

# New campus-wide smoking ordinance reflects changing health trends

Chris Ward  
Perspectives Editor

Recently, Guilford put signs concerning the new smoking ordinance on all tables in the cafeteria. These signs state that there now is a designated smoking section in the dining hall, which is located on half of the cafeteria's balcony. Although the signs do not mention it, there has been a non-smoking as well as a smoking section in the dining hall for some time.

Unfortunately, some students choose to smoke in the non-smoking section, and the cigarette smoke of those who do smoke in the appropriate section is picked up by the ventilation system and distributed throughout the cafeteria. Also, dining hall employees sometimes smoke in the non-smoking section even after a meal has begun. These practices defeat the right of students to have a smoke-free environment where they can eat without disturbance.

There are many other areas on campus

where those who do not smoke and do not like breathing the smoke of others cannot find refuge from this pollution. The Underground doesn't have non-smoking section and the cigarette smoke there at times becomes unbearable for some non-smokers to tolerate.

The Recreation Room once had a no smoking sign posted in it, but this has long since been removed for no apparent reason. For non-smokers who enjoy playing video games, table tennis, and pool in a clean environment, the Recreation Room frequently has its doors open, allowing smoke to enter the adjacent Student Health Service.

If there is a regulation concerning smoke in the Recreation Room, the sign needs to be replaced immediately. But if there is no such rule, the creation of a smoke-free Recreation Room and Underground should be considered by the Community Senate.

Although there are many places at Guilford where smoking is restricted or forbidden, there are many places including

Sternberger Auditorium and the lounges of many residence halls where no smoking regulations exist.

In regard to this year's new rule forbidding smoking in dormitory hallways, there have been instances in at least one residence hall where someone has smoked in the hallway and therefore allowed smoke to enter a room. This is an extreme violation to the privacy of a person who cannot even escape someone's cigarette smoke in his own room.

There are many solutions to the problem of unwanted cigarette smoke at Guilford. Either the person who is bothered by the cigarette smoke can leave the area, or he can ask the smoker to stop. Neither of these solutions is completely acceptable, however.

Since over seventy percent of Americans are non-smokers, it is time to recognize the wishes of many people who silently tolerate offending smoke and are unable to do anything about it. There should be regulations enacted at Guilford to curtail smoking in all public areas on campus, including residence halls.

Smoking, however, will not and should not be banned, instead we should allow those who choose to smoke to do so in a place where they will not offend others. When regulations that respect the rights of the non-smoking majority are adopted, Guilford College will be more in touch with the needs of its students.

# —New perspective Campus-life inviting to new students

Andrew Horvat  
Staff Writer

As a new student at Guilford, I was asked to contribute a freshman's perspective on life here. Having been on campus for just twelve days, you may think that I have little to write about. I can, however, write quite knowledgeably, about how quickly I feel that I have become a part of this community.

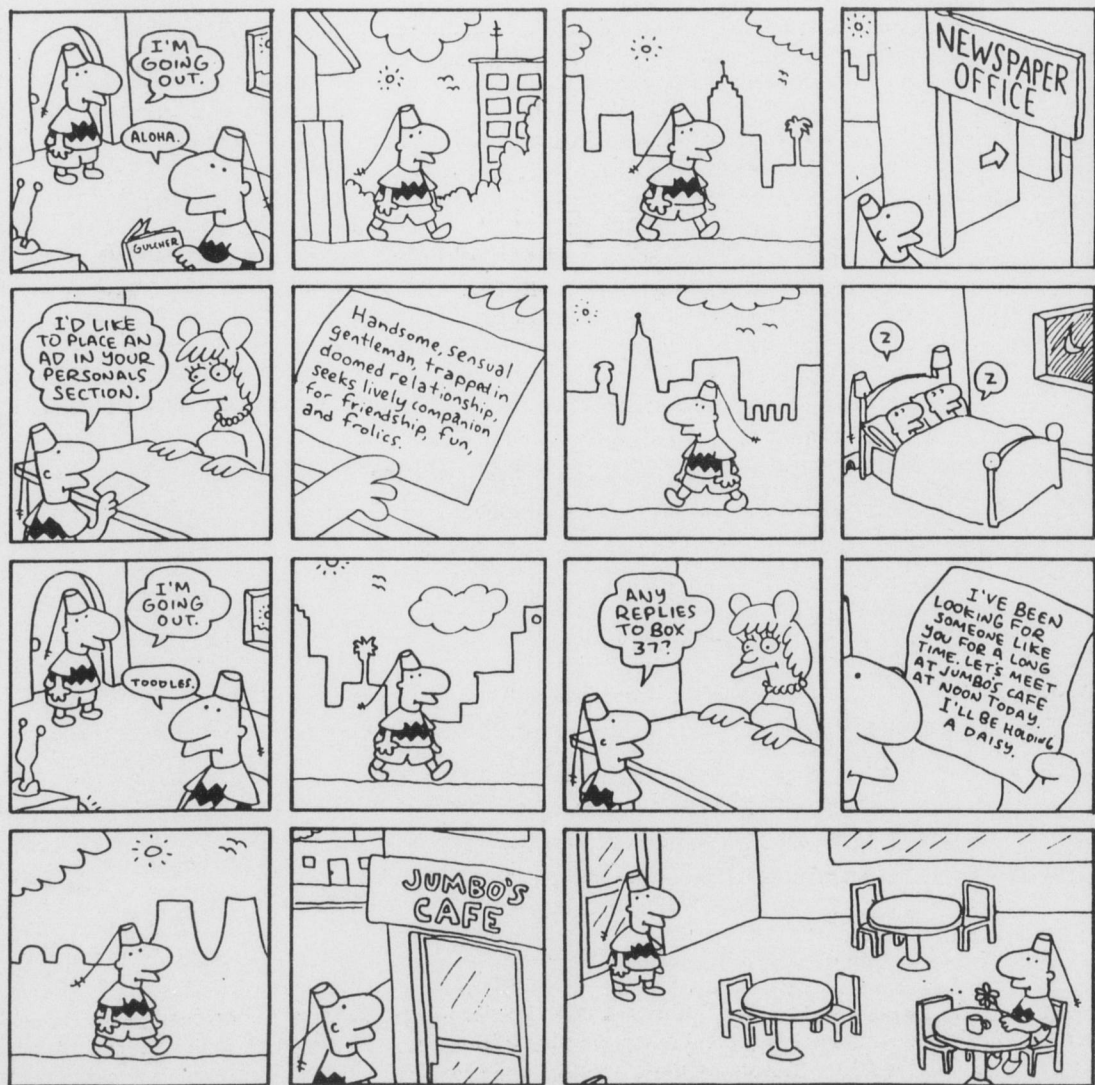
The buildings and their arrangement on the park-like campus are welcoming. They make one feel larger, simply because the buildings themselves are human-sized. The library is a prime example: comfortable, well-lit, and inviting. The cafeteria, that place of earthly delights, is relaxing.

The staff, faculty, and students have made me feel very much at home. My parents and I enjoyed talking to Bill Rogers after the convocation, as he crossed from Dana to New Garden Hall. My professors are eager to teach and open to ideas. The students here have made me feel quite welcome and appreciated. Most have been interested and inviting. The sophomores, juniors and seniors have been helpful and friendly. I feel as if I am a needed and appreciated member of the community.

It is great to be here. I hope that other first-year students are feeling as welcome as I, and I hope to get off on the right foot with the readers of *The Guilfordian*, because writings in the future may not be as "reader friendly" as this one. But I'll talk about that later. Thank you for welcoming me into this community!

LIFE IN HELL

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