Mismanaged Elections

The GUILFORDIAN is a little late this week, because we have been awaiting the results of a recount of votes in the Community Senate. Unfortunately, the recount was not scheduled until very late, and it is impossible for us to hold on for the recount. We would, however, like to comment on the general execution of the recent election, which resulted in the request for a recount.

For the first time in several years, a number of candidates were running, and interest in the election was at a fairly high level. With the level of activity and interest shown, it is a pity that the election was run in such a haphazard manner.

The first foul-up was the system of determining who voted. A copy of the student directory was used to check off students as they voted, but since the directory is several months old, that could not be entirely accurate. Students who were not in the directory, but who held valid ID's were allowed to vote. It would have been much easier to have all student vote by showing their valid ID, and recording the number of votes cast, and who had voted, by checking off numbers on a master sheet of ID numbers. This was not a serious mistake, just a procedural mess which could have been avoided.

The counting of the ballots was carried out in a highly questionable manner. The chairman of the elections committee was not present during the counting of ballots. As a matter of fact, only one member of the committee actually counted ballots. Others who counted were not members of the committee. We do not question the accuracy of those who counted, but we find it highly irregular that the chairman of the elections committee, responsible for an accurate vote count, was not even present at the counting.

The Guilfordian

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I find that the Guilfordian editorial policy needs some explanation. In the February ll edition of the Guilfordian the article on the P. E. requirement was quite liberal in its content. By this I mean the article plus its accompanying comic strip seemed to have little or no censorship. Yet my article on the History Comp (Feb. 18) was censored to a certain degree and then the article was claimed to be of my opinion and not the editorial staff. If that's the case, why not print the article in its entirety. This journalistic ambiguity is quite puzzling due to the fact on one hand an article on the P. E. department was written with a certain degree of frankness and sarcasm yet my relatively mild article was somewhat doctored by certain authorities.

James T. Davis

(Response to this letter in editorial column)

Violence Again?

Several months ago we found reason to praise the Campus Judicial Board for their handling of a case of alleged assault by one student upon other students. We regret to say that their handling of another assault case, earlier this week, falls far short of the standards which the board is designed to uphold.

The board heard an assault case,a plea of not guilty was entered, a verdict of guilty was rendered, and the student was placed on disciplinary probation for one semester. A mere slap on the wrist. The board apparently was influenced by statements that "some degree" of provocation was involved, yet the fact remains that a verdict of "guilty of assault" was rendered, and an effective punishment of no punishment was handed out.

If there is one principle on which society in general, and this college very specifically, operates, it is that physical violence upon another person will not be tolerated. Has the board lost sight of this very basic principle? It is one which is so basic, and self-evident, that it seems very strange that the board would treat it so lightly. Perhaps it is so self-evident that it is not even thought of, and consequently ignored.

The penalty system of the Campus Judicial Board is so structured that no penalty exists between disciplinary probation and suspension, and that when in doubt, the board goes for probation rather than the harsher suspension penalty. At the same time as we condemn this specific action of the board, we were pleased to note that a combined group of SAC and Judicial Board members are investigating other penalties which can be imposed.

Until such time as a better penalty system can be derived, we suggest that the board members examine deeply the standards they feel that they are enforcing, and hope they realize that physical violence, under no circumstances, has any place at Guilford College.

The Human Condition

by Douglas Scott

Slightly frayed the other evening after the demolition of a keg of Bud in honour of Sadie Hawkins Day, a great question was put to me: What does this column mean anyway? Why do I write it?

I started to answer in a slightly agitated state, that that was the stupidest question I had ever heard, but I stopped. In that deranged state, under those slightly deranged circumstances, exactly why the hell I do write was a crystal questionmare.

Since then, I have come to grips, ending in the Conclusion that I simply will stop writing in this format. I'll write occasional garden notes or something, maybe, or write inane letters to the editor in protest of those who sit around and grow long hair or announcing the big Apathy Rally (Nobody come, ya'll!).

In the beginning, he said thinking of his grandmother's (and the Vaudevillian Glass Family's) over-stuffed, pills from four-years-ago medicine cabinet, there was the ego rush of an over taxed, under thought out, under graduate who has run into the eventual discovery of the absurd nature of life and living. Writing a column, spouting off on (most) anything.

Then there was copy. Write to fill space, have to fill the space. A column is regular. Consequently, less than the best prose has sat here. An opinion I respect for a certain honest, admittedly from a sometimes strange viewpoint, compared by literary graces to those of Jacqueline Sussan (Valley of the Dolls), an authoress noted for her complete lack of plot or talent. Hurt. But about (too) much was true.

The transmission of the macrocosm to the microcosm, via myself was (is) the entire basis for writing anything, so far as I was concerned. To all the little Joes from the side planets of Leaksville and Mount Olive and Bryn Mawr, I would deliver to, or orient towards, Truth. Clear and simple. Truth.

To be Everyman, to feel yourself to be everyman, is a sensation that I would recommend, with riders, to anybody. One takes some personal burden for the administration of the Universe, and is duty bound to scream as loud, long, and well as possible when the periodic madness reigns. The hitch is when no one seems to hear or understand, for there is nothing more frustrating than trying to tell somebody the Truth, give it to them, and having them not even notice.

I sincerely believe that we inhabit a world filled with human beings that experience events together: the world is filled with sharable events and abstractions, which need to be pointed at, put in brackets, much alike 🖝 (TRUTH).

Anybody can do it: everybody on occasion does. But to formalize this universal leads to a Truth/Meaning crisis, where, obviously the Truth become less than the truth through the process of delivering to the everyman everyday next door. If the technical craft, if you allow, is insufficiently clear, then a distortion of the truth occurs. The truth is still true, but with the self-imposed requirement of general readership and common understanding, the result is the proliferation of meanings, ranging to "What do you mean, anyway."

So I can't handle this formally anymore.

So I won't.

Remember to clap for Tinkerbelle.

Editorial Policy

A letter to the editor in the opposite column questions the nature of the GUILFORDIAN editorial policy. A brief explanation.

The article referred to concerning P.E. was a product of a member of the newspaper staff, and was edited (censored if you will) by myself before publication. All articles, whether contributed by the staff or by other students, are subject to editing for length and clarity of expression. Mr. Davis's article was edited for both. In editing, I attempt as much as humanly possible to leave the opinions expressed in the article intact. while maintaining the writing standards and space requirements of the GUILFORDIAN. When running articles concerning school policy which the GUILFORDIAN has not taken an official stance on. I find it helpful to indicate that the opinion is of the author. and not of the newspaper.

KDB