

"Good Afternoon, Congressman Gudger's Office"

Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles written by John Snell, a Mars Hill College junior who is in an internship program with Congressman Lamar Gudger of the Eleventh Congressional District.

Ring! Ring!
Click.
"Good afternoon. Congressman Gudger's district office. May I help you?"
"Uh... Yes. My name is Mr. Dealy. I got this here newsletter from Senator—I mean Congressman—Gudger and he said to just let him know if we have any problems and he'll help us."
"That's right, sir. How may we help you?"
"Well, I need to know where I can get shoes where the left foot's shoe is smaller than the right foot's shoe."
"Un-huh."
"You see, I've got this atrophied left foot and that means I need a 7½B on that foot and a 9D on my right foot. Can you tell me where I can get pairs of shoes like this, without all the expense of buying two pairs of shoes and using one shoe from each pair?"

"Well, sir, we'll see what we can find out for you. If you'll give me your phone number, Mr. Dealy, we'll call you and let you know what we find out..."
And so went my first real telephone case on my first day of work in the district, or home, office of Congressman Lamar Gudger. I will back up here, though, and explain how I got into this work.
Representative Gudger is a freshman congressman, a first-termer, representing the seventeen counties of Western North Carolina, the Eleventh Congressional District. He has initiated a public service internship program in conjunction with the four senior colleges in his district. Mars Hill College, as one of these schools, selects a student each spring for the internship the following fall semester, with the other three senior colleges also being allotted one internship slot apiece every year.
Last spring, after completing the necessary paperwork and interview, I was selected from among the three applicants here at Mars Hill to participate in the internship program this fall.

You may ask why I got into this program. After two years of regular structured classes, I was ready to view my education from another perspective—that of **experience**. The practical learning experience offered by this internship opportunity, along with my interest in our nation's politics, and the sixteen credit hours from the school for my participation in this program all intersected to draw me into the internship.
The internship has been set up where the student works for two weeks in the Congressman's home office in Asheville, and then goes to Washington, D.C. for a six week stint in the office there. I am in the first stage of the internship, being put to work in the home office answering telephone calls from constituents, receiving visitors, typing letters and memos, and filing material. I am also visiting the federal agencies located in the Asheville area, the Social Security Administration, Veterans Administration, and Cherokee Indian Reservation, for example, learning about their functions and how they relate to the congressional office.
Let me focus on a particular aspect

of our work in the home office: telephone calls. The constituents of this district can, and do, call our toll-free telephone numbers with various purposes in mind. Some call seeking help for their problem, be it a furnace needing repairs or a sudden cut in their Social Security benefits. Others are needing information, like wanting a copy of a particular House bill or wanting to know when Congressman Gudger will be back in the district. There are also those who wish to give support or opposition to a particular piece of legislation, for example the proposed Mount Mitchell National Park. At times, however, people are just wanting to talk with a sympathetic person. Evidently, all kinds of people, with all kinds of problems, come to us for assistance.
Oh yes... I imagine you are wondering about that man who phoned needing those mismatched shoes. We called orthopedic hospitals and shoe stores, all to no avail, but finally found a local shoe manufacturer who said he could help. We were then able to relay this information on to Mr. Dealy.

Editorial

Terrorism: Can We Withstand This Threat?

Our society is presently being attacked by groups of people known as terrorists. They take what they want by force causing much heartache as well as national panic. Their tactics include assassinations, kidnappings, skyjacking and bombings. The victims of their crazed actions include not only public officials and businessmen, but innocent school children and tourists.

What is society coming to when people feel the only way they can get what they want is by terrorism? If normal channels of progress and change are not effective, is violence to be the result? If this is to be the present state of individualistic groups, then how does this effect us here and now? Our society must create a valid channel for unrest and revolt against the system. When people feel threatened and closed in, they often react violently and irrationally. If this type of reaction follows a natural group of citizens, think what it does to oppressed and misled groups of people.

The world has recently taken a stand against this type of persuasive terrorism. The West Germans sent commandoes to rescue the 82 passengers and 4 crew members on board the skyjacked lufthansa jet. They were successful in their mission but other terrorists retaliated in killing their hostage industrialist Hans-Martin Schleyer. Then West German Chancellor Schmidt took a stand and decided to track down these murderers at all costs. This nation has decided that enough is enough, and we should not be constantly threatened by these terrorist groups.

Is this how it is to be, back and forth, attack and retaliate, murder and be murdered? Even so, it is good that this country has taken a definite stand. Perhaps other groups won't act so freely in their violent attempts. We as citizens and students should become aware and concerned over this situation. A similar occurrence could happen anywhere at anytime. Are we going to idly sit by and watch these events occur or will we take a stand as the West Germans have? Sure, we cannot change any situation alone, but our attitude as an entire nation could affect many decisions. Even so, the question still remains, what is the answer to this wild type of terrorist behavior? Perhaps, the stand taken by the West Germans will effect the outcome. It would optimistic to think as much.

In Retrospect

By Wright Culpepper

The wind is a marvelous thing. With it the rains come and the rains go. Our actions are many times affected by where the wind blows.
The moving air is very inconsistent. The names we give wind prove how it varies. Breeze, gust, squall, gale, tornado, and hurricane are all different words that represent the same phenomena.
Wind can blow so gently that it barely rustles the leaves on a tree. Later the wind can come and pick the same tree up by its roots and carry it miles away.
In the Summer, a light breeze can be very comforting. It cools the body on hot days and brings refreshing nights. It helps us survive the heat of the sun.
In the Winter, a light breeze can be very inviting. It causes the cold to bite into our skin and makes our bodies numb. It makes the temperature seem

colder than it really is.
The Holy Spirit is like the wind. Jesus said, "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8)
The Spirit can be very comforting. When we are doing our best to serve God and things become rough the Spirit comes and lives with us. He helps us through our trials and gives us peace and a refreshed soul.
The Spirit can also be very irritating. When we are not living the kind of lives that we should, the Spirit comes to tell us what we are doing wrong. We no longer feel peaceful, and our soul becomes sick.
We need to listen and hear what the Holy Spirit is trying to tell us. Do we feel comforted or irritated? The Spirit wants to give us peace. There is only one way He can do this - We must seek to serve the Lord and glorify His name in all that we do.
May God bless you.

The Hilltop



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