

The FORUM

editorial board

Keir Bickerstaffe
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statement of purpose

The Forum exists to facilitate dialogue and expression on matters of importance to Guilford College and its mission. Toward this end, active community participation in these pages is vital.

editorial policy

Every effort will be made to print appropriate submissions of editorials, cartoons and letters to the editor. They must be signed, with the phone number of the author or artist included. Editorials must be no longer than 400 words and letters to the editor must be no more than 250 words. The Guilfordian reserves the right to edit submissions for grammatical correctness and brevity.

Netanyahu must compromise

Watching children playing in a sandbox, one might be reminded of the Middle East peace process.

Picture it: these kids built their little sand-structures while laughing, talking, and generally got along well, until the circumference of their labors grew so great they risked colliding.

Then the fighting started. Sand flew everywhere, and in the end all that was left were two children crying over one shapeless lump of sand.

Of course, comparing the centuries-old Arab-Jewish conflict to a squabble between playground kids is a tired cliché, but only because it's so fitting. Especially now.

Just when the peace process made true progress and the prospect of war retreated from the Golan Heights' horizon, Rabin fell victim to an idiot's bullet (in this case, using the term assassin would be too dignifying). Compounding idiocy, the Israelis then decided to elect as president one of the most reactionary and hostile politicians running,

BeBe Netanyahu, a man who actually had the gall to insult Rabin's policies after he was dead.

Disregarding Netanyahu's callous lack of social grace, his political stance begs criticism. Essentially, the new president desires a complete revision of the peace process, starting over from step one.

He gained the support of many Orthodox Jews by campaigning against talks with the PLO, advising against cooperation with Syria and Jordan, and refusing to make any territorial concessions which would lead towards a Palestinian state. After being inaugurated, Netanyahu went on record stating he would refuse to shake the hand of Yassir Arafat, leader of the PLO, when they were scheduled to meet at the White House.

Clearly this man has no understanding of history.

History shows in similar circum-

stances that such conservative opinions only antagonize an already volatile situation and increase the amount of guerrilla warfare, and if unchecked lead to war (the Anglo-Irish conflict may be cited as just one example).

As of now, suicide bombings by Hamas have escalated and a tense Israel lies dangerously close to exploding into mayhem.

This situation is both absurd and unnecessary. Syria will never rest until it regains the Golan Heights which Israel captured during war, and Palestinians will not regard Israel as sympathetic until the government asks Jewish settlers within the West Bank district to leave.

Likewise, Palestinians must understand that an independent Palestinian state is only feasible years after these goals have been accomplished. Until then, there will never be peace in the Middle East.

A shame, really, with so much sand lying around.

Injustice in the system

CHRISTOPHER KEISER
guest writer

Kwame Cannon is a 27-year-old African-American man from Greensboro who is serving two consecutive life sentences in prison for six nonviolent burglaries he committed at age 16. Although he stole less than \$500 worth of goods, never carried a weapon, and injured no one, he has received an incredibly stiff sentence. Several white men, convicted of similar crimes in the same neighborhood as Kwame's, received sentences under five years. During the ten years that Kwame has been moved from prison to prison he has seen three convicted murderers come into prison, serve their time, and be released.

I asked myself why Kwame is still in prison today. Then I learned that one year prior to his sentencing, his mother played a major role in a successful \$300,000 lawsuit in which the

Greensboro police, Ku Klux Klan, and Nazis were found liable in the wrongful deaths of five protesters. Mrs. Cannon, a social activist on issues pertaining to poor people and African-Americans, was well-known to police and judicial officials in Greensboro.

Is it unreasonable to think that

"We are confident in the victory of good over evil."

— Bob Marley

Greensboro's judicial system would avenge the police department's guilt by locking away Mrs. Cannon's son for two life sentences?

Last week I went to visit Kwame in

prison. He is a strong spirit with a vision of working with the youth. He currently works with inmates and looks forward to the day when he can re-enter society and give to the Greensboro community.

Kwame, from when he was sentenced, has taken full responsibility for the acts he committed as a teenager. I believe that he has served enough time in prison. Myra Ann Dean, one of Kwame's burglary victims has petitioned Governor Hunt for his release. Church clergy, businessmen and women, state representatives, and citizens around North Carolina believe Kwame should be free. What do you think?

Please come share your opinions or questions concerning Kwame on Tuesday, November 19 at 8:00 p.m. in Boren Lounge where Marshe Clarke, founder of the Minority Prison Diversion Project, will share more astounding facts of this case.

College isn't just academic anymore

KEIR BICKERSTAFFE
editor-in-chief

I became the Guilfordian's Editorials Editor on my third day on the Guilford campus.

Before my classes had begun, I heid a position (that I was to discover) took about 20 hours of my time per week.

I know I'm not alone. This uncontrollable ascendance into leadership roles is something quite unique to Guilford.

It is what I love, and hate, most about this school.

Certainly I, like many others, could not have had the experience I've had here at most other colleges. It is something I truly cherish.

But the nature of student involvement at this school can be downright scary. What starts as a mild-mannered position soon mutates into some-

thing uncontrollable—and the freedom that Guilford allows its students to do whatever they can for the school is soon "feeding the extracurricular beast."

To quote Allen Ginsberg, I am seeing some of the greatest minds in my generation destroyed by it.

There comes a time when these activities demand more than can be adequately defined as "volunteerism." I know many students, including myself, who must sacrifice schoolwork in order to fulfill the needs of their extracurricular activity of choice.

Cory Birdwhistell's editorial last week touched on a few plans with which the Curriculum Subcommittee has been toying. I'd like to suggest another.

I think it is a shame that growth outside

the classroom rarely gets recognized by the registrar's office, particularly in ways that meld with a student's academic track. Admittedly, this is a sticky situation. Internships are good, but often provide credit in unneeded areas.

Cory mentioned the idea of adding a required "service" component to the core curriculum. I'd like to see this expanded to the oft-ignored work students do in organizations on campus.

This would provide a good way for students to fulfill a core requirement, while helping to strengthen any of the 50-plus student organizations Guilford maintains.

This is the perfect opportunity to make this change. If left untouched, we run the real risk of leaving club attendance, and the mental health of student leaders, to disintegrate.