

me to a weekend

How to Float Through Homecoming

By Scott Bradford
Sports Editor

Fast becoming a tradition on Homecoming Saturday, the ritual of the floating bar is quickly becoming an important social event for some Homecoming partyers. Begun two years ago by a small contingent of "floaters", the idea has grown to encompass a reported three routes, including the Third Annual Floating Bar, with which this reporter traveled.

Consisting of five stops before, during and after the football game, the bar made maximum use of the school's facilities by having two stops in the Frazier complex and one each in three different dorms: Binford, Bryan and Milner. As the party progressed from stop to stop, the participants were treated to a different beverage intended both to heighten already uplifted spirits and appease even the most discriminating palates.

It is unclear what the original rationale was for holding a party which continuously shifted location and never remained in one place for longer than an hour, but several conjectures can be attempted. It is possible that the reason for these tactics is to keep the party one step ahead of any authority which might like to place some type of restriction on the temporary insanity which students are prone to during Homecoming weekend. Participants, especially those who host each stop along the route, may also desire this format in order to minimize the amount of destruction which occasionally occurs when people in this frame of mind gather. Most likely, though, it is solely for the fun of doing something different.

One clear advantage of a floating bar is the wide variety of entertainment to be found at the various locales. The first stop, at which a motley crew arrived wearing bath robes and loafers or heavy boots to begin the festivities, offered the Alumni vs. Varsity lacrosse game in their backyard. Thus, any floater suffering from strained vocal cords while cheering on either team simply had to traverse a mere ten yards to soothe their throats with an ice cold social lubricant.



Photo by Fawn Alcaide

The event reached its peak as the bar floated back from the football game to Bryan to celebrate a 13-0 halftime lead and curb quickly mounting thirsts neglected since the beginning of the game. As the suite rapidly filled with boisterous and fun-loving people, it seemed that every participant had brought along a guest floater; this was even more evident as the supply of drink was depleted in no time at all, and most enthusiastically departed for the second half.

However, this had no effect on several of the partyers as they remained to dance like crazed banshees wherever they could find a free space, including on the beds. Many of these participants, lost in the merriment, never made it back to the game and didn't catch up to the rest of the crowd until the wildness moved on to Milner.

As day turned to night and the floating bar reached its final destination at the Lodge, it was obvious that the party in general had achieved its goal. It had entertained and unified students in the true spirit of Homecoming - festive participation. Maybe next year the participants will even be able to come up with a logical reason for the event; but then again, isn't Homecoming enough?

Action and Reaction

By Jan Earl
Guilford Alumni Board

The beer and cokes flowed; the people talked, laughed and danced; the DJ was great as long as he played his music; the smiles of renewed friendships were everywhere...A typical Young Alumni Homecoming Party!

Several hundred of Guilford's Young Alumni came out to see their friends who had made it out of Guilford before them and to enjoy the refreshments and music. Several faculty and staff members came to support the Young Alumni event and to visit with some of their former students. (One faculty member remarked that the party was the one place he was sure to find his elusive former students.)

Reggie Kenau '77 and his hard-working committee did a fine job and their rewards were the bright faces of everyone there and the great stories that have circulated

since the party. Why, even patriotism ran high (at least that's what we will assume) as evidenced by the disappearance of the American flag that had been hanging in the Banquet room and now probably hangs proudly in some Guilfordian's room or home. It was obvious that everyone had fun.

Yes, the Third Annual Young Alumni Homecoming Party was a success in the minds of the Guilford students, graduate students, lawyers, bankers, 7-Eleven cashiers, house restorers, "liquor runners," librarians, and unemployed who attended. Our fourth festive reunion is already being scheduled on the calendars of those same men and women who have gone back to their desks and offices and trucks and are now collecting the experiences they'll share with their friends over a few beers at the Hilton next year.

Party Alumni Style

Features In-Depth

Homecoming '82 - The question is, "What made this weekend better than any other weekend?" A great many of the 35 people interviewed responded. "The floating bar!" This non-scheduled event was begun in 1980 by a group of students looking for even more variety than Guilford's traditional Homecoming offered. Other typical answers to this question included, "winning the football game," "the excellent weather," "the good band and dance" and "the good food and outdoor eating area."

One scheduled event in particular earned the favor of some students - The Pig-Pickin' Picnic. This dinner was abetted by a jazz band which, according to many similar responses - amused parents, alumni and students alike. "I had worked up such an appetite from all the other Homecoming events that the pig pickin' was a welcomed and well-appreciated activity. I also liked the long table set up enabling us to meet new people while also enjoying live music and open air." - Suzy Churchwell.

Other replies about the weekend gala included some constructive criticism. When asked about the jello eating contest most students responded that they had missed it due to lack of publicity. Others, who did see it, wished it had lasted longer and suggested that the messy (more substantial) pies be reinstated and that the event be better organized and explained next year.

"What would you like to see in next year's Homecoming?" The consensus focused on renovations in dance procedures. Almost everyone would prefer that the dance be held in Bryan Quad instead of Sternberger Auditorium to avoid hot, cramped surroundings and further unify students in an open, unrestricted area. More ideas were:

Lou Protonentis (alumnus) "Don't have the dance semi-formal; after partying all day students don't want to dress up." Helene Muller added, "Publicize the events better. If more students knew about the events, such as the jello eating contest, more people would show up." Lauren Wood suggested, "...more events on Friday, maybe a concert between Bryan and Milner." Lorie Bragg believes we could, "...build school spirit with a bon-fire/pep rally. Students can learn some cheers and become more involved during the game." Barbara Johnston says, "Have Homecoming on the last home game instead of the second home game. That way more people (including the team itself) would be more interested in the game." John Chipmen conceded, "You got me!" Kelly Wise thinks Guilford should, "Have some sort of parade during half time giving a prize to the student with the best decorated car." Joe Manson (alumni) feels that the sports events could be better planned; scheduling soccer and football games at the same time is hindering full participation.

All in all, Homecoming seemed to effectively serve all involved. Maybe with these suggestions given by students and alumni, next year's Homecoming will be even more fun for everyone.



Photo by Fawn Alcaide