

'Morning after pill' ruling is a step forward for all women

From the soft green swirls and light purple accents on the package, you would never know the controversy surrounding Plan



BY CHLOE LINDEMAN
STAFF WRITER

B One-Step, an emergency contraceptive. Plan B, Next Choice One Dose, and other similar contraceptives are also known as morning-after pills, and girls under the age of 17 who want these drugs have always required a prescription.

This has meant that, in the past, girls under 17 having unprotected sex could not get emergency contraceptives without telling parents or a doctor.

Backed by President Barack Obama, the U.S. Department of Health obstructed attempts to change these regulations, but U.S. District Judge Edward Korman helped women's reproductive rights take a step forward when he ruled to make such contraceptives such as Plan B and Next Choice available without prescription to both girls and boys of any age by early May.

The drugs keep women from becoming pregnant by temporarily stopping ovulation

and limiting the movement of sperm. The pills do not abort a pregnancy or hurt a fetus because no fetus has yet formed.

"There is no serious health risk associated with use of Plan B as prescribed and intended," wrote Korman according to the Los Angeles Times. "These emergency contraceptives would be among the safest drugs sold over the counter."

In other words, the girls taking the drug are not at risk, and the fetus is not at risk because there is no fetus.

Could someone please explain to me why it has taken 14 years — since the drug came out in 1999 — for people aged 16 and under to get over the counter access?

The drug should be easier for people of all ages to get because it could help avoid accidental pregnancies.

I would imagine there are few situations as difficult as having to explain to parents that you need an emergency contraceptive because you had unprotected sex, and no doubt some girls risked pregnancy to remain silent.

Don't get me wrong — I am not defending having unprotected sex. But, given an already complicated situation, it seems like the obvious solution is to allow all women to choose whether or not to take a morning-after pill, especially given the

minimal risk involved.

"Women all over the country will no longer face arbitrary delays and barriers just to get emergency contraception," said Nancy Northup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights.

Unfortunately, the fight may not be over yet.

If the U.S. Department of Justice overturns Korman's ruling, the prescription requirement for those under 17 will remain in effect. A spokeswoman for this department told the Los Angeles Times that the government is "reviewing the appellate options and expects to act promptly."

Associate Professor of Political Science Maria Rosales agreed that many are unhappy with Korman's ruling.

"Protests against the change seem likely," wrote Rosales in an email. "Some pharmacists have already been refusing to give emergency contraception to people who were of age under the previous ruling."

"(However,) allowing people who might get pregnant against their will a greater chance to avoid that pregnancy is a good outcome, in my opinion."

Keeping emergency contraceptives legal for people of any age is safe and smart. If the government repeals Korman's decision, stand up and make your voice heard.

This Week's STAFF EDITORIAL

Taking a stand against the Hodgins Retreat expansions

On any given spring day at Guilford, students can take a walk in the wooded area, from all the way behind the lake up to Hodgins Retreat Apartments. This peaceful, picturesque atmosphere that distinguishes Guilford from other local campuses may soon be corrupted by a recently proposed expansion of the Hodgins Retreat Apartments. Thanks to a recent email from David Feagins '70, The Guilfordian has concerns about the expansion.

A rezoning battle is heating up in our local neighborhood. Recent rumors about the expansion of the apartment complex has stirred up talk among community members. The controversy dealing with border control in the woods is a long-standing issue among some faculty, students and staff who wonder what is being done to protect this historical land — the woods in question include a part of the Underground Railroad. This 90-acre parcel of land also represents a rare resource of undeveloped wilderness amidst the concrete sprawl of greater Greensboro.

Hodgins Retreat developer Randall Dixon currently owns 2.89 additional acres adjacent to the existing apartments. Some of you might know it as the old "Keiser Property." Recently, Dixon submitted a rezoning application seeking to consolidate the Hodgins property and Keiser property into a single tract. This contract will enable him to construct up to 64 new apartment units in addition to those already existing as Hodgins Retreat.

According to Feagins, the construction of these new buildings and parking lots will necessitate the destruction of woods and create runoff. These buildings and parking areas will be visible to those watching athletic events at the stadium and baseball field, as well as from other campus space.

Some other concerns expressed by community members have delayed the proposed expansion. The development will dramatically increase traffic on Foxwood, Dolly Madison and George White. Feagins mentioned the worsening of traffic flow through campus and along the intersections of Friendly Avenue, and since there are already two city bus stops, increased traffic may create a dangerous situation.

As we have seen from Hodgins Retreat police incidents reports, we are destined to lose the safe, walkable neighborhood streets and woods that surround us if this rezoning is approved by the City Council. More people, including students, would be moving into the new apartments, which means public safety may have additional stress maintaining safety protocols. Feagins mentioned that liability may become a larger issue.

The Guilfordian also agrees with Feagins' point about how proposed construction will challenge Guilford College as it continues to promote a "green" campus. These expansions will create more noise and light pollution on campus, and we will not be able to control any litter or trash the residents may leave on or near campus. Plus, there will be more cars, which could create vehicle pollution.

Community members, such as the Editorial Board, have high hopes that the college will join in opposition to this proposed expansion. Based on facts in our news article (see pages 1 and 2) and information from Feagins, we believe that the expansion will hurt the Guilford community by creating more pollution and waste, a less-safe environment and an ugly setting. We agree with Feagins that our area does not need any more apartment space, especially when there are so many apartment options nearby.

We request that the college speak with the Hodgins administration to try and figure out a way to keep our college atmosphere and environment safe and beautiful.

REFLECTING GUILFORD COLLEGE'S CORE QUAKER VALUES, THE TOPICS AND CONTENT OF STAFF EDITORIALS ARE CHOSEN THROUGH CONSENSUS OF ALL 14 EDITORS AND ONE FACULTY ADVISER OF THE GUILFORDIAN'S EDITORIAL BOARD.

CCE Serendipity needs you

Sometimes it takes just a little food and laughter to bridge the gap between traditional and CCE students.

Now is the chance. Our Spring Awards Carnival, which takes place next to New Garden Hall in the front lawn, is on April 27 and starts at 12 p.m..



BY VICTOR LOPEZ
SENIOR WRITER

CCE students are a little older than the rest of the pack at the College, but now we recognize another age related issue: commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Center for Continuing Education.

Much like the Community Senate, we too have a student government association that hopes to aid those CCE students who need a liaison to the administration or the greater community as a whole.

Whether you are a CCE student, know a CCE student or would like to support your Guilford peers, we look forward to seeing new faces in the crowd.

The event features a mechanical bull, a rock-climbing wall, cotton candy and popcorn. We will recognize outstanding students, professors and staff who have worked hard this year.

There will be tasty food too, and if the bull isn't fun enough, you can dunk me in a tank.

That's right, I said it, a tank.

If I have ever offended you in any way in my years of writing, feel free to take your aggression out by dunking me in the dunk tank, which I will man.

Our event is like a CCE Serendipity on a diet. So, expect some relaxation and friendly folks around who are enjoying what we hope will be a sunny day. After all, we have a lot to celebrate.

Over the past year, we have made access grants available to the entire college, helping students who could not afford tuition during tight times. We are extending another \$20,000 to go into the coming year.

Our fellow students have issues ranging from stress to addictions, like any other students.

In response to the need, we brought someone in with impeccable credentials and experience.

The CCE SGA sponsored the new addition of a counselor who helps CCE students through whatever their needs might be.

We realize that above all, it is stressful to wake up in the morning, let alone complete classes.

At the end of the day, we all at the CCE SGA hope to see you in front of New Garden Hall, on April 27 at 12 p.m.

I'll be in the tank. I hope you'll be there and that you're not a good shot.