

Guilfordian

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Meikrantz wins first Fulbright



Bill Meikrantz

By Pete Fraunholtz

Presently at Guilford we have the first recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship. Bill Meikrantz, a senior Physics major from Lighthouse Point, Florida, is the man of whom we speak. On the wings of the Fulbright, Bill will be off to the University of Brussels for a year of research and graduate study in Biophysics.

In his work at Guilford, Bill has fused his Physics curriculum with Physical Chemistry, Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, resulting in a senior thesis in the Biophysics of Micro-tubules, parts of the cell structure involved in cell division. The University Bill chose was the home of Ilya Pirgogine, who in 1976 won the Nobel Prize for the statistical mechanics model he developed of irreversible processes. The university is the center for work done in applying this model to biolog-

ical problems. In his research, Bill will be working to develop a model for gene activity using Pirgogine's theories.

The Fulbright, which ranks in prestige with the Rhodes Scholarship, is made possible by the Fulbright Commission, established by Congress in the early 1950's for the purpose of providing funds for American students to study abroad. As a member of this commission, ITT has awarded Bill, and 24 other American students, a grant which will finance his year long work. Bill was chosen based on his research proposal and a statement of the preparation that has contributed to his ability to carry out his proposal.

Approximately 250 American students are awarded Fulbrights each year to cover tuition, travel and living expenses for work in a variety of disciplines. Past recipients include former Defense Secretary, Harold Brown.

Following his research in Brussels, Bill plans to return to the States and continue his graduate work at Penn State. At present, Bill is finishing up his senior thesis as well as directing a play that he has written, "Allegory of a Bird in Flight," which will be performed on campus April 10th.

Library addition planned

Do you think the Reading Room in the library is conducive to studying? Would you like to see more study places in the stacks, or more big comfortable chairs?

Well, now is your chance to speak up. In recent weeks, Herb Poole, director of the library, has been circulating the first proposal for an addition to the Guilford College Library. At present, the proposal is being examined by the Facilities Committee, headed by Alex Stoesen, and the Library Committee, chaired by Norton Robbins.

Those who have been watching the library in recent years have noticed increasing use of already over-used facilities. Seating is one of the prime considerations of the renovation proposal. The library is committed to seating one third of the resident student body. There are only 200 spaces presently available, and there is some question as to whether these are sufficient.

The media center is another matter dealt with by the proposal. Exponential growth in the use of media services in recent years warrants an expansion of the center to incorporate space now occupied by the

Education Department and the Academic Skills Center claims the proposal. Space for these departments is included in the addition.

That component of the now existing library which stand to gain the most space in the new addition is the Friends Historical Collection. Herb Poole suggests an expansion from 1800 to 6000 square feet. The Collection is seen by several members of the Guilford College community as an integral part of Guilford's Quaker tradition.

The Faculty Committee intends to work with the "utmost speed" in order to present a finalized proposal to the Trustees when they meet in May. It is the hope of those involved that an architect can be contracted following this meeting. It is also their hope that students will take an active part in the process by offering suggestions specifying what they like and dislike about the present library and what they would like to see in the new addition. Interested students should contact members of the Facilities Committee (Stoesen, Lowe, Deagon, White, Clark, Fraunholtz), or the Library Committee (Robbins Almedia, Behar, Beidler).



The powers that might be. On the left, next years Union Board - President Daphne Brown, Vice-President Isa Cherin, and Treasurer Joel Richon. On the right Guilfordian co-editors John Mottern and Suzanne Sullivan.



An open letter to the Guilford community

Glorors and horries of nepotism

or, A New Argument From Design

Jonathan Malino

For the past month, I have been importuning our two dear Guilfordian editors, Sheasley for short, to devote an entire issue to Spouse Hiring at Guilford. Notwithstanding my repeated assurances that they would not need to rerelearn Bertrand Russell's explanation of how it is possible to talk about nothing ("On Denoting, 1905, for those who haven't had the pleasure), they have refused. They have, however, agreed to allow me to share with you the headlines of some of the main articles which would have appeared in such an issue.

"BOARD MEMBERS CHAGRINED AT THE DRAMATIC UPTURN IN THE USE OF THE TERM 'NEPOTIT' ON CAMPUS"

"THE SECRET IS OUT -- SOME PEOPLE AT GUILFORD DO ASK QUESTIONS"

"POST-COITAL CONSERVATIONS FOCUS ON COVERT GUILFORD POLITICS"

"GUILFORD AWASH WITH DANGEROUS NEW HALLUCINOGENIC DRUG -- NEPOT. TWO JOINTS OR 3cc. INJECTED DIRECTLY INTO THE HEART LEADS TO NIGHTMARISH HALLUCINATIONS THAT MARRIED COUPLES CAN BOTH BE COMPETENT PROFESSIONALS."

Though I am genuinely disappointed that this issue will never see the light of night, I do want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the editors for the profound articles to which we have been treated. I would like, as well, to announce that the publication of these articles at just the moment that they appeared, is yet another bit of evidence for God's existence. You see, just as the evils of the midsemester malaise were mounting to the point of depressing those of us who live by faith in the argument from design, the Guilfordian suddenly began to bubble over with hot, juicy, *au courant* illustrations of all those putatively irrelevant subjects like Formal Logic and What d'ya call it 101.

Consider first logic. For years I have had to turn to men and morality to illustrate the fallacy of affirming the consequent. For example,

- 1) All men are moral.
- 2) Socrates is moral.
- 3) Therefore, Socrates is a man.

How dull! But now I can point with pride to our very own Guilfordian. Quoting Louis Fike, Mark Gurley writes, "Contrary to what the President says, Guilford does practice a covert nepotism. . . Decision making and the solution of problems tends to be indirect and covert."

Eliminating the frills, we get

1) All decision making at Guilford is covert decision making.

2) Covert nepotism is covert decision making.

3) Therefore, Covert nepotism is a kind of decision making at Guilford. Now that's the way to keep aspiring logicians on their toes!

Or consider what is often referred to as the fallacy of equivocation. (I've been told that among psychologists this goes by the name of muddle-headedness.) Typically, to illustrate this dread disease it has been necessary to concoct improbable stories like the one about the Ancient Greek historian who, in a letter to the editor of the Cape Sunion Gazette, contested the claim that Socrates died of hemlock poisoning. He argued, on the contrary, that

- 1) Anacin is the number one pain killer.
- 2) Socrates was the number one pain in Athens.
- 3) Therefore Socrates was killed by Anacin.

The point of course is that the poor old historian's argument was vitiated by the fact that it could be valid only if the word "pain" did not change meaning in the long haul from the first premise to the conclusion. Yet how else would all his claims have a chance of being true?

Bury such stories forever, O-Athenian teachers of logic!!! Turn instead to Dr. Fike's first reason that "nepotism is wrong." Again according to Mr. Gurley, Dr. Fike believes that "(Firstly) it contradicts the fair hiring practices that Guilford presumes to purport (sic)". Put formally and fully, Professor Fike seems to be saying that

- 1) Nepotism exists at Guilford
- 2) Nepotism violates Guilford's fair hiring practices
- 3) Therefore nepotism is wrong.

Now just what means this "nepotism" which exists at Guilford and contradicts Guilford's purportedly supported practices? As the Voehringer Professor of the Administration of Justice has helpfully noted, "the term actually refers to the practice on the part of ecclesiastics of showing special favor to nephews or other relatives in conferring offices." Ignoring the uniquely nasty habits of ecclesiastics and the monumental role played by nephews in the fall of man, we might simplify this to "showing special favoritism in hiring relatives." Now if this is what "nepotism" means, dare we confuse it with "hiring spouses simpliciter?" I think no. Yet it is demonstratable that many august writers (or as Alex Stoesen would have it, the "great luminaries of our time") have done just that. Consider once again

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