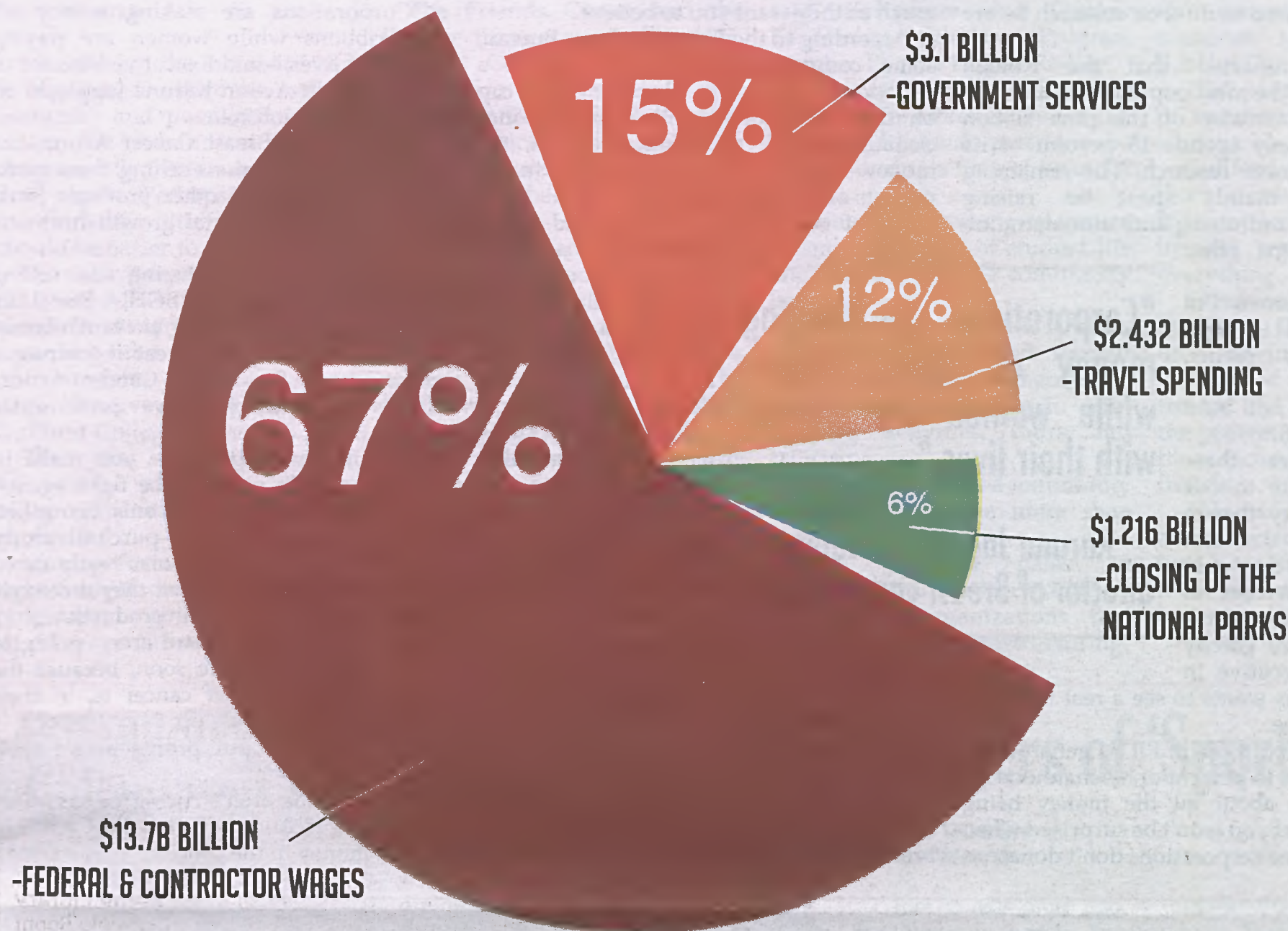


Republicans forced \$24 billion government shutdown



**\$24,000,000,000 LOST
OVER THE SPAN OF 16 DAYS**

BY NICOLE BARNARD
STAFF WRITER

After the shutdown, Congress played the blame game as Americans tried to make sense of it all. But ultimately, this was a Republican shutdown.

However, Republicans blamed President Obama and the Democrats. No surprise there.

"This is part of a larger pattern: the president's scorched-earth policy of refusing to negotiate in (a) bipartisan way on his health care law, current government funding or the debt limit," said Speaker of the House John Boehner in his Oct. 2 USA Today editorial.

In other words, Boehner blamed the president for apparent lack of communication. Funnily enough, it was the Republicans who refused to negotiate.

"We passed bills to try to deal with the underlying health care problem as well as the underlying debt and deficit problem," said Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-Neb.) according to Mother Jones.

The "health care problem?" Did he mean the Affordable Care Act, the health care law that our government supposedly protects?

"The Affordable Care Act was passed by Congress, signed by the president and upheld by the Supreme Court," said Emily Brown, president of Guilford County Young Democrats, in an interview with The Guilfordian.

"Allowing the GOP to make a mockery of the democratic process because they're particularly bitter about an argument they lost regarding a bill that is already law would be an unbelievable injustice."

Senior William Moore, president of Guilford College Republicans, disagreed.

"The government shutdown (happened) because ... Obama and the Democrats failed to show leadership," Moore said. "This problem of the president's ... compromises for bipartisanship

with the other side has been a flaw since the beginning."

Obama has a problem compromising? How ironic; that seemed to be the Republicans' weakness, didn't it?

And shouldn't our government be willing to compromise for the betterment of the people?

"Republican leaders ... in the House of Representatives are holding hostage necessary government programs and benefits from hardworking Americans who entrusted them to make responsible choices," said Brown.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science Robert Duncan agreed.

"Everybody knows who's at fault here," said Duncan. "It's (the Republicans) of Congress who have resisted this all along. They're fighting to defund the (Affordable Care Act, which) is going to help a lot of people."

Clearly, it's the Republicans who disregarded laws in order to get what they want. It's the Republicans who shut our government down and furloughed thousands of workers.

"It's not the Democrats, it's not Obama (and) it's not the Affordable Care Act," said Duncan. "It's some petty members of Congress. I'm not on the fence on this issue at all."

Still, Moore disagreed.

"Unfortunately, Senate Democrats ... deliberately shut down the government for the sake of raising taxes on medical devices and plowing ahead with the Obamacare train wreck," said Moore.

Really? I'd love to see the facts to back up that statement.

Oh! But here are some facts: after an estimated total of \$24 billion lost due to the shutdown, Obamacare is still a law.

And Americans are siding with Obama and the Democrats. According to a CBS News poll, 44 percent of Americans agreed Republicans are to blame. People are upset with Republicans for blatantly refusing to compromise and accept a bill that has already been passed.

The answer is obvious: the Democrats were more than fair, and the Republicans, who tried to discredit our entire legal system by refusing to fund a law, tried to pin the blame onto them.

This Week's

STAFF EDITORIAL

Too much Cheerwhine at The Grill

How often do you gripe about The Grill or Quakeria?

Be honest, we've all done it — but are we making informed complaints? Do we know what is being done to bridge the communication gap between the company, Meriwether Godsey and the student body?

Chris Blain, retail and sustainability manager of Guilford Dining, addressed major concerns at the Guilford Dining Committee meeting on Oct. 8. Nine students, two staff members and the Meriwether Godsey management discussed customer feedback, communication, education and program improvements concerning the college's food services.

One of the biggest concerns from the student body is the occasional shortage of any particular item at The Grill.

Blain explained in an email interview that the truck travels from Virginia, and if the problem occurs frequently, he strongly suggested that students contact him directly.

"Food is ordered based on the average number of an item sold, and orders are placed two days out," said Blain. "We do our best to keep everything in stock, but if everyone is in the mood for chicken tenders on Monday and we sell them all by lunch Tuesday, I can't get more until Wednesday."

What about the smoothie station? Why do students have to wait so long? Blain and his team are working on making sure no one is left waiting at the register.

"The best trick when it comes to smoothies (or anything from The Grill) is to go to the register with a cashier," said Blain. "You can order smoothies (or any food) from either register. Once you've ordered and paid, we'll make your smoothie, and that way we'll know you're waiting."

What about when the ice or syrup in the soda machines runs out? Students are expected to inform employees, but there is some buzz about staff attitudes. With new faces on the downstairs dining team, students may wonder about efforts to better customer service.

"You'll notice the signs by the registers downstairs this week inviting students to apply for a position in the grill," said Blain. "We are looking for a few strong folks to join our team and help provide a stronger bond to the community."

It's a lot easier to whine than it is to be understanding of limitations, so step up to the challenge; try to communicate your concerns to the staff instead, and then make the best of it.

"If something isn't available, use that as an opportunity to try something new," Blain suggested. "You might just discover a new favorite."

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