

Letters to the editor

"A Hero in your Midst"

Until this evening's news [broadcast], I had never heard of Guilford College. However, upon hearing about your very admirable student, Nathaniel Heatwole on the evening news, I [am] much impressed with this young man who had the courage to stand up for his convictions, and to try to do something about a very bad situation.

He [was] speaking for all of us when he pointed out the deplorable "security" situation that we (the people) are being told is well in hand.

We never believed the stories coming out of Washington, but only a few people dared to tell the truth, and they were soon silenced. From reading about your college, [I believe] Nathaniel is carrying out your college's ideals and values. We will see what Washington does with [his] action[s].

Nathaniel should be given a medal and receive bushels of *thanks* from a grateful

nation. Our founding fathers would be proud of him. Sincerely,

**Margaret Cook
New Jersey**

"Airplane Admirer"

I am writing to you in admiration of the actions of one of Guilford's students, Nathaniel Heatwole.

As a career flight attendant (40 years, now retired) I often observed glaring weaknesses in security and tried to have them corrected, usually without success. After [Sept. 11] some of my (and others') suggestions were implemented, but it nearly always takes something dramatic to get the [Federal Aviation Administration], or even the security officials at my former airline, to budge.

I expect Heatwole knew this. Perhaps he tried "going through channels" first and was rebuffed, as I and others were, repeatedly. Perhaps he learned it from a friend who is

an airline employee.

That his actions were aimed at pointing out a major weakness in airline security there can be no doubt. That this kind of action was probably necessary to solve the problem I would attest in any court.

It may be relevant that one of the things that used to bother me was the fact that airliners were parked overnight at remote gates and left unguarded. They were completely open to miscreants. I was told when I protested that it was too expensive to secure them.

If this is still airline practice the young man may have used this means of entry. However he did it, I warmly applaud him.

Since preventing another [Sept. 11] might prevent another war or an exacerbation of the one we already have, I hope the [college] will have no difficulty seeing Heatwole's actions as exemplifying the finest tradition of

the Friends.

**Jeannie Brubaker
Tallahassee, Florida**

"Puppy Love Times Four"

We all have heard the horror stories of pet dumping - literally the "dumping out" of unwanted pets in the middle of nowhere to fend for themselves. Apparently, in the progressive year of 2003, it still happens with incredible frequency. This past weekend while driving through nowhere in rural Rockingham County I stumbled upon four abandoned puppies. I could not conceive a person leaving these small creatures without food, water, or warmth.

I drove to nearby homes in search of owners ("nearby" being two miles in either direction) to no avail. [The animals] were abandoned. Financially, I realize spaying and neutering pets is expensive, especially in today's economy, but shelters are always available. I have

known veterinarians in the past who supported free/reduced programs to help change the pet population status. They felt they were giving to the community as a whole by offering their services.

All my pets are spayed or neutered, with the exception of these new four beautiful creatures tearing up our household. We can't keep them all, so suitable homes will have to be found.

Make sure your animal friends are taken care of. Spay or neuter your pet. Talk to your veterinarian about a program like the one I described. The reckless "throwing away" of little lives should be a distant memory of a previous atrocity that humans committed, not one that is fresh and easily found just by a beautiful fall drive in the country.

**Jackie Parkinson
Center for Continuing
Education senior**

Guilford student investigated...



Megan Miller

A Fox 8 cameraman follows Heatwole story at Guilford

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"Unless people are literally strapped down in planes, airport security will never be fully effective," said sophomore James Thorne. "Nathaniel is simply showing a small facet of that."

Nick Popio, '01, said that while Heatwole had good intentions, "He also could [have] potentially [aided] a terrorist . . . suppose someone else had found his packages. I

consider his actions ignorant and potentially dangerous to innocent people."

Elizabeth Laird, a senior, said, "I hope he can graduate, and doesn't get jail time. He didn't do anything dangerous - he was trying to make a point."

"The U.S. Government shouldn't put a law in place and then only selectively enforce it. Nat was pointing that out," said senior Peter Tripp, Heatwole's former roommate.

"Airport security used to be a big problem, and it needed to be fixed, but expecting airtight security is too much," said senior Sally Stevens.

"We are spending energy on the wrong thing by worrying about play-doh and box cutters."

"Nat managed to show that 'heightened security' in airports is not, and will never be, enough," said Chaffin. "Tightened security is just a band-aid slapped on a spurting arterial wound: something far less superficial and much more basic, such as a change in foreign policy . . . is necessary to staunch it."

"We will never have 100% security," said Popio, "so we (as individuals and as a country) need to act in ways that do not create new terrorists."



Comic by Brandon Sasnett