

Guilfordian

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courses

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Lib. Arts Fading?

By Barbara Phillips

The large number of students deciding to major in pre-professional programs rather than the liberal arts has been a cause of concern for some who wonder what implications the trend has for a college like Guilford which attempts to provide a basically liberal arts education.

The largest major in Guilford's curriculum is management; more students major in this one area than in the areas of philosophy, English, foreign languages, history, religious studies, humanities, speech and drama, music, psychology, and sociology combined.

Bill Burris, professor of political science, believes that programs designed to point students toward a specific area of the market should be adjuncts to the basic liberal arts curriculum, and that it was a mistake to let the programs grow to the present size.

"Problems arise as a result of poor planning, bad administration, failure to keep numbers of students in vocational programs in proper balance with the students in liberal arts majors," says Burris.

The biggest problem for the school, says Burris, is that the college budget has become dependent upon the tuition received from these few majors. "This means the college is not free to make strictly academic or educational decisions about the programs."

In terms of problems for the student, Burris points out that by the time a student has gone through college and gotten specific job training, the job market may well have changed.

Cyril Harvey, professor of Geology, also emphasizes problems for the student. "Many

students go into pre-professional studies contrary to their real interests because they have heard that they will be more marketable. They don't realize that they would be just as marketable, if not more so, with a traditional liberal arts major and a skill in a particular area."

Louis Fike, professor of political science, claims that the entire pre-professional program suffers from a "liberal arts snobbery," and that many supporters of the liberal arts see themselves as engaged in a superior mission, partly because academicians have a ten-

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--Louis Fike

Burris also believes that standards of admissions and graduation requirements should be the same for all students. Currently, students enrolled in administration of justice, accounting, and management through the C.C.E. may earn a Bachelor of Administrative Science degree instead of the normal BA. These students are exempt from filling the language requirement and the lab science requirement. Also, the C.C.E. has its own admissions department.

Sybilla Colby, dean of Continuing Education, is concerned with the growing "consumerism" mentality that she sees in contemporary students. She is not disturbed by the ever larger number of students in pre-professional majors, although she says she is committed to liberal arts education. "We can use whatever it is that students are interested in to make sure they get the kind of education we think they should have. It is not necessary that everyone be a philosophy major, but everyone should be aware of the questions that philosophers ask," says Colby.

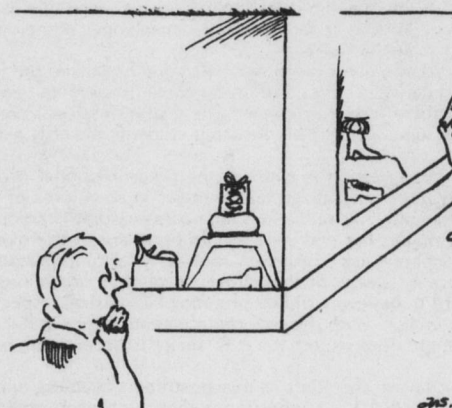
dency to look down on the making of money.

The faculty in pre-professional programs are also treated as second class, says Fike. They have a harder time getting tenure, they teach at night when little is going on on campus, and are still expected to be around during the day (such as for meetings).

Fike does not believe that students' desire to be marketable is a new phenomenon: "College has always been viewed as a way to get a better job," he says. Since the 70's, employers have put more emphasis on having a job-oriented major in college. He is not bothered by the number of students in the programs, but rather by the college's "refusal to resolve the tension" that exists between the programs.

Fike is reluctant to accept the distinction between pre-professional and liberal arts programs as Guilford now defines them, pointing out that many majors consist of both knowledge for its own sake and practical training.

While social sciences are liberal arts (courses about a subject, rather than training to



work in the particular field), Fike argues that they must be taught practically or they become irrelevant: "Purely theoretical social sciences is like making shoes and putting them in a museum," he says. Likewise, A.J. is a "pre-professional" program, but is necessarily integrative, requiring an understanding of political science, psychology, sociology, chemistry, economics, history, physical science, and more.

It is essential that Guilford engage in a thoughtful dialogue about these questions, says Fike (not in "the usual, unreflective way,") and come up

with a decisive answer' on whether Guilford should have the pre-professional programs and whether they will be commensurate with liberal arts programs.

Following management as the number one major with 320 students are administration of Justice with 211 and Accounting with 136.

These three areas, together with Education and Physical Education, are often termed "pre-professional" programs to distinguish them from the more traditional liberal arts programs.

Facts you need about Toxic Shock

By Wendy Barkley

Nausea, vomiting, aching muscles, pain, a rash, high fever, diarrhea -- all of these are symptoms of Toxic Shock Syndrome, a dangerous disease, which is particularly threatening to menstruating women who use tampons.

Although relatively rare, (Dr. Katherine Shands estimates in a *Washington Post* article that 10-15 out of every 100,000 women will contract the disease) Toxic Shock Syndrome is arousing much concern, and rightly so. A recent statistic from the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta accounts for 408 cases, among which are 40 deaths. The number is increasing and, frighteningly, there is yet to be a cure in existence.

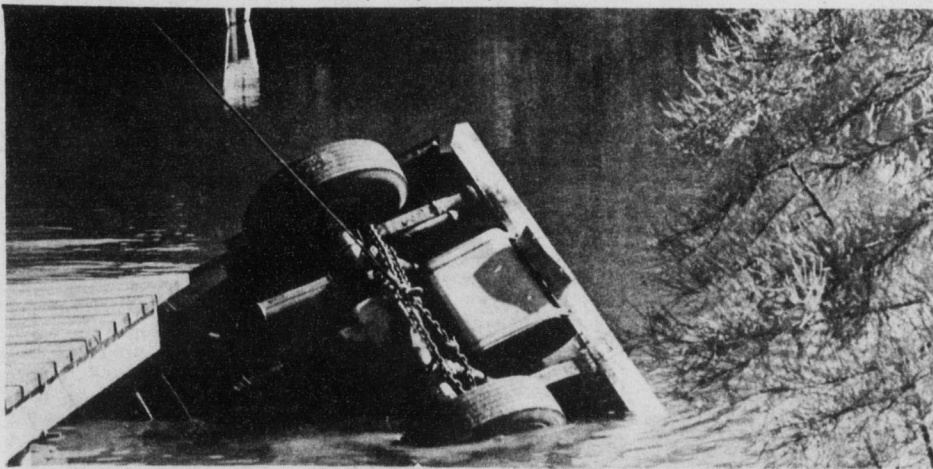
The disease, caused by the common bacteria, *staphylococcus aureus*, is not solely dependent on the use of tampons. However, it is believed that using tampons contributes to and encourages the growth of bacteria. Scientists have suggested that tampons, especially super absorbency tampons, by stopping the flow of blood, thus trapping it internally, provide

an environment which is favorable to the growth of bacteria.

Another theory concerns the materials which compose the tampons. For instance, the relatively new (since 1974) use of plastic applicators could scrape the wall of the vagina or cervix, and carry bacteria into the bloodstream, potentially causing an infection.

To virtually eliminate the possibility of getting Toxic Shock Syndrome, women can stop using tampons. However, for women who would rather not stop, doctors are recommending that women alternate between tampons and sanitary napkins. Doctors also advise that women use tampons which contain cardboard applicators rather than plastic ones. Among brands of tampons used, Rely has been cited to be the most prevalent of brands among Toxic Shock Syndrome victims; however, any brand of tampons is potentially hazardous to the user.

Any woman developing symptoms characteristic of Toxic Shock Syndrome, or who has any questions, should consult a doctor immediately.



Inspired by recent events, Guilford College recently staged its own version of "Raise the Titanic." Friday, a security jeep was recovered from the College pond. No treasure was found. The organizers of the event, who are [unwittingly] paying for the spectacle, must have been glad Guilford does not use VWs for security vehicles, as the motif would have been changed to something more in the Chris Columbus vein. Despite rumors, and disappointingly, no one was seen in a neck brace as part of their Halloween guise.