

## Campus Life offers little help with vague charges

By Landry Haarmann  
STAFF WRITER

Over break I received an email from Campus Life about an upcoming mandatory judicial hearing. My infraction: Failure to Comply.

For further questions about my "Failure to Comply," the e-mail suggested I go to the online handbook. I did. Apparently Failure to Comply has something to do with the guidelines and requests set out by Campus Life while performing their jobs; the answer was completely useless.

Unsure of what I had done and frustrated by the utter lack of clarification, I decided to email the person who sent the letter and ask for a meatier charge than Failure to Comply. If I was going to face judicial charges, I at least deserved something more concrete than "failure to comply."

It was nearly a week before I got a reply, and even then I was not told what the charges were.

I was later told that I could have always just emailed the person presiding over my hearing. However, the e-mail in no way stated or suggested that as an appropriate course of action. Rather than giving students an e-mail address where they can send their concerns or ask someone knowledgeable a question, Campus Life gives a link to a page titled "Judicial Affairs at Guilford College," a page of generic questions and answers about the Guilford's judicial policies.

"We sent out 191 e-mails for Health and Safety charges. The same e-mail is sent to every person. It's not feasible," said Administrative Coordinator of Campus Life Tanisha Sutton of possibly contacting a person with concerns or questions. "We're not trying to be sneaky."

The whole affair, e-mailing students with a vague charge, leaving links instead of an e-mail address or phone number of a real person, while it might not be sneaky, it is extremely informal, impersonal and detached. Formality is achievable without coming across as disengaged, especially at a small school that claims to value community. It's imperative for Campus Life to reevaluate one of the first steps of the judicial process, how they inform students of a charge.

The administration is here to help us along during our college tenure, and while that does mean keeping us safe, it also means not leaving the student body in the dark with vague charges and a more unclear online handbook.

The most obvious way to go about this is to supplement the link to judicial Q with an e-mail address of someone at campus life. Keep it formal, but put a person at the other end of the e-mail to give guidance, answer questions, and soothe the concerns of high-strung students charged for the first time.

## Staff Editorial

# One year after the Bryan Incident

Jan. 20 marked the one-year anniversary of the violent fight between Guilford students that came to be known as the "Bryan Incident." Those of us who were here to experience it remember the shock that swept the community and the outpouring of emotions—fear, anger, sorrow, frustration—that followed the fight.

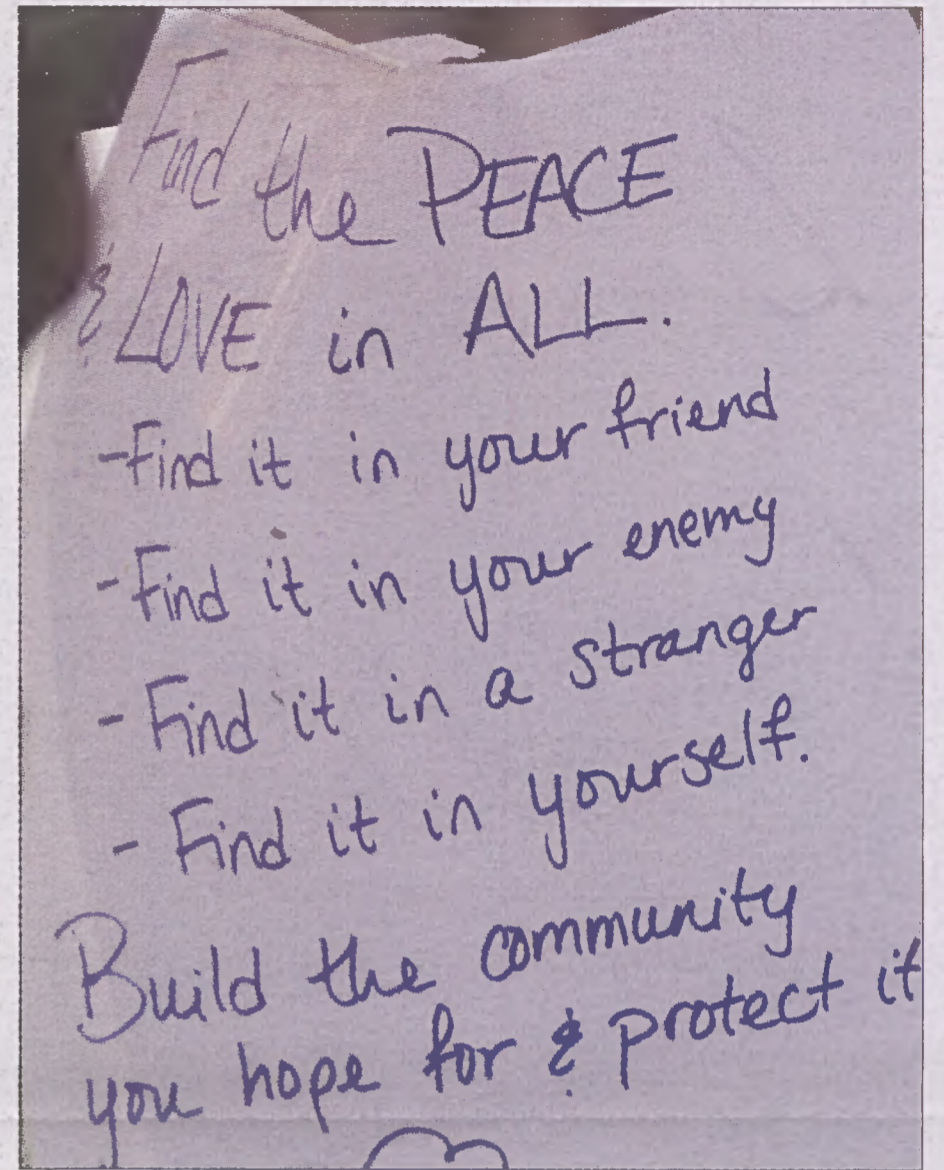
Life was different in the wake of the Bryan incident; the community was both brought together and pushed apart. We shined when we met at the New Garden Meeting House to share our opinions and feelings in an appropriate, respectful manner. We excelled when we rallied in front of Founders to express disbelief and propose solutions for our huge problem. We floundered when we constructed walls and divides—polarizing groups like athletes and non-athletes.

We have physical reminders of the Bryan Incident, representations of its wide-reaching impact on our campus. Metal gates bar the entranceways to Bryan Hall. Professional hall directors replaced their student counterparts in the residence halls as an extra safety measure. But, these are reminders of the worst part of the Bryan Incident, the grotesque, inappropriate actions of a few students.

It is important for us, a year later and for years to come, to remember the best parts of the Bryan Incident—the New Garden Meeting Houses, the Founders' rallies. Our ability to come together as a supportive community to try to find solutions to our problems was important and remarkable.

It is particularly important that we remember our community reaction because we continue to have violence on our campus. The third-floor bathroom in Milner Hall was smeared with human feces and a disparaging and insulting note was written to the cleaning staff in tandem. A swastika and "death to fags" were written on a professor's office door in Dana.

Though no punches were thrown, these are acts of deplorable violence that, like the Bryan Incident, have no place in a community that prides itself on peace, tolerance, and acceptance. Again, like the violence in Bryan Hall, the events in Milner and Dana deserve the reaction of a supportive campus. We need to make it clear that violence in any form does not belong at Guilford.



ON JAN. 25, 2007, ONE YEAR AGO TODAY, STUDENTS EXPRESSED THEIR FEELINGS AND REFLECTIONS ABOUT THE BRYAN INCIDENT THROUGH SEVERAL MEDIA, SUCH AS THE BANNER ABOVE THE FOUNDERS HALL PORCH (BELOW) AND THE CLOTHESLINE OF PERSONAL MESSAGES (ABOVE).

PHOTOS BY JEREMY BANTE/GUILFORDIAN

