

Getting the word out: College Republicans and Democrats on the stump



BY
**ANTHONY
HARRISON**
STAFF WRITER

In last week's article, I was pretty hard on ol' Mitt Romney. So when the editors asked me to get statements from Guilford College Democrats and Republicans, I jumped at the chance to prove that I can be fair to both sides. I interviewed Will Moore, the student leader of the College Republicans, and Dwight Price, a prominent College Democrats representative. You can find the full interviews online at www.guilfordian.com.

Why do you support your candidate?

William Moore, College Republicans Student Leader: Mitt Romney is a very experienced man, in both the public and private sector. He's been a governor and he's been a successful businessman. With Bain Capital, he was able to help other companies. For example, Staples wouldn't exist without Bain, and he saved the Salt Lake City Winter Olympics in 2002. He has a lot of experience and I feel that he can serve our country better than President Obama.

Dwight Price, College Democrats Student representative: Like President Obama, I'm a progressive person. I believe in health care for everyone as a fundamental right. I believe that millionaires and billionaires should pay their fair share in taxes. I support his foreign policy, in that it has positively changed America's image in the world. The relationships he's forged with world leaders have been better and will be stronger and longer-lasting than the Bush administration's. Obama matched my views in 2008, and he matches them now.

Considering the upcoming debates, what do you think your candidate's strengths are?

Moore: Romney doesn't rely on charisma. A lot of people would say that's a weakness. But I admire that he has the ability to present his side with a businesslike tone without having to hug you, or smile, or sell a big story.

What will your candidate do to improve the condition of the middle class?

Moore: One of Romney's button issues is improving the state of our businesses. We need to cut the corporate tax. Cutting corporate tax won't drive up the price of our goods; it will drive prices down so consumers can afford products. It would allow businesses to provide goods at a more competitive and cheaper cost.

Price: Obama wants to cut taxes on the middle class and the poor. I think this shows that he's more in touch with how to fix the problems facing the country concerning poverty, immigration, and the economy on the whole. Romney plans on moving the tax burden down, upon the middle class, as opposed to on the wealthy who have their fortunes.

Price: The President possesses impeccable rhetorical ability. Everyone knows he's a good speaker, but in debates he also appeals to people with anecdotes which defend his policies. He'll try to build on the hopes and aspirations of the average working American, not the wealthy who wish to retain the status quo.

How do you think your candidate supports our generation?

Price: Obama stands behind students. He wants to avoid interest rate hikes in student loans. He believes there should be access for anyone willing and able to attend the college of their choice. Both Barack and Michelle Obama relied on federal aid for their education, so he embraces and recognizes that fact, and will not decrease that essential aid.

Moore: Well, consider what college kids need. Above anything, we need a job to pay off our loan debt. If you can't pay off your debt, you're pretty much screwed. Also, not only won't you be able to pay off your debt, you won't be able to progress economically. We need to figure out how to lower our unemployment rate and reform our tax policy to allow businesses the ability to hire more people.

What do you think your candidate can and will do to gain more North Carolina votes?

Moore: Mr. Romney has been making the case, especially in North Carolina, that Democratic policies have actually hurt our economy and driven up unemployment. The unemployment rate here is higher than the national average, after all. He'll point out that other states who have elected Republicans to lead, like Wisconsin and New Jersey, have seen employment rise.

Price: Obama will have to get the youth vote again, and have to create a bigger grassroots ground operation to get people registered and to the polls. He'll have to appeal to Reagan Democrats, which is a big demographic here, considering the fact that this state is more conservative. Even the Democrats we've elected are relatively conservative.

Just a reminder:

Remember to vote for the candidate of your choice in November 2012. To see the full interviews, go to www.guilfordian.com for the complete article.

Would you like to make any closing statements?

Moore: I want to make this clear to the student body: We face many upcoming difficulties. Student loans, increasing debt, Medicare's sustainability and such. Considering the conservative stance, I believe we have a stronger argument for preserving our government.

Price: Everyone must register and vote, especially young people. This is no time to stand on the sidelines.

We've got to fight for our right to party on campus

The clock strikes 1 a.m. While you may not turn into a pumpkin or lose a glass slipper, it's likely that you'll notice some red golf carts patrolling campus, shutting down the evening's festivities.

Public Safety, or "P-Safe" as most of us know them, has arrived to extinguish our party.

While it is important to acknowledge the rules and to enforce them, how much enforcement is too much? At what point does enforcing the rules cause more harm than good?

Lately, it seems like the line between keeping campus safe and documenting students is getting blurry.

With the recent so-called "party ban" on Campbell House, along with a serious rise in the number of documented students this year, it feels like it is getting harder for

students to enjoy socializing on campus without the risk of getting in trouble.

Sandy Bowles, director of student judicial affairs, thinks there is no difference in the rule enforcement this year.

"There have been more documentations, but it's not because we've changed the expectation for documentation, it's not because instructions to the RAs, hall directors and public safety officers are any different," said Bowles. "Policies have not changed. The system hasn't changed. At all. In any way, shape or form."

Perhaps no rules have changed. Perhaps the system is the same. Even so, something feels different. Certainly the rise of students being herded into judicial hearings points to

some sort of change, whether intentional or not.

"Everyone thinks they're getting stricter because of the amount of things they've limited us to on campus that makes them more honed in on certain situations," said junior Zachary Kronisch. "Since no one can hang out in the woods now, they're less spread out, so when (P-Safe) patrols, they patrol a lot harder in places known to have gatherings. And the only places that are known to have parties on campus are clearly the old (North) Apartments and the theme houses."

Many students feel scared to party on campus for fear of a bust from P-Safe or documentation from an RA, and, unfortunately, this could push those students off campus to party. The implications of this could be far more detrimental than loud music and crowds on campus.

With students feeling forced off campus, the risk for drinking and driving increases exponentially. Also, the safety our closed campus offers diminishes and students face the more severe consequences that partying can bring.

"For a school that tries to emphasize an on-campus community, they need to be realistic about the fact that students socialize at night," said junior Kelsey Worthy. "Making the party environment on campus so restricting ... (and) fitting it in a set of rules with noise and hours, pushes people off campus. It pushes people into dangerous and legally-compromising situations."

The fact is that we're in college, and whether right or wrong — many of us stay up late, drink and — yes — sometimes make bad decisions.

But that's part of life and, often, the college experience. Shouldn't Guilford College encourage students to make mistakes and learn these lessons on campus, where if any

serious trouble occurs, there are resources readily available to provide help? Wouldn't Guilford rather have some students being a little rowdy and loud than getting into a car accident off campus or getting seriously injured?

"Kids are going to party no matter what," said junior Alejandro Salcedo. "If they don't have a comfortable place to do it, they're just going to go off campus and risk getting in all sorts of different trouble."

Recently, most of the student body has been shocked and is upset to learn that Campbell House will not be hosting any more parties.

"They gave us guidelines on how to have a party that was okay that involved 28 people inside not doing anything," said Kronisch, a member of Campbell House. "So that's not a party. The second we have a party, they're going to have RAs and P-Safe — who already have all their eyes on us — swarm in and kick us out of the house."

Director of Public Safety Ronald Stowe thinks the blame should be on students, not staff.

"The 'pushing students off campus' argument is ... in my opinion, a cop out and not a valid argument at all," said Stowe. "If a student chooses to go off campus to party, then they should do so knowing there could be consequences to that choice. To place the blame for that on Public Safety or the college in general is simply irrational and immature."

While I agree that every individual is responsible for his or her actions and the consequences of them, it seems to me like it's actually a "cop out" to simply say, "too bad — it's your choice." Isn't it the responsibility of the college to keep us safe after all? Guilford is supposed to be based on a tight on-campus community with an emphasis on doing that which is best for the student body.



BY
**NATALIE
SUTTON**
STAFF WRITER