

EDITORIAL

We are very encouraged by the recent development of an Alternative Education program at Guilford College. This program was designed for and by students wishing to augment their Guilford education with a series of informal learning experiences. To us, the initiative shown by this small group of students epitomizes the elusive Spirit of Education.

We would like to see the Alternative Education program expand. There will be no diplomas awarded, just a stimulating good time and the satisfaction of self-directed learning. The possibilities are limited only by the range of student interests. We urge anyone who feels that education is more than just homework and grades to check with Scot Oliver in English Room 10.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Guilfordian,

These are the facts why smoking is bad for you:

1. It is dangerous to health - Surgeon General,
2. It is a stick of cancer - popular consent.
3. It is a nail in the coffin - R. Mitchell,
4. It is a death hooker - to be re-examined.
5. It is a public nuisance to non-users.

For reasons best known to myself and for reasons best known to my love, Today, Feb. 1, 1975 I have decided to quit.

John Ndusha

Dear Editor,

This letter is not an honor pleasurable in nature but to the contrary is one of deep tragedy. Nevertheless someone must make an attempt to reconcile the fact of Joseph Coffield's death. He was a student and human being attending Guilford College who was seeking a niche into where he could settle and experience belonging. Each of us seeks such a niche but Joe never seemed to have fully found it. As all of us he had his negative attributes which detracted in part from his overall personality. It is with sorrow that we recognize that either as individuals or as small groups we excluded and castigated his search for friendship. Had we only been more attentive and responsive to Joseph's basic human needs perhaps this catastrophic event would have never taken place. In great remorse we should take immediate heed so as not to cause anything like this ever again. It is not that his death is our fault, but it is our fault that we failed to be sensitive to the needs and hopes of another.

An Appeal to Faculty:

Recent moves by this academic community to save money wherever possible in response to the economic pressure Guilford is facing, have encouraged my belief in the ability of this community to work together for the good of the community. I think the administration is to be highly commended for its efforts to involve students and faculty in major decisions which will directly affect the future of this college. A recent example of this cooperation and understanding between students, faculty and administration has been the adjustment of the school calendar. The college has arranged its operating schedule so that its operations take place on fewer cold days in the winter when these expenses are at their highest levels. Also in this community move to reduce costs, exam schedules have been significantly shortened. Reading day has been eliminated with the assurance that no person will have a final class followed immediately by the exam for that class. Three hour exams have been retained to prevent a loss of academic quality instead of two hour exams which were discussed as alternatives.

I must admit that I have a few misgivings about the loss of reading day with the retention of three hour exams. Students need time to place into perspective the many aspects of courses which are required for these examinations. Perhaps the most important aspect of examinations is the preparation for them rather than the act of taking them. I strongly feel that students have sacrificed their available time for this preparation in the interest of the Guilford Community.

I make an appeal to each faculty member to consider the effects of this decision in planning his or her course next year. Examinations have traditionally been the method of consolidating a course. I realize that the movement away from this tradition at Guilford has been increasing; however, this new schedule gives you cause to look at this technique again. There are courses which need examinations as an integral part of their purpose. These courses are not the subject of this letter. It is those courses which could be consolidated with equal effectiveness with a shorter exam or an alternative approach. If each faculty member could in clear conscience shorten or eliminate final exams in favor of other options, during the semester, time would be freed for students to prepare for those courses which of necessity, require a final exam.

I make this appeal in the interest of distributing the burden of final exams in a way which will insure academic excellence. I make no plea for less work. Reevaluation of each course in light of the new circumstances next year, is the added burden and the sacrifice I ask of faculty as an effort to maintain the quality of Guilford College.

Carl Wright



Student Commits Suicide

Joseph Coffield, a day student at Guilford, shot and killed himself in the backyard of his High Point home on Tuesday, Jan. 28. His death was ruled suicide.

No definite reasons for his action were discovered.

Coffield first enrolled at Guilford in the fall of 1970. He returned to Guilford for the 72-73 school year and again for the 74-75 year.

While a student this fall, Coffield worked with Grimsley H.S. students in Young Life, a non-denominational religious group.

Last year he worked as a salesman with Kimberly Kay Co. and with ARTC Co.

Coffield's funeral was held Thursday morning, Jan. 30, at St. Marys Episcopal Church.

There was a short memorial service for Joseph Coffield on Thursday evening in the Moon Room of Dana Auditorium.

Peace Center Meeting

Jon Hiratsuka

The Greensboro Peace Center will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Baptist Student Center across from UNCG's Elliott Hall.

Everyone is invited to this meeting. Plans for the Peace Center's ongoing projects, such as the campaign to stop the B-1 bomber, will be discussed.

Through public protest, media publicity, and political lobbying, the Peace Center works against militarism and domestic injustice.

Currently they are involved in a letter writing campaign to persuade Senators Helms and Morgan and North Carolina's Congressmen to vote against President Ford's request for half a billion dollars in supplemental military aid for Indochina.

The Peace Center was formed in 1971, and since its inception it has arranged press conferences, meetings and vigils against the Vietnam war.

Although most Peace Centers members also share a deep moral outrage against the Vietnam war, they are now publically emphasizing the undesirable economic consequences of large military expenditures.

They point out that, while President Ford requests additional military aid to Vietnam and Cambodia, he proposes that the government borrow billions of dollars just to tide us over this year. Ford also wants to raise the price of food stamps and take money out of job, service, and welfare programs.

In addition to anti-war work, the Peace Center has supported the United Farm Workers. This Thanksgiving the Peace Center sponsored a vigil and fast against hunger.

For more information on Thursday's meeting or on the Peace Center's activities, call Mr. Jeffries, acting chairman, at 292-6390.

THE GUILFORDIAN

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