

Talk back: Letters to the Editor

In response to 'Challenges to Public Safety' from Feb. 4

To the editor:

Elizabeth Minehart, a Guilford student, made allegations of unprofessional conduct by Public Safety staff in a letter to the editor of *The Guilfordian* published Feb. 4.

On behalf of the Public Safety Department, I want to personally apologize to Elizabeth Minehart if any officers, staff, or student conducted themselves unprofessionally in anyway.

I am inviting Elizabeth to meet with me to discuss her concerns. It would have been far more productive to meet with me first before launching such a serious and unprovoked attack in our campus newspaper, but that seems to be the way that a diminishing but still substantial number of students prefer to deal with their concerns.

The "new" Guilford College that is emerging believes in direct dialogue and data driven decision making rather than fact-free public trashing of individuals and departments.

After an intense investigation of my department, I can only find evidence to support one of her allegations.

1. Elizabeth alleged that an officer gave "attitude" in response to an inquiry about parking.

Public safety officers are trained to deal sensitively with anyone they encounter. Any departure from that practice would indeed be unprofessional. No officer recalls having such an encounter with Elizabeth.

2. Elizabeth alleged that an officer discussed "busts that the Greensboro Police Department had made on campus that evening." Public Safety has a policy not to discuss such matters publicly. No officer recalls discussing any matters of this type with Elizabeth.

3. Elizabeth alleged that she was told by a Public Safety officer escorting her to the alternative houses that she could "walk the rest of the way" at some point en route. Public Safety has a policy to accompany those requesting an escort to their destination. No officer recalls failing to complete an escort assignment with Elizabeth.

4. Elizabeth alleged that a Public Safety officer unlocked the art studio to allow an unautho-

rized person to enter and deposit some materials. Public Safety has a policy not to unlock rooms for unauthorized persons. The art studio is used by various people with the authorization of instructors. No officer recalls unlocking the studio for an unauthorized person.

5. Elizabeth challenged me to hold open office hours. I have been holding open office hours in the lower level of Bauman each Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon and welcome students, faculty and staff to visit without appointment to discuss Public Safety operations.

6. Elizabeth stated that she received a parking ticket in error. This is, in fact, true and as a result of a clerical mistake by a Public Safety staff member. The situation has been resolved.

Public Safety has a goal of fostering positive interaction and two-way communication between its staff and the campus community. Come see me if we do not meet that standard 24/7.

Reginald Hayes
Director of Public Safety
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316-2907

In response to 'Sex and the Semester' from Feb. 4

To the editor:

Do college students at Guilford really need advice about sex? College students and administrators need to take responsibility in encouraging students to stay out of bed.

With hormones raging, co-ed housing, and alcohol abuse, do students really need newspaper articles on proper technique? How about a cold shower of reality to wake them up to the consequences of casual sex?

How about a column exploring the statistics on sexual transmitted diseases among students at Guilford? That certainty would make for interesting discourse. Or how about an article on the pain associated with sex without long range commitment? Or an interview with former students who had abortions while at Guilford or who live with pain caused by engaging in casual sex?

Sure wear a condom. But the really sad fact is there is no condom for the heart.

Kristie Hollifield
Parent '05

In response to 'Campus Life changes,' from Feb. 4

Campus Life would first like to thank Kristie Parmenter for an informative piece regarding the proposed housing changes for the 2005-2006 academic year. We also appreciated student feedback during the Jan. 20 and Jan. 26 forums.

Campus Life would like to remind all readers that the changes presented at the forums were proposed changes and were brought to the forum for the precise reason of garnering student feedback. With that feedback, the Campus Life staff is in the process of making appropriate recommendations for policy changes that will affect students during the 2005-2006 school year. Any other feedback and suggestions can be e-mailed to afetrow@guilford.edu or can be directed to Aaron Fetrow at x2149.

Earlier this week, Residence Life placed flyers outlining important facts and dates for the upcoming housing selection process in your campus mailboxes along with a letter outlining the changes made as a result of the community forums. Those who attended the forums will notice that the letter does not include the \$200 contract breakage fee that was proposed during the open forums. The fee was removed from consideration as a direct result of student feedback obtained during the forums.

Campus Life would also like to

respond to the questions raised regarding wheelchair access. Binford, Milner, Bryan and English do have wheelchair access ramps allowing access to the first floors in those buildings. Students requesting accommodations for wheelchair accessible living arrangements are handled on an individualized basis pursuant to the terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The existing campus apartments are not wheelchair accessible; however, the apartments currently under construction will comply with federal regulations as set forth in the ADA and will be wheelchair accessible with access to first-floor apartments.

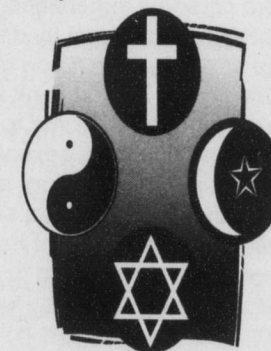
Finally, all requests for accommodation, or questions regarding the accommodation process, can be addressed by visiting the ADA section of the Guilford College website at <http://www.guilford.edu/campus/index.cfm?ID=800001000#IV>. The appropriate Disability Disclosure forms can be downloaded from the "Related Links" section of the preceding web page. All student requests for accommodation will be handled on an individualized basis.

Sincerely,
Aaron Fetrow
Associate Dean for Residence Life

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