

# The Official Guilford College

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STAFF WRITER

Imagine yourself as a junior at Guilford College. You live on the second floor of Bryan Hall: the official party suite.

It is Friday, April 16, 1999.

1:33 p.m. You are woken up by blaring rays of the spring sun and a churning stomach, still aching from last night's bash. It was your 21st birthday, and your friends took you to taste-test at every bar in town. You roll over in an attempt to find darkness again, but the light is much too bright. Your mind starts wandering, and you smile as you think about the party your suite is throwing tonight.

2:01 p.m. You crawl out of bed and stumble to the shower. Over the pounding water you hear your friend talking to you. "Hey, do you think you can go by the store and pick up a couple of cases of beer for tonight?" "Sure," you say. You're 21 now. Why not?

5:30 p.m. You have done everything you set out to do today. Most importantly, you went to the store for beer.

10:17 p.m. You hear voices rumbling inside your suite. You peek out the door and tell your friends that you'll be out when you get off the phone. You are on long distance, a late Happy Birthday call.

10:29 p.m. You down your first beer. Then another. Then another. Then another.

11:43 p.m. Smoke is lingering in every corner of the room. You grab your friend Sarah's arm and lead her to the third floor balcony of Bryan. You were in such a hurry to get out to catch a breath of fresh air that you both forgot to put your beers down. Oh well, you've done it before.

11:47 p.m. Your R.A. walks up to see how the party is going. Unfortunately, he sees your beers, so he patiently asks you to pour them out. You don't want any trouble, so you do what he says. However, your R.A. tells you that security is getting tight this year and that he will have to issue a written reprimand to both you and Sarah. You understand and cooperate.

12:01 p.m. The party is still going, but by now everyone is playing drinking games. Circle of Death. One beer. Another. Did you just say something? Whoa, you don't mean to trip over John on the way to the bathroom.

12:55 a.m. This party is packed! Some more of your friends drop by on their way back to their dorm. You are drunk, you can feel

the music, and you love it.

1:10 a.m. Your R.A. pokes his head in the door. "Hey guys, you need to turn the music down and start to wind up the party. Quiet hours have started, and I don't want to have to write anyone up tonight...especially not you guys." You turn down the music. A few people leave. There are still fifteen or twenty people lounging on the couches or crowded around the alcohol stash.

1:42 a.m. Late? It's not late. The music is back up and you are dancing. It is too smoky again. Your stomach is turning and your head is spinning in directions you never knew. You inch towards the door, cradling your last bottle of beer. Only a sip or two is left.

1:44 a.m. The music must be louder than you think. As you lean over the balcony, your R.A. walks down the hall towards you. Busted. Your R.A. mutters in disappointment, "What did I tell you earlier? You can't have an open container outside of your suite. I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to give you a full Judicial Charge now. "Alcohol isn't the only thing brewing inside of you now. Anger is surging through your numbed arms and legs. "Pour it out," your R.A. says. "Whatever, you asshole." You are pissed. He's not going to ruin your night. Inside, your friend John hears your slurred words over the bass of the music.

1:45 a.m. John steps outside your suite and says, "Thank you. I'll take care of everything. I'll turn the music down too. I'm really sorry about that." Yeah, you are too. Sorry that you can't drink on your own balcony. As John ushers you back into your suit you whine, "He's nothing but a stupid power-tripping R.A." Before John closes the door you spin around and fling your beer bottle out the door. It shatters into thousands of tiny pieces as it hits the cold, damp concrete of the balcony and quad. "Are you stupid?" John asks. "You could have just hurt somebody." "I was just throwing my bottle out," you slur.

2:12 a.m. John and Sarah help you to bed. You are completely wasted. The minute your head hits the pillow, you fall fast asleep and begin dreaming of the past weekend and your 21st birthday celebration.

**You are charged with:**

Consuming alcohol in an unauthorized area, page 30 of the Handbook

Violation of quiet hours, page 21 of the Handbook

Respect for persons- abusive behavior (verbal), page 24 of the

Handbook

Endangering Health and Safety, page 27 of the Handbook

**How do your actions travel through the Guilford College Judicial System?**

Written Reprimand A t

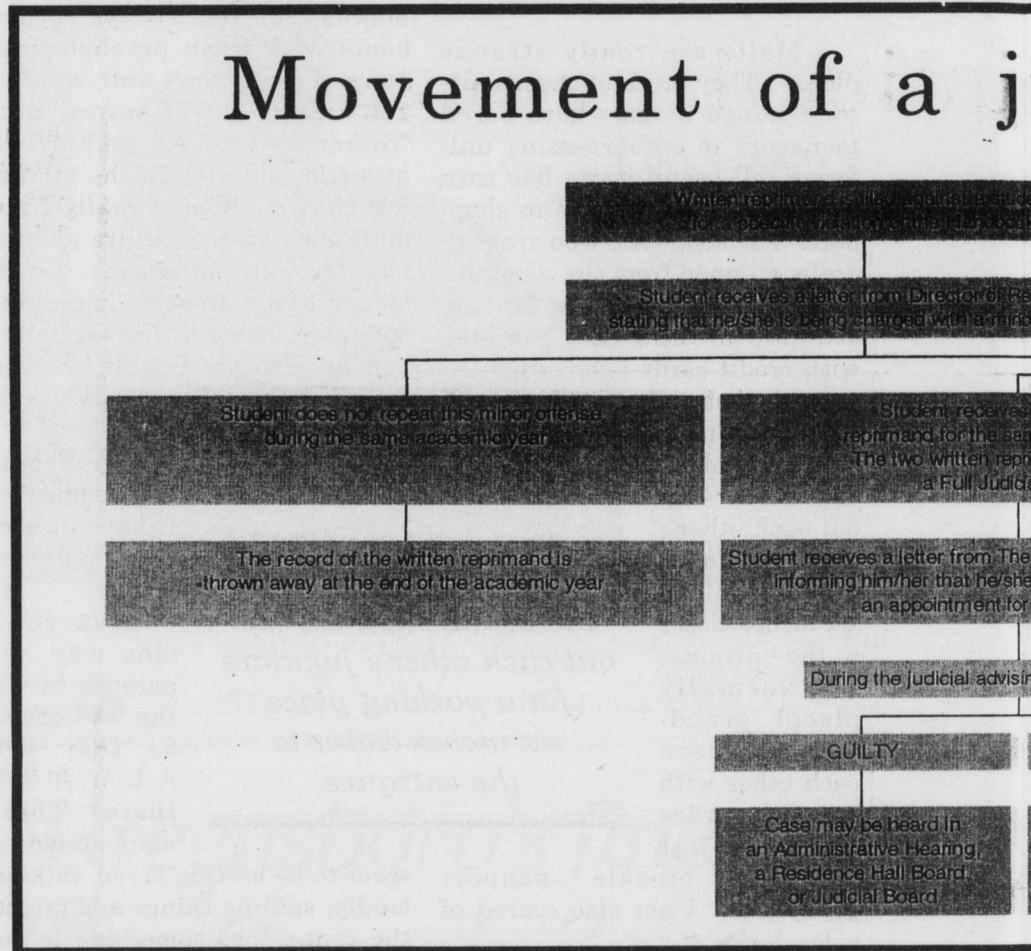
to any or all of the judicial charges filed against you.

**Your Pleas**

Consuming alcohol in an unauthorized area- GUILTY

Violation of quiet hours- GUILTY

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11:47 p.m. your R.A. issues you and your friend Sarah a written reprimand for consuming alcohol in an unauthorized area. If your R.A. does not approach you again for alcohol use in an unauthorized area, then the Director of Residential Life will send you a letter notifying you that you were charged with a minor violation on April 16, 1999. However, if your R.A. approaches you again for the same violation that he wrote you up for earlier, then you will receive a full judicial charge.

**Full Judicial Charge** Because your R.A. catches you again with alcohol in an unauthorized area at 1:44 a.m., you are issued a full judicial charge.

**Letter from the Director of Residential Life** Within a week of your party, you receive a letter from the Associate Director of Residential Life. You are informed that you have 48 hours to schedule an appointment for judicial advising.

**Judicial Advising** You are assigned a judicial advisor who acts according to your defense. He/she discusses with you what steps you should take next. You can either plead guilty or not guilty

Respect for persons- abusive behavior (verbal)- NOT GUILTY  
Endangering health and safety- NOT GUILTY

**NOTE:** Had you pleaded guilty to all four charges, your case would have had the chance to go before the Residential Hall Board or to be presented in an Administrative Hearing. However, because you pleaded not guilty to two accounts, the Guilford Handbook requires that your case be automatically sent before the Judicial Board.

**Judicial Board Hearing**  
Wednesday, April 21, 1999

3:53 p.m. You nervously pace as your judicial advisor assures you that everything will work out. You know she's right, but how did you get yourself in this situation in the first place?

4:02 p.m. Your palms are sweating and you are anxious to end all of this. The faculty advisor of the Judicial Board comes around the corner. "It's time. I'll get everyone else and then I'll see you down the hall."

4:03 p.m. You cautiously enter the room where the Judicial Board is seated in a line before you.