

Keep On Truckin

Once again it is that time of year when most of us wish we had decided to be truck drivers instead of students. Those hard core pre-exam blues are setting in and the 23rd of January is a long way off. The usual number of people will not be able to cope with the blues, enough speed will be consumed to keep one person up for seven years, a few people will get rich, and a lot of people will flunk out.

The time has come to realize that this will just not do, despite the fact that it has gone on at colleges and universities for a long time. We are not suggesting here that we do away with exams, although hopefully the days of life or death exams are numbered. Rather, we feel that Guilford, which seems to take pride in calling itself a progressive school, could take steps to catch up with the truly progressive schools who have now scheduled exams before Christmas vacation.

The advantages of pre-Christmas exams are immense. First of all it would mean a much longer vacation, anywhere from a month to a month and a half. It would also be a more pleasant vacation. Although most of us never get any work done during Christmas vacation now, we spend a lot of time worrying about what we should be doing. Many people would also like to get jobs during vacation, but very few employers think of hiring anyone for two weeks. A long, worry free vacation would allow students to have a real vacation, not just a brief period when they don't have to attend classes. Under the current system the academic frame of mind is abandoned for two weeks, exactly at the time when it should be at its highest. It is like a candidate taking a two week vacation right before election day. The timing is all wrong.

There is another, slightly less pleasant, angle to pre-Christmas exams, but we should be able to live with it. Moving exams to before Christmas would require advancing the opening of school to the beginning of September, or perhaps as early as late August. Certainly starting school that early is no fun at all, however we lived with for years during high school with very little permanent damage. Pre-Christmas exams would also mean that those people who are inclined to actually get work done during Christmas vacation would have their catch-up time taken away. This could conceivably motivate some students to keep up during the mid-fall "it's getting cold and dark" blues.

Academic reform is possible at Guilford, as evidenced by the four class, four day system which will take effect next fall. Pre-Christmas exams are well within our reach, if we want it badly enough. The first step should be discussion. Talk to your friends, your teachers, your advisors, and you can even try your administrators. Perhaps if enough people talk about it, a few will even go so far as to work for it. It's worth a try.

Kyd Brenner

There are certain problems inherent in the production of a weekly newspaper in a school of the size and ethos of Guilford College. We have managed to overcome some of these problems while some of them have overcome us. The need for more adequate support of the newspaper is slowly being recognized and we are optimistic about the future. I would like to thank all of the people who have given the paper friendly assistance, but my special thanks go to the people listed below who coped with various facets of the existing chaos.

Jeanette Ebel, editor

The Guilfordian

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RESISTER

by Sam Greathouse

The Selective Service laws are modified by rulings in court cases as well as directives from the National office. These rulings have drastically affected the position of registrants. His rights as an individual have been solidified and his exposure to the draft limited.

The most important ruling recently concerns those who were included in the 1970 pool. This group was selected by the lottery in 1969. The national office has set limits for drafting and no local board will exceed number 195. The Director has ruled that registrants with numbers over 195 who hold deferments may drop their deferments and be considered as having fulfilled their year's eligibility. If a registrant had a number below 195 and has not

been drafted, his status is uncertain. He is eligible for the first three months of 1971. The probability of his being drafted will depend on his local board, that is, whether they decide to exhaust the old group before beginning the new group, draft quotas, and manpower supply. If he holds a deferment for the year 1970 he will be placed in the prime category when his deferment runs out. Individuals would do well to check with draft counselors and local boards before relinquishing deferments.

For those considering application for conscientious objection, the Appellate courts have handed down a number of major decisions. The most important of these states that conscientious objection based on purely moral beliefs is just as

valid as conscientious objection based on religious beliefs. This ruling greatly broadens the area of belief acceptable for CO classification and opens new ground for initial requests and appeals.

Coupled with this ruling was another which dealt a serious blow to those opposed to only the war in Southeast Asia. They rules that selective objection, that is, objection to a specific war is no longer valid grounds for CO classification. The basis for their ruling is unclear. However the impact is obvious. CO applicants must be opposed to all wars.

In rulings last Spring, two major decisions were handed down by the Circuit Courts. The most important concerned an individual's rights within the Selective Service- appeals procedure. The court ruled that boards must inform applicants why their requests for a specific classification were denied. This allows applicants to appeal their cases on specific grounds. In another decision the court ruled that the time of application for CO classification does not affect the validity of the claim and cannot be used as the sole reason for refusal.

This summer the current draft law must be reenacted or it will expire. Reenactment requires vote by the Congress. As of January 1971, 18-year-olds will have the vote. Since the group between 18 and 23 has been politically active and since they are the people most directly affected by the Selective Service Act, they must speak now. We are in a different position now than we were a year ago because now leaders have to listen because we can vote them in or out. We've got the numbers to do it and the numbers to significantly affect policy and the time to begin working on the repeal of the Selective Service Act is now. Let's get it together. Peace.

Letter

Caps and Gowns

Dear Editor,

Our world has shrunk so tremendously in the last few years that even from my ice-encased habitat here in Finland, I would like to share some thoughts with you all concerning increased financial aid for foreign students.

Stop for a moment and consider the condition of the world--the whole world. Think of Pakistan, of Poland. Consider Canada's furries and the Vietnam dead which you see every night on your TV's, Chile, Russia, Peru, the rich, the poor, the Biafran hungry, the Appalachian hungry, the Greensboro hungry...

Somehow it seems as if no matter where one looks, there are similar signs of political disruption, social convulsion, economic paralysis, spiritual destruction--all in all a world writhing, bleeding and falling apart.

Stop for another quick

moment and take a glimpse at the world--the whole world. Look at people living their lives in varying manners, with unique customs. They all have to face similar "human" challenges in their daily lives. Love, joy, sadness, struggle are a part of their vocabulary too. The Finns are not polar bears in fancy dress, as many assume, nor are the Russians mere carbon copies of Marx and Lenin.

Mankind is like a flower garden of different colors, different fragrances, different sizes and shapes. How can we ever learn to appreciate the tulips if we only stand forever among daffodils?

You are all smart and I'm sure are already quite aware of the immense value of unity with diversity. So the question which I would like to again bring into the spotlight is:

How to achieve unity with diversity at Guilford?

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What then is truth? A mobile army of metaphors, metonymies anthropomorphisms, a sum, in short, of human relationships which, rhetorically and poetically intensified, ornamented and transformed, comes to be thought of after long usage by a people, as fixed, binding and canonical. Truths are illusions which we have forgotten are illusions, worn out metaphors now impotent to stir the senses, coins which have lost their faces and are now considered as metal rather than currency.

--Nietzsche.