

## Community means communication

Blair Fingerhut and Stacie Boggs  
Guest Writers

In seeking to free ourselves from bias, respect for the right to have differing points of view is crucial. We are concerned that this respect and the following section from the "Statement of Purpose" from the Guilford College catalog (1990-1991) are not being completely fulfilled:

"The college desires to have a 'community of seekers,' individuals dedicated to shared and corporate search as an important part of their lives. Such a community can come about only when there is diversity throughout the institution— a diversity of older and younger perspectives, a diversity of racial and cultural backgrounds, a diversity of beliefs and value orientations. Through experiencing such differing points of view, we seek to free ourselves from bias" (p.ii).

Respecting somebody else and their rights to believe what they choose does not necessarily mean accepting what they believe. One may disagree with another, yet they should still respect one another's rights to believe differently. We are here to learn from one another. In order to learn from one another, discussion (talking and listening) needs to take place. This discussion can take place only if we are willing to respect another's right to hold their point of view

and only if we are willing to try to understand the other's point of view. In constructive discussion we can agree to disagree. Communication is the vehicle in which learning about differing points of views occurs. Without communication learning cannot happen.

As a Jewish woman, I, Blair, think that this respect for other's diversity and the right to hold onto their uniqueness are some things that we need to honor. I especially feel this way concerning Israeli politics and anti-semitism.

I don't feel like we are taking the opportunity (especially in such a small community) to talk constructively about the issues that concern us. By making uninformed decisions, one is building an extra wall of stereotypes and prejudices; these are then much harder to break down. Surrounding ourselves with more walls of stereotypes and prejudices inhibits us from being open to hear and listen to what others are saying. No one, including myself, is perfect in achieving this kind of communication all the time. We need to at least try and uphold Guilford's "Statement of Purpose" and strive to be a "community of seekers" that learns from our diversity.

As a Christian, I, Stacie, have often felt that there is a respect and tolerance for certain, but not all, viewpoints on campus. I

have often seen a lack of respect or tolerance for the Evangelical Christian perspective. This bothers me because this intolerance is contrary to the "Statement of Purpose" of the college.

I can learn a lot from those whose beliefs differ from mine, and vice versa. Learning from one another does not require agreement with one another. For example, I believe that Jesus is God and Blair believes that Jesus is not God. By discussing this issue with Blair, I can better understand her position and in the process, better understand my position.

We have not given up our beliefs but we have learned how each other thinks about these beliefs. This is learning, this is discussion. Without this discussion, had we avoided talking about these issues, I would not have had as full of an understanding of my own faith.

I believe that there are always going to be conflicting views, and that is okay. We, as a community, need to respect, not avoid, that expression of differing views. At the same time, we need to avoid the stereotypes, hostility and rumors that, 1) have in the past stemmed from these expressions and 2) could hinder the community that we are striving to create.

These are some important points that we have been concerned about.

## Let's end the war concerning homophobia

Ben Rose  
Staff Writer

My fellow students, it is I again, and I am angry. I wrote you a nice editorial about homophobia. I said let's stop it. I made it quite clear how I felt. It has not stopped in my opinion. It has just become a stupid war. I am sick of it. I want it to stop.

Without mentioning names—I was asked by some people not to—I would like to tell everyone that trying to educate people about sexuality on National Coming Out Day is ill-timed and downright silly. People are out to celebrate those who choose to own up to being sexually attracted to the same sex or both sexes. It is hardly a time to be discussing sexuality with anyone, for it will only lead to misunderstanding. I assumed that, as college students, we had sense enough to know all this. However, that is clearly not the case, and so now you know. Do not let it happen again please.

As for the letter writers, good for you for expressing your opinions, not so good that you choose to use other people as your weapons. I do not think that is cool. In fact, I think that is wrong. I feel that if you wish to use your own life as an example of how your opinion is correct, then do so. By all means go ahead. But do not use someone else's life to prove points.

I personally do not stand on either side in this issue. I am neutral. I know what the Bible says, and I know what my conscience says. I do not judge anyone. I mean hey, maybe it is a sin, but to cast a verbal stone against it, I must first be without sin and I am not. I therefore do not choose to take sides. You are all wrong in my view.

I would like to make this clear. I am here to get an education. I have friends here. My friends also need to get an education. If my friends get hurt it interferes with their mental processes and they cannot function at full capacity. I am obligated to help them, and thus I can not function at full capacity. I beg you, stop hurting each other. Love one another. Be good to each other. Too many people are getting hurt, and I do not like it. I am now really upset. If you must write in and comment on this stuff, write to this editorialist. Write to tell me I am wrong. Write to tell me to go to Hell. Write to tell me you hate me. Just stop writing to hurt each other. I do not care what you write to say about me, I am an editorial writer. If you make me mad, I will write about you and let you know. I am supposed to take anger and heat. You all need to love each other. Please end this senseless stupidity before someone really gets hurt beyond repair.

## Class of 1991 gift honors faculty

*Editor's note: The following are letters intercepted by The Guilfordian concerning the class gift by the Class of 1991.*

With the help of Vance Ricks, Bill Guy and Jim Newlin, the 1991 class gift has finally arrived. After Bill, Vance and I consulted with our fellow seniors, we realized that we came to Guilford for a variety of reasons. The one reason common to everyone was a desire for a good education. Guilford provided just that. We therefore decided to dedicate our class gift to the professors who made it happen.

Each full-time professor from last year will receive a gross of forty-three dollars. This salary supplement should appear as a separate item on your voucher. As a class, we wanted some way to recognize your importance to us. This is not the ideal expression of our gratitude, but is instead a symbolic gesture. Thank you again for everything you have given us.

Glenn Lissner  
Senior Class Rep. 1990-91

The following Minute of Appreciation to the Class of 1991 was approved by the faculty at its Nov. 6, 1991, meeting:

Sincerely,  
The Guilford College Faculty

One reason why we have all chosen to work at Guilford College is our shared desire to participate in the endeavor to provide a good education to thoughtful students. The unexpected decision by members of the class of 1991 to dedicate their class gift to us is therefore especially heartwarming and touching. We accept that gift with gratitude and with a renewed sense in our own commitment towards our students and their education. We send you our warm wishes for a fulfilling and productive future.

## Letters

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by Margaret Atwood? It is frighteningly realistic, although fictional, account of what happens when the individual woman is stripped of the right to control her reproductive system, when someone else decides what is morally correct for her. I am disgusted and insulted at the pro-lifer's implication that he can decide for my body better than I can. That is specifically why the pro-life movement will never succeed.

At the same time, I highly doubt that the pro-choice movement will win over the pro-lifers. What is the solution? It will not be reached if both sides remain mired in their bickering. It will only be attained when the right *problem* is addressed: the occurrence of unwanted pregnancies.

Tanya Stiegler

## New idea proposed for keg policy

To the editor:

I am writing to discuss the keg policy. I feel I have a solution that will solve the whole thing. Here it is. Use a 12-pack rule. The rule is as follows: for every student 21 or over, there may be no more than one 12-pack in a room. That means that if two 21-year-olds room together, they may have 24 beers in their room. For a suite with all legal age tenants, a keg will be allowed. The same for an apartment with at least six legal-age tenants. The reason is simple.

If one 21-year-old has a 12-pack of beer, than he/she is unlikely to share it, needing all that beer to get a good buzz going. If you are too big

to get drunk on a 12-pack, either lose weight or do not get drunk...or go to a bar.

The idea here is that if every 21-year-old were allowed only a 12-pack at a time in his/her room, then there would be less beer to provide to minors. For you minors who wish to get drunk, buy a fake ID and get arrested. The time behind bars will do you some good.

I personally would like to see a dry campus. If it could be enforced that no alcohol came on campus, I would be a very happy man. However, that being unrealistic, I think a 12-pack rule would do nicely.

If by chance that rule were broken, I think immediate removal from the dorms would be a good step to take. If enforced, this rule would put a halt to anyone trying to hold wild drunken parties.

Ben Rose