

Webpage redesign: raising awareness or misleading students about Guilford's diversity?



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STAFF WRITER

The glossy new website has been one of the more evident changes made over the summer and has garnered both negative and positive attention from members of the Guilford community. However, the most talked-about issue has to do with the issue of diversity.

The new website features a select group of students that may have made Guilford seem more diverse than it truly is.

According to CollegeStats.org, about 70 percent of the student body is Caucasian, about 20 percent African-American, and the rest is (Asians, Latinos, etc.) about 10 percent.

However, the people featured on the website are so predominantly ethnic as to make it seem like the percentages of the minority races are higher than they really are. For instance, Mahlet Abera '08, an Ethiopian, has been prominently featured on the website, which makes

the prospective student glancing at the website believe that there is a significant number of students from African countries that attend Guilford.

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We should be proud that such a large number of countries in Africa and Asia (particularly China) are represented in Guilford's student body, which is not the only draw to Guilford. There are

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also many students of varied religions, sexual orientations, social classes, and races that attend Guilford.

And above all, we have to be aware that diversity represented to attract prospective students and diversity actually represented on campus is

completely different.

The issue with colleges and diversity is prominent around the nation. Many colleges and universities, particularly at bigger, wealthier universities, fare worse with diversity than Guilford does. Many minorities in America, particularly those of immigrant families, may not be able to afford to attend many of those universities.

So, it is a problem for both the universities, who are not able to attract a more diverse group of prospective students, and the minority students who just want to be educated both academically and socially.

Guilford, being a small, unique school founded on Quaker values, is luckier due to its reputation as being a college that values the importance of diversity. It is one of its core values, after all.

The Guilford College website states, "We are committed to creating a community that acts with honesty and forthrightness, holding ourselves to high academic and ethical standards, and dealing with everyone with respect."

Perhaps the choice of students to feature on the website is a way to convince prospective students, particularly those from other cultures, that anyone can succeed at Guilford no matter where they come from. However, this kind of marketing for prospective students may not be so forthright.

VIGIL

North Carolina residents at vigil plead for Senate to examine bill with tolerance, courage

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The simple fact that this amendment exists shows the emphasis we put on this institution, this mold of marriage.

We all seek happiness in our relationships. And happiness, as well as love, comes in many different forms. This happiness and this love will not always manifest itself in a heterosexual marriage.

It is preposterous then, that one group is banned from entering the institution of marriage at all, while another group is forced to assume a union of marriage in order to have any chance of partnership recognition.

Where has the choice gone?

This question lingered and resonated in the Vigil for Equality crowd on Sept 12, reflected in the flickering of lit candles upon nightfall.

I could not help but notice that, like the voices of the people, these small flames, when faced with the threat of being extinguished by the force of surrounding wind, still retained their heat; shrinking momentarily to their blue base and rising up again with renewed fervor.

I, and certainly an overwhelming majority of North Carolinians and Americans only ask that lawmakers retain their courage in determining the

courage to provide choice of lifestyle to all citizens, even if some of these choices may not adhere to those they might make themselves.



Once the night fell, members of the Greensboro Vigil for Equality lit candles despite the wind and listened to speakers. The vigil was to fight the North Carolina bill against gay marriage.

extent of freedoms allowed to their citizens, courage to look past their own values and judge love on its apparent existence, not its supposed legality.

For everyone's sake, stow away the fear and do the right thing. As Rabbi Fred Guttman said, "Let not fear conquer us. Let us not go there."

Staff Editorial

Know your limits: drink responsibly

College. It's a unique time in our lives when we are handed freedom and independence, given the chance to form an identity, push ourselves to the limit, develop tolerance, and discover our passions.

This sounds great, until we apply it to college drinking habits, where testing our limits and pushing our tolerance can quickly turn into a dangerous game.

Less than a month into our first semester, this precarious dynamic has become difficult to ignore. Ambulances and fire engines have responded to numerous reports of alcohol poisoning on campus, and several students have ended up in the ER.

Dean of Students Aaron Fetrow reported that already an estimated five to six Guilford students have required emergency medical services as a result of excessive drinking, a notably higher estimate than in past semesters.

"We are acutely aware of the increase in abusive use of alcohol early in this semester and are making every effort to continue educating students on the dangers of binge drinking and irresponsible behavior with regard to alcohol," Fetrow stated.

In addition to preventative efforts coming from the top, however, it's important that we, as individuals, turn a mirror on our community and demand more of ourselves as responsible adults.

Drinking is undeniably a part of most social scenes, and it'd be naive to suggest that Guilford is any exception. But there's a big difference between throwing back a few beers with friends and drinking yourself into a hospital.

The typical "college scene" is often more closely associated with the latter. But Guilford is not a typical college, and as a members of the community we all have a responsibility to lift Guilford up.

In other words, we need to be smarter and more conscientious, not only as we approach our studies, but also as we approach our weekend partying.

Probably one of the most important things to think about as you hunker down for a Friday night is your alcohol tolerance. It's important to know your limits and not to push them beyond a safe level. If you don't yet know your limits but intend to drink, take it slow and surround yourself with people you trust.

It's also important to be self-aware while drinking. This is true not only on a social level but also on a chemical and physical level. Alcohol naturally relaxes us, but it's important to be conscious of how much you have had to drink and how strongly it is affecting you.

In efforts to prevent alcohol from negatively impacting our community, the Guilford administration has established rules and charged public safety and other authority figures with enforcing the rules and keeping us safe.

Ultimately, however, it's up to us as individuals to lift up the values of this community and hold ourselves to the standards that make this place great.