

Sticking Up for Senate: A Steering Committee Member Responds to Last Week's Editorial

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Guest Writer

This letter is in response to last week's editorial. First, let's be clear that I'm not writing this as a spokesperson for Steering Committee, but as an individual person who happens to be on the committee, expressing an individual opinion.

Now that I've dispensed with the formalities, my response to your article is simply: get real.

I'm the current Student Residence Council Chairperson of Senate – a member of Steering Committee. I filled that same position last year. Addition-

ally, I served as the Academic Affairs Chairperson to Steering Committee in the spring of 2001. I've served in Senate for three years under three different administrations. To say the least, I have Senate experience.

In that experience, I have found that no matter what an administration does, they will be criticized.

I get the sneaking suspicion that if Steering had decided to pursue a futile election, the editorial would have accused us of being ludicrous and wasting students' time and/or money, not to mention paper, faculty time, space in Founders, and so on.

So, either way, we lose. I'm not saying *The Guilfordian* should blindly agree with everything Senate or Steering does (although it would be nice to see some positive press for once). It is, of course, vital to hear some opposition. That is why all Senate meetings are open to all students – to gain input.

However, I do not consider the editorial criticism – there was no real attempt to resolve an issue or point out possible areas which need improvement – but rather a lot of bitching.

Why do I say that? Well, it is extremely hard for me, or for anyone else who cares to employ that elusive tool known as common sense, to see why, if *all* the Senate positions are uncontested, we would have an election.

If a student didn't care enough to take the time to *apply* for a position, why on earth would that student care enough to organize some massive write-in campaign?

You could respond that maybe they didn't know about the procedure. Well, there were voice announcements, Guilford Announce messages, and all kinds of other notifications – the self same methods we were accused of not using to inform the student body about the election cancellation – to inform students of open-houses and the election procedure.

In a sense, the editorial was implying that the only time we *didn't* send out the information was the one time the entire campus would refrain from 7-7ing the message right out of existence.

Three administrations of Senate have tried to reach out to this campus with little avail. The difference I see is that this year, the administration is trying desperately to find new and differ-

ent ways of reaching students. If any of you can come up with a way, please come out to a meeting and be heard. We're desperately seeking your input, not trying to deny you any, as the paper implied. But if you don't take advantage of the regular meetings and open forums, we can hardly be faulted for your feelings of voicelessness.

Finally, as stated in the editorial, Steering has agreed that if any of the positions become contested we will have elections for those positions. If that situation arises, we will be sure to inform the student body. Should it occur, I personally will take it upon myself to call *The Guilfordian*, although it seems *The Guilfordian* as a "news gathering agency" should be the one calling Steering, although to my knowledge it hasn't yet (I certainly have not been contacted this year), which is not a failure on Steering's part, but rather on the part of *The Guilfordian*.

In closing, I personally will not waste my time or my fellow senators' time running an election in which ballots read: "You may elect John Doe or John Doe for Binford Hall Rep."

Steering and Senate can better spend their time planning campus events, seeing that the residence halls are maintained, dealing with judicial and policy issues and, in short, doing our jobs, than running a ludicrous election.

I will end this letter the way I have ended every letter of this nature for the past three years. I still will not give up hope that maybe this time something will come of it. Senate meetings are open to all students. You don't have to hold an office to attend, everyone is welcome. We meet Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Boren Lounge. I hope to see you there.

Melissa Starr is a member of the Senate Steering Committee

Here are the ten most played albums for the week of Sept. 2 through Sept. 8 on Guilford's own

WQFS

90.9 FM

- 1 DISBAND/KUDZU WISH *At The Scene Of The Accident*
- 2 SONIC YOUTH *Murray Street*
- 3 FLAMING LIPS *Yoshimi Battles The Pink Robots*
- 4 DJ SHADOW *Private Press*
- 5 Q AND NOT U *Different Damage*
- 6 ATOM AND HIS PACKAGE *Hamburgers EP*
- 7 JAZZANOVA *In Between*
- 8 JOHNNY CASH *At Madison Square Garden*
- 9 WIRE *Read And Burn*
- 10 STEVE EARLE *Sidetracks*

Have a say in what WQFS plays!
 request line: x2444
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