

OPINION

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

Academic achievements deserve to be celebrated

The *Old Gold & Black* would like to recognize seniors Lakshmi Krishnan and Blake Brandes for winning a Rhodes Scholarship and a Marshall Scholarship respectively. The hard work put in by both students over the last four years has been rewarded with a significant award, which will enable both of them to further their studies upon leaving the university in the spring. Krishnan, one of 32 Americans that received the Rhodes scholarship, will study English at Oxford University in England. As a Rhodes scholar, Krishnan will receive two years of study, money to be used for personal use and travel expenses, as well as the potential to have additional funds for research purposes. Brandes will receive two years of free study in the United Kingdom, as well as travel and research expenses for winning the Marshall scholarship. It is a testament to the quality of this institution's education for

two students to receive such distinguished honors. These awards are given to only the absolute top students in the United States, and for this university to have two seniors honored is very impressive. Awards such as the Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships only help raise the university's already high reputation. It allows the university to show that it is indeed one of the top academic institutions in the United States. Scholarships are often one of the criteria in many college ranking systems, and Krishnan and Brandes' accomplishments will only further enhance our rankings. We at the *OGB* congratulate both Krishnan and Brandes for earning these scholarships after several semesters of hard work. It is always refreshing to see students putting such an effort into academic pursuits get rewarded. We wish them well as they travel to the United Kingdom to pursue graduate level degrees.

Corporate greed not all evil

Claiming that the United States of America is no better than the evil countries of this earth is becoming increasingly fashionable, and increasingly dangerous.



Scott Hurff
OLD GOLD & BLACK
COLUMNIST

It is claimed that so-called "corporate greed" is destroying the world - making the rich richer and the world's poorest poorer. Calls for increased political and economic freedom by American leaders cloak hidden desires to enslave the peoples of the world. America supposedly does not do enough to help the most destitute and depraved, but is rather a self-absorbed country caring only about itself. Critics come from the indolent and depraved for the government to help them at the expense of the nation's productive individuals. "Profit is sin," they preach. "Good lies in self-sacrifice." America's, and the world's, most productive companies are being forced down the path of "social responsibility," masking the fact that they are losing the competitive edge of individual responsibility. Critics of free-enterprise hold that a group of self-interested individuals working toward a common goal - profit - is nothing more than preying off of the least-able. If this is true, then why do

these same critics glorify unions? How is it virtuous to prey off of those with the greatest ability? Production in the most efficient and innovative manner is popularly perceived as insensitive and wrong - that is, unfair. Yet the voices of those calling for mediocrity are silent as they enjoy the many benefits of efficient production: cheaper and superior-quality clothes, bigger, clearer TVs and Viagra, for example. In today's world, individuals increasingly believe they are entitled to special treatment. They demand such items as increased benefits and wages not based upon one's merits, but simply because they feel they deserve them. These same individuals, however, balk at employers when asked to produce at a level in order to justify their salaries and paid-time off. They say it is unjust and unfair to require a man to work for his existence. They preach positive freedoms and say humans are entitled to a certain set of 'basic rights': the freedom from fear, want and hunger. America is moving down a dangerous path, one unfit for its greatness. America is losing its competitive edge. America's beacon is fading. America was once a beacon of hope, productivity, optimism, happiness, virtue, morality and success - it brought to the world benefits of free markets and free minds. Children read in history books about this country's ability to create wealth - to allow for success, to build opportunity and to make money for those willing to

depend on himself for survival and produce by his own effort. America is proof that man does not need or want a regulatory or even a communistic state. Corrupt planning boards were proven to be worthless. It was forever proven that neither wealth, nor opportunity is created by oppression and control. America created the phrase to make money. And it was the first and only nation to brand on its currency its own initials. This is proof that America's founders understood the natural need for man to rely on himself his wants. When every individual creates something of value for himself, he creates value for others. By surviving, man helps others to survive; without oversight, without planning, without control. America opened this template to the world and helped to spark one of the most productive, innovative and wealthy periods in world history. Its capitalist ideal succeeded in eliminating slavery and serfdom in countries that never experienced any freedom of mind or body. But America's success is being eroded and forgotten. The so-called "public good" and "basic rights" are beginning to outweigh the proven path of capitalist success. People are forgetting that virtue is found in prosperity created by an ethical self-interest. When an individual can empower himself with his own ability, he does not need to hide behind useless rhetoric. This rhetoric is growing, along with the regulatory state, a sense

of entitlement and a broad-based misunderstanding and scorn of capitalism. Terms like "price gouging," "fair trade," "corporate greed," "social responsibility" and "windfall profits" are being thrown around without any notion of their meaning. Legislation preventing gas prices from rising too high or companies from making too much money is in the works in Congress - the same Congress that has already succeeded in creating some of the most burdensome business regulations in modern history. America needs to wake up! All citizens need to realize how it got here in the first place! Instead of wasting time reciting mindless rhetoric, learn how to create something or do something productive! Less-wealthy citizens need to quit whining about how the wealthy are out to exploit others and become wealthy themselves. America is in danger, and only America can save itself. The government cannot continue to force the producers of this country to be bound by arbitrary limits. Citizens cannot demand the greatest minds to work in others' interests. America needs to stop strangling its own economic prosperity. When citizens of America learn to achieve their own greatness and be responsible for themselves, the nation will in turn achieve a greatness more meaningful than before. *Scott Hurff is a senior political science major from Dublin, Ohio.*

Holiday events help bring season to life

With the holiday season upon us in the final week of the semester, it's easy to get lost in studying and overlook the many holiday events planned for the university community. However, students should take an opportunity to attend some of these events. These holiday gatherings can serve not only as a much-needed study break but also as a way to spend quality time with friends before winter break. The Moravian Lovefeast, which will be held in Dec. 4 in Wait Chapel, has become a staple of the university holidays. The Christmas carols, Moravian buns and candlelight are the perfect atmosphere for spiritual relaxation. The lighting of the Quad, which will be held 7 p.m. Dec. 1 on the Hearn Plaza in front of Reynolda Hall will feature various university a cappella groups singing carols and complimentary refreshments. The lighting of the Quad has only gotten better each year that it has been held as an annual event. We're sure that this year will not be an exception. The event is a nice way to spend an evening with friends and get into the holiday spirit.

In the past, the university has attempted to represent many religious celebrations in the event. Hopefully this tradition will continue and the university will continue to give equal treatment to various campus religious groups. For those faculty and staff members that are considering adding a pet to your life this holiday season, we encourage you to check out the Adoptathon at the Forsyth County Animal Shelter. There are several animals that are in need of a loving home at this time of the year, especially as the shelter needs to clear out some of the space that they have. While students may be busy with exams, now is an excellent time to see some of the best musical talent the university has to offer. To hear some of this music, we encourage you to check out the Holiday Choral Concert 8 p.m. Dec. 1 in Brendle Recital Hall for soothing holiday carols or the Holiday Orchestra Concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 2 in Brendle Recital Hall. In the coming week, many events are planned. Schedules can be accessed on the university Web site or on *The Student*.

Free trade not a topic only for liberals

I would like to take a minute to respond to Scott Hurff and Barbara Smith's guest column "Free trade is beneficial to all nations" (Nov. 17).

Both Hurff and Smith state very clearly and correctly the argument for free trade. I have

Jason Copland
GUEST COLUMNIST

always thought of free trade in terms of hot dogs and buns. If I make hot dogs well and buns not so good, and a friend makes buns well and hot dogs not so good, then I should make hot dogs, he should make buns and we all get to eat more working together. On the fair trade argument, Hurff and Smith only make one mistake. They state that globalization is not different than a domestic free market economy. This is not true. Companies that compete against each other in the United States are subject to the same essential rules. U.S. companies have basically the same environmental laws, workers' compensation laws, and tax laws. Companies outside the U.S. are not subject to U.S. law and are often directly subsidized by governmental agencies. The most glaring example of this inequity is the communist People's Republic of China. Like it or not, it is still a communist country. The government dictates who gets loans, loan guarantees and outright direct subsidies. What this creates is a shift in the supply curve outwards in certain products that are supported by China's central government. I am not

talented enough to show this graphically by e-mail, but this artificial shift in the supply curve creates dead weight loss that actually decreases both consumer and producer surplus. In other words, we are all worse off. If all countries played by the U.S. capitalistic system, we would surely be better off by unfettered trade. However, the country in which we have the steepest trade deficit is China, and it surely does not. For instance, if China as a government decides to back an industry such as furniture and heavily subsidize its production, furniture plants will open up in China rather than places such as Indonesia where labor is just as cheap and the raw materials are in more abundance. Fair trade actually agrees with the fundamental arguments put forth by free trade. However, for trade to be free there must be free flow of capital and no governmental interference. We are right in the United States to try and interfere as little as possible with our economy. Other countries simply do not follow suit. China readily admits that it has hundreds of billions in governmental loans that are "bad" and will never be repaid. Capital does not flow freely to the enterprises with the most potential return, but to the businesses that the government chooses. Often these industries focus not on where profit can be made, but upon industries that employ many people and keep political unrest to a minimum. Locally, we have an example in Dell Computers that is worth exploring. As everyone knows, we have a new Dell assembly plant being built in Forsyth County. However, over \$350 million dollars in state and local incentives were given to attract the plant. This is a direct subsidy. We

will never know if the best place for Dell to put the plant was in Winston-Salem. We potentially only got the plant based upon these incentives. If free market forces were in full effect, maybe the best place to put that plant would have been in Georgia or Virginia. These subsidies distort markets and ultimately make us all worse off. Please note that the political leaders of our state did the right thing by attracting Dell. However, it still may have not been the best place to put the plant in the U.S. and this inefficiency and inequity in taxes causes dead weight loss and potentially makes the country worse off. Fair trade proponents are not protectionists. We want to trade with no impediments. However, we feel countries allowed to trade with the U.S. should not be allowed to distort our markets with governmental subsidies. Distortions in currency markets alone can have devastating impacts on local and worldwide economies. I would ask you to study Mexico, Turkey and Argentina as case studies in this matter. China has a fixed exchange rate. Make it free. Make it float. Let the market prevail. I enjoyed this discourse and Hurff and Smith's column. I would like to ask for the authors to research better the opposing argument if they truly want to be objective and examine this issue. Fair Trade proponents are not liberals, and we are not protectionist. Less name calling and more thought is needed in such discussions. *Jason Copland, '96 B.A. Economics, is from Winston-Salem.*

OLD GOLD & BLACK

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY SINCE 1916

Jessica Pritchard
Editor in Chief

Dave Chace
Managing Editor

Joseph Elberts
Business Manager

News: Jae Haley and Kevin Koehler, editors. Sara Bivin and Meg Henry, assistant editors.
Editorials: Jeff Merski, editor.
Sports: Alli Soule, editor. Ryan Durham and Caitlin O'Grady, assistant editors.
Life: Caitlin Kenney, editor. Mary Beth Ballard, assistant editor.
Photography: Nick Babladelis, editor.
Graphics: Ryan Caldwell, editor.
Production: Kristen Guth, Kristin Olson, Alex Osteen and Lizzie Rosen, production assistants. Jacob Bathanti, Karoline Engel, Claire Fernandez, Katie Hendrick, Jillian King and Joe Norton, copy editors.
Business Staff: Logan Henderson, Annie Keough, Max Rubin and Emily Watson, sales representatives. Peter Demoise, production assistant. Lizzie Ligon, billing.
Circulation Manager: Chris Caldwell.
Adviser: Wayne King.

The *Old Gold & Black* is published Thursdays during the school year, except during examinations, summer and holiday periods, by WW Printing & Graphics of High Point. Send e-mail to ogb@wfu.edu or mail to P.O. Box 7569, Winston-Salem, NC 27109. © 2005 WFU Publications Board. All rights reserved. The views expressed in all editorials and advertisements contained within this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the *Old Gold & Black*. Send guest editorials to ogboped@wfu.edu. The deadline for inclusion is 4 p.m. the Monday before publication. To view editorials policies, visit <http://ogb.wfu.edu>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Women receive fair coverage in the OGB

In response to Kelly Chauvin's letter to the editor last week ("ACC Preview unfair to women's team,") I can understand why unequal coverage in the Hoops Preview would be disheartening, and I completely agree that titles used could have been misleading. That should have been changed, point taken. However, to go so far as to criticize the imbalance of coverage of women's sports in the *Old Gold & Black* is complete farce and Chauvin would know this if she even glanced at the paper weekly. As for the comment insinuating the lack of coverage for the field hockey team, last week there were three full articles on the team, the spotlight athlete was Kristina Gagliardi, the game of the week was the field hockey

team at NCAA tournament and there was a Deacon Note about them. And I can assure her that this kind of coverage is by no means uncommon. In terms of the preview, the color inconsistency on women's schedule was the fault of a miscommunication by our printer. We planned to have the women's section in full color but did not have another color double truck in which to run it, both pages were created in color then changed. Also, despite the mismatch in coverage of the women's team, they still received four pages in this year's preview compared to one last year. Moreover, comparing outside shooting percentages for one game is no marker for how good a team will be. So I suggest that the next time Chauvin would like to comment on the sports section, that she first provide a valid argument. She said we used "faulty logic," but

Post office thanks students for support

The staff of the university Mail Services would like to express our gratitude to the students, faculty and staff for their outpouring of support for our department during these trying past weeks. The cards, words of encouragement, prayers and best wishes are truly appreciated and help sustain us. Those of us who will work in the restructured Mail Services on campus look forward to continuing to serve you, and those of us relocating to other departments or leaving the university will miss serving you in our present capacity.

Our letters policy

It has been not only our pleasure to serve you, but more importantly, to get to know you over the years. Again, we express our deepest thanks to each of you and our best wishes. **Sandy Boyles, Reba Greene, John Jolley, Bobby Kiger, Tammie Kiser, Dennis Lewis, Cathy Maracic, Hubert Samuels, Meri Silveri and Lawrence Voss**
Wake Forest University
Mail Services

We welcome letters. Send yours via e-mail to ogboped@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.