

Guilfordian Endorses Dukakis

LETTERS POLICY

The Guilfordian welcomes all readers to submit letters to the editor. Letters to the editor should be mailed to P.O. Box 17717 or delivered in person to the Publication Suite, second floor of Founders.

Letters should be legible, preferably typed, and double-spaced. Letters should be signed and dated and include the author's phone number and local address. The Guilfordian will not publish anonymous letters. Please limit letters to 300 words or less.

The Guilfordian and its staff reserve the right to edit for length and clarity and to withhold letters based on the discretion of the editors.

With Election Day only tomorrow, Guilford voters have a final chance to make up their minds about which candidate they will vote for in a wide variety of election choices. But obviously, this year's presidential election should be the number one priority.

The two major party candidates, Bush and Dukakis, have been engaged for months in campaigns long on rhetoric, but relatively short on issues and clear ideas. Nevertheless, based on the publicly stated records of both candidates, the Guilfordian endorses Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis for the presidency.

While Bush claims that he would like to be the "education president," the Reagan Administration's soft support of education in the past eight years gives us little reason to believe that Bush will now suddenly change, but will prefer, as he himself states, to "stay the course." Had it not been for the fine efforts of the Community

Senate a few years back to establish the Student Loan Fund, many current Guilford College students would not be here today. Still, the high cost of a college education keeps that privilege out of the reach of too many Americans.

Other factors also make Bush an unacceptable choice. Bush has never satisfactorily answered questions about his involvement in the Iran-Contra affair, preferring to paint a picture of himself as isolated from the entire decision-making process.

At best, this means that we have had a rather ineffective Vice-President for the past eight years. At worst, it could mean that a man who may have had a crucial role in a major federal scandal is now hiding his part in the affair. In either case, Bush does not qualify as Presidential material.

Of course, process of elimination is not the best way to choose a candidate. There are several unique qualities that make Dukakis an attractive candidate.

Contrasting Bush, Dukakis' commitment to education is exemplified in his home state, where teacher salaries have been raised to some of the highest levels in the nation, with SAT

scores showing a corresponding rise. Nationally, Dukakis has pledged to make higher education possible for Americans of every economic class, while cracking down on unpaid student loans to partially finance such an effort.

Despite the famous Willie Horton episode, Dukakis has brought the crime level in Massachusetts to the lowest level of any industrial state. Bush's attempts to fault Dukakis for his prison furlough program lose their edge when one finds out that nearly every state in the U.S. has such a program, including Bush's "home" state of Texas, although this program was suspiciously halted by the Texas Republican governor soon after Bush launched his famous "Jailyard Turnstile" ads.

What makes Dukakis most attractive, however, is his commitment to social programs which have either been neglected or slashed under the Reagan administration. Dukakis has initiated a state health care program in Massachusetts which could serve as a model for a national program. The U.S. is currently the only industrialized nation in the world which has

chosen not to make health care available to all of its citizens.

The Reagan Administration's erosion of advances made by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 makes Dukakis' pledge to protect civil rights in the U.S. a vital consideration in this election, as Bush has remained relatively silent on the subject.

After the election is over, no matter who wins, the next president will face a difficult next four years. Now is the time for the U.S. to make very tough choices in a wide variety of areas. Michael Dukakis has demonstrated to us that he is capable of making such choices; Bush, even with an extensive resume, has not made this same demonstration.

In the end, no matter who you choose, remember that your choice is only as good as your ballot, your voice in government only as loud as your ballot - remember to vote.

Tracy Russ
Editor-in-Chief

A staff vote was taken to determine this endorsement

Guilfordian

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Visitation Should Be Changed

The current visitation policy here at Camp Guilco is that at 1:00 am, on any night of the week, all members of the opposite sex must be out of the room. I feel this policy should be changed.

The reasons for this are very simple. We are in college and are expected to act as mature responsible adults in all situations. Therefore, in most cases, we should be allowed to use our own judgement in making decisions concerning who we allow in our rooms and at what times. The only exception to this should be when our roommates disagree about either "who" or "when".

The current visitation policy

complicates some of the very things it is designed to deter. I have heard the main reason for having the policy is to keep students from having friends stay all night in their rooms when the roommate doesn't approve. If students violate this policy they can be charged, and even brought before the judicial board. I believe that for this very reason many students never bring this to the attention of their resident assistants. Most people realize that this would only create more tension than probably already exists.

I recently visited Davidson College and learned that their policy was that students have the right to deny entry into their room to any person except their

roommate.

By having twenty-four hour visitation this would allow a person to handle the problem of having unwanted guests as any other roommate conflict without the worry of having their roommate face a judicial charge. It would also allow students to study together in the rooms of persons of the opposite sex as long as it is ok with the other roommate.

We as students at Guilford should stand up for our right to have people of either sex in our rooms at any time as long as both residents agree. After all, we do pay to live in these rooms. Who we have in them should be our business.

Eric E. Reid

Racial Vandalism Not Funny

Sunday night, I returned to my room in Bryan after visiting some friends and saw a poster on my door which had been defaced. The poster was of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and it says to stand up for jobs, peace and freedom. I found what was scrawled on the poster very offensive and derogatory and it doesn't need to be repeated.

Whether this act was intended to be a joke or a serious statement, I don't know. If it was a joke, I missed the punchline because there is nothing funny about a man who suffered severe hatred and oppression, yet still held onto his beliefs. There is nothing funny about a man being shot to death because he stood up for freedom, peace, and equal rights.

If this action was meant to be taken seriously, I'm confused as to what the purpose was. Scribbling words like "nigger" on pictures of The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. doesn't lessen the meaning of his life. If only reflects the ignorance of the person who scribbled them because there are so many constructive ways to voice opinions on this campus other than calling each other names like children.

This action also bothers me because it shows an alarming lack of respect not only for other people and their opinions, but also for the community of Guilford as a whole. I believe everyone has the right to hold their own beliefs and values

whether they are accepted by this community or not. No one has the right to impose their beliefs on others. If this person feels strongly about his beliefs and feels a need to express them, I'd like to see him defend what he believes, in this paper, and sign his name instead of defacing my door.

Victor Johnson
Joe Freeman

Note!!!!!!!