

Forum

Bookstore: campus central, part 2

By Elizabeth Baltaro
GUEST WRITER

Editors Note: This is the second half of Ms. Baltaro's essay, "How My College Bookstore Contributes to Our Campus Community." The essay was selected as the winner of the Fourth Rainey Bookstore Scholarship Essay Contest.

The college bookstore is also a part of the college's influence on people beyond the staff and students. The bookstore is one of the few place on campus where most prospective students and their relatives go when they come to visit my college. The staff can recognize prospective students and offer assistance that extends beyond the help given at most stores. Maintenance workers stop at the bookstore to drop off a package or purchase a drink, and update anyone willing to listen

about how their mother's operation went last week or whatever else is new in their lives. Students visit the bookstore with their parents, and say, "Mom and Dad, I want you to meet the managers of my college store." The friendliness of bookstore employees and management, and the diverse people on campus who shop at the store embody the wonderful sense of community that is found on our campus.

Every time I work at the college bookstore, I both wit-

ness, and personally experience, the positive influence that the bookstore has on each of the many different people on campus. I encounter my own professors in the bookstore, and talk with them about topics other than class work. I also see many other students having conversations with their professors, even asking advice on what to read or buy. One faculty member brought her new baby to

meet everyone at the bookstore. When I sort through the store's mail, I occasionally find postcards or letters from alumni, updating the managers on what is happening in their lives. My college bookstore is much more than a place where books and supplies can be purchased. People come to our bookstore to get advice, to share their lives with people they know will listen, to get a hug, to receive a smile, to meet a friend, and to make connections with other people on campus. Our bookstore is the living center of our campus. It is now almost a year since the initial protest at the trustee's meeting last spring. The decision has been made to outsource the bookstore. I am afraid that putting our small bookstore in corporate hands may make it more difficult to keep the store a "friendly" place. However, I have learned that what characterizes any college's bookstore does not come from size, quantity, or fancy equipment. The people who work for, shop at, and most importantly, manage our bookstore are the power behind each store's positive contribution to its community. Watching how my managers operate our store has taught me that I can be a part of my bookstore's contribution by working hard, being optimistic, and portraying the helpful attitude that I observe in other bookstore employees. Working at the college bookstore has given me confidence that everyone's role in a business, no matter how big or small, influences the store's overall contribution.

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THE GUILFORDIAN
STAFF MEETINGS ARE MONDAYS AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE PASSION PIT. ALL ARE WELCOME.

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 and turned in to the box outside the publications suite by 3:00 on Monday before that Friday's publication date. 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.

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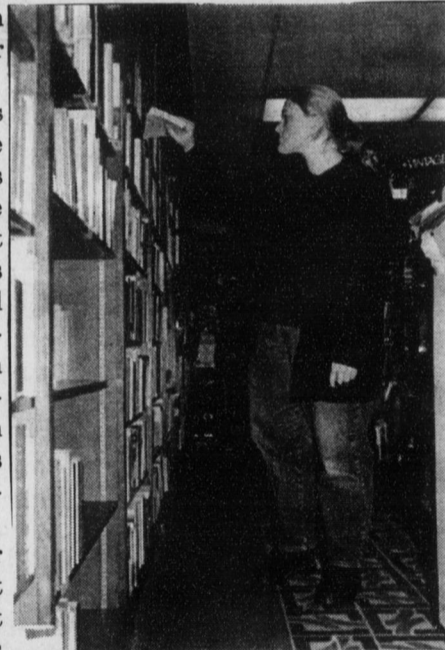
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AARON THOMPSON

Student Voice

Random responses

THIS WEEK'S SUGGESTED TOPIC:

THOUGHTS ON PATRICIA IRELAND (N.O.W. PRESIDENT)?

"One time when I was younger I fell out of this tree I was climbing and my mom didn't even put medicine on it and it got infected. I've been in therapy ever since."

Call The Guilfordian at 316-2306 and speak your mind. We'll print a sampling of your messages. NO explicit language please! We will print messages verbatim, so if you look stupid, it's all you.