

Perspectives Letters to the Editor

To the Editor,

Since my name has appeared recently in these columns in connection with the absence of signs on campus, I quite naturally feel the need to make a few comments.

Briefly, let's begin by agreeing that the absence of signs and map boards on the campus is a long-standing gap in Guilford's courtesy to its visitors. I stand with Richie Zweigenhaft, and all the others who have helped visitors to find their way, that we can and must do better in this regard.

"Not even when we seek to put our best foot forward are we able to succeed at the basic respect that should be afforded strangers in our midst."

-Alex Stoesen

Only last Saturday (Nov. 14), when some prospective students and their parents were invited to the campus, I discovered myself standing on the front steps of Founders Hall telling folks that they had, indeed, found Founders. Not even when we seek to put our best foot forward are we able to succeed at the basic respect that should be afforded strangers in our midst.

And, even as we try to overcome being a "best kept secret in higher education," we still seem to keep secret the configuration of our campus. (One recalls fondly N.C. history, and the fact that the General Assembly, in its wisdom, required every chartered locality in the states to name and mark its streets back in 1837.)

Anyway, Zweigenhaft seemed to give me charge to do something about the stranger's plight, since I am on the Facilities Committee. (Biology professor William Fulcher is too.) At our meeting this year Fulcher and I brought up this question. The answer was that there are no funds available for additional signs.

The signs erected in front of the Hege General Purpose Building (aka, the library) and Bauman Hall came with new construction at a cost from \$500 to \$1,000 a piece. These signs are actually being tested to determine how well they will stand up under the im-

pect of the persisted vandalism which so afflicts the campus. So far they are holding up well. Someday, we will get some more.

For the time being there will be no further signs or any map boards on this campus. (I recall a visit I made to Davidson College where I read a well-located map board and found my way immediately. Afterwards, to my surprise, I think I felt good about the place.)

Some have said that, instead of putting in brick walkways and fiber-optic cables, etc., we should pay more attention to basics such as signs. But the rationale for the construction that is now going on is that it is being done with funds received from friends of the college for specific purposes and is carried out in such a way that several birds are killed with one stone.

Thus, by putting in cables, and other underground facilities, and at the same time constructing walkways and roads over them, there will be a far smaller chance that disruptions will occur in the future. The result is a considerable saving. The guiding genius behind all of this is Art Kopcsak, who explained the process at our Facilities Committee meeting and convinced me that eventually we will get around to solving most of our problems.

Right now, we could use over \$3,000,000 just to fix everything that needs fixing up. Additional costs have

appeared with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act which took effect last July. The amount of work that needs to be done is staggering, but I am convinced that Kopcsak has a handle on it. Students might want to check with the student representative on the Facilities Committee, Michael Pruden, to see if I have this right, and whether he agrees with my belief that we are getting things done on an efficient basis.

But, I disagree—there will be no signs. However, there is a temporary solution which was developed by one of the members of the Archdale staff. Simply have signs made by the sign-maker over in the print shop and tack them onto the doors of buildings in need of them. On seeing even such a small sign from a distance our guest could then approach close enough to read it.

The cost would be miniscule, but the courtesy, obviously, is great. Guests would no longer have to search out the obscure plaques attached to Hege-Cox Hall, or the elusive cornerstone of Duke Memorial Hall.

Meanwhile, keep on looking for signs whether you believe in them or not, and always try to help out the strangers who come into our midst. You'll never regret it.

Alex Stoesen

To the Editor,

Sexism abounds in our little liberal college. To see it, simply head to the weight room in the gym. Traditionally a completely male-dominated arena, the weight room is not user-friendly to females. Let me give you a few examples: when a member of our group began to use one of the machines, a male lifter came over and asked her to get off it so that he could use it. We were continually referred to as "girls". Unsolicited, albeit friendly, advice was offered to the group of females that was not being offered to any of the male lifters.

In general the atmosphere is one not of hostility, but of surprise and condescension.

So to all you male lifters out there, being a woman does not mean being helpless. We are there to get in shape just like anyone else. Try to appreciate that entering such a male domain can be intimidating for women, but that it should not be that way. As far as the use of the machines, you are just going to have to learn how to share.

Emily Rickards

To the Editor,

Thursday night I attended the basketball game between Guilford and



Lynchburg. I sat near a group of spectators and listened to them belittle Lynchburg's point guard because of his physical characteristics. They repeatedly called him "rat boy".

This man had done nothing to provoke this type of harassment, and when the group saw that this annoyed the player, they ridiculed him even more. This behavior from the people in the stands shocked me, especially because it came from Guilford students. If this were another college, I might have expected it, but not from a school which projects itself as respecting people for their character rather than judging them on their physical characteristics.

I was offended and disappointed at what I saw and heard during this game, and I hope other people were too.

Buster McLeod

To the Editor,

It is ironic, at a school whose values are supposed to be based on a respect for life and for individual's beliefs, that students aren't allowed to express their beliefs by conscientiously objecting to dissection.

As a biology major who is currently dissecting, I find it hard to find any educational value in dissection. Biology teaches the beauty of life. Dissections, to me, is a violation of this beauty. It is not so much the actual dissecting that bothers me, but the way in which the animals are obtained. Guilford College buys all of its specimens from Carolina Biological Company. This company is known for its unethical behavior in obtaining and treating animals. It also bothers me that all of the animals are bred and raised to be dissected. I do not think that living animals should become consumer products. It is too easy for the welfare of the animals to be disregarded for the sake of a profit.

I really think that there are viable alternatives to dissection and that my education would not suffer from using them. I also feel that it is my right to use these alternatives without having my grade suffer for it.

Jessica Speltz



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