

# A Concern About Campus Life *Editorial*

I have become concerned as of late with the quality of campus life and particularly with the situation of dormitory life. I suspected that there might be a rampant disregard for the rights of some of the campus residents.

I figured the best way to find out some answers to my questions, at least a starting point for seeking the answers, was to check out the relevant policy statements as found in the Guilford College Student Handbook.

The preamble states that, "Residence hall living necessarily imposes upon students special obligations of courtesy and respect for others. The preservation of property and the maintenance of conditions conducive to study and privacy are corporate to the responsibilities of those living within the resident hall units."

That's all very good and well. Part of our educational/social experience should be that one of learning to cope. But what are we to do when those happenings with which we are supposed to learn to cope, are constantly coming up and upsetting what we see as the normal function of dorm life? Coping can exceed any usefulness.

How often should one's urge to party be directed away from campus by the desires of a number of students for a climate conducive to study? And how often should one's urge to study be driven away from the dorm (or campus, and I know cases of this to be true) by the desires of a number of students for a "party" atmosphere?

The Handbook states that, "No student shall engage in behavior which unnecessarily disturbs the academic pursuits or infringes upon the privacy, rights or privileges of the other persons." Now I will be one of the first to admit that policy statements such as I am drawing upon are impractical. I would imagine that just about every non-academic pursuit must necessarily somehow, and in some way, "disturb the academic" pursuits of some individual. All I'm hoping to point out is the consistent emphasis one finds in such statements on the academic pursuit (instead of the social pursuit) of the educational experience that college should afford us.

Despite the impracticality of these blanket statements that describe the guidelines by which our campus lives should conform themselves, I'm not wanting to ignore them. I do believe that one should learn

to cope (to a degree), and I do believe that most people will make this attempt. However I have no doubt that there do exist a number of students living on this campus who habitually live their lives in such a manner that they constitute a recurrent disruption to the potential, academic atmosphere constantly threatening and needing to establish itself.

My point is this: everyone has their civil liberties. Play your stereo as loud as you want, drink your beer wherever you will, but be prepared to concede when a complaint is filed. I see the position of the college being clearly on the side of those who seek a quiet, peaceful place to live and not the blunt civil rights advocates.

From the section of the handbook dealing with the alcoholic beverage policy comes the following statement, "We also make it clear that any disorderly conduct or interference with the rights of others, such as to study, any denial of the quiet enjoyment of dormitories, any offensive public display, or anti-social behavior shall be subject to College discipline."

I hope to communicate to the students of Guilford College the importance of each individual standing up for his/her rights. It is very difficult and nearly ineffective, as

far as I can see, for the members of the Housing Staff in each living unit to keep calm and order in the dormitory by themselves, and especially so when a number of the students have little or no interest in the maintenance of that calm and order. Not only is there a need to hold down the disruptions that destroy the academic climate, but that old familiar friend Apathy, that makes any effort difficult for those who are unapathetic stands in the way. I'm sure that most of the students here are reasonable. Those who are more prone to violate the general policy of peace and quiet will make many efforts to keep the disturbances down, but that will only happen when a sufficient number of residents (that means you) take it upon themselves to act in good faith on broad policy outlines.

The section of the handbook under the heading of Academic Regulations and the sub-heading of Academic Responsibility reads in part, "The essence of a liberal arts education is a genuine interaction between faculty members and students. Primary to the achievement of this goal is freedom of expression and respect for all points of view. All members of the academic community must be committed to rational discussion on all levels of campus

activity. It is the responsibility of both teacher and student to create an atmosphere at Guilford which encourages learning. . . . Such an atmosphere requires not only personal discipline and scholarly integrity, but also a sense of responsibility in corporate aspects of education. Personal and individual academic responsibility is an integral part of developing socially and intellectually committed human beings."

There is no doubt in my mind, but the dorm life that I see as a disturbance of my efforts to educate myself will take care of itself when a sufficient number of like-minded students, faculty, and staff begin to involve themselves in re-establishing a more studious atmosphere. I think it is time for those who want to "party" to inconvenience themselves and exit from the campus. I no longer care for having to pack my books for the Library whenever I want to study. I don't pay my housing money to provide an enclosure for the convenience of a Milner-Binford-Bryan-English-Shore-Friendly Hills get-together.

I will conclude this piece by reminding the reader of its editorial content and inviting all members of the Guilford College Community to respond as they choose.

RICHARD PHILLIPS



## "Now What'll I DO?"

BY BARBARA GOTTFRIED

There seems to be a common problem around campus involving studying; whenever it should be done, a zillion things come up to prevent it. In case you ever run out of your own excuses, here are a few I've either employed or observed:

- 1) Dust your shelves
- 2) Take a shower
- 3) Visit someone
- 4) Clean your fingernails
- 5) Do your laundry
- 6) Check your mail
- 7) Make the bed
- 8) Talk to your plants
- 9) Do things to annoy your Roommate
- 10) Stare out the window
- 11) Remake the bed
- 12) Make faces at yourself in the mirror
- 13) Gossip
- 14) Get something to eat
- 15) Polish your shoes
- 16) Discuss the gross national product of tomatoes in Chad
- 17) Write home
- 18) Hang from the lampshade by your knees
- 19) Reorganize your closet
- 20) Play your 33 1/3 records at 78
- 21) Write an article for the Guilfordian

As my roommate so aptly summed up the attitude of many students; "When in Doubt . . . procrastinate."

## Day Hops

### Take Notice

You heretofore served summons to appear as members of the Day Student Intramural Soccer Team(s). Check your campus mailbox for a schedule of games.



## A Street Festival

To celebrate passage of the New River Bill, there will be a street festival at UNC-G on Tate Street. Sponsored jointly by the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club, the fair will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, October 2. Activities

will include arts, crafts, live music-bluegrass, and booths. Political candidates from all parties have been invited to discuss environmental issues, and Greensboro folk dancers will be there. Come and join the fun!

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