

Forum

Crack heads, drunks, and chads...oh my!

Mark Merkel
STAFF WRITER

And I thought that hanging, dimpled, and pregnant "chad's" were bad enough. So if Florida wasn't the laughing-stock of the nation already, let's throw some salt in that wound. Not only does the state have trouble counting, but it also has crack-heads on the police beat and a drunk kid suing them for his own bad decisions.

Sixteen-year-old Richard L. Garcia filed suit against the Bradenton police department of Bradenton, Florida for not arresting him for drunk driving.

The cops apprehended the teenager as he attempted to sneak into his girlfriend's house at 1:20 a.m., on February 9, 1999. Officer Robert Semler told the teen to go home. Semler made no note in

his report of Garcia being drunk, but Garcia's lawyer, Wade Thompson, claims that there were obvious signs.

According to Thompson, Garcia was stumbling and his car had numerous empty beer cans in it. The officers allegedly walked Garcia to the car and let him go. Garcia's BAC (blood alcohol content) was twice the limit for adults and almost 10 times the limit for juveniles.

Garcia got into his car, started driving, missed a curve, and slammed into a tree, bursting his aorta. He now has a plastic aorta and medical bills close to \$100,000.

To make this interesting, officer Semler 'later' resigned from the force after admitting to a crack-cocaine problem.

I understand how serious a trial this is because one person has lost their job, and another will have to live with a

disability for the rest of his life- but this is absurd. Weren't there any drug tests for the police of Bradenton? Can we hold the state responsible for this accident if it was the kid's choice to get wasted and put his life in danger?

Through all of this I can't help but wonder why some-

body hasn't asked Garcia who bought him the beer. Legally that person could be the responsible party because she or he supplied the alcohol to the minor in the first place, therefore contributing to the delinquency of minors.

All I can say is, God save the soul of Florida.

Give me a break!

Jessie Melamed
STAFF WRITER

Time has been flying Thanksgiving wasn't even here, and stores had been transformed into a Christmas setting.

It's just the first of December, and the world weeks ago brought out the holiday decorations and totally skipped over Thanksgiving.

As I sat watching TV prior to Thanksgiving, the only commercials that came on were for Christmas. In a time span of 3 hours, there were 11 ads for Christmas and only one for Harris Teeter turkeys. Thanksgiving was just a little bump in the road, yet society jumps over Thanksgiving and focuses on Christmas.

I was in Teeter before break, and the Thanksgiving decorations were almost invisible, while the Christmas ones were on the way up. For starters, the aisles were set up with candy canes and Hershey kisses with red and green wrappers, and the only visible thanksgiving items were a few balloons floating in the air.

In conclusion, I would just like to point out that the world that we live in is difficult for people to live in and not get stressed about when society jumps ahead to a further holiday and skips over what's going on in the present. To quote a Hallmark card, "Yesterday is History. Tomorrow is a Mystery. Today is a gift, that is why it is called the Present!"

THE GUILFORDIAN

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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 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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Even Director of Security Sylvia Chilcott feels the strains and pressures of the Yuletide season.

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