these statistics represent members of their own community, not just students at big "party schools."

By including the powerful message of Lanahan in the program, we hope that tragedy of this sort can be prevented at the university. The university has seen a steady increase in alcohol violations in the past few years, a trend that we should reverse. All students who received alcohol violations should be required to attend this event – not just new fraternity pledges. By having them witness first-hand how alcohol can be deadly in many different ways, students may change their behavior.

We hope that the university continues to bring speakers like Lanahan to future Alcohol Speakouts. By doing this, more awareness of the dangers of alcohol in general will be raised, instead of focusing solely on the issue of drunk driving, which, while a notable cause, is not the only danger alcohol presents.

Awareness needed for gas consumption

Drivers can do more than just drive gasoline-efficient cars to realize savings at the pumps.

Yesterday as I moseyed on up to the levy to fill my Chevy (I don't own a Chevy, but regardless), I was in shock. If this were a major motion picture, the scene would suddenly darken and lighting would crackle in the sky as I

Christine Tamer

GUEST COLUMNIST

exited my car. I would look up at the sign, drenched by rain and slowly fall to my knees screaming, "Why, God?"

Gas prices have risen dramatically due to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The national average is around \$2.86 per gallon, however, in good old Winston-Salem the prices are a good ways above \$3. I suppose

this is disheartening, but, as we all know, it could be worse. In Amsterdam, prices are above \$6.21 a gallon. No wonder marijuana is legal there, one would have to be high to pay that much. Granted, we all could move to Caracas and pay 12 cents a gallon, but then we would be living in freaking Venezuela and our cars would have slashed tires and bullet holes throughout them, hence making the 12 cents a gallon worthless. So what do we do? Nothing.

We are constantly encouraged to buy more fuel-efficient cars, but who the hell wants to be pimpin' the Honda Hybrid. Yes, you can get nearly 60 miles to the gallon, but you are driving a Honda Hybrid, one of the more ugly cars known to man. I will stick with my Hummer at 10 miles to the gallon, thanks.

Point is, the demand for gas will not go down nor will anyone buy a more "Captain Planet" approved car, even if prices soar above \$4. Think about it, we can complain all we want, but we still will pay the prices.

We will wait in long lines to pay nearly \$100 to fill up that Hummer. We will continue to joyride around town with no direction.

According to a recent research article by CNN, gas prices would have to raise to an average of near \$10 to even trim demand by a mere five percent. You cannot stop Americans from getting to where they need to go. So you are saying, "Well, now we will carpool. Kudos to you! Thank you for doing something in this time of crisis and hey guess what, you can do more!"

Make sure your tires are fully inflated, don't accelerate so much, use cruise control, and for the love of all that is good, don't put premium gasoline into your car. If it says it takes regular, give it regular – a better grade doesn't really do all that much good unless it is specified by the manufacturer. Oh, and topping off the tank buys you nothing. There is a reason those "don't top off" signs grace our presence.

As gas prices continue to stun us all, it is important to, at least, be aware. I realize we can't march around with wooden sticks screaming "Gas is too much money! Get a car powered by the sunny!" I do hope, however, we can at least try to conserve and do a small part in helping our economy.

Christine Tamer is a sophomore.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Positives result from tragic accident

Sept. 5 marked the ninth anniversary of the tragic deaths of Maia Witzel and Julie Hansen, two university sophomores who were victims of a drunk driver in a car accident that occurred just blocks from our campus, at the intersection of Polo Road and Brookwood Drive. Witzel, of Arlington, Texas, and Hansen, of Rockville, Md., were both 19 at the time.

The disbelief and sadness that spread through the campus after students, faculty and staff learned of the tragedy remains a vivid memory for me, as does the outpouring of support at the memorial service for Witzel and Hansen, held on what was just the second day of classes that academic year.

As we sat brokenhearted in Wait Chapel, traumatized by our sense of loss, Dr. Bill Leonard, who had just arrived at the university to serve as dean of the new Divinity School, offered to our grief-stricken community both comfort and hope.

That spirit lives on, and I commend members of the Zeta Lambda chapter of Chi Omega

sorority for remembering their sisters Witzel and Hansen at a memorial service Sept. 4.

While nothing can bring back Witzel and Hansen, positive change has occurred as a result of their deaths. Shortly after the accident, university students led a successful campaign to change North Carolina's drunk driving laws, the Maia Witzel and Julie Hansen Chi Omega Scholarship was created in 1999, and the student-led Alcohol Speakout forums on our campus have become an annual event.

I encourage community members to stop by the small garden to the left of Wait Chapel to visit the area named in honor of Witzel and Hansen.

Minta A. McNally '74
Director of Alumni Activities

Reading cartoons is subjective

In response to junior Alex Ewen's column printed Sept. 1 ("Sheehan not helping terrorists"), any kind of personal attack against me is pathetic and uncalled for.

Ewen's blind assumption that I haven't "even the vaguest idea of what Sheehan is experiencing," is outrageous.

He needs to know that a very dear friend of mine died a few years ago in a traumatic situation and his remarks are quite disrespectful. We shouldn't sink to such a cowardly level of personal attacks.

On the subject of my cartoon, however, one must always keep in mind that the editorial cartoon is a form of political satire, and just like Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* and the recently-released movie *Team America: World Police*, editorial cartoons are not meant to be viewed as reality, but an interpretation of reality, which, oftentimes, can be blunt and offensive to certain individuals. Additionally, my job as a political cartoonist is to state my opinion, whether or not everyone agrees.

That being said, in no way am I calling Cindy Sheehan or other anti-war protesters terrorists. However, I am trying to stimulate thought, draw parallels and make readers stop, think and question. Is Sheehan's prolonged protesting helping or hurting our war effort in Iraq? Would the terrorists agree with Sheehan in wishing the troops would pull out? Many anti-war protesters choose the wrong enemies, especially Sheehan who has decided to

blame President George W. Bush for the death of her son rather than the actual terrorists who murdered him. This kind of extreme, militant anti-war mentality is harmful to the War on Terror.

Instead of her habitual protesting, what if Sheehan put forth the same amount of effort raising money to buy better armor and supplies for the troops? Or what if Sheehan put forth the same amount of effort to raise money to support other families who have lost loved ones in Iraq and other places where we are fighting the War on Terror?

Ultimately, Sheehan is on a selfish political crusade which is not only harmful to our war efforts, but disgracing the memory of her son and what he died for.

William Warren
Sophomore

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