

## Staff Editorial

### Bayard Rustin receives long-deserved recognition

In 1963 Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. It was a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement and one of the most important events in American history. Behind it all, organizing and running the march itself, was activist, pacifist and Quaker Bayard Rustin.

Rustin was openly gay during a time when the twin demons of homophobia and racism haunted both the African American civil rights movement and the LGBTQ community's struggle for equality. This fact often slowed but never stopped his pursuit of peace and equality.

Thursday, March 17, marked the ninety-ninth anniversary of Rustin's birth. Though his struggle nears the century mark, his activism, non-violence, and compassion lives on here at Guilford with the creation of the Bayard Rustin Center for LGBTQA Activism, Education and Reconciliation.

Formerly known as the Queer and Allied Resource Center (QuARC), the Bayard Rustin Center embodies the ideals and causes that he dedicated his life to. The center was renamed to encompass its diverse purposes and make the space more accessible to those interested in becoming involved in or informed about civil rights activism.

Martha Lang, visiting assistant professor for sociology and anthropology, was the driving force behind the name change. The center was rededicated in Bayard's name not only as a symbol, but also to reinvigorate and refocus the sense of activism in Guilford's LGBTQ community.

For Rustin, the Civil Rights and LGBTQ movements were deeply connected. The renaming of the PRIDE office asks the Guilford community to recognize the interconnectedness of the struggles for peace, civil rights, and environmental and social justice.

No one is more deserving of the recognition that the name change provides. Rustin's life was dedicated to social justice causes, from civil rights in the U.S. to anti-imperialism abroad. His unwavering adherence to pacifism, his upholding and progression of nonviolent methods of protest, and his dedication to seeing beyond the politics of identity into the human heart of struggles for equality all make him the ideal symbol for the causes of Guilford College.

This is a small part of the renown that Rustin deserves as a Quaker social justice and peace activist. As a college community, Guilfordians feel responsible for honoring those that make notable contributions to the world and to the Quaker community. Until now, Rustin's legacy of activism has not been celebrated as it should be. Guilford PRIDE and Lang have taken a step in the right direction with the creation of the Bayard Rustin Center, and the reinvigoration of community in the LGBTQ rights movement.

## Romney: the moderate pick for Republicans



By David Pferdekemper  
STAFF WRITER

Early 2011 can only mean one thing: it's time to start thinking about our next president.

Whether it makes sense or not, this is the time when talk about presidential hopefuls starts up. Barack Obama will be running again, but Republican hopefuls have yet to put their name in the hat.

That being said, it's not hard to figure out who will be competing for the Republican nomination. Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul, Sarah Palin, and Mike Huckabee are all expected to run, along with many more.

But none of those names are the one I hope to see on the ballot facing off against Obama next year. My favorite Republican presidential hopeful is former governor of Massachusetts Mitt Romney.

Romney also ran for the Republican nomination in 2008. Even back then, he was the Republican with whom I found myself most impressed. Even when I disagree with him, he has come across as rational and reasonable.

Romney is also probably the most moderate of the contenders. He takes a states' rights standpoint on a lot of issues, meaning that rather than imposing his own views, Romney is moderate enough to allow states to make their own decisions.

Romney comes across as a moderate most notably in his health-

care reform in Massachusetts, which is similar to Obama's health-care overhaul. In addition to mandating that most citizens have health insurance, the reform includes free insurance for those making less than 150 percent of the federal poverty level, and provides partial subsidies for those making less than 300 percent of the FPL.

For a liberal like me, that paints Romney as a sympathetic moderate. For a Republican Party that is going further and further right, though, that seems to be painting Romney as a liberal who is out of touch with America.

There lies Romney's dilemma. Currently, he more or less seems to be the frontrunner for the Republican Party. This frontrunner status is threatened by the Far Right's perception of him. To handle this, Romney has begun pandering to that end of the party, and backing off of some of his more moderate stances.

This is a mistake. The Far Right will not be deciding the next Republican presidential nominee; moderate conservatives will. So many different potential candidates will be battling for the Far Right, and they'll each only be able to win a fraction of it. This will divide the Far Right, while moderate Republicans will remain a more unified whole, giving winning support to the most appealing candidate.

That candidate can make a good appeal as a nominee in the general election. Romney should not be backing away from his more moderate leanings, as they are exactly what can give him the edge to beat Obama.

Right now he is the more moderate choice, and he has the added bonus of being able to distance himself from the current House of Representatives, which has been pursuing radical legislation with no hope of making it through Senate or past Obama's veto. These actions will cost the Republicans in the next election.

If Romney continues to pander to the radical wing of his party, he risks becoming another Far Right candidate among many. If Romney still manages to win the nomination, he will lose his main appeal to moderate voters in the general election.

Romney needs to embrace his moderate leanings rather than deny them. If he does this, I'll still probably be voting for Obama, but I'll feel much more comfortable if Romney wins.

## Dark side of Middleton's fairy tale



By Chassidy Crump  
STAFF WRITER

If you've walked through a check-out line in the past four months, you've probably seen plenty of tabloids featuring Kate Middleton, Prince William's bride-to-be. Their marriage is obviously relevant to people living in England because she's going to be a princess. Yet Americans are almost as fascinated as our British counterparts.

"See Will and Kate As Comic Book Characters!" "Will and Kate Tea Towels Are A Go!" "Rumor Patrol! Which Royal Wedding Stories Are True?" These are just a few of the headlines that pop up when searching "Will and Kate" on People.com.

Since the official announcement of Middleton's engagement to Prince William, the media has propelled them both to celebrity status, but particularly the future princess.

Middleton took over the tabloids when the engagement was first announced. Her name continues to infiltrate the

Internet, magazines, and gossip shows as people speculate on her past, the couple's relationship, her style, and her wedding dress.

In fact, I just saw yet another "Will and Kate" story on Yahoo! Shine, which boasted "Fantasy wedding cakes for Will and Kate."

If these U.S. media outlets, which are seemingly catered to American women, are taking this much interest in the

and the description of their relationship seems to fit the prototype of what most Americans would consider "normal."

All this makes Middleton relatable to American women, while also living out a life that seems enviable. With all the Disney Princess movies we grew up watching, it's not a shock that women find the princess fantasy appealing. The two most recent Disney movies are proof that the princess tradition lives on.

Negative media portrayals of Middleton do exist with scandals such as with Life & Style's "Drunk in Public" article which showed — not surprisingly — pictures of the future princess drunk in public, as proof of such.

One blog, however, writes that there is a dark side to their relationship. According to Celebitchy.com, Prince William cheats on Middleton, and she has been told by advisors to ignore the cheating.

Though the reliability of this source is questionable, the blog does undermine the idea that Middleton's life is a fairy tale. Though she has the privilege of being a future princess of England on top of marrying a man whom she supposedly loves, Middleton must deal with positive and negative media attention, both of which are intrusive whether they report truthfully or not.

To the culture, media, and people in the U.S., it seems as though Middleton is living in a fairy tale. However, there is no perfect situation. Even Middleton has to deal with negative influences.

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wedding, it's obvious that a significant portion of women in the U.S. are interested.

Perhaps this is because Prince William and Middleton's wedding is much more modern than royal weddings of the past. The wedding is a "21st-century affair," said Newsweek. Middleton and the Prince met at college, she has a degree,