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Carter reflects on Thanksgiving

Campus Minister Max Carter Guest Columnist

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come in to God's presence with singing! Lord's; we are God's people, and the sheep of God's pasture. Enter the Lord's gates with thanksgiving, and the Lord's courts with praise! Give thanks and bless the divine name! For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures for ever, and the Lord's faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100

Growing up on a farm in north-central Indiana, I did not experience Thanksgiving in the typical way. There were no fourth Thursdays of November set aside for a celebration of gluttony and football...for a variety of reasons.

For one thing, football in Indiana is a season to endure on the way to basketball. By early November the pigskin is gladly set aside in favor of God's truly chosen sport. After all, doesn't the 'Thanksgiving Psalm' itself speak of entering "the Lord's courts with praise?"

More importantly, though, my family did not celebrate a typical Thanksgiving for two very practical reasons: we still had corn to pick in late November, and the national Thanksgiving holiday had been set on its date by a DEMO-CRAT! The latter reason was only slightly less important than the necessity of getting the year's crop into the cribs.

We actually felt somewhat morally superior to our city cousins who had the luxury of taking a day off in the middle of the week. And we certainly felt morally superior to the political party of Franklin D. Roosevelt, that scalawag who repealed Prohibition, set up a socialist state, ran up a massive debt, and kept a mistress! I still recall my

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The Guilfordian does not necessarily endorse the ideas presented in this column. Rather, The Guilfordian seeks to highlight a particular issue and by doing so, increase awareness and stimulate positive discussion.

—The Editoral Board

Letters to the Editor . . .

Ponography presentation educational, disturbing

To the Editor:

I am not writing my column this week because I have been so distracted by the anti-pornography presentation that was held on Monday. Just when I thought my faith in humans could not be shattered any more, this came about and told me that there are more sicknesses amongst us than could ever be imagined.

I didn't know much about pornography, I thought it was a bunch of naked women that got lots of money for exposing themselves. I still want to believe that "snuff" films don't exist (if you don't know what they are DO NOT ASK). I won't get into the details, but knowledge of this material has damaged me extensively.

In a way I wish I had not gone to the presentation. I feel like I did when I learned what the KKK was—floored, numb, nauseous, crazy. And then you find out there's not a whole lot you can do about it. It won't just go away. I know the images chosen may have been unusually explicit and I don't know where and if you can draw a line between fantasy magazines and violent, racist propaganda. But most females have personal experiences to combine with this presentation.

Where does that leave us? Depressed and gloomy. Add this to stress about grades, David Duke, war in Yugoslavia and preregistration and you get a student that cannot function normally. Knowledge is responsibility. I ask all of you, what do I do with these feelings? I've had enough, I don't want to know anymore facts that don't come in a tidy package with a solution.

The Women's Awareness meeting on Tuesday helped some and I encourage discussion of these topics. If anyone in this community has a positive message they'd like to share, now would be a good time. Let's not lose touch with the adventure and positive aspects of people; it's tough.

Louisa Spaventa

Tolerance an obligation

To the Editor:

There were numerous controversies discussed in the November 8 issue of The Guilfordian. It is difficult to decide which one I should discuss, but in thinking about them, I have discovered that they all relate to one issue: Control. Who has control over whom? That is the question that kept coming up in my mind when I thought about those issues.

The answer to the question of who controls whom is that it is the men of this society, more specifically, white, heterosexual Christian men. Unfortunately, I happen to fall into that category. However, I do not at all embrace the same ideas that the majority of people in this category do. I do not believe that I have the right to tell a woman what to do with her body. I do not feel that I have the right to tell a homosexual that his/her way of life is wrong. How do I know that it really is wrong? Am I absolutely positive that my way of life is right? I don't see how I can be. I do not possess that knowledge. No one does. I most certainly do not have the right to set up a booth on National Coming Out Day to tell others that their sexual orientation, whatever it may be, is wrong. That is intolerant and extremely tacky. If to be intolerant of other people's ways of life is to be a white, heterosexual, Christian male, then I want to remove all of those classifications from my personality. Unfortunately, that is easier said than done.

It seems odd to me that though this group is a minority in numbers in our society, they hold a vast majority of the power, political and otherwise, in this country. I cannot understand that and especially cannot understand why we allow this to continue as it has for thousands of years. Fortunately, we are beginning to realize that this should not be and it must be changed.

It is time for us to get off our self-produced high horse, which has little substance, and realize that we have an <u>obligation</u> to tolerate other people in this world and their ways of life. It is not our right

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GEORGE (HERBERT HOOVER) BUSH

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