

## Taking food from the caf

### Staff Editorial

A day in the life of a Guilford student can be pretty packed. It's hard running from one class to another, and there's little time for good nutrition with a hectic schedule of classes and meetings, and perhaps a few labs and team practices. If you're really unlucky you just might have a schedule that gives you no time for lunch.

Your only hope is to run into the caf, grab a quick bite to eat and flee. With a sandwich in one hand and a drink in the other you attempt to make your escape, only to be stopped at the door.

"No food outside the caf!"

The caf decree against removing food might seem sadistic and cruel to those poor students who are desperate for a brief meal. The problem is not the rule, but the no-tolerance enforcement of the rule.

This isn't to say the caf doesn't have valid reasons for wanting stuff from the caf to remain in the caf.

Consider the surface problems the caf deals with:

First, it "mysteriously" loses a lot of flatware (and we all know people with a caf spoon or plate. They all swear they'll take it back but they don't.). The no removal rule is a possible method of curbing such losses: if the food's not leaving, the utensils shouldn't be leaving, either.

The caf also has to deal with hoarders. In the past, for example, there have been times when there has been nary a bagel to be found. Why?

Not because everyone in the caf was carb-loading that day, but because someone came

in and filled their backpack with bagels in anticipation of those late-night munchies. At times like these, the caf has to look out for the good of the whole, not for those who want their own snack-pile.

There's a simple solution to these problems: no food can be removed from the cafeteria. The only exceptions to the rule are for ice-cream cones and fruit.

Though the reasons previously mentioned make a good case for no-tolerance enforcement of the rule, the primary reason for doing so was told to us by a staff worker in the caf.

Supposedly, if J. Q. Student takes a baloney sandwich to his room, puts this sandwich on the radiator for a month then in a hunger fit eats it only to find the meat has become a rancid mass of stomach viruses, this student's health becomes the caf's legal responsibility.

So the real problem is abuse of the previous policy that let us take food out of the caf. If we as students didn't abuse the benefits of the caf (by hoarding food and pilfering flatware), then perhaps the caf wouldn't need to take such precautions.

The caf, for its part, should address students' needs, and acknowledge that we don't always have time to sit and have a lengthy meal, even if it would be better for our digestion. A student heading to a class with a sandwich in hand is not an evil. A student leaving with a handful of bagels is clearly a nuisance. This is a give-and-take situation: the caf needs to trust the student body and the student body has to give the caf a reason to trust us.

Then, maybe we can work on getting the caf's hours changed.☺

## Ghana Study Abroad 2004 Presentation:

The students who studied abroad at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana will talk about their experiences. All who are interested in the program and/or hearing about their experiences in Ghana are invited to attend.

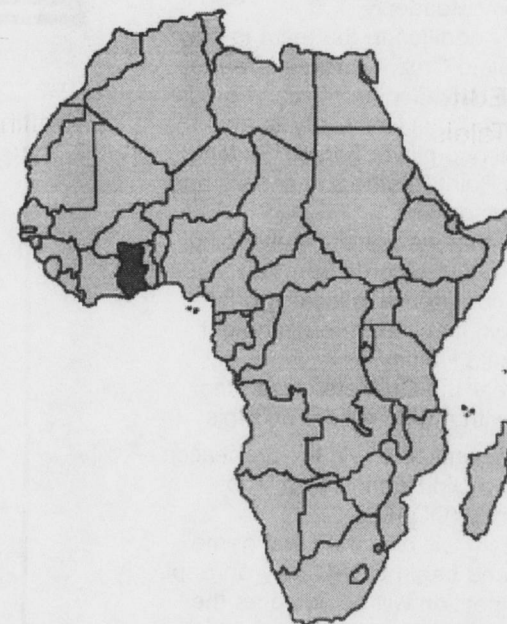
When: Thursday, September 9

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Dana Lounge, Founders Hall

## Ghana Program Applications for Spring 2005:

Applications are now being accepted for the Ghana Study Abroad Program for Spring 2005. Application deadline is Friday, Sept. 17. Application materials (and information) can be obtained from the Study Abroad Office in Worth House (beside Dana Auditorium) or from Deena Burris, Program Coordinator (King 207-B2, ext. 2221).



## Pre-law Interest Meeting

Monday, September 6, 3:30 p.m.

Duke 101



Questions?

Contact Prof. Lisa McLeod at x2461.