

## Smokers need alternatives in campus-wide smoking policy

Katherine Beldner  
Staff Writer

Discussions on whether or not smoking should be prohibited in the cafeteria and the Underground have lighted fires on both sides. It has been proposed that there should be no smoking in any buildings by administration, staff and students.

Nonsmoker's reasons for desiring no-smoking areas while they dine are respected. However, smoking has already been permitted and to remove the privilege now without solutions would only create tension.

As of now, the only two designated indoor smoking areas for students are in the cafeteria and the Underground. In no other building can a cigarette be smoked. The areas approved for smoking are already limited in space and seating.

The Underground is used as a study place for day students and main campus students. It is the only area where students can meet to do work and to smoke other than in residence hall rooms. To deny smoking in this area restricts day students who do not have access to the cafeteria.

Dining in the cafeteria is a social time for smokers and non-smokers. To restrict smoking

would mean students would have to go outside in all weather conditions to smoke. There would be no way to take dishes outside or to return to the cafeteria for more food. Thus, a certain group of students would be singled out for something they do.

There are some compromises that have been proposed. The first suggestion is to install ventilation devices in the smoking section of the cafeteria. It is not possible to install vents because there are other priority repairs and improvements that need to be made on campus. The \$26 million necessary

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## What recycling bins?

Robert Vidrine  
Guest Writer

Suppose you are visiting a friend in English Hall, and after a refreshing Coke from the downstairs vending machine, you feel that you should do the responsible thing — recycle the aluminum can. You would then have to walk, aluminum can in hand, 500 yards to get to the nearest recycling bin in Milner parking lot.

Now that the City of Greensboro has instituted city-wide recycling, the college has absolved itself of any responsibility for recycling, taking away all the convenient containers for aluminum cans. There are now only three large dumpsters for recycling, provided by the city.

They are in the parking lot behind the apartments, in the Milner gravel parking lot, and between Mary Hobbs and Binford.

No easily accessible containers are provided for Bryan, Shore, or English, although they are all outfitted with drink-vending machines.

With 2,200 aluminum drink cans delivered to campus each week — more than 28,000 per semester — some students are saying that the administration should do more to help students recycle them.

One visiting professor said that, compared with some other campuses, Guilford has few places to throw your can other than the trash.

When I checked the trash can in the upstairs lounge of Bauman at 1:10 PM, I found seven cans among the other sparse trash.

There are scores of such trash cans around campus.

Recycling bins on most campuses are placed in convenient lo-

cations along major traffic areas, not behind student housing buildings, the main location for the large dumpsters used for recycling now.

Alison Powell, a sophomore, and a resident of Bryan Hall, had never noticed where the recycling bin was for her dormitory, nor had anyone told her where to throw her recycling bag.

The school had given her and her suite-mates a green recycling bag to hold their recyclables, but the school had not told them where to take the recyclables.

(She nevertheless assured me that they did save their recyclables, and were rapidly filling the bag.)

Another student, Mary Theus, a sophomore, said about the Greensboro recycling program, "The [recycling program] in town is off to a good start, but the one on campus sucks."

About the lack of localized containers for aluminum cans she says, "It's not really easy access. I don't think people are going to go all the way out there [to the recycling dumpsters]."

The administration has constantly put the responsibility for recycling on the shoulders of someone else, whether it is the city of Greensboro or the students themselves.

However, according to Amy Bloom, a senior at Guilford College, and a former co-chair of the Environmental Concerns Committee of the Student Senate, as well as a former member of Forevergreen, she "just got tired of dealing with the administration and the apathetic students."

It seems obvious that something must be done about this problem. It just remains for someone to accept the responsibility for actually doing it.

## LETTERS

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### CONCERNED ABOUT VOTER APATHY

To the Editor,

Like many Guilford students, I had a wonderful time following the political circus that was going on during the recent Senate elections. I followed this race closely as the outcome determined major changes in the years to come, and, as the political hopefuls kept pointing out, the fate of a quarter of a million dollars of our money. I think it's understandable, then, when I say that I was very surprised at the outcome of the election. I'm not referring to the outcome of the election, but that only 54 percent of the students cast votes!

One of the main reasons I decided to attend Guilford is because it had the reputation of being a politically active school that didn't simply teach people to survive in the world, but to change it. When I began attending Guilford there were many students who held true to this ideal, protesting and raising a fuss at what some would say were trivial issues, but at least they cared. As time has passed, I've watched many of these agitators graduate and have come to feel a sense of general apathy descend on Guilford. I thought this was the exception and not the rule until I saw how pitiful the voter turnout

was. If only a little more than half of the students here cared enough to vote in an election that determined their immediate future, what are the chances that these people care about a general election, or a worthy cause that entails more than just filling out a ballot.

The student handbook states that "each student is urged to become a full participant in this [Guilford] community." I would say that more encouragement is needed, but there is a point where people must take responsibility for their own lives. There is a breed of person that makes things happen rather than simply allowing things to happen to them. When I started college I hoped I would find people who interacted with their environment rather than dully accepting events as they happened, and I did. But now I look around, and I see this already rare type of person rapidly disappearing from Guilford, and with them goes the real spirit of Guilford. I'm not just scolding those students of Guilford to examine themselves to discover what is important to them, and instead of simply acknowledging it, act on it.

Alex Millkey

ting into at the beginning of the year, and have accepted the responsibility. We enjoy our jobs working for WQFS. But we are getting nothing for our efforts besides the satisfaction of a job well done, and sometimes not even that. This needs to change; some sort of recognition, maybe not a stipend, but credits or at least a note on our transcripts. We have considered the possibility of independent studies, but the lack of an on-site supervisor and academic advisor has prevented us. Because, though the positive aspects of our jobs outweigh the negative, there are still some times when there should be something else.

Guilford College offers student leaders nothing in return for their efforts. Though the budget may be tight there are other options besides payment. Something needs to be done to correct this situation before student leaders become a vanishing species.

Sincerely,  
Becky Browning  
WQFS General Manager

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