

OPINION

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

Paul's actions show true spirit of university

It has been nice for the student body to see Chris Paul around town lately, as a local celebrity is always fun to see again. Nevertheless, we are more impressed with Paul's recent actions in the community that have called him back home.

Paul's efforts in refurbishing the new basketball courts in East Winston-Salem at the Rupert Bell Recreation Center are not only genuine, but truly show his dedication to his grandfather's spirit. The fact that he has not forgotten his roots, despite the wild success of his basketball career, simply re-states the quality of Paul and the reflection he is of good charity and of the university.

Yes, some were discouraged by his decision to leave early; however, the fact that the colors of the newly-established Nathaniel Jones Foundation are old gold and black are a quiet reminder of Paul's admiration of the university that he will return to in the future.

Moreover, the fact that Paul's charitable contributions are growing, is pretty astounding for the 20-year-old. Among other things, Paul wants to provide a yearly scholarship to

the university to one deserving Forsyth County high-school student.

Also, remember his position now, as a New Orleans Hornet. Paul was in the middle of building a house in his new hometown that is now, most likely demolished. His new foundations have been rocked, literally, yet he remains resilient going so far as to unveil his charitable efforts at a time when charity is needed most. Moreover, he has said specifically that he wants to aid in the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts as well.

Yet, it is Paul's selflessness and untarnished amiability that continue and will continue to make the university community exceedingly proud.

The fact that the first thing Paul told his marketing team was that he wanted to give back to Winston-Salem, the university and the community speaks volumes, not just of Paul, but of university athletes in general.

No matter how jaded students may feel that Paul left, be thankful that he does not refer to the university as a prison, but the opposite, a place he looks forward to returning.

Overwhelming response to Katrina aid appreciated

The outpouring of support on campus for victims of Hurricane Katrina has been nothing less than touching and outstanding, which is something the students and faculty should commend themselves for.

The Katrina Relief committee are going above and beyond to give the university every opportunity to reach out and suggest ideas to help in the efforts.

All proceeds are going to the Red Cross and the committee has been successful thus far collections around campus at the entrance of Wait Chapel, facilities management and the Worrell Professional Center. Additionally, a solid turn out at the vigil held Sept. 11 to remember the victims of the attack and Hurricane Katrina was a successful reminder for everyone.

It is imperative that the university do all that it can to aid in this disaster, and along with the efforts of the new

committee, it is certain to do so.

It will be a long road to rebuild after the hurricane; nevertheless, the campus is continuing its noble efforts in order to stay active.

Next up, there will be a bake sale hosted by Alpha Phi Omega fraternity, a comedy night sponsored by Theta Chi fraternity and athletic event donation buckets, just to name a few.

The staff and students should simply continue to keep up the good work.

Most importantly, they cannot forget what has happened and thus forget to contribute.

Also, there will be opportunities for students to go to the Gulf Coast to do service trips.

All in all, it is up to the university community to maintain their hard work. The bottom line, is similar to one in the past though, we must never forget.

Katrina seen differently overseas

I am here sitting in my suite lounge in London and I'm watching BBC coverage of Katrina. I've had a few thoughts about this.

The Brits are amazingly interested in it. In America in general. It is on the front page

Bert Phillips

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of many papers and is the feature of the BBC web site.

All of this is, of course, presented with the inevitable tincture of Anglo anti-Americanism. Scenes of leveled neighborhoods, cops pointing shotguns at looters, dead elderly – these images are juxtaposed with things like President George W. Bush holding a guitar and wearing a cowboy hat and captions like “Finally, 36 hours after the disaster, President Bush issues his opinion on the hurricane.” Several sources have described the whole series of affairs as a “national disgrace.”

Firstly, if an internal American affair is to be deemed a disgrace, let Americans do the deeming, I say. Secondly, let's not confuse our politics with our demography, or that with our meteorology – the fundamental truth is that Katrina has been a national tragedy.

I wish I could see what the coverage of this was back at home and I truly hope I would see something better than this. I hope that whether or not this coverage is biased against America, I hope that back home, we are supporting each other.

I hope the majority of the people in New Orleans are the ones who I see stolidly refusing to leave their homes because they

love their roots, not the ones who have refused to have the government “take their homes” but now complain of mistreatment. I hope the diaper-looters are in the majority and the DVD looters are in the minority.

I hope the majority are those who are organizing aid drives across the nation, and I hope the tiny minority are the refugees and wannabe pundits who are groping for a name to blame because they have lost everything and wish they could have been swept off their feet by a brigade of heroes.

British television is telling me the citizens of New Orleans still in the city are, in their despair, aimlessly decrying the government rather than hoping and helping – or at least aimlessly decrying the weather. British television would have me believe that our president has spent more resources on preventing crime in an inundated city than rescuing lives from a ravaged community. I hope these examples constitute a minority. I want to believe that is the case.

I'm not sure though. Maybe there really is something sick afoot here. Maybe this hurricane has showed us something about our society that we are still supposed to learn.

It seems like the federal government really might be totally underestimating what is happening here. Bush has said he is not afraid of the task in front of America. What? Rebuilding a whole city? Replacing the lives of over a million people who can't afford to replace their own lives? Figuring out how to sustain the lives of the crazy people wading around in 3 feet of chemical and bacteria-infested water who refuse to safeguard their own lives because they are trying to save their puppies? It would appear to me that this situation is one of the most worthy channels for America's fear – and its President's – that we have ever seen.

Another sinister element Katrina has

shown us dawned on me when someone here said “You know if they just put all the white people together, there would just be a few hundred of them and they would be out in a few hours.”

And I realized this had already happened. It happened when New Orleans evacuated in the days before the hurricane.

The problem here is not that Bush hadn't done enough to prepare for Katrina, since meteorologists only knew it was going to hit New Orleans a day before it did.

It's not that the people sleeping in sports arenas and on overpasses who didn't evacuate think they are owed things they cannot be given. It's not that the government's response has been a “national disgrace” – although I will be interested to make that decision for myself when I have verified numbers and stats and first-hand accounts as opposed to biased news reports that say things like the 60,000 federal ground troops in the flooded areas the BBC newscasters failed to mention.

The problem is that people are still so poor, uneducated and neglected in parts of the world, even in a city like New Orleans, that they didn't ever have a chance. The disgrace is how society acts – there are poor people living in the Astrodome, black people floating in the streets of a relatively rich area, mad people living on bridges throughout the gulf coast and poor, black, mad people wading around trying to find their puppies in the falling flood sludge. This is the disgrace, not how slow or unprepared the government was. If there was fault in what happened – it falls on everyone's heads. And now, if people are praying, people should be praying for the rectification of that situation as much as for anything.

Bert Phillips is a junior English major.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Column lacked factual inaccuracies

In response to Reggie Mathis's editorial last week (“SG seeks to clarify objectives,” Sept. 8), I would like to explain the goals of the *Old Gold & Black* editorial board's column and the process by which we wrote the piece.

First, the column contains no “inaccuracies” based upon what Mathis himself said in the corresponding article printed the same week (“Mathis aims to build unity among students,” Sept. 1). All information that was used in the formation of our column came directly from that article.

Our comments referring to the Student Budget Advisory Commission process being behind schedule refer to the election of the upperclassmen members of the committee. In previous years, members were chosen along with other Student Government offices in the spring; this did not happen last year. It is not unreasonable therefore, to consider the process behind schedule, when half of the committee that should be elected already is instead being appointed behind closed doors.

Regarding the funding of the President's Leadership Conference and the Atlantic Coast Conference Leadership Conference, Mathis himself said that those two would be “monumental” and contribute

to a tightening of the budget for student organizations. If they have no bearing on the budget as Mathis suggested in last week's editorial, then he should lay the blame upon his own misinformation the previous week.

Next, in writing that SG should focus on dining rather than basketball ticket distribution, the *OGB* editorial board was not implying that SG was not working on the dining issue, just expressing an opinion that dining should be a primary focus of Mathis's administration.

That was the whole point of our column, to express what we felt should be the main goals for SG this semester. I maintain the position that dining should be given priority over basketball sooner than October, as it effects more students and is something SG has a history of positively influencing.

Finally, the whole of Mathis's editorial was based on different opinions than those expressed by the *OGB* editorial board, not factual errors.

Our column stating that Project Archway is the “wrong way” to bring history to this campus and Mathis stating that it is “a noble cause” is a difference in opinion – not an error.

I appreciate the fact that, like the editors at the *OGB*, the SG executive members have worked through the summer to assure that they serve the university community well. While Mathis may not feel that

our opinions represent those of the student body, I hope he will recognize them for what they were – suggestions from the students he was elected to represent.

Jessica Pritchard
Senior

Sex should wait until marriage

I was positively disgusted with the “He Said” column printed Sept. 1. I'm not a student, but if I were a female student on this campus and discovered who the writer of the “He Said” column was, I'd have a few words with him.

The column was disgusting. Sex 101. You've got to be kidding. Let's just give all the freshmen on this campus the wrong idea of campus life. Let's just tell them that sex is okay, that “hooking up” is normal and let's just show them ways to do it.

If you want to be that kind of person, in meaningless relationships, having sex that means nothing more than personal gratification, mostly for the guys, with anyone who will hook up with you, then go ahead.

I may be old-fashioned, and I'm sure most of you out there will think I am, but sex is supposed to be with your spouse. Yes, your spouse. That

is the way that it was intended “from the beginning.” That mandate doesn't come from a concerned parent, but from God. Yes, God. Think about it. God created men and women to be in a relationship with Him first. The purpose of sex was to “be fruitful and multiply.” That doesn't mean have sex with anyone that comes along – it means have sex with your spouse, someone you are totally committed to, in a union blessed by Him. Sex is sacred and it should not be some sleazy encounter with someone you won't remember the next week.

Women are emotional creatures and if you think that “hooking up” won't have it's emotional consequences, think again.

You give away a part of yourself every time you have sex with someone. By the time you're married you won't have anything left to give. Don't do it. You'll regret it.

Joanne VanSice
Administrative Assistant,
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Our letters policy

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