

Our Voice

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Drinking policy a concern

Underage drinking occurs at Guilford. From loud parties in Bryan Hall to quiet evenings sipping bourbon in English Hall and everything in between, students from all walks of life often willfully violate state laws and campus regulations so that they can savor the pleasure of their drink of choice.

Not only do they violate laws, but many put themselves as well as others at risk. The evidence does not lie. Alcohol increases the risk of sexual assault, car accidents, and long-term damage to the human body.

With this in mind the drinking policy revision for the student apartments must be looked at closely.

Presently Guilford students 21 and older are allowed to drink inside their rooms. Apartment residents who are of age may also drink on their porches. Other than these areas, students may only drink "in designated areas where an approved event has been scheduled" (Guilford College Student Handbook, p.16).

The new proposal seeks to change this.

It designates a common area encircled by the student apartments where "all apartment residents and their guests 21 years or older may consume alcohol" (Proposed Drinking Policy Revision for the Student Apartments, Sec. 1).

We believe such a change could create problems for Guilford.

A relaxation in the drinking policy at this school is not in line with the assertion that "as a Quaker college, Guilford advises all students that the use of alcohol is discouraged as a part of student life" (GCSH, p15).

The proposed change is in direct conflict with this belief because it allows consumption in a large area frequented by students. Alcohol will, therefore, creep further into "a part of student life" if we increase the area in which it is acceptable to drink.

This concentration of drinking would also make the area an eyesore with bottles, cans, cigarette butts, vomit, and the like collecting among the trees and shrubs.

If one behavior is allowed in one area of the campus and not in another, it is logical to conclude that such behavior will flourish in that one part.

Based on this conclusion, the most pressing concern of the proposed policy is safety and security. With students congregating and drinking, we risk an area where the safety of students is at risk.

The question also arises as to who will enforce the guidelines of the proposed policy so that safety may be fostered.

There are presently three Resident Coordinators who are assigned to ninety-six apartment residents. Any enforcement would entail carding those who drink as well as discerning whether they are either a resident or the guest of one. To ask any one student to do this puts an excessive burden on both the individual and Security.

We believe that these concerns regarding institutional integrity, aesthetics, and safety must be addressed more thoroughly before this policy becomes law.

As a school, we must put these concerns at the forefront of this issue and realize the possible negative impact of such a change.

Letters to the Editor

Responses to an editorial on the Community Senate electoral system:

The Community Senate's electoral system was designed to allow for maximum representation of students. Just because spaces are not always filled does not mean they should be eliminated. Yes, a vote is often a rubber stamp rather than a "mandate"; however, Guilford is a small liberal arts college and not the U.S. Senate. Lack of massive competition allows students who are interested in Senate a chance to actually BE a senator and participate in Senate. Lack of platform requirements for non-executive senators allows first-years and transfers to participate in Senate -- and it is often this participation that leads to new ideas. A breathing body is a thinking body, and the more of those involved in Senate the easier it is to represent the interests of ALL the student body.

The chance of a David Duke type destroying Guilford as we know it is quite slim, especially considering the lack of David Duke types at this school and the fact that Senate makes its decisions by consensus. And the implication that anyone at this school would be incompetent and unable to make Senatorial decisions is an insult to the student body. Besides, those who doubt their abilities or aren't interested don't run for Senate.

Remember the "elections" held at your junior high and high schools? How little true leadership ability had to do with who got elected? How does one judge leadership ability of a person without leadership experience, anyway? Before I came to Guilco, I hadn't been a member of many clubs, much less leadership in one. Now in my second year here, I'm co-clerk of GCRO, on the Budget Committee of Senate and on an Executive ticket. Competition may breed excellence, but it also breeds ill feelings, denied opportunities, lost confidence, and generally un-Quakerly elitism. The egalitarianism and inclusiveness of Guilford and its Senate have given many besides myself opportunities they never would have had in a competition-oriented, who's "equipped to govern"-asking student government. College is not the real world. By help-

ing students develop the needed skills and confidence, college prepares them for the real world.

Respectfully,
Laura Davis

This was written by Richard Ewell the President of the Community Senate. It was placed on the Senate bulletin board under a list soliciting students to fill vacant Senate positions. The last such position was titled "Guilfordian Rep." and the requirements were "You are not named 'Antonio de-anything'." The following was written underneath:

Note for the humor-impaired: The Guilfordian Rep. position and the eligibility requirements are a joke! The humor is derived from a combination of the following facts: 1) It is ridiculous to assume that we could appoint one Guilfordian representative because they are already allowed to represent Senate in any manner they choose; 2) Antonio de-anything could be a Senator (if he was really nice for three days in a row); 3) The real eligibility requirements of such a representative would be much more stringent and reflect the normal standards of appointed senators which include, but are not limited to: knowledge and practical experience in advanced calculus, the ability to accurately reflect the informed opinions of at least 200 students in a consistent and timely manner, the ability to be as articulate as William F. Buckley, the strength and guile of Jean-Claude Van Damme, and at least three complete proposals for the solution to the national debt.

Obviously, the only reason that the Senate Executives have not had time to write out these eligibility qualifications more thoroughly is that we tend to spend so much time working instead of just commenting on other people's work. But if the students demand it, we will remedy the problem and apply for the position of Editorial Editor. We wonder, though, if even the Executive officers of the Senate would be that highly qualified to pass the strict eligibility require-

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Opinions expressed in editorials and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff and editorial board.

The editors reserve the right to edit all submissions for length, style, and taste.

Submissions

The Guilfordian encourages submissions. Typed articles and letters are due by 7:00 PM., Sunday. Letters are limited to 250 words or less and should be on disk if possible. They must include author's name, phone number and P.O. Box. Write to:

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