ILLUMINATING GUILFORD'S TRUE COLORS

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"It's just a coincidence that we happened to come this weekend," said Porter. "I might go to school here just because of this weekend."

Another relished aspect of Serendipity is, as sophomore Satiir Stevenson put it, "Seeing drunk people do stupid shit."

This, of course, is enjoyed completely in its unpredictability.

Similarly, all of the greatest moments in music, with the call and response during Reggae Infinity's set as a small example, are moment specific.

Yet, the garb, glitter and lasers are underscored by an iceberg of work.

For example, the laser show Friday night required planning and coordination with the Piedmont Triad International Airport.

"Because of the radius of the lasers and because we were within five miles from the airport, we had to okay it with the airport because it could interfere with the planes landings," said Dowling-Huppert.

With all this said, Serendipity is set up by committee, and merely lived out by students and performers. There is no cohesion. It is not a truly collaborative festival.

Neither through their praise, nor through their criticism, can students fully acknowledge the endless negotiation required by just 15 volunteers to put on the biggest event of the year for a student body of more than 1,000.

Serendipity is supposed to be a school-wide collaboration, a showcase both for the students and by the students. But in reality, it is collaboration only among those involved.

If you feel that a viewpoint or genre is underrepresented, then come to one of the many Wednesday-night meetings and voice your thoughts.

"We have been trying for as long as I have been on the board to get the community input on the music," said Dowling-Huppert.

"That's the thing about the Quaker process. If you don't come, you're putting your trust in other people's voices. So if you don't like what you see, then you definitely need to attend committee meetings."

Photos taken by Kacey Minnick/Guilfordian, Becca King/Guilfordian, Brianna Glenn/Guilfordian and contributions by David Kinchen, Lindsay Vanderhoogt, Grace Kanoy, and Gabe Pollak.

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