

Our Voice

Antonio R. deVelasco

Editorial Page Editor

Caroline A. Wolfe

Editor in chief

Cory Birdwhistell

News Editor

Susan Allen

Features Editor

Lead by example

After weeks of campaigning, Guilford students have chosen Stephanie Jennings to be the President of their 1995-96 Community Senate. With this, students have made a choice that will influence their lives on campus.

The executive group led by Jennings must now live up to the confidence students have placed in them. They must not only execute their assigned duties, but establish themselves as leaders on this campus. With this comes the responsibility to represent **above all else** the interests of the students who have put them there.

Central to this responsibility is the ability of executives to effectively determine what, in fact, the student interests are. The executives must work diligently to discover the needs of Guilford students and then set an agenda for action. Items on this agenda should consistently live up to one vital question: "Does this serve the interests of the students at Guilford College?" Accomplishments which are not in the interests of students serve only political and not substantive purposes.

The executives need to build upon the accomplishments of this year's Senate and actively communicate with students, faculty, and administration so they may best accomplish their goals. The high-profile presence of executives on campus this year has also been an asset to the Senate and we encourage the future executives to continue this practice.

The executives must play an active role in the recruitment of committee chairs for next year's Senate. The process of determining who will chair these committees is a vital one which must begin as soon as

possible. It is important that this influential group represent a generous cross-section of students who have been active in a wide range of campus organizations.

Along these same lines, it is imperative that the president form a strategy to increase participation in Senate elections this fall. It would be a superlative accomplishment if the newly elected executives could generate a more vigorous desire among students to serve as Senators. This action alone could set the tone for the year with an increase in student power and initiative.

Future issues that could affect student interests, such as the fair and effective use of student money to fund clubs, must be looked at carefully. The treasurer's task is particularly daunting in this case, and he must be prepared to do what is necessary to adequately fund all deserving student groups.

The executives must also determine the viability of the Student Loan Fund Auction. This venture is an extremely difficult one to undertake. It can, however, be well worth the effort if substantial funds are raised. A sizably profitable auction in 1996 would definitely distinguish this executive group and would serve the direct interest of students. It is something they should aim for.

Now that the elections are over, President-elect Jennings and the other executives must switch from the endeavor of persuading to the more difficult duty of governing. The job of representing the interests of students is indeed an arduous one.

It is a task, however, we are confident she can accomplish.

Letters to the Editor

I read with concern the *Guilfordian* article about the recent security problems on campus. I know personally some people who have had valuable things stolen from them, and have myself asked security to escort off-campus a man who was harassing me.

We all from time to time make stupid mistakes when it comes to our own safety. We will walk alone in places where we probably shouldn't be walking. We will leave our things unattended in places such as the book cubicles in and just outside the cafeteria. We will tolerate people who make us uncomfortable for longer than we should. For myself, I currently keep my bookbag and other items with me, even in the cafeteria where it would be far more convenient to leave them behind than to attempt to juggle the items with a tray full of food. That way I know where my things are.

Just last week an acquaintance of mine showed up on campus, uninvited. He had apparently fingered Rascal, saw I was logged on, and had a UNCG friend of his drop him off at Bauman to look for me. This man has made me uncomfortable from the day I met him, but I pushed this back because I have been trained to be nice to people regardless of how I feel.

He was hungry... I suggested the Underground because I didn't want to leave campus with him. He didn't want that; he wanted to order out. Again, just as I had been trained, I didn't insist on going to the Underground where we would have been in public. Instead I took him up to my room to call a pizza. I left the door open for safety. It never occurred to me that he would try anything with the door open and people walking up and down the hall.

I was wrong. While he didn't rape me, he certainly was persistent enough. I told him to leave and told security what was going on. He was escorted off-campus and has attempted to contact me only once since the incident.

What is my point in all of this? My point is that women in this society are trained to always be nice, to ignore our warning sig-

nals. I have recently discovered that we don't HAVE to put up with people we get these "warning signals" about. We certainly don't have to put ourselves in danger, as I did. I didn't have to let things get to that point, but I did. I am glad I overcame my "submissive victim" mindset before I got hurt. I have not been so lucky in the past, and I know others who have not been so lucky.

I was reluctant to tell security. What would they think? That I'm anal retentive, constantly terrified of every move made? That I overreact to things? That I'm bothering them?

Hello...they're security; to even THINK that I'm bothering them in an instance like this would be absurd. It is part of their job to get rid of potential threats. Yet that was my frame of mind. No, I hadn't invited him on campus, I didn't want him on campus, I was afraid of him, and I wanted him to leave. I foolishly put myself in danger because I didn't want to hurt his feelings by asking him to leave. Because it never crossed my mind that I had the RIGHT to tell him to leave.

And I had to be persuaded to tell security when he wouldn't leave! Being that submissive, that passive, is not healthy. The sad thing is I know I'm not the only one who's been that passive. Men and women alike on this campus have a right to tell people who don't belong here to leave. And we have a right to call security in when we feel it is necessary or when a potential threat refuses to leave.

I want to bring up one more issue before I close. I quite often come across doors that have been propped open after locking hours. This is a safety risk for everyone. I don't want the campus to become paranoid. At the same time, those doors are locked for a reason. To prop them open is inviting trouble. It is as important as not walking alone after dark and keeping our rooms locked.

I don't know who is propping the doors,

Plasesee LETTERS page 3

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Opinions expressed in editorials and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff and editorial board.

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The Guilfordian encourages submissions. Typed articles and letters are due by 7:00 PM., Sunday. The editors reserve the right to edit all submissions for length, style, and taste. Letters are limited to 250 words or less and should be on disk if possible. They must include author's name, phone number and P.O. Box. Write to:

Editor
P.O. Box 17717
Guilford College,
Greensboro, NC, 27410.

E-mail: Guilfordian@rascal.guilford.edu

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