

Editorial

Live From Guyana

AYODELE JONES

I was only 45 minutes late tonight

During the course of this year, as managing editor of *The Beacon*, I decided to use my editorial column as a forum to express my grievances with school and well, basically life in general. I have taken this opportunity to voice my opinions about a wide array of subjects, such as racial discrimination, marijuana, friendships and of course my travels and follies aboard the wonderful and spectacular Greyhound bus. *Live from Guyana* was created to be a voice - MY voice. As an African-American woman of Guyanese parentage, I was hoping to enlighten you, my fellow readers with my quips and complaints and if I didn't, oh well, I'm not losing any sleep.

writing this column in August. I have more wrinkles around my eyes due to the many sleepless nights I have endured because of the layout of this paper (and to think I am only a young lass of 20!!!). I have a heavy heart because I now know my friends from my acquaintances (and it took me a year to figure it out). I have a genuine appreciation for my family (even if they do drive me up the kazoo). I have some knowledge of how to work a Macintosh computer (okay, I don't know jack). I finally realized that I am not growing anymore (but there's always hope). But most importantly, I have realized the benefits of hard work, the gifts of friendship and the fruits of love.

Calvin the delivery guys from Corry, the late night talks about nothing and everything, Dr. Speel hitting his head with a metal ruler, Mike's dental dam, Will's blue chair, but most of all I'll miss the paper, *the Beacon* and *the Bacon*.

I know some of you complained about the quality of the paper, but you weren't there at 6 in the morning, when everything just seemed to fail and the computers crashed or the printers had a mind of their own. *The Beacon* is a product of diligence and patience; whatever it was lacking in appearance or content, the hard work of the staff made up for it.

The most important thing I've learned this semester is that the devil is a liar and with God anything and everything is possible. For it was during my trials and pains, that HE

was there and it was during the joy and laughter that HE was there. HE was always THERE and that is why I am HERE.

I want to say thank you. Thank you for this opportunity, an opportunity to grow with you, an opportunity to learn with you, an opportunity to hurt with you and the opportunity to love with you.

Ayodele - my name is Nigerian and it means, "Joy comes home"; and home, is where I must return. Gotta go, see ya when I see ya. Always and forever one love, God bless.

Ayodele Jones is the managing editor of the Beacon. Her column appeared every three weeks.

This semester has been somewhat of an evolution, for I am not the same person that I was when I first started

I only have two more weeks as managing editor and there are some things I'm gonna miss. Clyde and

The Lobster and the Music to the Dance of Life History and all that jazz

MIKE PERKINS

Being that this is my last column of the year, I feel that it is time to unveil the story behind the title, *The Lobster and the Music to the Dance of Life*. Before I continue I must warn the easily bored and those with short attention spans that this story is bad and corny. While I will attempt to explain, you will not find the inside joke funny in any way at all. Now that you have all been properly warned, let us continue.

Flash back to my senior year of high school (everything gets wavy, and that cool dream sequence music plays now). Most of high school is over, and neither my friends nor I care much about the rest of the year. We decide to have fun at the expense of our school which was terrible for the entire twelve years I spent there. My school is on

the edge of the city, so we don't have police patrolling the halls - we have sweep aides. Think 80 year old retired women with a bad attitude and a walkie talkie trying to keep kids out of the halls during class.

We decided to see how much havoc we could cause by leaving class, avoiding the sweep aides and "hitting" other classrooms by running in and doing something childish, immature and stupid. Things like dancing on the teacher's desk or just running in and shouting "poopie". This would naturally outrage teachers, kids would start laughing and class was disrupted. Mission achieved right? Nope, we still had to escape back to the safe haven of an empty classroom, while the sweep aides began to look for the evil per-

petrators of disruption.

This action continued for awhile until we decided to spice things up a bit. We decided to bring our idols (sarcasm) into the hits. We now continued our fun shouting inspirational phrases from Milt Thompson (used to play for the Phillies and looked exactly like a chimpanzee, I mean he really did, we're talking mirror image.) as well as from our former chemistry teacher, Robert J. McCartney. An old guy who really tried to teach but no one understood anything he said. This comes to the point of my story. My title is one of his inspirational quotes. He was once quoted in our local newspaper as saying "I lit the candle, and that student lit another student and I told them about the lobster and the music to the

dance of life." If anyone understands what this guy was talking about, please contact me because to this day no one understands this guy.

Well I told you this story was going to be bad, and it was but believe me you had to be there. We had a lot of fun in school: some that involved Jackie Chan's TV/VCR repair, a super soaker, silly string, bananas, spray paint and our principal. I shouldn't go there but it was fun. So good luck on finals and may the lobster be with you.

Mike Perkins is the layout editor of the Beacon. His column appeared every three weeks.

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A view from the lighthouse

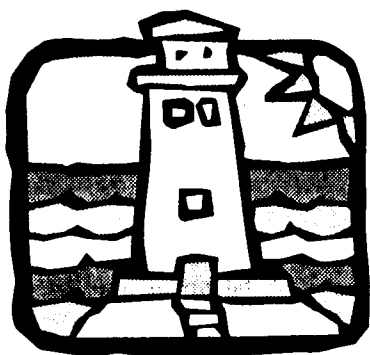
Nothing's new

Several days ago, Housing and Food Services passed out a list of "charges associated with the end of the semester closing" to all students living on campus. This list was comprised of over twenty things residents are required to do to their rooms before leaving, such as sweeping the floor, cleaning the microwave and microfridge, cleaning the windows, etc. If these chores are not completed, Housing and Food Services plans on charging students a set fee plus labor (if applicable).

Just when we all thought Housing couldn't piss us off even more, we were proved wrong when we received these. First of all, when we first arrived, the rooms were not clean. Weren't we always told by our parents to leave things the way we found them? Well we should leave our rooms the way we found them, without being penalized. Second of all, the charges are ludicrous. For example, there is a \$68 charge to remove one piece of furniture, and a \$25 charge for not cleaning windows. Puh-lease, in reality, it doesn't cost

25 cents, let alone \$25, to clean a window, and last time we checked, it sure doesn't cost \$68 to pick up a chair and throw it out. Where Housing pulled these charges from is beyond comprehending at this point. It is insane to expect residents to pay this much money for such petty things as not taking the trash out or not cleaning the microwave.

And on top of all this, on the bottom of the memo, Housing wrote, "Have a good summer.!!!" How ironic; you dump on us and then tell us to have a good summer.



Letters to the editor:
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Guest Column: A choice: international adoption

Sooner than we think, many of us will settle down, get married, and start a family of our own. Having a child of your own is said to be one of the greatest things a person will experience. Unfortunately, one out of every six couples experiences some sort of infertility. Today, couples have many choices: fertility drugs, artificial insemination, test-tube technique, ovulation induction, egg donation, or adoption, to help them have a child of their own. Approximately 130,000 annual adoptions occur in the United States. Only 11,340 of these children were adopted from other countries. International adoption is slowly growing as more couples and single parents become aware of the benefits and availability of orphan children.

Adopting internationally provides a wonderful opportunity to start a family. In areas such as China and other Asian countries, the overpopulation problem is leaving an excessive

amount of children without a home and family. Compared to adopting in the United States, international adoption is time effective and less risky. Adoption within the United States can take several months to many years depending on sex, race, age and health of the child. It would only take a family 10 to 15 months to adopt a child internationally. In a majority of the states, birth mothers have between 90 to 120 days after the child is born to take him or her back from the adoptive parents. This would never occur if parents decided to adopt from a country like China. It is illegal for birth parents to abandon their child. If a birth parent went back for the child, they would be arrested.

The parents' requirements are also more relaxed when adopting internationally. China's law requires the parent(s) to be between the ages of 35 and 50 to adopt a healthy child. It is easier for gays, lesbians, and single

people to adopt internationally. Governments welcome the opportunity to ensure a future for their orphaned and abandoned children.

Several confusing and complex steps are necessary before a foreign child can be adopted. Many countries require that the adopting parents use an agency to help them successfully complete the process. After the parents have been accepted and assigned a child they must travel to the country. Visas will not be issued for the child unless at least one parent travels to the country. This would be costly depending on the country traveling to. Airfare to China is approximately \$1,000 per person. The process may seem long and complex, but it will be worth it when your new family is on the plane home to the United States.

When the child arrives in the United States they will receive a green card. This is necessary before

applying for the child's social security card and birth certificate. Eventually, the green card will be traded in for a Certificate of Citizenship.

The new parents not only have to deal with the pressures of raising a child, but they also have to deal with teaching the child about their background without making them feel different or unwanted. There are many specialists available for helping parents and children learn more about their birth country.

With the growing numbers of international adoptions, most of us will know someone that has adopted a child overseas. Someday, we may even decide to save an orphan child and take them into our loving home.

Carrie Lesh is an eighth semester accounting major. She is scheduled to graduate this May.

