

Veteran's Day Thoughts

by John Cox
Staff Writer

VETERAN'S DAY THOUGHTS

I.

In his Veteran's Day speech Ronald Reagan said a very strange thing. He said that the lesson the US learned from Vietnam was "that we should never ask our men to serve in a war that we do not intend to win." That is certainly a surprising statement. I was -- and still am -- convinced that we learned an entirely different lesson from our Southeast Asian fiasco.

We lost the Vietnam War. We thus discovered that we are not indomitable. President Reagan would perhaps agree. But his solution is to amass such great quantities of napalm, defoliants, and nuclear weapons that we can effectively obliterate any people who dare to vary from the American conception of utopia. The real solution, however, is to apply the true lesson we learned from Vietnam: Uncle Sam is not the world's policeman. The US has to realize that we have no monopoly on moral rectitude; we must learn to respect the rights of

other peoples, lest someone else snap off a few more fingers in our too-often blind right hand.

II.

It seems that America has forgotten the real purpose of Veteran's Day. Throughout the nation people and groups -- of all political persuasions -- take advantage of Veteran's Day publicity to further their own interests.

Ronald Reagan and many others of the "patriotic" type speak on this day of the necessity of keeping the Russians in their place. They say we must renew our commitments to being a world policeman and to building armed forces second in power to none. In the same vein peace groups use this day to stage disarmament vigils and make speeches calling for a policy of detente with the Soviets. Both sides believe the media coverage of Veteran's Day provides an opportune time for them to put on a show.

Regardless of political views, hardly anyone respects the true purpose of Veteran's Day. (I myself am guilty of this, having participated in a vigil last November 11th.) Veteran's Day

is the one day of the year set aside for us to remember those people who -- for right of wrong, good or bad -- have died for our country. Just one day of the year, America, let us all halt our unceasing clawing for political advantage and honor the sacrifices of our predecessors.

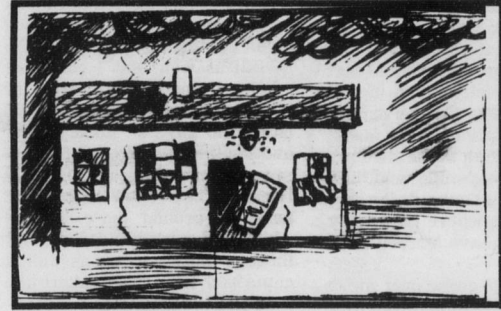
Food for Thought

By Wendy Brown
Activities Director

One thing that almost all on-campus students have in common is the Guilford College cafeteria. Since the dorm rooms are not equipped with kitchenettes, most students find this service a convenience. However, that is not to say they like it. In fact, if asked, many will gladly list all the faults they can find with the food service.

As a worker of the cafeteria, I can personally observe students and their reactions to the food. The most pessimistic type of person will generally saunter up to the counter with a knowing look of disgust on their face before they have even seen the food. When they reach the counter I ask them what they would like to eat and they look at me as if I've lost my mind. "Eat," they say, "you mean you call this food?"

Yes, I do call it food. It may not be food of the highest quality, but it's edible. Yet, some people don't seem to realize what college cafeteria food is. Nor do they realize that the people working there, such as the student servers, have nothing to do with the taste of the food.



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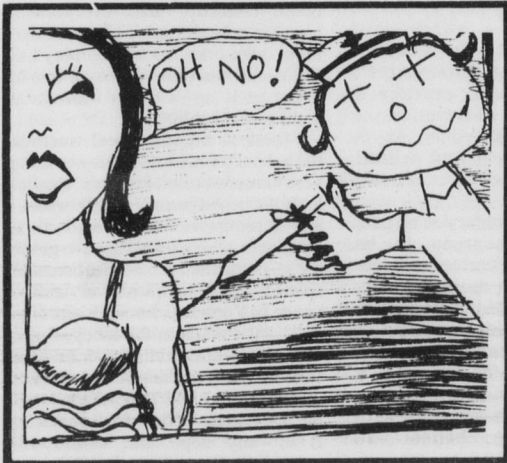
Infirmiry Suffers

by Joy Elizabeth Opaleski
Editor in Chief

Sickness overcomes us all at one point in our College career. When the need arises, it is nice to know that you are in good hands. Unfortunately I do not feel that is so at Guilford. At the end of the November 5 issue, I took to my bed, exhausted and ill, having contracted the local virus. By sleeping through Friday's office hours at the clinic, unless I wished to go to the emergency room, I was stuck until Monday. That is my first complaint.

After a weekend of dosing myself with vitamins, aspirin and Tylenol 3, and suffering through the torture of complete bedrest, I visited the infirmary. Having called and finding out that no appointment times were available, I was told to go to the Clinic and I would be "fit in." As I was on my fourth day of fever, dizziness, shakes, coughs and congestion, this was less than optimum.

Totally unsatisfactory, however, was the



treatment I received. Dr. Peter Blomgren's bedside manner is very lacking. After ascertaining my approximate condition, he mentioned that he did not recommend bedrest, but I should have carried on this weekend as normal: indeed I should even be attending classes. This concept was inconceivable to me, and I told him that he did not have my trust, what's more, I was returning to the shelter of my bed. "That's probably a good idea, since with that cough you are still very contagious" was Dr. Blomgren's reply. Great. If I hadn't said anything I would have been infecting the rest of the campus. I am less than impressed with our good Doctor.

Speaking with ladies on my hall, I continually hear complaints. Dr. Blomgren's attitude during one gynecological check-up was so poor that he inspired fear and anxiety in his patient during a routine exam. Not good. When Chris had a substitute nurse from Moses Cone, this woman came a little too close to injecting my roommate with frozen allergy serum. This is downright scary.

Something needs to be done. Have you had an experience, good or bad, in the infirmary? Write it in a Letter to the Editor so campus opinion can be determined and appropriate steps can be taken.

It's your health; it's your concern.

LOOK OUR

That's About Standardization

By Iris Velvin

Standardization is both the boon and the bane of modern society. Mechanical standardization ushered in the Industrial Revolution, which in turn has led to the conveniences and frustrations of modern technology. Not only machines, but other things -- such as social conventions, laws, and fashions -- have become uniform. But the dichotomy of standardization is nowhere more apparent than in the area of language.

Linguistic uniformity is obviously beneficial in many ways. Until meanings, spelling, and grammar were standardized, people could not communicate nearly as effectively as they can now. But this linguistic sameness can also be rigid and repressive. People don't experiment much with words, phrasing or usage anymore. Even slang is becoming more-or-less universal; terms may perhaps be indigenous to certain age groups or types of people, but they are rare-

ly confined now to specific geographical regions. Many colloquialisms have disappeared from common usage. No one wants to call attention to themselves by speaking differently.

Distinctive accents do persist, particularly in certain areas of the country such as Boston, Brooklyn, or the Deep South. Standardization is slower here, but still at work. Linguistic uniformity will prevail, for two very good reasons: mobility and media. Today's society is mobil, and most people come into contact with people from other parts of the country. In communication, accents become neutralized by constant contact with differing accents. The view of language becomes national rather than regional. Media also helps in this neutralization of accents. Listen to your radio and television. Local radio announcers usually have a minimal accent, and television newscasters for the most part have perfect, unaccented voices. Even in TV shows, distinctive ac-

cents are rare part of char such as empl of a South bishness of listen to the lack of accen on TV, and consciously accents. Pe growing up t their constan have perfect cents when t The benefi dardization society: C become eas curate. But effects to t sadden me benefits. Rep pearing with accents. I fe will also fa with one big ing, stultifyi want to be ju And I don't v Chancellor.