

The Guilfordian

The Guilfordian is printed by the students of Guilford College, weekly except for examination periods and vacations.

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The Convo Dilemma

The landslide defeat at the last Student Legislature meeting of a proposal to outlaw required convocations is a new landmark in legislator irresponsibility.

Instead of attempting to transmit the wishes and needs of their constituents through sane and sensitive representation the legislators have smugly chosen to coerce their electorate into attending programs not of their liking.

Evidently most legislator members consider their constituents so dumb and indifferent that they believe the legislature must tell them which assemblies and meetings they ought to attend.

While we readily admit that Guilford's student body is plagued by some shortcomings, we do not believe that the vast

majority of students are as stupid as the actions of our legislators infer. In fact for the most part they appear more inquisitive and sensitive to the needs of their fellow students than their representatives who hold them in such disdain.

Moreover we maintain that coercing 1,000 students into an auditorium for the purpose of whistling at May Queen candidates or enduring the croaking of some student seeking a powerless office is not a sound method for uniting the student body and promoting sincere communication.

Once again we urge our legislators to ban required convocations and offer sensible proposals for problems of disunity and lack of communication which currently plague our campus.

The Quiet Calamity

1968 was an ugly year for Americans. Tragedy of spectacular magnitude became a frequent front page occurrence. But a quieter national calamity took its dreadful toll on all the days before, during and after the Tet offensive in Vietnam, the riots, the assassinations.

It was "quiet" only because it was not concentrated in a single place at a single time. There was no focus to put this misery on the front pages. To the families and friends of 55,300 men, women and children killed in auto accidents, however, it was the ultimate calamity. To the 4,400,000

victims of injury, it was hard core agony. The economic loss, about 13.5 billion dollars, was an appalling waste.

The 1968 highway toll followed a year that saw a leveling off in the number of highway deaths and injuries. In 1967 approximately 53,000 lives were lost in motor vehicle mishaps--4,200,000 persons were injured.

There are, perhaps, as many reasons as there are people to voice opinions. Whatever the reasons, the tragedy remains. More than 55,300 person were killed and 4,400,000 injured.

Mr. Driver, it's up to you to help make 1969 beautiful!

Letter To Editor

CONVO MEDICINE NOT TOO STRONG

To The Editor:

Would you please print in THE GUILFORDIAN somewhere that the opposition to Convocations, whether warranted or not, is exaggerating the true issue. I can see the points against having required convo with speakers but

the proposal is for only 4 or 5 convocations which would consist of such things as May Court, Elections and other activities which do concern the whole student body. In view of all this I don't think the medicine being given is too strong for the students and

I am afraid many of those objecting to required convo do not realize that they will exist in this way rather than the ones of the past.

Thanks,
Jane Forbes

" AND TO THINK-THEY'VE JUST RUINED THE BEST HANGING TREE ON CAMPUS!"



"Student Apathy? Vote On Freedom"

To The Editor:

Last Monday the Student Legislature voted 31-5 to keep required convocations. The main justification for the program is that students are "apathetic" about their elections and government on campus and need to be informed about them. However, it seems to me that to require students to attend convocations dealing with student elections and such is simply an attempt to dictate to the students their interests. Such an attempt is an obvious denial of the basic ideals of this or any liberal arts college. Now if Guilford College wishes to deny the right of each student to choose what interests him and what doesn't, in direct violation of its guiding principles, namely, respect for the worth of each individual's worth and opinions, how can we believe anything that college says? How are we preparing students to make decisions in future life? Certainly not by denying them the opportunity.

And as for student apathy, it is plain that Guilford College students, as well as students generally, are hardly apathetic about what interests them. The student

government certainly has no right to command the students to be interested in student government if they are not. The fact that there is a supposed death of student interest in electing government officials obviously indicates that the students are not interested. Why should they have to be interested in something that bores them? If you force their bodies to attend convocations, there is no assurance that their minds will follow. If the programs that the student government considers of vital importance to the students actually were considered so by the students, I for one would hesitate to suggest that such programs would be ignored.

But there is one sure way to find out whether the student body actually wants required convos. That is to have them all come to the first one and after they see what is to be in store for them, after they have some indication of how well the goals of the program will be met, put the issue to a vote then and there. The response will perhaps show that students are not apathetic about their freedom.

Stephen Wessells

Russian Studies?

To The Editor:

I was distressed, upon receiving the 69 Quaker last May, to find no references to Alma Martin, the Russian professor who passed away last March. I did not expect an article in memory of her, but I was angered not to see her picture under Languages, a field to which she gave so freely of herself.

I was not moved to write this letter until the events of the past week took a turn for the tragic and now force me to speak openly and frankly. The tragic event was the elimination of Russian language studies at Guilford College. I understand with an open mind that the college could not afford an

instructor for a class of three.

Nevertheless, here it seems that Guilford is making a dreadful and fateful mistake. It is natural that a class in Russian be small. Russian is a language that requires an extremely high degree of concentration in order to master its complex and troublesome grammar and vocabulary. Once one surmounts this goal, one receives intellectual satisfaction and stimulation to study, for instance, the rich Russian literature or other difficult languages.

The college also blundered in cutting out First-year Russian and also the first year of another

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