

The Guilfordian

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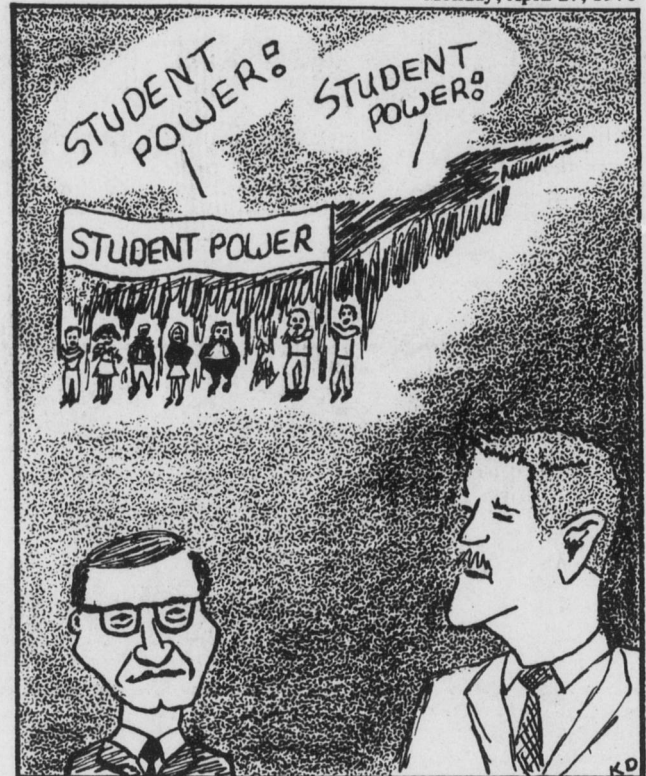
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I don't hear anything—
 Do you hear anything?

Illusions Of Power

On a college campus there can be no distinction between academic policy and social policy, or between academic policy makers and social policy makers; for to separate education from life is to negate the purpose of a liberal arts college.

It is worthy of a college administration to delegate certain decisions concerning academic and social life to students, if not out of dedication to the Quaker tenet of respect for individuals, at least for the educational value of deciding.

Yet, it is ludicrous, possibly even cruel, for a college's administration to place students in a position of illusory power and then frustrate their attempts to transform that illusion into reality.

The decision of the Administrative Council to ignore the year long efforts of the WSC to define the desires and needs of the women students concerning curfews is an example of student powerlessness. While the members of WSC have busied themselves all year conducting surveys and studies and issuing reports and requests, the Administrative Council has waited until just before the big trustee meeting to announce that what Guilford women really want is the system of student rotation. The WSC members have not been fooled into thinking that their time has been well spent or that their efforts have been rewarded.

Power of Legislature

At the April 20 legislature meeting when everyone was feeling injured about the decision of President Hobbs to prevent the trustees from acting on the SAC alcohol statement, the dean added the insult, "As much as you may dislike us (the administration) you cannot live without us. We will be here when you are gone."

The Student Legislature is a constant reminder of the powerlessness of students to make even minor decisions. The only powers the Student Government constitution gives the legislature are those which concern filling offices and creating committees (a function which only serves to

maintain the bureaucracy), redistribute the student activities fees, and make laws "necessary for the maintenance of harmony and order within the student body."

In other words, the power of the legislature is to keep the students complacent while the administrators go about their business. Students are kept happy with petty problems like recommending students to committee chairs while the dean assures legislators that the recommendation is only a privilege granted by the administration. This serves about the same function that the masters' teaching of Bible stories and encouragement of gospel singing did for the slaves back before the Civil War.

Legislators' claim to power is being frustrated, and the legislature has degenerated into a body of "leaders" with no direction in which to lead, venting upon each other the frustrations that come naturally to powerless leaders.

Earned Respect

In order for student government to serve as any more than a pacifier for restless students, student power must be born of the respect that those who delegate power must have for those to whom they delegate it.

Perhaps Guilford students deserve more respect than the administration presently gives. Yet, if this is true, that respect is not deserved for some last minute petition or colorful demonstration designed to pressure the administration. If this respect is deserved, it is for those who are willing to make comprehensive studies and well organized proposals with enough faithfulness to see them acted upon when possible and enough diplomacy to see them compromised when necessary.

Unfortunately, Guilford has more students who are willing to carry petitions and beer cans than the gavel of a committee chairman, and as long as this remains true, the administration will continue to control legislature while maintaining the illusion of student power.

Letter To The Editor

Burris Suggests Scholarships

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to your request for my opinion about the matter of salaries for members of the GUILFORDIAN staff. Salaries drawn from the budget of student organizations is the wrong approach.

In my mind, the only sensible approach to this matter is to establish attractive "scholarships" for those students who serve in important positions that require a great deal of work and are time consuming.

In the total life of the college, a good newspaper, an active student union, and attractive and representative yearbook are as important as most other things. Granting scholarships

would be in the best interest of the college.

The money should come from scholarship funds and the amounts should be set by the college. Both the decision to grant scholarships and the size of the scholarships are matters of long-range concern to the institution and should not be subject to the whims of the Student Legislature.

We need active, articulate, and responsible students who are anxious to assume leadership positions on campus. Attractive scholarships for key positions would encourage their participation.

William C. Burris
 Academic Dean

Paper Covers Too Little News

Dear Editor,

I have read with interest the demands of the GUILFORDIAN staff that their positions be made salaried positions, even if student fees have to be increased to provide the wherewithal.

I might support such a cause, were the GUILFORDIAN as devoted to news coverage as to the expression of editorial opinion. It seems to be that one of the main functions of any newspaper is the dissemination of news.

If the GUILFORDIAN should take over this legitimate function, there would be no need for the Guilford College Newsletter, Cliff Lowery's

Calendar of Events, nor the numerous notices of lectures, plays, concerts that are stuffed into faculty boxes.

Every college, in my opinion, needs a news media. If the GUILFORDIAN became such, I would be happy to pay a subscription fee for the privilege of reading it.

Yes, the GUILFORDIAN comes out regularly now—instead of once or twice a year—as it did when I first came to Guilford. But it seems to me that the only reasonably adequate coverage is in the field of sports—important, yes—but not the whole of campus life.

Josephine Moore

Responsibilities gravitate to the person who can shoulder them; power flows to the man who knows how.

Elbert Hubbard