

PERSPECTIVES

Justice has still not been done "One Strike" is caring policy

Eric Longley

"The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning, but without understanding."

-Justice Louis Brandeis

After an agonizing week in which they faced suspension from Guilford on charges of which they may have been innocent, two of the five students in the drug case have been permitted by an appeals board to return to campus on disciplinary probation. With respect to the reinstated students, the official brief of the case says "[The] [i]ndividual[s] [were] found guilty based on the presence of an illegal substance in the room [they were visiting]. . . there was no direct evidence that the defendant[s] had used an illegal substance and no evidence that [they] knew of its presence in the room." This is what the protesters have been saying all along.

It is good that the suspensions were set aside in the appeals process. But if students must rely on the appeals process alone to vindicate their rights, their liberties hang by a very slender thread indeed. Unless the rights of defendants are respected at the trial level, injustices will continue to occur. There is no guarantee that appeals boards will take it upon themselves to correct each and every such injustice.

The forces of justice have still won only a partial victory in this case. In setting aside the suspensions of the two students, the appeals board, according to the official

brief, "[reduced] the sanction. . . to disciplinary probation." The meaning of this action is far from clear. Did the appeals board let the drug conviction stand but reduce the penalty, due to the circumstantial nature of the evidence and the injustice of imposing suspension as a punishment? If the automatic-suspension rule is so unjust that judicial boards feel unable to enforce it, this is a serious reflection on the rule. But, unjust as the rule is, the judicial boards cannot change it. That is the job of our elected representatives in the student Senate.

Another interpretation of the vague words of the brief is that the appeals board overturned the drug conviction and then imposed probation as a penalty for the two students' failure to present their student IDs to the RAs. This was the only other offense for which the students had been convicted. The ID conviction is based on the fact that the students had left their IDs at their dorms and, therefore, did not have them immediately available. Probation seems an extreme penalty for mere forgetfulness. Last year, five members of the Judicial Board recommended a modification of the ID policy so as to permit students like the two involved in this case to have a "reasonable time" to produce their IDs. Under such a rule, the convicted could have avoided the ID charge entirely.

To the partially-vindicated students I extend a wholehearted, if belated, welcome to Guilford college. May you be worthy of the college, and it of you.

Angus McLees

The new drug policy, which has been oversimplified as the "One Strike, You're Out" policy, is not quite as simple or as evil as it sounds. It is not designed "to get those druggies out of Guilford College," but is meant to serve as an educational tool.

According to this policy, students who are judged by the Judicial Board to have been in possession and/or use of controlled substances should be suspended, not kicked out forever, and forced to participate in a drug rehabilitation program before being re-admitted as Guilford College students. At least in my eyes, this is a much more humane and caring approach than simply letting offenders slide by until they get out into the real world, where the penalties will be more substantial than taking a little time off from school.

By maintaining the new policy, we will be embodying the values of the Society of Friends by helping offenders to recognize their problems and work through them. Such a suspension will not, I repeat, WILL NOT ruin anyone's life. It may seem a horrible inconvenience at the time, but in the long term it will be to the offender's benefit. Upon graduation from Guilford College, all judicial records for each individual are destroyed, and (hopefully) all offenders will have learned an incredibly valuable lesson. If, however, the new policy is altered to recommend some lesser sanction, their lives may be irreparably

damaged, for they will not recognize the severity of drugs or the ramifications of their use, and could continue use until they either overdose and die or are caught by the police, not just their friendly R.A.

In the real (non-Guilford College) world, boys and girls, when you are caught in possession of controlled substances, you are either (1) fined or (2) arrested, convicted, and sent to jail. In either case, the record of that fine or conviction follows you forever. This means that every single time that you apply for employment, you are likely to be eliminated from consideration based on your police record, and that will never go away. This situation, however, can easily be avoided, for the new policy as it stands is perfectly capable of handling controlled substance offenses in a caring, humane manner which would allow students to make their mistakes and learn from them, without the risk of a life-long label of "drug user."

Let's just take a few moments to sit down and think about our options in a rational, objective manner, and decide what will be best for each of us as an individual, as well as for the Guilford College community as a whole. Which would you prefer: to learn your lesson during college without any long-term ill effects, or to party your way through school, only to get busted after graduation and have all of your plans ruined forever, and your life as you know it is brought to a screeching halt?

1990 Quaker lacks diversity, but is still considered professional and artistic

Lesley Funk
Butch Maier

create the *Quaker*-Guilford College's yearbook.

A year and a half ago, a dark-haired man emerged from the shadows to accept a task for which he had no prior experience: to

Richard Alton Montgomery had a plan. From the looks of the 1989-90 *Quaker* released last Friday, was it carried out? Yes.

THE GUILFORDIAN

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The *Quaker* is a professional-looking yearbook. It is the ultimate coffee-table book, with a cover sleeve capturing the beauty of Founders Hall and on the underside, the tranquility of the Guilford lake at night.

The *Quaker* orders photographs chronologically, innovatively enhancing the nostalgic purpose of annuals.

In addition to the wide array of candid snapshots are the artistic photographic renderings of rain falling on a car windshield, a Guilford College window sticker, a band member's keyboard, a stack of records from WQFS, and the favorite Guilford late-night hangout—Jan's House.

Also given a unique treatment was the senior section. The senior pictures convey a classic look, with individuals emerging from the shadows and releasing their attitudes upon the observer. The turn-out for senior pictures was the biggest in recent memory.

Special features included a two-page color spread on the library book move and a two-page tribute to Julie Workman, an alum who died of cancer last December.

There were also humorous touches: several photos of Mizzo the Dog, photos

with tongues as their main focus, and the book-ending photo of a lizard (a lizard, hmmm?).

Nothing, however, is flawless. There are too many photos of the same people. Where are all the forgotten Guilford students? Where are the athletic teams, the faculty and the abroad students?

Some problems have to do with the reader's level of comfort: the senior pictures are too dark, their quotes are too small, and other students are hard to find with such a confusing index.

These are minor problems. The point is: there is a yearbook—seniors get their annual. Last year's didn't. The *Quaker* published two years ago went over budget and was nine months late.

The 1989-90 school year is now creatively preserved other than in our minds. Look at it, read it, talk about it—just do it right and enjoy it.

In the editor's own words, "the creation of a yearbook like the 1990 *Quaker* proves that Guilford is a great place to be."

Goal accomplished, Richard Alton Montgomery is headed out west to explore broader horizons.