

The FORUM

Enthusiasm and spirit of new class permeates campus, its newspaper

They did it. After all the discussion last year of the first-year experience and ways to ease the college transition, many Guilford leaders took the initiative to improve this experience. Thanks in part to their efforts, the musings and creations of first-year students overflow from this first issue of a new *Guilfordian*.

We hope that you will capture their spirit and enthusiasm for this school and for each other. We trust their voices will continue to stir, touch, inspire, madden, and tickle us all.

As the newspaper grows with their involvement, change will be natural. Demand that we give you what you need and want in a newspaper—that we hold true to our purpose.

This purpose, as detailed in *The Guilfordian's* statement of purpose, begins, "*The Guilfordian*...exists to provide a high-quality, reliable, in-

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formative and entertaining forum for the exchange of ideas, information and creativity in the Guilford College community."

The key words in this sentence are informative, entertaining, and forum. Thus we perceive our mission as

being to inform and entertain, and as designated under "forum," to enlighten and challenge.

The statement concludes, "Toward this end, the *Guilfordian* shall always strive to remain true to the facts, to its ideal and mission, continually recognizing its integral and influential role as a part of Guilford College."

Just as the benches around campus foster an essential community, so too does this paper. The pages are the benches upon which writers, artists, sports enthusiasts, intellectuals, photographers, business-minded people, arguers, jokers and any and everyone else converse.

Come on over...we will always keep a seat for you.

College promotion must expand to video age

by Jaime O'Sullivan

Upon my journey in life I have met many forks in the road, one of course leading to my choice to attend Guilford College. And as the great poet Robert Frost once did, I also took the road less travelled. But with every choice comes the consequences. This road to Guilford College has left me with quite a few upset stomachs, to say the least.

Being a first-year student can't be described as simply hard or easy. I think the grand thing about being a first-year student is the fact that I can observe, and make judgement calls, on every single aspect of my first few weeks here at this institution of higher learning. Of course, since I have spent much of my precious time observing, I have found a few things I would like to see altered.

In the process of previewing and ap-

plying for college, I noticed one marvelous, helpful item which either made me like or dislike the college I was previewing. A videotape. Yes, a videotape. Being a California native I liked seeing what other schools looked like, in action, on the East Coast. I was sent many tapes to either view and return or keep. Schools from all over the East Coast sent me these wonderful things. Guilford did not. Guilford sent me a viewbook, which to say the least was extremely helpful, but still no videotape.

The solution to this is very simple. All we need are some students interested in media, and we have it covered. Just think of how it would make our incoming freshman class feel if they saw a video with Dick Dyer and his motivating speeches, the Playfair, highlights of sporting events, the reggae concert at Sternberger or whatever else the stu-

dents feel is necessary to make the decision for that indecisive high school senior or junior.

All of this and more would be topped off by the fact that students made the video and it wasn't the administration's attempt to beef up the college. We need to do something to change the horrible statistic of a twenty-five percent turnover ratio. We need to stop losing so many students to other colleges due to the fact that Guilford wasn't quite what they had expected.

In every case of complaint, solutions should be offered and at least attempted. If this attracts some people's attention, I should hope the faculty or some other interested students try to go with this plan. It will work if we try and it will also help people like me, who like to see a college in action before deciding to become part of the playing field.

editorial board

Cory Birdwhistell
Keir Bickerstaffe
Kari Albertson
Susan Allen

statement of purpose

The Forum exists to facilitate dialogue and expression on matters of importance to Guilford College and its mission. Toward this end, active community participation in these pages is vital.

editorial policy

Every effort will be made to print appropriate submissions of editorials, cartoons and letters to the editor. They must be signed, with the phone number of the author or artist included. Editorials must be no longer than 400 words and letters to the editor must be no more than 250 words. The *Guilfordian* reserves the right to edit submissions for grammatical correctness and brevity.

In college, no need to prove you're the smartest

by Amanda Cogar

Quoting the words and wisdom of Greek philosophers is certainly not proof of a superior intellect. Neither is knowing intricate details about Nietzsche, Marx, Freud or any other brilliant and infamous historical figures. Nothing is wrong with being able to do so, unless that knowledge is used to hurt and belittle others.

At this point in our young lives, proving to others how smart we are is no longer a priority. At least it shouldn't be. After all, we are in college, the place where tolerance

and free-thinking are encouraged, where trying new things and discovering our own identities are served in the caf next to the pasta pronto. As adults, we are to begin the forward motion towards an uncertain future. And we are all in almost exactly the same boat.

That is why it is so disappointing to see some students putting down other students' ideas in order to feel superior. Making another person feel small is a great ego boost. Why let the other person's disappointment bring you down? The classroom forum is a great way to share ideas and develop inter-

personal and skills, but when that great environment turns hostile under the guise of pseudo-intellectual dribble, very few people benefit.

Every Guilford student is here for a reason. Ideally that reason is to get the best education possible. But that can be difficult for those still trying to prove she/he is the smartest person in the room.

When still trying to cling to the high school "big fish in a little pond" status she/he once held, so much more is missed. The real key to intellect is clouded over by an enormous ego fed on cynicism.