

ON INEXCUSABLE INACTION

The death of John F. Kennedy came as a severe shock to everyone. As the word spread across the country, responsible people took immediate action in cancelling and postponing events which were to take place within the period from the assassination to the funeral. This reaction was rapid and automatic. As soon as the time and day of the funeral was announced actions were taken to set aside this day as a day of national mourning. Businesses, schools, and other operations which would normally function on Monday were immediately called off.

At Guilford, as everywhere else, this tragic event saddened the hearts of everyone. The shock was strong and struck deeply. People wandered around and muttered silently in utter disbelief. From the radio it was learned that countless numbers of athletic events and other functions were called off. Many wondered if Saturday classes would be cancelled in respect and homage to the late President. Saturday came and went as usual, however, and there was no official college reaction. A few people were angered and began to wonder if the college was going to recognize the severity of the situation.

As Sunday rolled around still no word from the college was heard concerning any official action which would be taken. Students and faculty members were becoming annoyed at the lack of any definite move on the part of the administration. It seemed quite obvious to everyone that the school should definitely make an official move concerning the observance of the funeral of the slain leader. But the day dragged on and there was silence from the administration.

Finally, late in the afternoon, announcements were posted across the campus. The college had at last made a move. The regular Monday morning chapel program would be devoted to a memorial service to the late President. Also, there would be no classes held following chapel until 2:30 p.m. After that things would proceed as usual.

The students received this news calmly and there was no real reaction. Many were annoyed, though, at the length of time it took to come to and announce this, what would seem to be obvious action. Why did the entire weekend go by with no official gesture of mourning on the part of the college? It would seem that this move did not have to be thought about or discussed at length. Why wasn't immediate and automatic administrative action taken? What was there to think about that kept the administrators silent for so long? Another question which arose was concerned with the action itself. Why was it just a halfway thing? On this day, the country practically came to a complete standstill. It was a day of devotion and silence in honor of the late President.

Guilford observed this day in only a token manner, though. The usual business of the day was still conducted as usual. Tests were given, regular classes were held and the daily routine ground on as usual, except for the brief interval around the noon hour. Didn't the college regard this solemn day as important enough to suspend the usual routine? Wasn't the overwhelming impact of this terrible tragedy strong enough to make the administration grasp the gravity of the day? When the whole country comes to a standstill, why could Guilford only slow down, and then proceed as usual? Are we above and beyond all this?

In a time of national grief it would seem only logical that this school which is steeped in religious and educational tradition would want it to be known that this tragedy was felt deeply on its campus. Just to set aside a few hours in honor of a man who gave his life for his country is not enough. President Kennedy devoted an entire lifetime to his countrymen. And we at Guilford would only spare him a few short hours!

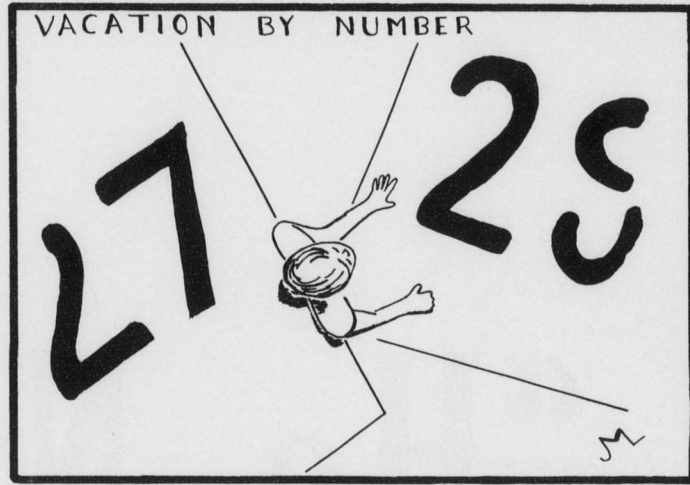
-G. L.

The Guilfordian

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I fail to believe this year's May Court! The election was poorly conducted. I have heard rumors to the effect that the election was fixed. If it was not rigged, says the most prevalent rumor, how did a certain senior miss get on the court? Not that anyone has anything against her, but who voted for her? No one seems to know.

-AN INQUISITIVE STUDENT

Dear Editor:

Yeah! Um-hum, yes, a-huh, yeah, um-hum, yeah. I almost believe this year's May Court!

-A STUNNED SENIOR

Dear Editor:

I wish to congratulate you on your last issue of the *Guilfordian*. The paper was so timely, informative, colorful, and interesting that I read it all—not just the sports page as usual. Keep up the good work, you all!

-HAPPI-NESS

Dear Editor:

In view of the fact that Guilford's football team has won only one of its football games in two consecutive years, I think the time has finally come for something to be done. It's not the fault of the boys on the field. This is proved by such noted records as that of Jimmy Williams. What do we need? Either let's have more and larger sports grants, transfer to another league, or forget the whole thing.

-A LOYAL FAN

(The Guilford team won two games in the past two seasons, not one, as is above stated.—Ed.)

Dear Editor:

A nation mourns, the world is shocked, people are numb with grief, but Guilford College goes on as usual. Why? Wasn't it enough for President Johnson to declare Monday, November 25, a national day of mourning? Why didn't Guilford join the nation in this somber gesture of respect? Why did we just nod at the occasion rather than respect it fully? Was it too much of an inconvenience for us to do something the right way? Guilford is so consistent in its half . . . manner of doing things!

-IRRITATED AND ASHAMED

Dear Editor:

I was proud to be a member of the student body of Guilford College on Monday morning, November 25. As I sat in my chapel seat fully aware of the utter and complete silence which befell the entire auditorium, I was indeed moved to feel a sense of sincere pride at the respect in which the day was held. I raised my eyes for a moment as the first speaker moved to the podium. But then the solemn purpose of this assemblage left me. There

before me a few rows down, was the usual girl, taking the usual attendance at the usual chapel program! The nymphs of the aisles were on duty as always! The President of the United States was being laid to rest—and attendance was being taken at the memorial service dedicated to him! For the person who did not attend the service, serious consequences may follow. I'm sure that J. F. K. would have wanted it that way!

-AN ASTOUNDED AND ASHAMED GUILFORDIAN

Dear Editor:

I think mention should be made of the November 25 memorial service in Dana Auditorium. It was presented in a highly dignified manner and was truly a deeply-felt, sincere expression of the Guilford College community.

-A GUILFORDIAN

Dear Editor:

I find it to be disgusting that Guilford College did not completely close its doors on the day of our late President's funeral. On this day of world mourning, Guilford took a token stand by pushing its doors almost shut—but not all the way.

Does not the administration have any backbone? Why must this institution continually make token movements? For instance, we have a token Thanksgiving vacation—one paltry day! We have token library facilities: by 7:30 p.m., there is never any place to study in that undersized building.

By not granting a decent Thanksgiving vacation, the college has deprived many students and faculty members of being with their families on this important family day. By leaving its doors open on Monday, November 25, the school committed an inconceivably gross act of poor taste.

Yes, Guilford College has never closed its doors in 127 years, but, by having accomplished this, how many times has it flagrantly slapped humanity in the face?

-AN APPALLED STUDENT

Dear Editor:

As a member of *Antigone's* cast, I would like to voice mine and the entire cast's appreciation to a delightful and receptive audience. Without your encouragement we could not have delivered as good a performance as we did. We hope that you enjoyed our production and will continue to support our endeavors in the future. It was a pleasure.

-ISMENE

Dear Editor:

The beloved leader of the United States is dead. All the country is bowed down with grief. In respect for his sacrifice the nation comes

Send Me The Wishbone, Mom

Whether you realized it or not, a mass exodus from college campuses across the nation took place within the last week. The annual Thanksgiving migration homeward had drained our colleges and universities of their knowledge-seeking inhabitants. Highways and byways were flooded with students rushing home to celebrate this traditional family holiday. This welcome break came none too soon, either, because the yoke of two months' work begins to lie heavily on the shoulders of America's future leaders. The long-awaited relief finally came and the school boy breathed easily for a few days. America took the weekend off.

However, (and someone always throws a 'however' into these happy scenes) all was not roses and lollipops everywhere. Believe it or not, there are some institutions of higher learning in this county which deprive students of this joyous interlude. Can you imagine that? While most of America takes it easy for a while, taking full advantage of a natural four-day weekend, a few of the nation's young scholars must toil away without even batting an eyelash at the passing of this annual time of giving thanks. While most college students relaxed at home with families and friends, we at Guilford worked on as usual with hardly a pause for this age-old, time-honored tradition.

In the past Guilford has maintained this policy of a vacationless Thanksgiving. Last year, however, a precedent was set—Guilford students were presented with a five-day break just like most of the other colleges and universities. This brief pause lifted the morale of faculty and students considerably. For it's a long, long time from September to December, and a pause at this time is most certainly refreshing. But let's face it: we're here, and there is nothing we can do about it. There is just no use in crying over spilled turkey gravy and cranberry sauce!

The obvious question is now before us: Why were we blessed with a vacation last year but not this year? This inconsistency in school policy is frustrating and annoying. You can't give a dog a bone and then take it away from him without running the risk of having your leg bitten off. We're not about to chew off any limbs, but we sure would like to have that vacation break—naturally not this year but in future years.

There have been a few reasons offered in explanation of this situation. First of all, school started later this year than last year and these days are made up during the period that would be set aside for Thanksgiving. Couldn't this end also be achieved by starting school a few days earlier or ending a little later? Another "reason" is that there are a few students who would not be able to go home and would have to stay on campus. Since the college does not want to keep the dorms and cafeteria open during this time for just a handful of people, the entire student body is deprived of a vacation. Another explanation which is commonly used is that it is so close to Christmas vacation that we can wait a little longer.

So there we were reading the paper after a usual day of classes. Elsewhere in the country, families were together celebrating the holiday and giving thanks. Send me the wishbone, Mom! — G. L.

to a standstill . . . with the notable exception of Guilford College. Do we even have a flag to fly at half-mast? No! Our callous administration orders that we carry on as usual. Only a brief chapel program is given and a few hours are set aside. Is this the extent of our devotion and admiration for a man who died for us? I call this attitude unpatriotic, indifferent, and disgusting.

-AN AMERICAN



ANN MATTHEWS

The Guilford Girl

With this issue the *Guilfordian* inaugurates a new feature which will place a Guilford co-ed in the spotlight each month. We hope that this feature will dissuade the male population of the campus from the use of the phrase: "There ain't no girls at this school."

To illustrate our point, please consider our first selection. She is Ann Matthews, a sophomore from Leaksville (which is just outside of Spray). Ann is an English major, plans to go on to graduate school, with an ultimate goal of teaching.

Besides her obvious charms she can boast of a 2.6 quality average. She is quite an artist, is fond of swimming and dancing, and also loves to travel. Our first *Guilford Girl* is active in many campus affairs; her usual base of operations is the Union.

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