

Proposed visitation policy combines old values, new attitudes

Jason Underwood
Editor-in-Chief

Guilford College has come a long way over the years. We have built a beautiful new library and we are constructing a state-of-the-art telecommunications facility that will skyrocket Guilford into the future. Ironically, though, some of Guilford's existing policies are just downright archaic. The existing residence hall visitation policy is one of these dusty policies, one that has been put up on a shelf to age until someone realizes that its time for disposal has finally arrived.

The existing policy denies visitation between opposite sexes in residence halls from 1 a.m. to 9 a.m. This policy, though still enforced by the Guilford College Security, is often ignored by Guilford students (many of whom are forced to hide in the closet until the unsuspecting

security guard passes by).

The new visitation policy, initiated by the Policy and Governance Committee of the Student Residence Council and approved by the Community Senate, is an appropriate compromise between the old and the new. The halls will still be locked according to the existing schedule, but the residents will be permitted to have guests of the opposite sex at any hour. Just as importantly, the roommate of the resident with a visitor reserves the right to deny visitation to anyone he/she pleases. Hence, the proposal introduces the resident's right to entertain anyone who he/she pleases at any hour, while preserving the right to deny anyone entry to the room at any time.

Residence halls will also have the right to decrease the hours of visitation if a consensus is reached among the residents of each hall. Adding to the freedom of choice and insurance of privacy for the individual student, an optional visitation agreement between roommates may be

reached through consultation with the resident advisor. The result is that the residents are given both the right to liberty as well as the right to privacy.

Other schools have already recognized the obsolescence of stringent visitation regulations. Davidson College in Davidson, N.C., a school comparable to Guilford in size and academic purpose, has a 24-hour open visitation policy.

Some critics of the proposed policy contend that parents will not approve of the new 24-hour liberties granted to students. Although this is a valid concern since many parents pay for their chil-

dren's room and board, we must remember that the parents are not the ones who will have to live here. We must further assume that parents want their children to grow up at Guilford, to realize and live the freedoms of choice of adulthood.

Guilford College is a community of adults, not a summer camp teeming with little children. We should be respected as adults; we should be able to make our own decisions. Guilford simply does not need another anachronistic regulation telling us when we should and shouldn't visit with the other sex in our own dwelling.

Rebuilding the United States from the ground up

Brad Chance
Guest Writer

Our country now embraces a tax system that finances the platforms of big business as it ignores social needs. Although the Democratic Leadership Council declares a national need for over 3.5 million workers in the areas of education, health care, child care, environment, and criminal justice, the Bush administration refuses to pay social servants to work these jobs. Standing strong to Reagan's economic policy which is based upon writing tax breaks for big business, George Bush refuses to write government paychecks for social servant workers. Opting not to write these checks, George Bush ignores a brilliant work-fare proposal initiated by Leon Moskos — a sociologist at Northwestern University.

Championed by Georgia Senator Democrat Sam Nunn, the Moskos proposal offers a work-fare plan that would act as a strong starting block toward solving our social servant, environmental, low-cost housing, and educational needs. Moskos proposes that high school graduates receive a small salary (\$400 a month) and a grant toward either a down payment on a house, a college education, or trade school in return for working two years as a full-time, social servant.

Moskos' proposal: (1) provides full-time qualified social servants, as it (2) prepares high school graduates with pre-college/vocational work experience, and (3) grants these graduates with future opportunities.

High school graduates provide full-time,

consistent, well-trained, role models. Working daily as day care or health care counselors, high school graduates can provide children and the elderly with familiar faces they can trust. As high school graduates work for their country, they will collect work experience and discover their interests and talents. Such a discovery period provides an excellent, practical background for a college or vocational education. In fact, the common person needs this background before blindly committing him/herself to educational decisions which may outline lifetime commitments.

After serving two years of social work, the high school graduate will not only be qualified to choose their direction, s/he will also be granted one of the following three pathways to choose as a starting base: a down payment on a house, a college education, or trade school. A young adult, living in a country where s/he has the opportunity to earn a promising future, will develop greater concern for his/her life and his/her country. Needless to say, the Moskos proposal benefits our country, as it helps our nation's youth help themselves.

George Bush needs to discern the voodoo out of Reaganomics, and consider, as Moskos has, how we can rebuild a nation where the masses can work to advance themselves. We the people need to write our congress person and senator and stress our interest in work-fare and rebuilding America from the bottom up. It is "our country" not "the nation of big business" and "we the people" need ways to work to earn educational and housing opportunities! If there is no opportunity, freedom cannot ring!

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