

Prime Concern

What is *The Guilfordian*? Or more appropriately, what should *The Guilfordian* be? After a violent meeting with *The Guilfordian* staff last week, I pondered this question.

Is *The Guilfordian* a student newspaper, a community letter or an administrative potpourri board? I asked myself this as I reviewed the stack of community notes, remembered all the proposed weekly administrative announcement columns and recalled my own desire to write a few "muck-raking" stories. I believe a student paper should be all of these, but there should be appropriate ratios.

Community news can be read in the campus newsletter, as well as administrative announcements. But where can students make announcements? Where can students complain, praise and draw attention to subjects? In the newsletter - yes. But the newsletter does not report events that are unscheduled and unheard of occurrences.

I mean that I believe *The Guilfordian* should represent the happenings of the community. But we, as staff and as a mouthpiece of the student body, should represent the students first, then the community, then the administration.

As on all campuses, one individual student does not hold much clout. If he/she has a problem or complaint he/she wishes to voice against the administration he/she does so. And it ends there. He/she is successful in achieving his goal or else is turned away empty-handed. On the whole though, a student just doesn't stand a chance against the establishment in a confrontation.

Consider, however, that this one student is not the only student who has encountered this problem. Perhaps numerous students and possibly faculty have a grievance with an administrative office. Through investigative, factual reporting, this problem could be brought to the attention of the entire community. And these numerous grievances would be galvanized into a campus concern that would warrant a community supported investigation.

This is what I believe is the responsibility of *The Guilfordian*. This is the greatest service we can offer the student body, whether they will use it is up to them. We should and will continue to report administrative, community and student news, but our prime concern will be the Guilford College student.

By Don Kaplan



Letters, cont'd

If you think about how little effort it takes to put on a seatbelt, it seems ridiculous that anyone should not do it. But on short hurried trips we forget or are distracted and on longer ones it sometimes becomes uncomfortable. Maybe we should weigh the discomfort against death; it seems extreme but it could also be an outcome. As for not looking "cool" I'd rather be "uncool" than injured anytime.

Although I don't have the answer (unfortunately) to the seatbelt dilemma, tragedy always seems to at least for a while scare many people into the habit while the memories remain. If there were only some way to impress upon us all as drivers the essential need to wear seatbelts whether we're on an eight hour trip or on the way to the grocery store.

Sincerely,
Moira Taylor



To The Editor:

We would like to thank Guilford students for their support in the Community Senate elections last Thursday and Friday. Also, we would like to compliment Tom Hill and his ticket on their energetic campaign. The first item on our agenda will be "Service Saturday." On March 23 participating students will be rented in pairs to people in the community to raise money for the Student Loan Fund. Again, thank you. We are looking forward to a successful year!

Sincerely,
Jim Freeman
Nathan Bohn
Cliff Tatum
Renee Godard

Dear Editor,

While working at the info desk the other day I happened to pick up a publication I had previously known little about, much less read: *The Outlook*, published by the Admissions Office. In it was a recap of the fall break '84 sailing trip on the *Photon*, taken from the participants' journals. I was lucky enough to be one of those participants.

As I read the familiar account, a small lump formed in my throat. It reminded me of how valuable that experience was to all of us on board.

I'd like to use this opportunity to ask the Guilford community to take five minutes and read the article in *The Outlook*. Better yet: talk to someone who's been on the *Photon*. We all need to make ourselves more aware of the many different unique educational resources of college has to offer.

The *Photon* is an inexhaustible source of learning experiences wrapped up in a bundle of fun. It would be a shame to let it go untapped.

I must add that the success of all the trips on the *Photon* is due to a very large extent to the dedication, hard work, and love of sailing that Dan McGehee and Debra Dunn have invested over the years. They deserve warm thanks from all of us.

Without these two unique individuals the *Photon* would be just a boat like any other. They make it a home, a school, a "bundle of fun" on the water.

Now I ask you to ask yourself, "Can I afford to let an opportunity like this slip by me?" Read the aforementioned article or ask anyone who experienced a *Photon* adventure and have an easy answer!

Again, many thanks to Dan McGehee and Debra Dunn.

Clayton Tyson

Dear Editor:

The recent problems connected with the publication of *The Guilfordian* are nothing new. During the spring semester of 1948, William L. Kerr completed his terms as editor in mid-March. In his final editorial he reported: "And now we're in a jam. We have no editor. I'm sorry for the existing situation, but I don't think it will last too long."

Kerr was wrong. No one came forward to take on the editorship. Weeks went by. Finally, Mary Elizabeth "Pinkie" Fischelis, the managing editor, decided the situation was so "desperate," that she "took over the editorship." Her efforts to recruit help led her to discuss some of the problems she faced. In an editorial on May 7, 1948. She said:

Within the past few weeks an average of perhaps six people a day have approached me with the question, "When is the *Guilfordian* coming out?" I had no answer to that because it was obvious at the time that I would be unable to write the entire paper by myself. I don't know where people get their ideas of the process by which a paper is published, but they seem to be all wrong. Even I had no idea of the amount of work involved in the *Guilfordian*. Now that I do, however, it is plain that without proper cooperation the *Guilfordian* will die a natural death. If the people who seem concerned over the progress of the paper would show a little of the same interest in working on the paper, things might get done.

The Guilfordian didn't die because fortunately we have always had students like Mary Elizabeth Fischelis to carry on the tradition. The paper won journalism awards in 1941 and 1945. Perhaps it will again. Forty years is a long time between accolades.

Alex Stoesen
History Dept.



Dear Editor,

Some months ago, I walked into the American Institute Library at the University of Munich in Germany. It was in the building in which my classes were being held for the fall Semester in Munich program, and I deemed it a quiet place to study. I was right!

To me, this library proved to be a quiet oasis for study in the midst of the bustling downtown university. The students working there are serious about their work and they show it. They are also respectful of others and whatever work they are doing. I will not conjecture about where this respect comes from; I simply observed it.

I think that it would be great if our quiet room exuded this respect—it is a respect for the accomplishment of fellow students! Unfortunately, most nights the quietness is littered with whispered conversations. It's not that I resent people talking to each other, and it's not that I mind a whispered hello -- I do that myself every time I study there. It's the fact that we have extended conversations in a room designed for quiet study. I ask everyone to think about this the next time you are in the quiet room and feel like conversing. Why not step out in the hall?

Sincerely,
Todd Reitzel

Dear Editor,

Recently I heard about a car accident involving the death of one student and injury of three other students from my former high school. Although I was not close to any of these people, somehow, through friends and family members, they were abstractly connected to my life.

What I find myself always asking in any accident, is whether or not the passengers were wearing seatbelts. I have known too many survivors that have survived because they were belted, that this question has become important to me. Unfortunately, none of the students involved in this accident were wearing seatbelts.

Seatbelts have been shown to double one's chances of surviving a car crash but less than 15% of Americans buckle up for safety when they drive. That means that 80% of us, for various reasons and excuses, don't use a safety device that could save our lives. It would seem that common sense would tell us that seatbelts, which were designed to protect a driver, were not just added to cars for "inconvenience" or as an afterthought safety device. The possibility of an accident always exists because of dangerous roads, irresponsible drivers and carelessness, and we should "buckle-up" as automatically as we stop for a red light.