

The Guilfordian

The Guilfordian is printed by the students of Guilford College, weekly except for examination periods and vacations.

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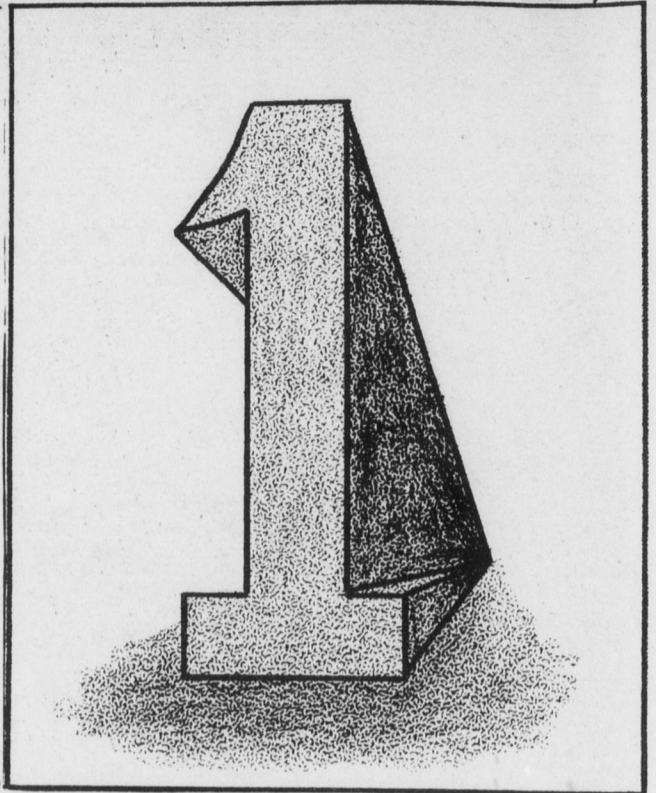
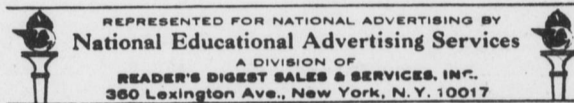
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John Ladd's Letter

In the Letter to the Editor titled "Ladd Cites Student Frustrations" John Ladd charges that the wild rampage of week ago last Wednesday night occurred "because of the need to express the pent up frustrations that this campus yields."

Among the causes which Ladd cites as responsible for this frustration include "working well over a year on the extension of women's hours and for all intents and purposes being ignored" and "having all sorts of proposals we would like action on in a state of limbo."

In addition Ladd cautions that "the campus may well see a real 'wild rampage,' a rampage not erroneously aimed at a courtyard or a hut, but at a group of men and/or their buildings."

Certainly no one can deny that the Guilford campus yields pent up frustrations. Nor can anyone deny that in some extreme circumstances, such as the ghettos which pervade American cities, life becomes so deplorable and the oppression so severe that pent up frustration may be used as an excuse for the spontaneous combustion which occasionally occurs.

However for Guilford College students, the "pent up frustration cry" is completely unacceptable as an excuse for the pillage and terrorization which occurred one week ago last Wednesday night.

In the first place, despite Guilford's many shortcomings, the college campus, is not a ghetto. Campus residents find themselves blessed with towering trees, green grass, comparatively clean air, and some degree of peace and quiet.

In addition the residents have at their disposal a supply of competent faculty members and administrators who are willing to work with students to resolve basic grievances.

Moreover most Guilford students, are classified as functionally literate and are equipped with the skills necessary to effectively communicate their concerns devoid of mob style tactics.

With this distinction between excusable and unexcusable expressions of pent up frustration in mind, it would seem that the students themselves ought to be able to responsibly map out solutions for their problems.

Perhaps before Guilford's frustrated students throw any more garbage or blow up any more toilets, they ought to consider the course of action that consumer advo-

cate Ralph Nader pursued in his successful drive to improve the safety of automobiles.

THE NADER WAY

During his studies at Harvard University Law School Nader came to the conclusion that American consumers were entitled to safer cars than the automobile industry was producing.

However it is worth noting that Nader's conclusion did not prompt him to hurl his garbage into the street or blow up his toilet. In fact Nader meekly declined to make any threats against the lives and property of automobile industry executives.

Instead Nader devoted long hours to painstaking research on the automobile safety question and eventually published his findings in a book titled UNSAFE AT ANY SPEED. The wisdom of Nader's course of action is evident in the growing list of safety features found on new automobiles.

THE FRAZIER SCANDAL

Last spring a smiliar though obviously less shattering form of student activism was evident in THE GUILFORDIAN'S publication of then trustee chairman Robert Frazier's involvement in the Gillespie Street slum controversy.

Although the staff members in charge of the Frazier articles were disheartened by Frazier's relationship, they carefully refrained from blowing up THE GUILFORDIAN'S lone toilet and throwing their trash from the windows of THE GUILFORDIAN'S executive offices in Cox Hall. (Staff regulations prohibit such acts).

Instead the staff writers assigned to the case chose to constructively devote their energy to thoroughly researching their assignment.

Undoubtedly the success of their efforts was a prime reason for Frazier's subsequent trustee inactivity as well as the decision of the Board this fall to politely oust Frazier from the trustee chairmanship.

NO APOLOGY

With such a record of success for responsible student activism, we will not as John Ladd requests, apologize for either our news story or our editorial covering the rampage of a week ago last Wednesday night.

Instead, we urge John Ladd and those who share his point of view on this matter to reconsider their own positions and stop making excuses for the uncivilized behavior of Guilford's ambitionless students who are too lazy to work responsibly for rules changes.

Letter To The Editor Ladd Cites Student Frustrations'

Dear Editor,

I was very impressed by the editorials on the first and second pages of THE GUILFORDIAN in reference to the "wild rampage." I was glad to see that the administration didn't have to tire themselves out writing their own opinions; THE GUILFORDIAN did it for them.

It is obvious to most of us that the actions of Wednesday night were immature. However, the reactions of THE GUILFORDIAN and the House Council were almost as immature. Did THE GUILFORDIAN or the House Council ever wonder why the events of Wednesday night occurred? Is analysis the exclusive burden of Doug Scott? It appears that the only reaction the House Council could muster was the Pavlovian response of law and order, rather than attempting to understand the whys. God bless banality and superficiality!

Why did Wednesday night have to end as it did? Because of the need to express the pent up frustrations this campus yields. There are more pent up frustrations within our students than any of us can comfortably admit. Why? We are told we are to be responsible adults, but are we allowed that "privilege by our 'benevolent' despots? No. In the finest parochial traditions of the turn of the century (19th) we are not allowed in the girl's dorms, nor they in ours. Also, the scourge of the devil, alcohol, is not allowed here. Guilford has let the fine tradition slip a bit by allowing it's women to stay out to the unladylike hour of 1:00 a.m. That may seem insignificant but it kept us from winning the Bob Jones University Award for Vigilance last year.

We are told we are here to become adults. We are allowed the responsibility of flunking out if we wish but damn near no responsibility for our personal lives, the dichotomy, a certain amount of academic freedom, but none in our personal life. Frustration is made of such stuff. Frustration comes from not being allowed to drink in our rooms even when that privilege is given us by state law. Frustration comes from not being able to have women in our rooms when we know damn well we could if we lived off campus. Frustration

is built from working for well over a year on the extension of women's hours and for all intents and purposes being ignored. Frustration comes from having all sorts of proposals we would like action on in a state of limbo. In short, frustration is built up by hearing fine sounding remarks about how we are to be adults and then being treated as if we were four year olds. And these frustrations build up in us until we have to do something immature like getting drunk, or throwing bottles just to keep some semblance of internal sanity.

These frustrations aren't nearly so deeply buried as most of us would like to think. In the fall it took a power failure, in March it took a basketball game. Dammit, doesn't that say something to you? Can't you draw a few conclusions from that? It tells me that the angry frustrations are kept from expression only by a very thin veneer shattered at the least provocation. It also tells me that our frustrations are released with pitiful misguidance. What I fear, "Moms", is that the students will realize that their frustrations are not aimed at a quad or a hut but at a group of people who cause their frustrations in the first place. Then this campus may well see a real "wild rampage", a rampage not erroneously aimed at a courtyard or a hut but at a group of men and/or their buildings. If certain closed eyes, closed ears, and closed minds aren't opened it could happen here.

I would like letters of apology sent to the student body from "The Board of Trustees, Dean William J. Lanier, and Head Resident Landrum Cross" and the House Council and THE GUILFORDIAN asking our forgiveness for their shallow shortsightedness and inability or unwillingness to see what is really happening here.

To the superficial observer the events of the "wild rampage" might seem to jeopardize reform. However, the careful observer I feel certain will see that these events merely point up the need for reform much more powerfully. The boiler is about to burst.

Is anybody listening?

Sincerely,
John Ladd