

On November 7, 11 million newly enfranchized voters will have the opportunity to cast their first vote. Big deal. The vote in and of itself is not political power, it is only the access to legal power. If the new voters only vote, it will be business as usual in Washington next January regardless of who is elected in November.

Government responds to organized pressure. Government does not and cannot respond to inarticulate individual discontent. The political power which big business and big labor possess does not automatically result from the money which they contribute to various candidates. Rather the money, like the power, results from the fact that they are organized and working continuously every year, not just election year, to achieve and maintain power.

The success of the McGovern insurgents in seizing control of the Democratic Party and nominating George McGovern for President demonstrates the fact that many people have begun to grasp this concept. Ultimate success cannot be achieved in the election year. Unless McGovern insurgents remain organized they will lose control of the party to the Mayor Daleys who are more than willing to do the work of party maintenance in return for control.

It is unfair to the liberal radical politicians to elect them, throw them to the organized wolves, and then scream about betrayal when they are finally forced to yield.

Although precinct work and local politics are not as glamorous as a three day weekend in Washington, protesting the war, or the Presidential campaign, they are the base upon which legal political power can and must be based. College students do not form the majority of the registered voters in the United States. The youth vote is not even an electoral majority on a nationwide scale. In many areas of the country the youth vote would be the majority if it refused to allow itself to be diffused. If Guilford College students organized and voted in Greensboro we could carry Precinct 27 of Guilford County for any candidate we choose. That makes very little difference if you only consider this year's presidential election. If you consider candidates for the city council - if you consider school board candidates - that makes a considerable difference. College students by and large are uninterested in candidates for the school board and the city council. But, at least some college students are amazed and angry when the candidates for the school board and the city council are uninterested in us and George McGovern. If College students and young voters in general want the support of the local candidates in accomplishing national objectives they have to prove to the local candidates that their support could be valuable to them. Local political power can be used to generate national political power. That is the Daley formula for political success, or didn't you ever wonder why he had so much power in deciding who gets to be President? The 'Daley' who organizes Greensboro would not have as much power as Mayor Daley. Greensboro is not Chicago. Yet, unless young people organize the Greensboro, and the Chapel Hills, and the Berkleys, all over America, we might as well surrender to the Daleys. We must have organization and we must be able to last. We can win if we persevere, but despite initial success, even after George McGovern is elected President, we can lose if in the initial euphoria we believe our job is accomplished and we go back to our stereos and our books.

Although distinctly biased in favor of liberal - radical organization, this editorial has a lot to say that is of value to conservatives and individuals of all political persuasions. There is no substitute for organization if you want to accomplish anything by voting, feeling smug with yourself, and watching television for four years.

Tim Collins

STATEMENT OF LETTER POLICY

In the past The Guilfordian has printed letters from anonymous correspondents by following the letter with the notation "Name Withheld by Request".

We have become convinced that permitting this anonymity has made it too easy for the 'anonymous disgruntled' to submit and have printed irresponsible letters.

Therefore, as we are continually attempting to publish a responsible newspaper - one respected and credible throughout the entire college community - we are adopting the following letter policy:

The Guilfordian welcomes and encourages letters to the editors, but the following stipulations must be met BEFORE the letters will be printed:

- 1) Letters must be signed by the correspondent. Unless there are unusual and pressing circumstances demonstrated to the editors, no letter will be printed without the author's name following the letter. In those rare occasions when a letter is printed without the author's name, the editors will clearly explain the need for anonymity.
2) All letters must be limited to a maximum of 300 words (unless the author consults the editors by the Tuesday prior to publication).
3) Because of obvious space limitations, letters will be printed on a 'first come - first serve' basis. All letters must be submitted by noon on the Wednesday prior to publication, or they will be held-over to the next publication date.

The Editors

Letters to Eds

There are some candy-assed babies running around this campus with very squeamish stomachs. I call them 'babies' for a number of reasons. First: they seem to be incapable of taking care of themselves in situations which require a bit of judgement and maturity. Second: they bawl very loudly like babies; and in the tradition of little babies, they do a lot of their crying in the nighttime. I call them squeamish because they go to pieces whenever someone gets sick.

These babies want the Guilford community to give up already scarce money so that they can have an infirmary which will provide them with the kind of care they had when Mommy and Daddy were taking care of them. Guilford College already has medical services far superior to those of other nearby colleges of equivalent size. We do not have a service which replaces the expensive, personal family doctor; and we certainly do not have a service which replaces the Mommies and Daddies of the babies around here. I for one do not want to spend the money necessary to provide them with someone to wipe their nose every time it gets runny.

At present we have a system which is very effective with the exception of one link. This link is the baby himself. The babies are bawling because they can't get care in the nighttime. When the infirmary is closed, the student must get a Resident Co-ordinator, or a Resident Assistant if he is sick and feels he needs a nurse and doctor. There is always a Co-ordinator on duty in the evenings, and only a baby could not do something as simple as getting on the phone and calling them.

The babies are also bawling because they are not being taken care of rapidly enough. If they can't wait half an hour to have their tummy-ache taken care of, then there just is not any hope for them. The endurance of pain is part of life; it is something which everybody has to bear now and then. I for one would rather face the pain of waiting (I already have a couple of times) rather than spend scarce money on more extensive night-time services.

If you are one of those students who is capable of wiping his own nose, and you would prefer to see the babies grow up and learn how to wipe their own noses, then paste a Kleenex box on the outside of your door so they can have something to practice on. If we stay silent on this subject, and the babies keep on bawling, they may get their way. If they do, it will be your money they are being pampered with.

Randy Hopkins

MUMBLE



Bits and Peace

by Steve Beals

Evidence is mounting that the U.S. and North Vietnam have worked out the basis for a cease fire and join in working out an "honorable" settlement. The factor blocking the effort is not fear or hope that George McGovern will be elected; both Nixon and the communists are convinced that that will not happen, and, unfortunately, they're probably right. The stumbling block is South Vietnam's dictator, "President" Ngyuigen Van Thieu.



Amidst all of the ongoing talks between the U.S. and our "enemies", "ally" Thieu has told his countrymen that the proposals being discussed are "Dark schemes aimed at taking over South Vietnam" for the Peace is a victory, too. Communists. It had to be a slap in the face to Nixon.

To honorably extricate the U.S. from Vietnam, Nixon feels he needs the support and cooperation of Thieu. But as long as Thieu will not bend, the President is helpless. The dictator knows Nixon's weak points and intends to exploit them to their fullest potential. So far he has been very successful.

But there is obviously a breaking point. The President is certainly not about to assume a McGovern attitude and threaten to pull Thieu's props out from under him. It's simply contrary to the alleged Quaker's nature. After all, Pat and Tricia have to be sacrificed in such a plan, and all Quakers oppose destruction of human life.

There's another alternative which may be more satisfactory to the military minds which have engineered the Vietnam fiasco. Remember Diem? He was the American puppet who got out of line and wound up in the CIA's gunsights. It could well be Thieu's fate.

The U.S. would simply pick a more moderate successor. South Vietnam's controlled press would make him a leader, and he would soon hold a tight hand over the South. The limiting factor to such a plan would be the speed with which the new man could assume control. Communist terrorism and propaganda could wreck havoc on the moderate successor method. Nixon would be wary of that choice.

Thus, more bombs, more death and destruction, and more pressure on Thieu. Public sentiment in America is with this plan, and so is our President. Since the war is no longer being brought home in pine boxes and draft calls, and since the people of this country are weary of the whole mess, the war is bound to drag on without much criticism.

The only legitimate way out of Vietnam is to withdraw totally; condemning Thieu, the Communists, and our own military madness as we leave. But that's not "Honorable."

NOTICE OF RETRACTION AND AN APOLOGY

The letter-to-the editor entitled "An Open Letter" printed in The Guilfordian (Vol. LVIII, No. 5) October 20, 1972, and signed "Name Withheld by Request" was not published as originally submitted. Unknown to the writer of the letter or to the editors, a staff typist, Phil Margulies, made unauthorized alterations in the letter and these erroneous changes were not caught before the paper went to press. The editors regret any misunderstanding which may have been caused in the minds of our readers, and we therefore retract the entire letter and apologize for any embarrassment to the writer or to any other person.



The Guilfordian

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