

Editorial

Why the real world

By Barbara Phillips

As I was walking into the library one day last week, I overheard someone, presumably a senior, complain, "I can't wait to get out of this school and into the real world."

I looked around. Trees, buildings, mud puddles, people, bicycles, squirrels. They all looked pretty real. Hmm.

I went on into the library, disturbed, and sat down to read. I couldn't concentrate on *Modern Man in Search of a Soul*, which was my reason for coming to the library in the first place, and decided instead to read about how people in the "real world" operate. I picked up the newspaper, and one of the first things I came to was an article on Mark David Chapman, in which he suggested that the book *Catcher in the Rye* might help people understand why he shot John Lennon.

I contemplated the many ironies of the situation, as obviously, the man understood not one word of the book or of Lennon's music. It was enough to make someone want to round up all the books and music and head for the nearest ivory tower, leaving the real world to the weirdos.

But I've been thinking about this "real world" place. I think I've managed to come up with a list of its characteristics. Apparently it has to do with the dog-eat-dog world of competition and corporate pay scales; something to do with never having to read another book. Apparently, it involves the absence of a community of like-minded and mutually concerned people, and most importantly, it means that you stop studying the world's problems and become a part of them.

Why join the real world? Why, because we're sheltered here at college, and apparently there's something virtuous about being in contact with harsh realities. I presume that people who feel this way also stand outside during thunder storms so as not to be overly removed from the way things are.

Now, it's pretty clear to me that life at Guilford is not a fairy-tale existence. The school, being a collection of real people, has its share of politicking, of dishonesty, and of inconsideration. In fact, I sometimes wish we could get a little less of the real world around here.

It's just about all I can deal with to pay my phone bill on time, it's helplessly beyond my skill level to remember to take the trash out on Monday and Thursday (or is it Tuesday and Friday). I have to confess that living fully in the "real world" is something for which I may never really be ready.

Alternative careers

"Alternative Careers Day"

9:30 am - 10:45 am Sternberger Aud.

'Confronting the System' - a panel on how local community groups interact and sometimes confront the larger socio-economic system. A question and answer period will follow.

11:30 - 1:30 pm Boren Lounge

'Organization Fair' - representatives from the Brown Lunge Association, American Friends Service Committee, Central Carolina Legal Service, NC Public Interest Research Group, Carolina Action, War Resisters' League, Crisis Control Center, Prison and Jail Project, Emergency Management Assistance Agency and many more will have displays and information about internships, volunteer positions, and job opportunities.

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Letters to the Editor

All Letters must be submitted to the Guilfordian at Box 17717 by Friday night, and should be no longer than 200 words. Names may be withheld if requested by the author in person or in writing.

Mutunhu terminated

Dear Editor,

I discover recently that the administration of this school has terminated the contract of Dr. Tendai Mutunhu, a history professor, and that he will leave at the end of this academic year. This decision is very distressing to me not only as a black student here on campus, but as a concerned member of the Guilford community.

As a black student, I am aware of the significant role Dr. Mutunhu plays in the development and security of the black community. Dr. Mutunhu, both in and out of the class, provides us with a new perspective of African history. A view that does not focus on slavery and inferiority, but instead focuses on a rich, distinctive tradition filled with innumerable contributions to the advancement of mankind is important. It gives the black student a positive concept of his people's past and thus a certain psychological boost in confidence in his or her ability to handle life, from the academics at Guilford to the entrenched racism of American society. Also, Dr. Mutunhu's departure would promote a sense of insecurity within the black community as to the commitment on the part of the administration to adequate black representation on the faculty.

Dr. Mutunhu's importance to the whole community is explicitly stated in the College's Statement of Purpose. In short, the Statement entails a commitment to an atmosphere of diversified perspectives in order to provide the student with a comprehensive and legitimate view of the world. Does not Dr. Mutunhu, with his Third World and African viewpoint, satisfy that aim, and if so, why is his

contract being terminated?

In view of these facts, I find it difficult to understand why this decision was made. Therefore, I urge the administration to reconsider the prospects of losing such a valuable man, and I challenge them to make known the reasons for their apparent sacrifice in commitment. It has been in my belief, the sincerity of these commitments that has made this school a worthwhile experience.

Yours sincerely,
David Davenport

Not enough work

Dear Editor:

I'm a relatively, conscientious student, but I'm also a practical one. I'm talking about money. I am a work/study student back from a wonderful, money-spending, semester in Germany. Guilford College told me I would make a certain sum of money this semester, but as it looks right now, I will be lucky if I make half that amount. My complaint is that the Financial Aid Dept. has not found me a job and I had to go out and find one myself. That doesn't bother me; I've done it many times. What bothers me is the lack of concern in the Financial Aid Dept. I am only working a few hours a week on campus and making very little money.

If Guilford's Financial Aid Dept. is going to guarantee aid to students, they should follow through with what appears to be an act of good will.

A Struggling student
April Reedy

Twisted quotes

Dear Editor,

Concerning the presentation by "The Group" with the

question "Guilford as a community?" I am extremely disappointed in what I had thought was a responsible group of people who have taken the liberty of reducing a half-an-hour conversation with myself, on the rather dubious question of student apathy here at Guilford College, to two totally unrelated statements of mine taken completely out of context and manipulated towards their own self-serving needs. The specific question that was asked of me, concerning my feelings on their self-fabricated problem of student apathy, was not even mentioned in their extremely vague and unclear presentation. I believe that Mr. Kirshbaum's perceptive - observation that "apathy is a term used by people to refer to others who don't have similar ideas of what is important," is that idea that I attempted, but obviously failed to get across to my interviewer. The whole presentation had as much, or more specifically, as little, meaning as any other self-righteous group of anti-apathetics with whom anybody who has ever read a Junior High School news-paper is all too familiar with. For a group whose supposed purpose is to encourage communication between the members of our community I think that they would do well to realize that there is a very basic and necessary responsibility inherent in any organization on campus with access to the press to communicate as accurately and as honestly as possible. I feel that my attempt at communication was blatantly exploited by this "group" towards its own questionable ends. It is discouraging, to say the least, to make an effort at communication that ends up being twisted and distorted beyond recognition to the point that you wish that you had never made the effort.

Jim Lee

Kirshbaum

capable of this function, certain changes and policies must be effected. For example, we intend to increase the number of committees from eight to tenfold, thus making it possible for the senate to scrutinize and consider every aspect of student life, and at the same time increase student involvement.

One important program that we would like to see implemented is a senate sponsored "Prank of the Week" contest. Such a contest would encourage light-hearted revelry and fun within the studentry, and would offer an alternative to the current outlook of gloom and despair held by some students. This program, along with vermin control, is a practical way of increasing the quality of life on campus, while decreasing the quantity.

Who are we? Just concerned students. Steve Harvey, leading figure in the Lego Club, will bring clarity and erudition to the job of secretary. What is Steve's response to the challenges awaiting him? "I guess spelling will be the biggest hurdle, but making it to the meetings is important too."

Beth DuRocher, a rising sophomore and noted campus activist is interested in maintaining

the high quality of services provided by the Senate while maximizing the potential for

opening new doors. As Vice-president, Beth sees her job as being the "representative of the

other interests on campus, sort of the voice of the 'silent majority.'"

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Dennis Kirshbaum, a candidate for President, is a thinker who has "big ideas" for Guil-

ford. Some people question the seriousness of his campaign, but Dennis's response has

been, "Serious? Sure, I'm serious. What do you think I am, a radio dial?"

The other interests of the candidate include coffee drinking, bagpiping, and indoor hor-

ticulture. When asked specifically about his plants, Dennis replied, "I just love them."

Are we serious about Guilford? Can there be any question? Sure some of our policies may seem a bit far fetched, but we're crazy, we'll do it.