

To the Guilford College Community:

As is clearly evident by now, members of the men's soccer team embarrassed the school and themselves early Monday morning. We realize the magnitude of damage we have caused this community and we are greatly ashamed.

As a team, we sincerely apologize to each individual member of the Guilford community and hope that we can eventually correct our grave error. The events that took place Monday morning are totally inexcusable. Each team member that was involved recognizes this and, as a team, we are willing to pay whatever restitution is needed. Although this will solve only a fraction of the problem, we would like to stress our dismay about the black mark we have left on our Guilford College community and hope that we are eventually able to regain your support and respect.

The Guilford College Men's Soccer Team



Soccer antics embarrassment to college community

Peter Smith
Special to *The Guilfordian*

Congratulations to the men's soccer team for defeating Greensboro College 3-2 last Monday. It's unfortunate, however, that various members of the team were caught later that evening vandalizing parts of the Greensboro College with paint and toilet paper. I'm quite sure students, faculty and various alums swelled with pride after reading the full account of the incident on the front page of the *Triad/State* section in the *Greensboro News and Record* Tuesday, Sept. 17, and on page two of the same section Wednesday, September 18. I did, and I must say these articles are must keepers for the entire Guilford community.

Never have I been more embarrassed as a Guilford student than after reading about the incident over Tuesday's coffee, and yet again on Wednesday morning. This latest incident smacks of grade school immaturity, if not stupidity. It's really neat that we, too, have our own version of a grade school rivalry, complete with kiddie-style vandalism and a really cool police chase and roundup. When should we expect a Greensboro College reprisal? This could be an annual thing, even similar to the Page vs. Grimsley local rivalry, although that is high school, not grade school. Could we meet the increased expectations? It's worth thinking about.

We should be proud of these kids. Indeed, the incident can only improve Guilford's image and reputation. Consider the possibilities. We could make yet another claim to diversity. After all, where else can you attend college classes and mingle with such dynamic and diverse mentalities capable of, according to the *News and Record*, spreading paint on Greensboro College sidewalks, wrapping toilet paper around soccer goals and painting "Guilford" throughout the Greensboro College campus, as well as an obscenity beside the college's chapel.

Time out! Maybe I am making a mistake. Could this be just a case of excessive school spirit, wild and crazy college pranks, or perhaps David Letterman-style humor? No. Let's try plain unsophisticated stupidity for starters, work our way up to embarrassing, childish destruction and consider finishing our analysis by asking the question — Why?

This incident clearly marks an all-time low for Guilford during my four years as a Guilford student. The very fact that such behavior is reported in the media, including, by the way, the Associated Press, is a testimony to just how

outrageously unbelievable the soccer teams' actions are perceived. Indeed, most newspapers would refuse to print such uneventful news; however, when college students, who are preparing to assume responsible positions in society, willfully deface and vandalize another institution, it becomes news. Shocking news. I hope that each and every member of our tolerant community makes a special effort to congratulate these louts, who, on one uneventful night vandalized not only Greensboro College, but Guilford's reputation for years to come. Geez, these kids need help, albeit not from Guilford, please.

But I'm confused nonetheless. Honestly, I am not sure which was worse — our sophomoric soccer studs' stupid antics or our athletic director's lame comments to the outside press. Both were equally embarrassing. Our enlightened AD Phil Roach told reporter Meredith Barkley on Monday that Guilford was going to use this incident as "an opportunity for a teaching situation" (emphasis mine). Great Phil, but don't you think that if these kids don't already know that their actions were flagrantly irresponsible and immature that Guilford would have an extremely difficult time justifying their enrollment in the institution from the start? Maybe we could incorporate such a "teaching situation" into an IDS format for next year or make it a prerequisite for graduation. I think it's really noble of Guilford to think along these lines, expending the time and compassion for such education.

Ditto for Roach's "it's a pretty intense rivalry" comment and his indecisiveness over whether to suspend the eight from the team. How could suspension from the team even be a question? Let's try suspension from school as a beginning. I don't know many grade schools, let alone colleges who would consider anything less. And why should Guilford even consider, as reported in Wednesday's article, the idea of eliminating soccer as a sport at Guilford when it's not the idea of a soccer team that is so humiliating, but rather certain soccer players unable to unshackle themselves from the chains of youthful immaturity? Should future potential soccer players pay the heavy price of prohibition because of the actions of a few incompetents in 1991? I'm particularly impressed with the logic involved in placing the team on probation for one year and determining the entire future of the program based on the ability of this year's team to behave itself, the same team which will continue to be manned by the eight players who caused all the trouble from the start. It is too bad that this most recent incident, which,

according to the *News and Record* has given Phil and the athletic committee "heavy hearts," has only provided me with nothing but a sick stomach.

Look, I know college students are not perfect and make mistakes. But where does the line get drawn? Is it too much to ask that Guilford expect a minimal baseline rationality and maturity from its students or to employ an AD sensible enough to perform adequate damage control and suggest intelligent and firm solutions when his school is so humiliatingly embarrassed in the public eye? Why are we so afraid of high standards? Worse yet, why are we so quick to compromise basic standards? Surely Guilford is not this desperate for students to fill its residence halls and classrooms. Furthermore, can we not expect our administration, despite all the Quaker rhetoric, to exhibit a slightly more intolerant attitude toward such behavior? Phil Roach's comments to the press were about as wishy-washy as a Maytag. So how about it, Guilford? Do we know when to say enough is enough?

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