

Letters To The Guilfordian Editor

Funds Needed For Quality Newspaper

Responsible Freedom Of Press

Dear Editor,

The process of staffing, editing and publishing a college newspaper demands an enormous sacrifice of time and effort on the part of the involved students. It isn't surprising that few students are interested in adding this burden to their regular load of classes and activities; for some years past, in fact, it has been almost impossible to persuade anyone to accept the editorship of **THE GUILFORDIAN** the predictable result being a mediocre paper, often embarrassingly so, with an erratic record of publication.

The surprising thing is that in spite of student apathy and disinterest, **THE GUILFORDIAN** is now a regular publication of superior quality and craftsmanship. The credit for this steady improvement over the last two years must go to the editors and staff of **THE GUILFORDIAN** who deserve more support and gratitude from the students and faculty of Guilford than they are presently getting.

JAN COX SPEAS

Gratitude is pleasant, of course, but solid financial support is a necessity. Staff salaries are the rule today for college journalists, and it seems naive to hope that we can continue to staff a quality newspaper, with the labor and skill involved, while offering little or no compensation.

The question of staff salaries, however, is overshadowed at the moment by the larger issue of financial support of **THE GUILFORDIAN** by the Student Legislature. It is difficult to believe that any argument should be needed against permitting a legislature to determine what news and opinions a student is allowed to hear.

Yet when a student legislature votes to withhold funds unless the college newspaper follows a prescribed format, it is obviously attempting to exercise the power of censorship and to control the expression of opinion. There is no surer way to destroy a newspaper, as well as the climate of freedom on a campus.

Guilford: Too Small To Pay

Dear Editor:

I have been asked by Craig Chapman, editor of our campus newspaper, **THE GUILFORDIAN**, to present my views and justify my actions on the issue of the newspaper strike.

Before I do this, however, I should like to state that although I very seldom agree with the choice of articles included in **THE GUILFORDIAN** or their content, I do realize that this year's staff of **THE GUILFORDIAN** has uplifted the quality of the paper from a journalistic point of view so that it now has the professional qualities that one would expect from a college newspaper. I find no fault here.

The March 23 meeting of Student Legislature was devoted almost entirely to discussion and debate on next year's budget. When **THE GUILFORDIAN**'s budget was presented, the Legislature was informed that \$1,509 was to be used for remunerative purposes.

I was one of the majority of legislators who voted to give **THE GUILFORDIAN** all of the money they requested with the single exception of those funds to be used to provide salaries for executive officers.

Monetary Reimbursements

I feel that the staff of **THE GUILFORDIAN** deserves to be reimbursed monetarily for the amount of work they put into publishing each issue of the paper. I also feel, however, that the staff of the **QUAKER**, the executive board of the College Union, and the executive boards of the various branches of Student Government deserve some sort of pay for their time. In defense of salaries for officers of student organizations, I could cite numerous large Universities who pay all of these officers and others in addition.

Guilford is not a large school, though. For budget purposes we

can count on only nine hundred and fifty students. At this point, in order to just barely cover the budget which was passed at the March 23 meeting, the Student Activities Fee will have to be raised thirteen dollars next year to a total of fifty-eight dollars. To operate properly, the fee should be sixty dollars. This will be decided tonight.

Gross Injustice

To pay **THE GUILFORDIAN** staff and not pay others who devote large amounts of time in service to the school and its students would be a gross injustice. To pay all of those who deserve money would raise the Student Activities Fee still higher until it would become prohibitive.

Therefore, since we cannot afford to pay all officers of organizations, I voted not to pay any at all. The honor, prestige, experience, and self-satisfaction of the position itself are all that Guilford can offer its office holders. If these be not sufficient, then let the individuals who so believe not run for office, but rather to take positions whereby they can be paid for their services.

Misuse Of Authority

The staff of **THE GUILFORDIAN**, however, in an effort to present their views and to show their indignation after being turned down in their bid for recompense, published issue number 23 of **THE GUILFORDIAN** on April 6. In this issue, which consisted of a picture, an announcement, and two articles concerning the fact that **THE GUILFORDIAN** staff was on strike, the staff announced that they would print only news concerning their strike in the forthcoming issues of their newspaper.

I contend that this constitutes a misuse of authority and student funds. If the staff of **THE GUILFORDIAN** felt that they

Dear Editor,

The Guilford College Publications Board is made up of students, faculty members, and administrators of varying political persuasions but all conservative in our wish to see operative on our campus the American tradition of a free press.

In the process of electing an editor, we look for applicants who are not only knowledgeable in the technical aspects of running a paper, but who also understand and respect the responsibility which is an integral part of all true freedom.

An editor is free to choose what will appear in the columns of his paper—but he is responsible for reflecting the college community as it is, not as it should be, nor as some like to have it seem.

Judge Fairly

An editor is free to comment editorially on anything reported in the news columns of his paper—but he is responsible for judging each issue using reason and logic rather than emotion and prejudice.

Editors are human and college editors are relatively inex-

perienced. Their exercise of freedom is predictably imperfect, and they are often under legitimate attack. They are often attacked less defensibly for supporting an unpopular cause or reporting an incident which reflects no credit on those involved.

Attack, justified or unjustified, is part of an editor's life, but if the college press is to be free, the editor must be responsible to the whole college community, not to special segments of it, or special interest groups. He may not be dictated to by anyone, be it student, faculty member, or administration.

The Publications Board must try each year to choose as editor the student applicant it deems most nearly qualified for a difficult and demanding job, but once the choice is made, the Board serves the editor in an advisory capacity only, and serves the cause of editorial freedom in receiving such criti-

cism of the newspaper, its editor, and his policies as may not be handled to the satisfaction of the critic in the columns reserved for letters to the editor.

CARTER DELAFIELD
Chairman, Guilford
College Publications Board

Legislature Cuts

(Continued From Page 1)
out becoming personal. He then went on to cite Paige Via and Larry Elworth as examples of legislature members who "have disagreed with me all year but who have never become personal."

Chapman also said that he hoped the controversy over the strike could be turned into a learning experience and invited students and faculty members to write letters to the editor expressing their opinions on the question of **GUILFORDIAN** salaries as well as the idea of raising the student activity fee to provide money for higher quality college programs.

Guilfordian Charged With Misuse Of Funds

Dear Editor,

The way in which **THE GUILFORDIAN** thus far has fought for wages for staff members does not surprise me, although it is a disappointment. For a paper which takes extremely intense ethical stands about almost anything (even appearing to contradict itself from time to time in its effort to rigidly defend a cause), it is rather ironic that when an issue arises in which the paper is directly involved, ethics go out the window, inexcusable irresponsibility comes in.

The legitimacy of your goal is not the question. Whether or not you need or should have wages is, for the moment at least, irrelevant. It is your right, furthermore, to plead your case with the public and wherever else you wish, and it is your right to strike to gain what you believe to be necessary. However, the means used thus far, the means promised in the last issue of **THE GUILFORDIAN**, and the means the Editor stated at the last Legislature meeting which would be used, are unethical, illegitimate, and perhaps unconstitutional.

A strike is a statement of refusal to work. You are not striking. Instead, you are taking the money entrusted to your care for a specific purpose (i.e., to publish news of all kinds, editorials, sports, letters, and miscellaneous articles), and using this money solely and exclusively for the purpose of furthering your own cause. By continuing to publish, but refusing to publish news, articles, etc., you are misusing funds.

You stated in print that only news pertaining directly to the strike would be printed. This is censorship of news by a paper purportedly adamantly opposed to censorship.

You stated in print, and therefore in public, that only

strike material would be printed, yet later contradicted yourself to say that the subsequent issue would consist solely of letters to the Editor. This was not made public, and many people are under the impression that you will not print their letters.

This changing of procedure in midstream is already highly questionable, but when compounded by a further statement that the staff would continue to change its tactics at will, as it saw fit, regardless of others and regardless of its own printed statements, **THE GUILFORDIAN** has finally broken all trust.

You should realize that the publication you edit is supposed to be a newspaper in the usual sense of the word. That is your job. The money, time, and resources provided for the publishing of a newspaper should not be used for private campaigns.

The "Board of Directors," as it were, of **THE GUILFORDIAN** is the membership of the Student Legislature. It has, in my opinion, acted wisely and fairly. It did not try to prevent you from exercising your right to strike, nor to prevent you from continuing to publish your newspaper, even recognizing the slant the news would inevitably take. Instead, it simply reaffirmed that **THE GUILFORDIAN** is to be a certain kind of publication, and will receive support and funds as long as it remains that kind of publication.

If, however, you continue to use unethical means toward an end not even as yet publicly justified or explained, you will lose that support and those funds. The choice of course, is yours, but a pragmatic person would certainly have very little difficulty making that choice in another direction.

DALE MANDEL

RUSTY DAVENPORT