

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Who is that man!?

Keith Guile

speech. I met a man the other day who called me "thee." It startled me a little at first. Someone said he had been on the faculty many years ago.

What I am trying to say, I guess, is that while there does not appear to be any difference between this place and some others, there is a difference. Quaker education at a place like Guilford College is concerned with human values. I took an unusual course last semester called "Being Human in the Twentieth Century." Quaker education also values differences because Friends feel that each person is unique and irreplaceable, with a unique and irreplaceable vision of truth.

Education here focuses on the individual and yet Guilford cultivates a community where I am able to share my differences with others and to mold their insights into new creations of mind and spirit. My insights have been molded likewise, I think.

Another thing I like about this place is the knowledge that Friends have pioneered in prison reform, treatment of the mentally ill, care of the aged, abolition of slavery, war relief, international peace-making, fair dealings with native Americans, and policy reform. I believe Guilford College is preparing me to respond sensitively and respectfully to the needs of others. I also believe that Guilford is teaching me to work patiently to bring to flower whatever unique expression of goodness, truth, or beauty lies buried somewhere within me.

Mandy, do you think this makes any sense? I think it does.

Love,  
Eric

Dear Mandy,

You have often asked about Guilford College and the kind of place it is. Just as often I have had difficulty finding an answer which is satisfactory to me. My thoughts of it change from time to time. Mostly though, I see it in three ways.

I see it as a very old and lovely place which attempts to preserve in its traditions and customs, as well as in its curriculum and faculty, those values which are basic to all of our lives. Somehow it takes

me back to places I have never been, and somehow it helps me find that peace which is at the center of me.

I see it as a threshold to the future. At least, that is what my study here is preparing me for — a world that lies beyond today. I feel good about that — learning how to think about it, I mean.

I guess I see it too as being little more than I bring to it or am willing to put into it. Isn't that the way it is with most things though? I take lots of comfort in knowing how dependent I am on me for this experience. Guilford has helped me discover that sooner than I might have. Perhaps I never would have had I not been in this place.

I like this poem. It helps me describe more nearly how I feel, now that I have been here.

The countries of the mind

Lie close:  
You move in space or time  
Yet leave them not.  
You will be here

When dogwood blooms,  
Or bells in winter twilight ring,  
Or when you hear again  
Some title or some name.

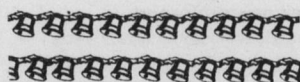
Do not say,  
"I am leaving Guilford."  
It lies forever close—  
It holds the brightness of your youth,

The peace of green oaks,  
The joy of knowing;  
It is forever present.

I don't think I can say it any better.

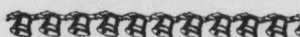
Love,  
Eric

These letters were donated to the *Guilfordian* by Mandy.



## Judicial Board Applications

Applications for the Campus Judicial Board are now being accepted. If you would like to apply for a position on next year's Board please pick up an application from Jean Tatum in the Student Services Office. Deadline for all applications is Monday, April 3, 1977. Turn them in to Jean Tatum.



# An Editorial

BY MARK SIEBER

This Wednesday, the Community Senate will be discussing a proposal which, if adopted, could become harmful. The proposal suggests that all Senate monies appropriated to campus organizations for entertainment activities (such as dances, lectures, and so forth) be held in a "trust" fund by the union. This means that, in the planning of these activities, each club must operate through the union in scheduling events, booking speakers or bands, and other organizational activities. Ultimately, although the Senate would originally allocate the funds, the union would essentially regulate the dispensation of them.

Granted, this powerful proposal is rooted in some valid concerns. Many clubs fail to clear dates for entertainment events. Consequently, there may be two or more events on one given night and none on another. Not only does this sort of oversight result in an inequitable distribution of "things to do," but it causes problems in the booking of Sternberger and Dana Auditoriums and with possible conflicts of interest as well.

A second concern that prompted the proposal is that, often, clubs do not utilize the expertise and contacts that some individuals feel the union has. Occasionally, club-sponsored activities are not as well-planned as possible. However, rather than suggesting that clubs come to the union if necessary, it will become mandatory in all cases.

Okay. These are two issues that are important. They merit attention and action. But is the proposal appropriate and ethical? I would have to say no, for several reasons:

- the proposal could foster a union monopoly on the planning of entertainment events.
- it stifles the diversity of ideas and methods that individual club expression would allow.
- it implies an unrealistic approach to solving the problem, in terms of paperwork, time, and effort.
- it denies clubs the freedom to plan activities and the right to fail. If a club plans an entertainment event and, if from negligence in clearing dates with the union, the event fails, the club should learn from its mistake. If it does not, that, too, is the club's prerogative. By allowing the Senate to pass this

legislation, we are: setting guidelines for clubs to follow in planning entertainment events, disallowing a club's autonomy, and inhibiting a club's creativity, motivation, and learning.

• it presumptuously suggests that, for example, the union would have more contacts in booking a speaker for the Guilford College Young Democrats than the Young Democrats themselves might have. Along the same line, the proposal suggests that the union is a hotbed of "know-how", and the clubs have somewhat less to offer.

• it could result in a decrease in (or loss of) motivation for campus organizations to involve themselves in the sponsoring of entertainment events.

I content that, although a problem might exist with club-sponsored activities, it is not one that warrants such legislation. The proposal is analogous to requiring students to spend a certain amount of time periodically in the library; despite the fact that a student might be failing, isn't it the student's right to remedy the situation if he/she chooses to? Accordingly, don't clubs at Guilford have the right to learn by their mistakes, if mistakes are indeed made, and grow in the process? We should not restrict all campus clubs because of the carelessness or obstinacy of a few. Furthermore, we should not endanger a club's autonomy by making it answerable to the union and by limiting its freedom.

It certainly seems more appropriate to, perhaps, publicize the nature and extent of the services and experience available at the union. The clubs, then, would be in a better position to decide themselves whether or not to contact the union.

Enough words. Let's see how closely the Senate examines the ramifications of this almost damning proposal which threatens the livelihoods of the clubs and jeopardizes the expressive spirit at Guilford.

I suggest that any readers, who are either concerned individuals or members of clubs which might be affected by the proposal, attend the Senate meeting this Wednesday night. Input from members of the Guilford community may be the deciding factor in the approval or defeat of this severely consequential piece of legislation.