

Letter to the Editor

◆ Technology on campus in question

To the Editor:

Technology--is it a dirty word or our ticket to success in the next century?

It depends on who you ask, of course. Presently there is a lot of controversy over just how much technology is good for Guilford and whether certain aspects of the Guilford we know and love are being threatened by the race to "bring us up to speed" with the rest of society.

This concerns me greatly. As a library employee, I see the enormous benefits of instant access to information of all kinds. We clearly have windows to the world that never existed before and can open our minds to fantastic experiences. This is part of a quality education that we all want to offer Guilford students.

But...are we using this technology as a tool among many or making it a way of life that threatens our skill-building in face-to-face communication, makes us overly dependent on the functionality of machines, and puts us so long in front of VDT screens that we develop physical problems as minor as eyestrain and as major as carpal tunnel syn-

drome?

What Guilford does best is not accessing or manipulating images on a computer monitor. It is engaging the minds and hearts of those who live and learn and teach and work here in ways that build relationships of a lifetime and inspire service to all humankind.

Let us hold fast to the special qualities of Guilford that touch us deeply and make us a community even as we provide the tool of electronic access for purposes of a certain kind of education.

George Fox, founder of Quakerism, admonished us to be in the world but not of it. What that means to me is not to isolate ourselves from the people and places around us that make us uncomfortable but, instead, try to understand what is going on and then to question and work to improve as we are led.

I sincerely hope that all of us here will keep looking and questioning and working towards what is truly best for Guilford and not simply bow to the god of technology because that is what the world is doing.

Kate Hood
Library Staff

Stereotyping the South

BY JONATHAN CARTER
Staff Writer

I experienced an embarrassing moment during the opening ceremonies of the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta when a large group of people on the field formed the words "How y'all doin'?" That's right, tell the whole world that all Southerners talk like that. I'm sure it'll make us all highly respected.

Another embarrassing moment was when I read a news story about how North Carolinian representatives at a Democratic convention in New York were pleased to receive barbecue from North Carolina.

They had been subsisting on New York barbecue, which isn't as good as genuine Southern barbecue. They told confused representatives from other states that only Southerners could understand their relationship with barbecue. You see, all Southerners like barbecue and eat it often.

They also all like grits and collard greens.

There's a relatively new web site, www.yall.com, that concerns all things Southern. It has lots of information about Elvis Presley, because all Southerners love Elvis and worship him like a god. All Southerners also like dirty pickup trucks and country music, and hate 'Yankees.' Well, according to the site they do.

There are a ton of stereo-

types about the South. Sure, there are stereotypes about people from New England, the Midwest, California, and other places, but not nearly as many as there are about the South.

Why are there such stereotypes? Most people want to be set apart from others in some way, especially in individualistic America. But many Southerners set themselves apart from the rest of the country by making it out like everyone from the South acts in certain ways, though we all don't. Some people just assume that no one will mind if they make blanket stereotypes about the South.

But I mind. I don't like Elvis, I don't want a truck, and I hate barbecue, dammit.

Some people say we should all have 'Southern Pride,' and some invariably bring up the Civil War as a reason to dislike people from other parts of the country.

I don't care who was on the right side in the war; it ended over 130 years ago. That's enough time for reconciliation, but some Southerners have fought to keep the division. Why? Their 'pride' helps make the South look backward to everyone else in the country.

It's fine if you do like the stereotypes I've mentioned; just don't say everyone acts like that. And if you feel the way I do, remember that you don't have to take it.

Misuse of words can be dangerous

BY KELTON G. COFER
Staff Writer

I've always been a person who enjoyed learning and using new words. Ever since the second grade when I was the only person in class who realized there was an "N" in the word government, I've loved knowing how to spell and use words effectively and correctly. It's always irked me when someone uses a word out of context.

Being a writer for *The Guilfordian*, you learn that not everyone is going to like what you have to say. They don't have to.

It doesn't bother me that

someone finally got offended by something I wrote for the paper. It actually inspires me to write more things that will cause a reaction in our (*The Guilfordian's*) readers.

However, I do hope that in the event someone finds their toes stepped on again, they will give more thought to their word choice.

I've been accused of being lots of things in my short life of 23 years. You name it, I've been called it. But I don't believe the word "misogynist" has ever been aimed my direction before.

I knew what the word meant before *The Guilfordian*, as a whole, and I were labeled it in this past

week's issue.

Apparently, though, our accuser has either neglected to make use of Webster's lately or else suffers from some paranoia that causes her to confuse misogyny with the exploitation of women. I don't identify myself with either term.

According to Webster's dictionary, the word misogynist means "one who hates or distrusts women." To phrase my article on Harper's car wash as "misogynist" is like comparing a jaywalker to a rapist.

If you want to say that Harper's exploits women, that's fine. I would

still argue the point, but you would be justified in your opinion. However, you conveniently danced around that topic and chose to accuse *The Guilfordian* and myself of being woman-haters.

Words are powerful, and when used inappropriately, they can fuel many people's fires, mine included. While you're on your "mis" kick, I suggest you look up several words before launching any more assaults, namely: misuse, misread, mistaken, and misguided.

I'm sorry that you were so offended by my article, but next time take the vocabulary quiz before you try and intelligently bash me.