

Life as a freshman

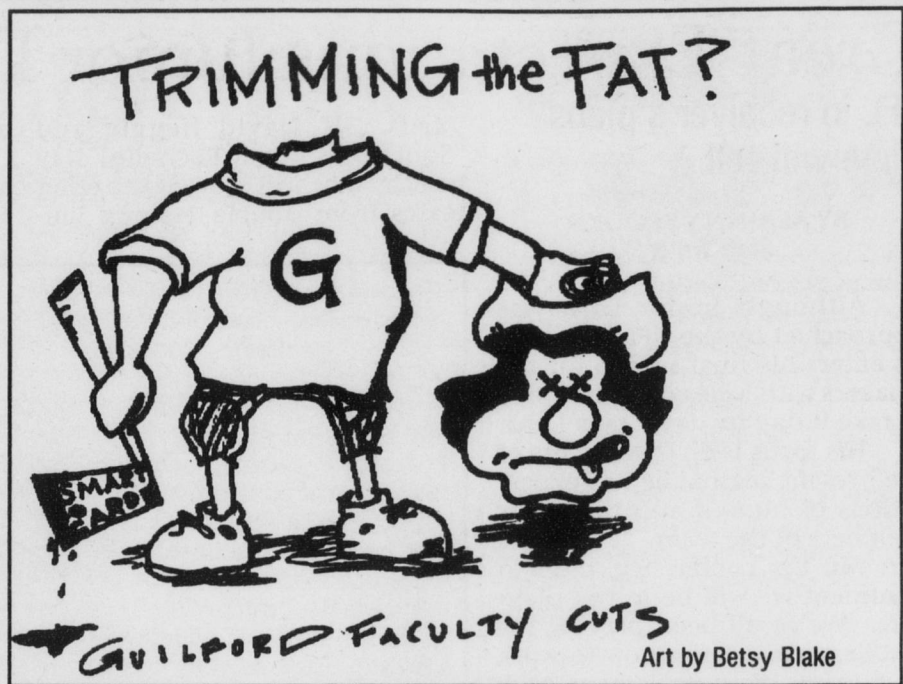
J. CHRISTOPHER MOORE
Staff Writer

It was not but so long ago that I crossed the track, entering life in a serious state of confusion with no real direction and no real destination—only the naked, fundamental belief that I would get there. I reached out to a new world with vast openness, prepared to battle—yet, what I received was the friendly and warm welcome of Guilford College.

My first days here at Guilford where interesting to say the least. But, either way—good or bad—I've had a blast. From the quasi-summer-camp "Days of Chaos" to the very chilling and oh so real first days of class—I've enjoyed it all

with no regrets. The students, the professors, the trees, the air, and even the squirrels have all opened their arms to me. I'm part of them as they are part of me.

I've only been in the Guilford community for a little over a week now, and I've already met a whole new world. I've said goodbye to all the forgotten boyish happenstance and have greeted the post-adolescent dauntings with all the respect it well deserves. I've lingered in the air because the squirrels allowed me. And that's when it all started—everything fell into place like I was sure it would. Welcome class of 2001 as we begin our march into the Guilford College Community. And thank you everyone... or everything.



Guilford makes progress, still has far to go

IAN WATLINGTON
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Staff Writers

Do you know what it is like to be at Guilford in a wheelchair? I was born in May 1977, nearly two months too early. At one point in the process I stopped breathing which cut the oxygen to my brain. I was later diagnosed with cerebral palsy which results in the loss of gross and fine motor control. This has made it so that I may never walk independently, but with my wheelchair, I have achieved mobility in most places. I am, however, painfully aware of every ramp and elevator that is or is not present in this world.

While I was preparing for Guilford, Guilford was preparing to go into the 21st century through massive technological enhancements and construction which price tag went well into the hundreds of thousands. Two weeks ago I arrived on campus, ready for my new beginning. I was asked to meet with Guilford representatives and report any structural changes that needed to be made. I did just that, and they did a good job. But there are some other problems...

Thanks to the new computer network I am able to obtain data from various places on campus at the push of a couple of buttons; yet I do not have direct and com-

plete access to most buildings. I can now log onto the Word Wide Web from my dorm; yet I cannot visit any friends that happen to be on the second floor. Everyone has e-mail and other new ways to interact electronically; yet it is difficult for me to consult with a professor in their office. Guilford now meets many computer and research standards predicted well into the upcoming years; yet it fails to meet many of the disability standards set into federal law in 1990.

Quakers have always stressed the testimony of equality; furthermore, Guilford has tried to take this belief as a guideline in its edu-

cational practices. I seek for Guilford and its students to become aware of people with disabilities on this campus and nationwide. It is only through equal access that we can achieve equality. After reading this, please talk to your Senate representative on campus and express a desire for the campus to be more involved. Talk to the dean. Think. This is a place to start and then share your knowledge with those around you. As a community, we must take a stance that demands access of all sorts and questions barriers whatever they may be. When this happens we will truly be ready for the twenty-first century.

I don't need no stinkin' Smart Card

BY WILL DODSON
Features Editor

I hate smart cards. I'm going to lead an anti-smart card revolution. I'm going to publish an anti-smart card manifesto. I'm going to destroy smart cards.

Hey! They're your IDs! They're your library cards! They're your bank cards/vending machine cards/phone cards/keys to dorms! Hey! Better hope yours doesn't get stolen!

I think it's really great that now, instead of using quarters on the grossly overpriced washing machines and dryers that don't

work, I can use my smart card on the grossly overpriced washing machines and dryers that don't work.

I think it's great that the Mary Hobbs kitchen can go straight to hell while Guilford allocates money to modify every vending machine and door on campus so my little smart card can access them.

What's wrong with keys and quarters? I suppose those are only good for everyone in the world except college students.

And we're all sympathetic to all the overworked Underground workers right? Hey! Let's make their job easier by giving them a

very complicated smart card pay system that requires them to operate three separate machines for each customer!

Do you watch TV? What if you only like to watch half an hour a week? I think it's just great that we can find lots of money for smart cards but no money for free cable. And if you don't want to pay for cable? No channels at all for you. Either you pay for ESPN or you get no "Simpsons."

And let's raise tuition another \$300 for "technology fees" so we can have smart cards and keys to our dorms, since the smart cards don't work yet.

I also think it's great that now there's a little microchip that allows Guilford security to track me wherever I'm going. How very 1984. Is the bike patrol coming after me next?

I'm ready to fight the oppressive smart card! Can you say the same? Or are you going to continue your pointless whining about cafeteria food? I'll be passing out army fatigues, canteens, machetes, and copies of my manifesto, "Smart Cards Are Stupid and So Are You" on secret days in secret locations at secret times.

The revolution is now.