

"Legs" Contest is Sexist

To The Guilford College Community and the Milner House Council:

Despite the assertion that a "Legs" contest would be "fun," we believe that it is offensive and sexist. Having a co-ed contest does not make the event any less sexist. The inclusion of men does not minimize the damaging message expressed by such a beauty contest which judges body parts, objectifies people, and parodies women.

Women's beauty contests are a serious matter. They tell women to primp, pose, slather make-up onto their faces, and scrape off certain hair follicle growth to receive the attention of male gawkers. Body-part contests like "Legs" reinforce the idea that appearance is paramount to identity. Such activities dismember

women's bodies into mere fragments, encouraging people to view women not as human but as a set of parts. Dividing women into a series of breasts, faces, legs, and hips makes violence against them seem acceptable because there is no humanness attached to the body. An attacker is simply committing a violent act against an inanimate object. The proposed use of sheets to hide everything except the "parts" highlights this. It splits the person from the objects of competition, making the person a winner or a loser according to their parts.

When men become involved in this type of show, the tendency is to make fun of the societal pressures put upon women and their bodies. Last year's Mr. Milner Contest was a

perfect example of what happens when men participate in beauty contests. They end up parodying women by donning fake breasts, batting their eyebrows and strutting around the stage.

At the "Legs" contest, if a man with fat, hairy legs took the stage, people would laugh. If a woman with fat, hairy legs appeared, people would be repulsed, criticize her, or at least think that there was something wrong with her.

To those of you who would say, "Lighten up," realize the damage of contests such as these to all of us. Light-hearted or not, the damage is done by exploiting women and then parodying them as objects of ridicule.

Join us in voicing opposition to this student sponsored event at the next Senate Meeting (Wednesday, April 5, 3:00, Boren) so that next year, such non-fun activities will not be proposed. When we object to campus activities like the "Legs" contest, we confront the issue of sexism and may begin to see how pervasive it really is.

Holly Fairbairn
Carol Juergemeir
Susan Nelson
Joanna Iwata
Jane Caris
Laura Donaldson
...and many other concerned members of the Guilford Community

Mistakes in Paper, Contest

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the two articles written about the controversy over the originality of the Serendipity T-shirt designs. First of all, my name is Kathryn Sparacino, not Kathryn Shapiro. Secondly, I am a freshman, not a sophomore. I do not understand why, if an original design was wanted, it was not stated in the regulations for entering the contest. That is what

regulations are for they eliminate consequent disagreements about the nature of the entries. In the future, I think there should be stipulations to ensure that this kind of controversy does not happen again; I also feel that the Guilfordian should make sure its information is correct before running two consecutive articles with the same mistake.

Kathryn Sparacino

Plan Now for Banquets

JUST A REMINDER

From Guilford Catering, Marriott Dining Services: Planning Your Special Function

Due to a heavy demand for rooms on campus, we request that you confirm your reservation with the appropriate office prior to ordering any catering service. Reservations for the Walnut Room, Private Dining Room, Conference Room, and Dining Hall may be made through the catering office at extension 309 or 292-4723.

When your reservation has been completed and approved, stop by the catering office located in the cafeteria or call for an appointment. Be prepared to give the time of the function, the approximate number of people, attending, and any special

needs. Also, it is helpful to have a budget in mind for the event. You must give the catering service at least 10 days to plan your catered function.

We look forward to serving you.

Thank You

To the Editor:

All of us in Housekeeping wish to extend to you, the students, a hearty thank you for the lovely Appreciation Day. Your kindness will always be remembered.

Sincerely,
Vera Waddell

Letters Policy

The Guilfordian welcomes all readers to submit letters to the editor. Letters to the editor should be mailed to P.O. Box 17717 or delivered in person to the Publications Suite, second floor Founders Hall.

Letters should be legible, preferably typed, and double-spaced. Letters should be signed

and dated, and include the author's phone number and local address. The Guilfordian will not publish anonymous letters. Please limit letters to 300 words or less.

The Guilfordian and its staff reserve the right to edit for length and clarity and to withhold letters based on the discretion of the editors.

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Save the Children Fun Run

Save the Children Relay '89 will highlight the global effort to immunize all the world's children by 1990 against six preventable childhood diseases - polio, diphtheria, tuberculosis, tetanus, whooping cough and measles. Each year these childhood diseases needlessly kill 3 to 4 million of our children and leave as many permanently disabled."

Guilford College is participating in this effort and you can be a part of it. If you are interested in the run, we will have registration and information between 11:30 - 1:30 and 4:30 - 6:30 today in Founders Lobby.

The four-mile run will start at 11 a.m. on April 16.



Find out how you can help!