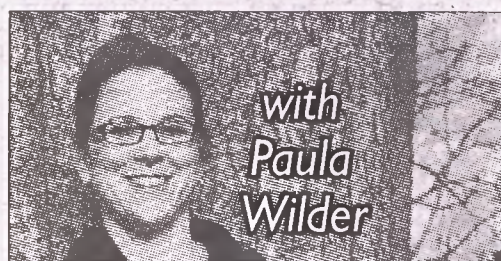


## TODAY'S LESSON: What not to wear



"Look professional, not fashionable; be careful with perfume; always wear a heel of some sort - maximum 2 inches; always wear some sort of makeup - even if it's just lipstick. Shoes and skirt must be the same color," said a consulting firm to The Bank of England's women employees in Feb.

The firm also included some accessories that should not be part of their attire.

"No-no's include ankle chains - professional, but not the one you want to be associated with; white high heels; overstuffed handbags; an overload of rings, and double-pierced ears."

Originally, this list of items was erroneously reported as a bank memo by the media.

"An informal lunchtime gathering was organised by a women's staff group in the Bank. The group invited an external company to present ideas about dress and building confidence," wrote Sally Reid in an e-mail to me from the Press Office of the Bank England.

"At the end of her presentation the external consultant distributed her summary list of her ideas to the audience of some 80 or so - the list which was wrongly described as a Bank memo."

Reid wrote, "Most Bank staff have not seen the list and those who did were free to treat it as they wished. Like many organisations, the Bank simply expects all staff to wear smart business attire."

So what is "smart business attire" for women?

For those of us graduating in just a few short weeks, our dress for job interviews or jobs we've already attained is something that we have to consider.

It has been a while since I worked in an office setting. Based on that list of standard dress expectations for women, I might be in big trouble if I decide I want to return to the corporate world.

I have double-pierced ears. I wear at least three rings on my fingers and sometimes more. I hate high heels. I have a big purse. I usually don't have a lot of time to put on make-up. My shoes don't match my skirt and I rarely even wear a skirt.

Many Web sites give women lists of what to wear and not wear. I could have surfed for several hours just reading the recommendations. I quit after about three sites because there were so many dos and don'ts that I felt over-

whelmed.

So, I decided to see what men were supposed to wear for "smart business attire." In about five minutes, I had read the suggestions by about 10 Web sites. This is the two-second synopsis - full suit, a dress shirt, and tie.

Men, when you start your new job or go on your job interview, you don't have to worry about make-up, heels, accessories, or your piercings.

These things weren't mentioned, but I do suggest that you wear shoes, socks, underwear, brush your teeth, and comb your hair.

You're probably thinking that I sound a bit patronizing. Well, welcome to the world that women live in when we are told how to dress.

When you tell me that I need to wear heels, make-up, and that I have to carry a certain size bag, then I feel a little patronized as well.

And why is that men are always trying to bind up women? It used to be that we were bound up in corsets, then we moved to bras, and now it is panty hose.

Last summer The Washington Post reported that Jim Holt, president of Mid American Credit Union in Wichita, Kan., got in trouble with his female employees when he sent out a memo mandating that all women must wear panty hose.

"It is not just that he is clinging to antiquated notions of femininity; it is also that he thinks he has the right to mandate femininity -- antiquated or otherwise -- in the office environment," wrote Cyndi Lafuente, a Washington, D.C., tax attorney to The Post.

Holt rescinded the panty hose requirement and now at Mid American, panty hose are strongly encouraged, but not required.

I don't even own any panty hose.

## Conversation about caf employee treatment starved

By Deena Zaru  
SENIOR WRITER

I was delighted to return from a semester abroad in London to a new food provider. I was very hopeful when Meriwether Godsey was chosen because I wanted a food provider that adheres to Guilford's core values of equality, diversity and just social awareness and of course quality and a better selection in food.

As an active news writer for the Guilfordian, I had been following closely the developments that led to hiring Meriwether Godsey, and since, I have been trying to monitor the concerns that were raised about Sodexo and how they have been addressed or not addressed by our new food provider. Last year I wrote three articles that track the process.

These articles helped put things in perspective and reminded our community of the importance of holding our dining providers accountable to the promises that they made by signing the contract and by choosing to work with Guilford—a Quaker school, guided by Quaker core values. I keep these ideals in mind when critiquing Meriwether Godsey's progress, services and the treatment of workers.

The first three factors are simple and can be monitored fairly easily.

When it comes to food quality, variety and environmental sustainability, Meriwether Godsey surpasses Sodexo by far. This is generally undisputed. While there is always room for improvement, I am satisfied by Meriwether Godsey's food simply because it is better than Sodexo's.

I will leave food and renovation issues for a different article because monitoring them is easy.

However, when it comes to monitoring and critiquing concerns about workers' rights, I am faced with several fundamental barriers that put a halt to my research or at the very least, slow it down immensely.

This year I am faced with the same limitations that I was faced with when I was trying

to cover articles on Sodexo's treatment of workers: the dining staff is not comfortable discussing this issue because their jobs could be in jeopardy if they say anything unfavorable about Meriwether Godsey.

Last year the dining staff was officially restricted from talking to reporters, which made holding Sodexo accountable for their racist and unfair practices almost impossible. Likewise, determining the degree to which these practices were happening and those responsible for them was extremely difficult.

Those who are willing to have these conversations with community members or reporters about these issues must remain anonymous, and rightfully so. Race issues are even more sensitive and warrant a fear of expression that is even more intense.

The best I can do is to observe.

I am concerned by the long lines (especially at the grill) that undoubtedly put great pressure on the staff. Based on my observations and discussion with students, I have concluded that there is a problem with under-staffing.

I am also concerned with the long hours that many workers put in.

I have concluded that the dining staff is over-worked.

I am not alone in my observations.

Many of the anonymous comments left at the grill addressed these issues: "Thank you all for working so hard. We know the hours can be hard but we really do appreciate it!" wrote one student. Another wrote, "Thank you for everything you do and sorry for those who don't appreciate the time you put in. We love you."

The cycle of silence and intimidation (whether intentional or not) is very problematic and it has been and still is an inevitable barrier when it comes to holding employers accountable and ensuring the happiness of the workers and the fairness and equality in their treatment.

This cycle needs to be broken. However, the means by which it is to be broken are up for debate.

## Texas gun legislation doomed to misfire

By Abbey Dean  
STAFF WRITER

The past decade has brought controversy into the realm of gun control.

Strings of school shootings have furthered this palpable debate through Michael Moore documentaries, endless newspaper articles, and Charlton Heston harangues.

With the anniversary of the Virginia Tech shooting approaching, memories return of the fear and doubt that dominated those uncertain hours. With the deaths of 33 people, including the gunman himself, the Virginia Tech massacre was the deadliest shooting by a single gunman in the history of the United States.

While perceivable measures to prevent school violence have been taken in recent years, a consensus has yet to be reached on the most effective approach. However, the state of Texas feels that they have settled upon the ideal solution.

According to a recent article in the New York Times, there is currently a bill being proposed in the Texas Legislature that would permit those with concealed gun licenses to bring weapons to college campuses throughout the state.

Apparently, protecting students from future school shootings includes allowing students to carry concealed weapons to their college or university.

Sorry Texas, but I can't envision a scenario in which it reasons to stop school violence by allowing concealed weapons on campus.

Supporters of this bill believe that if only they could carry their own weapons, then such violence in schools could be virtually erased.

Just imagine: an angry student disappointed in his grades could easily pull out a handgun, or a drunken argument could quickly become something worse.

"All you need is one psycho individual," said sociology major and sophomore Sam

Howard. "If you give everyone else guns, then it seems that more people would get hit if a gun does happen to go off."

Hence, more guns do not equate to less risk; if nothing else, it is the exact opposite.

"I don't think that adding guns to the equation (would) ever help to reduce shooting; that only makes it easier," said Texan and sophomore Lindsey Aldridge. "Texans like their guns, but I don't believe that putting guns in the hands of more students is the right way to go."

The fact of the matter is that there are simply too many scenarios where something could go horribly wrong. The risks are too great.

Of course, it is natural to want to protect yourself in such situations, but to have more guns floating around only increases the chances that these school shootings can and will take place.

So Texas, if the purpose is to enhance safety features, then adopt one of the several initiatives proposed by other colleges and universities to combat school violence.

Schools across the country, including Guilford, have added emergency lines so that the administration has the ability to call students' cell phones in cases of an emergency. Thus, if someone does happen to threaten students or faculty with a gun, then the entire university or college can be notified within minutes.

Moreover, larger universities have installed metal detectors and rigorous attention to campus security has been implemented.

Even activist student organizations exist that discuss and pursue methods to regulate gun control.

Listening to those passionate for this cause or following in the footsteps of schools already equipped with gun control programs are both viable, valuable options.

So in this case, Texas, having more guns is not going to solve the problem at hand, especially one concerning gun control.