

**Editorial**

**Bloodshot eyeview**

By Jim Shields, Editor

Despondency is in season at Guilford. For whatever reason, the sprites of mirth and mental health have split, and spirits here are low.

Part of it is just the academic pressures. The toll is physically evident. Faces that were rosy and tanned just four weeks ago are now paler, puffier and dominated by dark circles under blood-shot eyes. Everyone's acne also looks worse.

But deeper than these timely problems rages a more serious malaise. Many people here appear not to have all their oars in the water. And why should they?

One of the maladies with which they are afflicted has been called by Steve Goodman the "I don't know where I'm going but I'm going nowhere in a hurry blues." You see this particularly among seniors. College has taught them that there are no answers, and that whatever questions they have would be more suitably posed in a language they cannot speak.

The victims are easily identifiable. They wear tight nervous smiles, nod a lot, and are frequently seen standing in the same spot as they look around and attempt to fix their location. They check their watches frequently (they hate to miss meals).

There are also some who **wanted** to be in college. Now they wonder why. They can't figure out why there isn't time to watch even half the Monday night football game. They've heard of the new gym but they'll never play in it. The feeling that they work harder than the professors is a source of bitterness. But they must realize that the days of wine and roses are gone (or yet to come?)

Dorm livers (despite rumors, **not** served by Epicure) have their own underadjustments. To "relax," they attend parties where the (bad) music is so loud that all they can find out about anyone else there is their name, hometown, and major. The name is usually forgotten immediately. Then one is left with "the redhead from Kokomo who's into biophysics." Unfortunately, they are not known by that description at the Information Desk. The whole evening is wasted. Gloom. . .

And where can one go to meditate? To doorless stalls (it's more private in the women's room I'm told), to the Passion Pit where God only knows what is going on, or to your room, where your roommate is continuing what only started in the Passion Pit.

There is no rest for the weary. And little sanity for. . .



**Guilfordian**

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The Guilfordian reserves the right to edit all articles, letters, and artwork for taste, veracity, and length. The deadline for all copy is 3:00 p.m. on the Saturday preceding the Tuesday of publication. Material may be left on the office door in upstairs Founders, or mailed to Box 17717. The opinions expressed by the staff are their own and not necessarily those of the paper or of Guilford College.

*You are cordially invited . . .*

**ZIGGY**

..BREAKFAST CAN BE KINDA DEPRESSING WHEN YOU REALIZE THAT THE BANANA YOU CUT UP IN YOUR CEREAL HAS DONE MORE TRAVELING THAN YOU HAVE . . .

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Be a top banana. Come to Ragsdale House next Tuesday evening at the invitation of President William Rogers for refreshments at 7:00, slides, discussions, and good fellowship with alumni of Guilford's overseas programs and all those who would like to go in the future. Everyone is invited, and we hope everyone will come for an extraordinary evening. You will be surprised at how affordable study abroad can be and the great values Guilford's summer and semester programs offer. So don't stir crazy hanging around your own little tree this year! Peel off to Europe or Latin America, but begin at Ragsdale House on October 14th. Bring your friends along and then take them abroad with you. Remember: Guilford College. . .you love it and leave it too!

**Letters to the Editor**

Keep those letters coming; it's better to debate an issue without settling it than to settle an issue without debating it. All letters must be submitted by Friday, and should be no longer 200 words in length. Letters can be left on the office door in upstairs Founders, or mailed to Box 17717.

**Cartoons degrading**

Dear Editor,  
We thought comic strips were supposed to be funny. Is it the author or is it just that comic strips are changing in general for the purpose of degrading women? It seems that every time we open a Guilfordian and flip to the comic strips, we come away with a feeling of disheartening frustration. Granted, the author has a right to his opinion but for a school newspaper which is read by all, we feel that a change is in order and hope that the author will reconsider his source of humor.  
The People in C32

**Don't stonewall us**

Most Erudite and Highly knowledgeable Editors:  
I should like to raise my voice in protest concerning one of the letters published in last week's Guilfordian. A certain unenlightened Joel Richon had the effrontery to write to you complaining about buildings writing letters to the Guilfordian and suggested that soon "mere sidewalks and drain covers shall use the paper as a forum for their petty grievances." This creature should be informed that "mere sidewalks" are also a part of the Guilford College Community served by the school paper and that we do not use the awesome power of the press for "petty grievances," as do some of the students. Although we are used to being stepped on, we do not appreciate being insulted.

Sincerely,  
The Sidewalk in front of Hege-Cox

**Dissent on diversity**

Dear Editors,  
I cannot help feeling that the Guilfordian did itself and its readers a disservice by the confused and shallow way in which these complexly inter-related concepts were dealt with in last week's news feature and editorial.  
The headline "Diversity or Tenure" was misleading in fact and by implication. Even a cursory survey of Guilford's tenured faculty reveals their evident and indeed astonishing diversity. Clearly diversity does not preclude the granting of tenure, any more than its absence assures it! In addition, two very different terms, **diversity** and **dissension** were used in such a way in the feature and the editorial respectively as to suggest that the meaning of the two is essentially the same. Yet as commonly understood there is a significant difference between them. Whereas diversity speaks to multiplicity and pluralism of forms, to manifoldness, dissension carries specific meanings of disagreement, discord and quarrel. Once this divergence of meaning is taken into account, it becomes possible to imagine that a community prizing diversity might nonetheless legitimately -- and without hypocrisy -- seek to defend itself against certain levels or kinds of discord.

Finally, the editorial's assumption that dissension is in and of itself a good, whereas conformity is necessarily evil, is not convincing. Nor does linking

"dissension" with such positive terms as "serious questioning," "passion," "freedom of thought" and "outspokenness" and opposing this set of linkages to such negative terms as "haven," "extension of adolescence," and "(agreement) with administrative views" make it so. Beyond the bare terms lie some hard questions: dissent from what and for what purpose? conform to what and in what spirit? Blind conformity which involves the abdication of one's own reason and conscience is surely to be shunned, especially in an academic community, but so too is blind dissension. It is possible to dissent in hate or in love, for one's fellows or against them.

In reality, of course, these ingredients are hardly ever manifest in pure form. The typical human context involves a little of this, and some of that, and a bit of the other. That is why making decisions which affect the well-being of other people is indeed very painful. Yet decisions cannot be avoided, and the attempt to avoid them leads surely to disaster. The best we can do is to try to weigh alternatives honestly, avoiding oversimplifications, being as aware as we can of our potential biases, and recognizing that perfect justice will always lie just beyond our finite human grasp.

Sybille Colby  
Dean of Continuing Education

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