

New chemical a cure for Cupid's bow?

By Mary Bubar
STAFF WRITER

We may no longer have to wonder why fools fall in love, thanks to science. In fact, we may be able to douse the flames of passion before they even ignite. This technology would make it possible for sufferers of unrequited love to take an antidote that will help their aching hearts heal.

Neuroscientist Larry Young's discovery of a chemical that enhances pair bonding in mouse-like voles may soon be available for human use. Young's research, intended to improve the social skills of schizophrenics and the autistic, reveals that the hormone Oxytocin enhances feelings of trust and empathy.

Like Viagra for the heart, Oxytocin sets off a biochemical chain of events that induces females to love the one they're with.

More importantly, Young admits the opposite effect can be achieved through reverse engineering. Cupid's kryptonite has the capability of preventing the foolish decisions of misguided paramours.

If Oxytocin, also known as the hor-

mone vasopressin, can put the color back in faded marriages, just think what the remedy could do for toxic relationships.

Failed couples can break-up, take a pill and call it a day. Divorcing duos can chemically dial down lingering affections and faded remnants of the good years long past, and get back to single-dom and sanity.

I could have saved myself a few years there when I was questioning if my marriage was salvageable. Where was this anti-love potion when we decided that we

respect and an occasional Merlot.

If this love hormone becomes a marketable-drug, it should be concocted to make it compatible with alcohol.

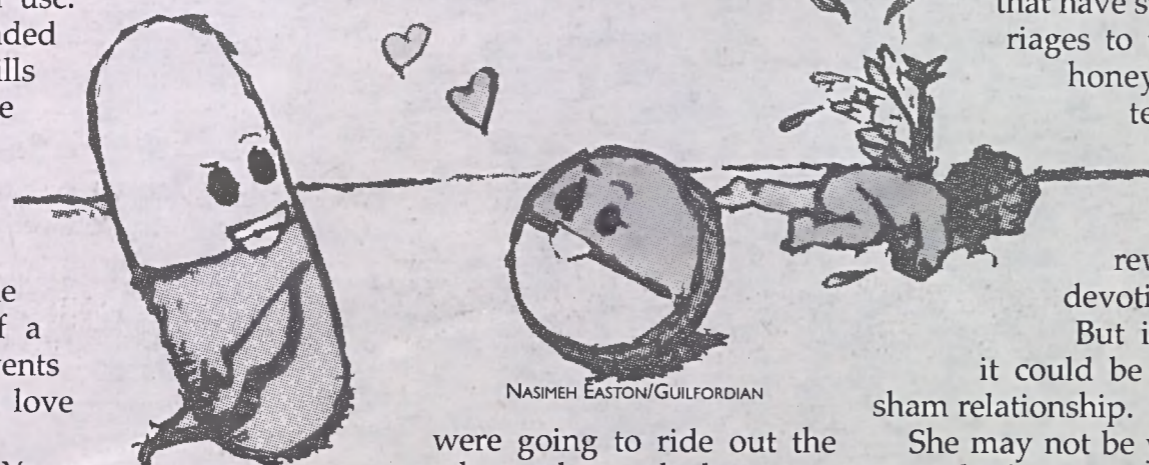
Beer goggles integrated with the chaos of the heart have been known to provoke impractical decisions. I can see the lobbyists for the Vegas quickie wedding trade imploring their state reps to save their little white chapels from extinction.

In all fairness, I do see some benefit of a love potion. I think it would be great for couples that have stable but zipless marriages to take on their second honeymoon. A guaranteed romantic vacation after many years of marriage would be a sweet reward for a lifetime of devotion.

But in the wrong hands, it could be the beginnings of a sham relationship.

She may not be your honey anymore after the hormone fades. And he might not be so mesmerizing once the chemical infatuation is gone—then what do you do?

Hopefully you haven't already uttered your vows, thrown the bouquet and opened the gifts.



NASIMEH EASTON/GUILFORDIAN

were going to ride out the rough patches, which in retrospect constituted most of the

trip?

Don't get me wrong; I'm not bitter, just practical. Though hardly a hopeless romantic, I have a deep appreciation for organic relationships based on love,

My freedom's flag: smoking in public

By Thomas Wotherspoon
STAFF WRITER

When I first came to North Carolina, a naïve youth enamored of all things substance-related, I realized that I had entered a state in which smoking was almost encouraged.

With the prices of cigarettes ludicrously cheap and a plethora of establishments that allow smoking indoors, North Carolina is a refuge for smokers. I found myself initiated into a sort of "club," in which all those who smoked were guaranteed the sanctity of fraternity and a light.

I know that I am not alone in glorifying smoking, but now those of us in "the club" are facing the onslaught of a public war against tobacco smoke, where history and economy have made smoking a worldwide specter.

According to the N.C. Tobacco Prevention Control Branch, there are nearly 1.5 million smokers living in North Carolina. That's about one seventh of the population of the state.

With this in mind, North Carolina House Majority Leader Hugh Holliman has made it his prerogative to install a bill prohibiting smoking in public facilities. Holliman, a lung cancer survi-

vor, has attempted, but failed, previously to instigate smoking cessation bills.

I cannot help but think of all the bars, diners and pool halls that would be affected by this bill if it was passed. Many of this college's haunts allow public smoking.

Despite the looming prohibition of smoking in public that has so far swept through the Northeast, the South—and

state.

"While I enjoy smoking in diners I think that restaurants aren't really smoke-friendly places," said Shores. "Bars, on the other hand, are a whole different thing. I think smoking sections would be the best, and most logical, compromise in this situation."

Seth Cogdon, a senior and a non-smoker, had some enlightening thoughts on the

Despite the looming prohibition of smoking in public that has so far swept through the Northeast, the South—and especially North Carolina—has avoided giving in to the progressivism.

especially North Carolina—has avoided giving in to the progressivism.

The simple thought of a ban on public smoking in North Carolina seems hysterical. The few people that I talked to about the ban thought that I was joking when I told them about recent developments.

Robin Shores, a junior and a smoker, was forthcoming about the possibility of a smoking ban in his home

subject of the proposed ban.

"There's some bars in New York City where they allow people to smoke despite the ban on public smoking," said Cogdon, a native New Yorker. "I've never been bothered by smoking in diners or bars."

In the face of this trend, I have heard many stories about the tragic effects of cigarette smoking from those who perhaps unintentionally support the ban.

Just recently when I drove over to the CVS to buy cigarettes, I was told a story by the elderly cashier; whether it was a case of stigmatism or friendly wisdom I do not know.

His daughter had apparently just recently fully recovered from lung cancer. She had cancerous lymph nodes removed from her lungs and it had taken her two years, and an inordinate amount of pharmaceuticals, to recover completely.

The story is not unlike numerous others that I have heard over the years, but it reiterated a thought that should permeate every smoker's consciousness: disease and smoking go hand in hand and they will strike intimately.

Needless to say, the situation in North Carolina about a smoking ban is a complicated, serious matter that has at its heart a general concern for those who may be affected by smoke inhalation.

This being said, I don't plan on quitting smoking anytime soon, and would still like to go on enjoying the luxury of smoking indoors. I predict that this bill will not pass and is not likely to meet general approval in a state that has a history of tobacco production and enjoyment.

Staff Editorial

Students should make effort to appreciate Guilford's staff

On Feb. 11, the third annual staff appreciation day, planned by Project Community, marked one special occasion where students and faculty thank staff members for their hard work. Expressions of gratitude are the norm in a communal environment and the layers of Guilford's community do this in various ways.

Money is a big one.

Despite the state minimum wage being set at \$6.55, since Jan. 1 Guilford's lowest paid regular staff members earn \$10.25. This raise included full-time and part-time positions in Public Safety, Housekeeping, Grounds, Mailroom, and Library employees.

Guilford chose Meriwether-Godsey last year partly because of their commitment to paying staff closer to a living wage: they pay hourly wages over \$11.

Even though these salaries are not anywhere near the higher end of the living wage range for Greensboro, where a single adult household needs \$8 an hour and an individual in a household with two adults and two children needs \$26 an hour, they are undeniably an improvement.

In comparison to recent years, 2000-2002, where neither staff nor faculty received raises, these numbers are especially noteworthy. However, as always in a community, there is still work to be done. The Strategic Plan, for example, only calls for a target in the 45th percentile market salary for staff, while it aims for the 50th for faculty.

It is for these reasons that staff appreciation day is necessary to show our respect for one another. The potluck organized for this day allowed people to talk, laugh, and eat together. Community building such as this is just as important as - if not more important than- money.

The dollar fuels our school and makes our roles as students, faculty, and staff exist, but it's our sense of community that makes us more than simply a collection of people in one place.

A more sustainable community will emerge when we acknowledge that every one of us can contribute support and care for each other. These concepts, as shown in Boren Lounge during the potluck, are integral to this happening.

It is easy to forget that every one of us has the capability to participate in supporting each other on day-to-day basis.

The editorial board of THE GUILFORDIAN consists of five section editors, two photo editors, a layout editor, an art director, a managing editor, and the editor-in-chief.

Reflecting Guilford College's core Quaker values, the topics and content of Staff Editorials are chosen through consensus of all 11 editors.