

Forum

Why I still hate Black History Month

Jacob Blom
STAFF WRITER

Black History Month is not a joke. I was mistaken to state the opposite. But, Black History Month should not exist. Its spirit merely should.

The founders of Black History Month intended to increase education about black history. The best way to accomplish this is to educate society year-round.

I assure you that if black history were not to be studied year-round, then I would prefer to have Black History Month than nothing at all. But, integrating black history into history texts would be ideal.

Those who wrote letters in response to my initial article would contend that black history is celebrated all year. I believe this is only true for an elite group. Traveling to museums and festivals to learn about black history is not possible for too many individuals.

This can be attributed to the scarcity of places to honor it across the country (one would be hard-pressed to find a black history museum in the Midwest).

Black History Month does not attract more interest because, by virtue of its name, it feels exclusive.

As a public school student in Baltimore City, I went to the Blacks in Wax Museum. This was a grand experience. Unfortunately, my school took the trip once a year, in February.

Education about black history should not be hindered by the month of February. Valentine's Day celebrates love, but it breeds an environment in which people believe it is unnecessary to show appreciation to their love on any other day.

I don't doubt that racism exists. I am not naïve.

But I believe that the best way to quell racism is to teach about black history. People are afraid of what they do not understand. Learning black history's awe-inspiring stories and lessons throughout the year might allow for white people to not feel excluded from black history, and allow blacks to not feel excluded from society.

I agree that Black History Month was not covered sufficiently in *The Guilfordian*. But I feel the making of a newsletter for black students makes matters worse. The

writers in this newsletter would be very welcome to help *The Guilfordian* cover issues pertaining to Guilford's black community. The newsletter, I am afraid, segregates the community further by saying that articles are somehow only relevant to one race or the other.

They remain separate.

"He should not speak from outside his experience," Miss Weintraub said in her letter to the editor. It makes proceeding difficult

when the black community complains that there is a lack of coverage, but protests that I should not talk about black issues because I am white.

Yes, I am white. But I have experienced Black History Month, so it is within my experience. I believe, as a white person, that it would be beneficial to all races to learn more about black history throughout the year instead of solely during the month of February.

Want to Help Fight
POVERTY? Fight



PARTICIPATE IN THE OXFAM COLLEGIATE
CLICK DRIVE!

Each click donates 25¢ to help fund
Self-employment loans for the very poor
(*Micro-loans*). Go to:
★ WWW.POVERTYFIGHTERS.COM ★
Scroll down, select "Guilford College," and
click "Go." Then click to donate.

**THE
GUILFORDIAN**

STAFF MEETINGS ARE MONDAYS AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE PASSION PIT.
ALL ARE WELCOME.

Statement of Purpose: The Forum exists to facilitate dialogue and expression on matters of importance to Guilford College and its mission. Toward this end, active community participation in these pages is vital.

Editorial Policy: Every effort will be made to print appropriate submissions of editorials, cartoons, and letters to the editor. They must be signed, with the phone number of the author or artist included and turned in to the box outside the publications suite by 3:00 on Monday before that Friday's publication date. Editorials must be no longer than 400 words and letters to the editor must be no more than 250 words. The Guilfordian reserves the right to edit submissions for grammatical correctness and brevity.

Staff:

Editor-in-chief.....	Alison Goss	316-3206
Managing Editor.....	James Tatum	316-3954
News Editor.....	Dan Fleishman	316-3299
Features Editor.....	Nora Ballard	316-3243
Forum Editor.....	Katy Wurster	316-3923
World Editor.....	Scott Smith	764-5182
Sports Editor.....	Alice Sharp	316-3372
Associate News Editor.....	Casey Creel	316-3796
Layout Editor.....	Sam Stephens	316-3293
Photography Editor.....	Justin Betson	316-3331
Arts Editor.....	Jared Axelrod	316-3948
Copy Editor.....	Casey Creel	316-3796
Business Manager.....	Derek Tolley	297-4116
Webmaster.....	Ireys Baucum	316-3125
Advertising Manager.....	Erik Edgerton	316-2306
Faculty Adviser.....	Jeff Jeske	316-2116

Staff Writers: Jeremy Ball, Ireys Baucum, Jacob Blom, Alison Buck, Jason Carter, Michael Cole, Seth Feinberg, Gabe Fertman, Matt Geiger, Rebecca Muller, Brian Schuh, Joshua West, Erica Wiggins

By mail: c/o Student Activities, 5800 W. Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27410
By phone: (336)316-2306 By fax: (336)316-2949
By e-mail: Guilfordian@guilford.edu On the internet: www.guilford.edu/Guilfordian



Ga-Li, a truly unique duet featuring dynamic vocals and instrumentation ranging from Native American flutes and drums to blues and tenor guitar will be performing at:

New Garden Friends School
1128 New Garden Road
(edge of Guilford College)

Sunday, April 14th at 7PM

**Tickets: \$4 for students, children and seniors
\$8 for adults**

**Proceeds support the Guilford College first year
Bonner work trip to the Crow Reservation**

For tickets contact: Judy Harvey at 316-2447
Sponsored by Community Learning