

Smoking policy incomplete

Emily Place

Staff Writer

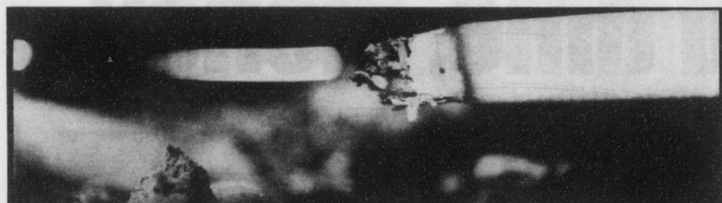
With an abundance of smokers here at Guilford, including 14.7% of incoming students, it would make sense for us smokers to have many places to congregate, indoors and out. After a student survey given last spring, the campus smoking policy changed to exclude all indoor smoking (aside from Bryan hall and the apartments) as well as smoking on the interior of campus. The survey showed a majority of students, staff, and faculty members favored a complete ban on smoking in Founders hall, which had a smoking area in The Underground last year. The survey did not mention any outdoor areas becoming off-limits.

Outlined in the survey, the new smoking policy should have provided us with a designated smoking area somewhere on campus when school started in Fall 2004. It was not stated whether this new spot will be indoors or out, but the point is, we haven't seen it yet.

Being a first-year transfer student, I was surprised to learn that this policy was changed because of the results of a simple survey. Isn't Guilford about

consensus: deciding as a whole and everyone having a say? The survey did not have any input from this year's incoming students, nor from all of the students attending last spring. How could it have gone through without the traditional consensus process that defines decision-making at Guilford? When a decision affecting such a huge number of people is being made, extra precautions need to be taken. With such a subject as smoking, I believe that smaller groups should decide on an individual basis. If the smokers of Mary Hobbs hall want to smoke on their great big porch, let them get together and decide for themselves what works for everyone. If I want to smoke on the Binford stoop, the people in direct contact with that stoop are the ones with whom I want to collaborate and come up with an agreement.

The new smoking policy and the way that Campus Life went about changing it are unlike most things Guilford. At the very least, a new designated lounge area for smoking should be selected to complete the process of the policy change. We smokers are now in a position of responsibility, where we must do something or nothing will get done. ☼



Letter to the Editor

As a non-smoker concerned about student rights, I'd like to pose some questions to the makers of the new smoking policy. I want to know what possible gain there is in pissing off a large portion of the student body.

Shouldn't the focus be on more important things? I am all about smoke-free dorms, but trying to regulate the outdoors seems a bit ... well, arrogant. Will the looks of campus be that much improved by angry huddles of smokers at every back door?

I find it interesting that the entrances that face the "interior of campus" are the only ones with porches. Things are bad enough without the Underground serving as an indoor smoking area, but we're not even giving them a roof to keep off the rain. It may seem fine in

late August, but what happens in November when the first ice storm hits? I won't say smoking isn't bad for you, but I'd rather not see my peers filling their lungs with poison AND standing out in the freezing cold. Do you expect people to quit smoking because the administration is doing everything possible to make it inconvenient? What do you think will happen when there are barely any ashtrays on campus? Are students really going to walk around to the backdoor of King to put out their butts before class?

It's time we reach a better compromise here. What was wrong with the arrangement last year? And what the hell is this survey that no one I've talked to remembers taking? ☼

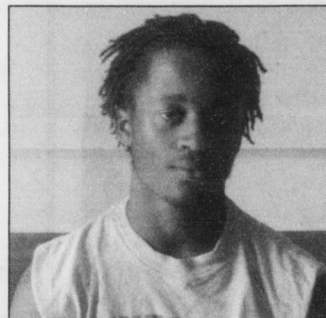
Mary Van Dyke
Senior

SOUND OFF

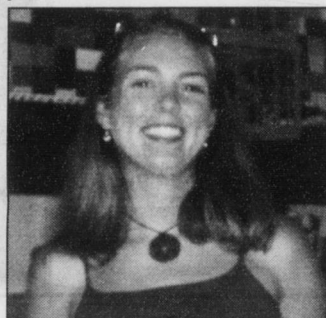
Sarah Hicks

Staff Writer

The Guilfordian asked students if they feel that campus is overcrowded. Their responses:



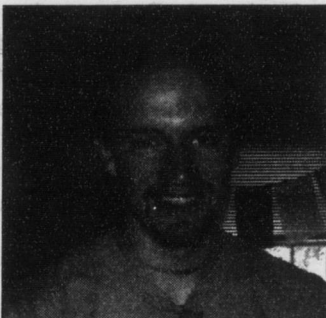
Emanuel Sargeant: "If I've got a room, frankly I don't care."



Judy Scoville: "Well, although I've only been on campus for one week, my first impression is that, overall, the campus is still aesthetically pleasing, but classes fill up very quickly."

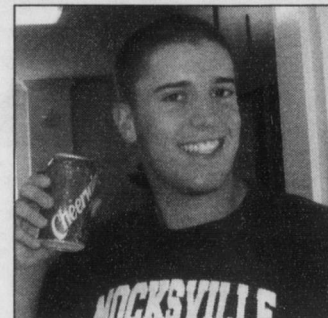


Kaitlyn Moore: "I can't really answer that because I'm a first-year. I have nothing to compare it to."



Will Johnson: "At peak hours, the cafeteria is a bit full, but overall I don't feel like there is a big problem."

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Andrew McClannon: "My high school was bigger so it really doesn't matter to me."



Amanda Szabo: "I think it sucks because I came to this campus for something different. I'm sure I'll get used to it, but it's been a disappointment. The people here seem more upper-class white than the hippie Guilford people I remember when I visited. And I can't get into the classes that I want, but I can get over that."



Michael Zielinski: "I think it's a sign of bad judgment by the administration and it just seems like they're more interested in getting more money than making sure the school works well."



Amy Phillips: "It does not bother me because I've never experienced Guilford any other way."