

Intergration & Conservatism

The following views are the editorial policy of the Guilfordian as determined by the Editor. They do not claim to be representative of the views of all the students, nor of all the members of the staff.

Despite the fact that North Carolina is probably the most progressive of Southern states in the field of race relations, the problem of intergration is still one of the most difficult and sensitive that we must face. It is obvious that integration can never be a success unless it is accepted by a majority of the general public. And to bring the general public around to a state of mind in which they will tolerate integration is perhaps the most difficult aspect of the whole problem.

The mass demonstration by Negro students against segregation during the past week, which involved four Guilford students, in no way promotes the tolerance and broad-mindedness that is so necessary for integration to be a success. Deliberate and premeditated breaking of the law embitters the segregationist and often alienates the moderate. The part which four Guilford students played in this unfortunate affair was unconstructive and foolish.

The field of race relations presents an outstanding case in point for the validity of the conservative approach. It is this approach alone which can in the long run most surely solve the problems which we face.

Generally speaking, the conservatives in America today can be broken down into three groups. We have the conservative in temperament: this is the person who, by virtue of his psychological makeup, is unwilling or unable to break away from the comfortable contours of the present, the status quo. Then there is the conservative in policy: this is the individual who, for one reason or another, happens to be holding the same position as the mass of conservatives, regardless of his reasons. Conservative policy today would include such stands as a more aggressive foreign policy, a halt to the centralization of power in the national government, and a more capitalistic approach to the national economy. But the true conservative is the conservative in method. The conservative in method is characterized by a pragmatic approach to problems, a realistic view of man and society, and a deep appreciation for the values and traditions of civilization.

This is the approach of Edmund Burke, an eighteenth century British political thinker who has been called the "father of modern conservatism." In his most famous work, *Reflections on the French Revolution*, Burke emphasizes that men are immensely dependent upon habit and traditions; that they have deep loyalties and prejudices; and that any sharp break with past, breaking these traditions and loyalties, can lead only to a chaotic breakdown in civilization. Burke disapproved of the French Revolution on these grounds. While he could not countenance the despotism of the Bourbon dynasty, he regarded the revolution and its aftermath as a tragedy. His views were prophetic; the successor to the Bourbon despotism was the dictatorship of Napoleon and the ultimate downfall of France, from which she has not to this day recovered.

We are today presented with a similar situation in the South, albeit on a much smaller scale. The majority of the people of the South are devotedly loyal to the tradition of white supremacy. No amount of demands, threats or appeals to alien standards will change this position. Only persuasion, reason and a gradual and patient approach can effect the desired result of equality for all.

The idea of civil disobedience is completely alien to the conservative. The use of this drastic step introduces an element of irresponsibility and lawlessness that is fatal to the essential calmness, cooperation and patience that must prevail. Even mass demonstrations necessarily imply a show of strength, a threat and a challenge. It is not difficult to envision the response of the unsure moderate, not to mention the segregationist.

We appeal to all who are sincerely concerned with a practical, realistic means of solving this critical problem to take heed to this sensible approach.

—THEODORE R. BUDDINE

Credit Where Credit Is Due

As the school year draws to a close, the *Guilfordian* would like to thank a few folks who are sometimes overlooked when credit is due.

We would like to thank Frank and Mary, our custodians, for their infinite patience in cleaning up after us.

We would like to thank Mr. Coble and his maintenance crew for the new walks and other improvements they have provided for us.

And most of all, we would like to thank the deans and residents whose understanding, patience and helpfulness have made this past nine months a little easier for all of us.

The Guilfordian

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Editor-in-Chief	Ted Buddine	Photos	Mike Holt
Associate Ed.	Karen Baldwin		Scott Parker
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STAFF REPORTERS

Mike King	Beth Dougherty
Sally Ann Wyatt	Gary Lessner

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

It is the general consensus of a number of students that so-called liberal Quaker ethics are being violated on this campus, being especially apparent within the last week, at which time, Guilford College students participating in demonstrations for racial equality were criticized for their actions—on the basis that this threatened the reputation of the school. The intrinsic values of all that Quakerism represents are being subordinated in order to meet the demands of the Dana challenge; however, it is the understanding of the concerned that no pledges have been lost.

The thesis that is segregation with no conflict has previously existed in the south; now it has been challenged by the antithesis, movements for integration with subsequent strife. If a concerted effort is made, can there not arise the synthesis, that of recognition of all human beings as human beings, with their rights regarded as those of every human being?

Equality, Fraternity, Liberty

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in an attempt to clear up some of the haziness and lack of understanding attending the present demonstrations in Greensboro promoted by CORE, and also to express my personal views on the situation.

There seems to be much tenseness and consternation on campus owing to the fact that the Guilford students who took part in the demonstrations would be regarded as representing the standpoint of the whole college in the affair. The solution to this is obvious. If there are such strong-spirited feelings in opposition to this movement, they should take this opportunity to intelligently express themselves instead of permitting emotions to take the place of reason.

That this school has taken no definite stand on this matter is true. However, I hold it as a person's individual right, if not obligation, to passively resist, whether or not in conjunction with the law of the state against what he firmly believes to be an injustice. Whether or not one is

Note:

Since this issue of the *GUILFORDIAN* went to press, certain changes have been made for which the Editor is not responsible.

a member of the local community, I hold of little importance; this is a national, if not an international affair.

Conversely, however, I will admit that each locality is in some way unique and should not be handled in a set, stereotyped manner. This factor has led me to be very disenchanted with this local CORE unit. I found after having become involved, that although the students were sincere and in what I feel to be their right, the CORE representatives were in no way concerned with them as individuals.

Concerning the issue itself, the arguments for segregation that I found most often presented could be summed up as the following: It is a man's right to serve whom he pleases when he pleases; it is presenting a bad picture internationally by creating racial unrest; integration is coming gradually anyway; and the traditional, "Do you want your daughter to marry a Negro?"

In way of reply to the first, let it be said that this country is based on the social principle that each man be recognized as an individual, equally indiscriminate of his race, creed or color. When this is denied by a large portion of the population to a minority by falling back on the very thing they are denying, individual recognition, it should be perfectly within the right of the oppressed to apply pressure passively to alleviate this wrong. Something that is usually not taken into consideration here is the psychological effects upon a youth who is a member of a minority and is granted "separate but equal rights."

The argument that it is presenting a bad picture internationally by creating racial unrest, I also disagree with. Instead of "creating," I would rather phrase it as "uncovering" discontent and it at least indicates to foreign nations that we are not passively accepting a state of affairs which they know exists anyway.

Relating now to the feeling that integration is coming gradually anyway, I reply that it is too gradual, and that segregation has existed too long in this country as a source of ethnic discontent and a lack of unity. I will not even devote a separate paragraph to the last. There is no indication in any statistic I have seen that racial equality tends toward miscegenation. Living equally with the Negro doesn't mean that your daughter must marry one, but it would probably mean that if she did choose to do so, which is her right, she would not be subjected to as intense social reactions.

—DANIEL J. LENIHAN

Dear Editor:

The 1962-63 season is almost over. The Guilford College Choir has only three engagements left. We, the mem-

bers of the choir, feel that it has been a very successful year and only hope that next year we can be as successful.

On June 2, the choir will present the music for the baccalaureate service and the reception at Dr. Milner's home given in honor of the graduating class. The choir will also sing at graduating exercises the following day, June 3. These three engagements entail the learning of much new music and also the revamping of some of the old pieces.

Speaking in behalf of the members of the Guilford College Choir, I wish to thank the members of the student body for giving us their support this year. We have only one favor to ask of the student body. There are a great many of you who can sing and have very good voices. I feel that you could get a great deal of enjoyment and satisfaction by joining us. Please give this a few minutes' thought. It would certainly be nice to welcome a great many of you to the choir next year.

—LLOYD EASTLACK

To the Editor:

We of North Carolina have had good reason to take pride in the successful Negro-white relationship in our state in the past. Here the Negro has been better educated and more prosperous than in any other southern state. Integration orders, while distasteful to some, have met with little bitter resistance and no violence.

During the past few weeks, however, we have witnessed in this very city an acceleration in the push for total integration. Restaurants and theaters are being picketed and the resulting atmosphere of unrest can scarcely be called conducive to good race relations. In their most earnest effort to secure and protect the 'rights' of their minority group, the demonstrators seem to forget that perhaps the owners of those business establishments which they picket also have certain rights: In their haste to abolish persecution, they persecute. They say they have been down-trodden, and now they tread on others.

Perhaps all the strife and bitterness

Letters to the Editor is open to all views and opinions. Letters must be signed and must be in good taste. Due to unusual circumstances, an unsigned letter appears in this issue, but subsequently such letters cannot be printed.

accompanying such outbreaks would be a price worth paying if there existed promise of a constructive and sensible end. But who is to benefit from the current situation? Surely not the restaurant and theater owners who have the audacity to believe they could serve whom they pleased. And the Negro? I say no! Even the most expectant liberals among us can scarcely deny that distinct and bitter feelings of animosity have grown, are growing, and will continue to grow from just such "passive demonstrations" as have taken place in Greensboro during the past few weeks. (How flagrant disobedience of trespass laws ever came to be regarded as "passive demonstrations" is, no doubt, quite a story in itself.)

Now how does Guilford College fit into this dismal little picture? Unfortunately, thanks to the presence of a handful of students who took it upon themselves to join the demonstrators, Guilford College may be represented as being on the side of the law-breakers. (It is interesting to note that, almost without exception, these students were from places outside North Carolina.) The mere fact that such actions may not receive disapproval from the parents of the involved students does not change the fact that they may receive harsh disapproval from the area in which they take place. While these students are not and cannot be expected to share the beliefs of the owner of the Carolina Theater, they should be expected to realize the seriousness of the steps which they take. While they are students at this institution, they cannot disassociate themselves from its name.

Therefore, I urge that Guilford College do everything necessary to prevent future participation in demonstrations of this sort by any member or members of its student body.

—STEVE AUSBAND

(Continued on page 3, column 5)

Fiscal Irresponsibility

The position of the student leader is often a discouraging one. He works hard and long for the students, only to have his proposals argued to death or, what is worse, passed so quickly that it is evident that little consideration was given to them.

The Student Affairs Board spent a full month preparing the budget for next year. And in convocations, it was passed with hardly a murmur of disapproval by students who had never seen it before, had no idea of the legitimacy of the requests, and were apparently interested primarily in leaving as soon as possible. In seventeen rushed minutes, the student body spent nearly \$25,000.00 with all the aplomb and concern of buying a hot dog at the Union.

There were many ways in which this budget could have been brought to the attention of the students. A copy could have been distributed a week before the vote was held. Or a copy could have been released for publication to the *Guilfordian*. Or, if all else fails, there is still the Students' Handbook.

It is time that this problem be dealt with sensibly. The fact that it has been handled in this way in the past is no justification. Perhaps the students themselves are at fault. The withering apathy that seems to pervade the campus makes this problem extremely difficult to deal with. If this is the case, then the farce of student responsibility should be done away with, and the decision should be made by responsible individuals.

Such a proposal as this has been known in the past to arouse even the most apathetic of groups. May it do so here. For those who would lose their responsibilities, there is no surer way than not to exercise them.

CHECKS & BALANCES



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