

The FORUM

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.

Loss of staff is a troubling trend

The past few months have been a very shaky time in the Guilford infrastructure.

Carlos Holder resigned from his duties as chief financial officer in late November.

Derek Harwell left his position in Computer Services on December 28, claiming a "lack of interaction with the students."

And now, due to a better career opportunity elsewhere, Michael West has tendered his resignation from his position as Director of Student Activities.

In many schools, this would hardly be an issue. Administration and staff of varying titles come and go and the students barely realize it.

It is a far different story here. Guilford's administration and staff, rela-

tively small in number, are renowned for not only their dedication, but their intimate relationship with the student body.

Those listed above, in particular, were revered by the students and their

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own colleagues. Their accomplishments and dedication to the school are remembered by countless people within the Guilford community.

Raucous parties and caf food aside, the people who dedicate themselves to

Guilford College with the gift of their work give the college its flavor. We have been blessed with some wonderful people to lend their services to our growth and education. But as each loved one leaves us, so does a piece of our personality.

This is a very dangerous trend that we are witnessing. Holder, Harwell and West all distinguished themselves by connecting well with students; without them, the barriers between administration and student grow. Therefore, the administration must make it a high priority to identify those people who provide invaluable service and affirm their contribution to the community. Job satisfaction—and a subsequent decrease in turnover—will result in the good of all.

Letters to the Editor

AACS MLK Day praised

Dear Editor:

I would like to express my gratitude to the African American Cultural Society for sponsoring an enlightening and enjoyable program on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The program, which was held Monday evening in Dana Auditorium, showcased wonderful musical and oratorical talent, and celebrated the life and legacy of the late Dr. King. I certainly found the evening worthwhile; I left Dana Auditorium firmly convinced of the merits of observing a holiday in commemoration of Dr. King's work. A secular holiday, if one spends a bit of time reflecting upon its significance, can be a truly meaningful experience. For those who did not attend the program, I hope that the organization will plan a similar event next year. Thanks again to the African American Cultural Society, and congratulations on several excellent performances.

Yours faithfully,
Jason Brenner

Housekeeping not to be taken lightly

Dear Editor:

John Cocking's column "Stuck in an embarrassing situation" in the December 1 issue of the Guilfordian was undoubtedly meant to be humorous. And perhaps it was. I found it sad, particularly so in terms of the attitude towards the housekeeping staff he communicated. I know that Guilford's housekeepers are devoted to Guilford students and to Guilford College in many and sometimes un-

expected ways, and that they want to continue to do their best. It seems quite legitimate to expect that one bathroom of two would be cleaned at a time, and I am sure the housekeeping staff also does. When I try to put myself in the place of a member of the housekeeping staff cleaning the bathrooms, I realize that I want to do my best, and to be taken seriously in my work. Although I expect I might feel a bit embarrassed to have an oversight pointed out to me, ultimately if it were done courteously, I would appreciate it. I am sure that a simple request regarding the bathrooms made directly, or perhaps through the Hall Director, would result in an acceptable solution, and much more mutual satisfaction than a column in *The Guilfordian*.

Sincerely,
Claire Morse

Response to Lucas's 'Crutches', Dec. 1

Dear Editor:

Adam Lucas must be kidding us! We noted his article, "Time to Walk Without Crutches," in the recent issue of the Guilfordian, and discussed it in our Race and Ethnicity class. We find Lucas' opinions to be not only racist, but also frivolous, uninformed, and based on outright inaccurate information.

First, Lucas's statements trivialize the myriad of facts of America's history of slavery and ignore the real reasons for the Million Man March. If he were truly knowledgeable about the real facts of America's history, then he would know that the ramifications of slavery are very real and concrete to-

day. Obviously the masses of people, whatever the total number, who attended the march feel that there are still very real ramifications in their lives today. Thus, these ramifications are precisely what the Million Man March ought to address.

Secondly, Lucas's gross generalizations are not sufficiently supported with facts or evidence. In fact, he demonstrates his ignorance about a number of basic issues, including the religious affiliation of the Reverend Louis Farrakhan.

In order to further the dialogue on this very important issue, we suggest that an open forum be created in some format, perhaps in vax-notes or by dedicating a page to this issue in the Guilfordian.

Sincerely,

The students of SOAN 265 (Fall 1995)

UNION scheduling of events questioned

First of all, I would like to commend the Student Union. They have scheduled many enjoyable events that were either free or very inexpensive. The complaint that I have and have heard from many other students is that the days chosen might not have been the wisest.

In the fall, the Union sponsored a trip for students to Emerald Point Water Park. It turned out to be a hot and sunny day, so the water was the perfect relief. The problem was that on the same day was a home football game. Was the Union telling the students to choose between supporting their football program or going on a trip to Emerald Point? The Union should try to encourage the students to support the football team instead of offering other options.

In fact, the Union must not think athletic teams are worth supporting because they did it again. On February 3rd, there is a ski trip and a home men's basketball game. Many people might not otherwise get the opportunity to go skiing, so this is an excellent opportunity for only \$10. What the Union must have forgotten was that Guilford has very low attendance for its home games, and by taking away fans, it hurts the team.

Is the Union helping or hurting school spirit by offering trips during athletic events? That is not a question I am willing to answer, but I do know that the student body does not appreciate the dilemma that the Union places us in.

- Brad Cross

Have a complaint or kudo? Write a letter to the Editor!
Contact Keir at x3660