

“Blurred Lines” clearly reflects skewed social norms

“Blurred Lines,” Robin Thicke’s chart-topping hit of the summer, is not just making people want to dance.

Thicke’s questionable video and even more questionable lyrics have many calling the song chauvinistic, misogynistic and objectifying. Some have even described his lyrics as “rapey.”



BY MICHAEL CASWELL
STAFF WRITER

“There is no question that the video is objectifying to women, but does that really surprise people, coming from a pop song?” said Kami Rowan, director of guitar studies.

Rowan believes that this issue is not something new, and it is not a music issue at all.

“Hip-hop and pop music has been objectifying women for years,” Rowan said. “It’s strange people want to only focus on this one song.”

A lot of people have brought up the fact that a woman directed the “Blurred Lines” video, and director Diane Martel has stood behind her product.

“I think the girls were overpowering the men in the video,” Martel said in an interview with The Huffington Post.

Martel feels there is nothing wrong with the video because she is a product of the pop culture environment, just as Robin

“Pop culture and pop music is solely entertainment. There is no art involved. They are looking to sell, and sex sells.”

Kami Rowan, director of guitar studies

Thicke is. They believe what they are doing is okay because they have been told it is. And this has been going on for years.

“Pop culture and pop music is solely entertainment,” said Rowan. “There is no art involved. They are looking to sell, and sex sells.”

One of my biggest hang-ups on this issue is freedom of expression and speech. I’m not saying the song is right or okay, but do we really want to prevent people from expressing themselves? And shouldn’t individuals decide for themselves how to perceive culture?

There are people who can listen and watch Thicke’s song and clearly see that there is something wrong there. But they understand that it’s not a work of art; it’s just some catchy pop song that has no true meaning.

However, some people cannot distinguish the difference. Here is where we run into problems. We should not be pointing fingers at women or men; we should be educating men and women so they can better understand the negative

effects these lyrics and images can have on people.

This is not a feminist issue or a masculine issue. It’s a societal issue.

Pop culture has given people the illusion that there is a certain way that you should dress, talk and act if you are a man or woman. The masses believe it because it has become widely accepted by both men and women.

“Pop culture is made for the masses,” said Music Department Chair Tim Lindeman. “It’s an industry, (and) that’s how it’s always been.”

People who recognize these differences need to show people that just because something is on TV does not mean it’s okay. We have to come together as a society and teach people that there is not a however, and you can dress, act and talk however you want, even if pop culture disagrees.

So next time you’re listening to the radio and “Blurred Lines” comes on, just remember: the fact that it’s on the radio does not mean it is relevant. It should have no effect on how you live your life.

Open letter to first-years: navigate by heart

To me, Guilford is more than a physical place. It is a state of mind. When I was a student, this state of mind took many different shapes depending on the season, the semester or the people I was surrounding myself with.



BY GRACE ADELE BOYLE
GUEST WRITER

I’ve noticed simple things have the greatest effect on me. When I am inside all day, I am not happy. When I don’t drink enough water or get enough sleep, I am not as productive. When I am isolated from social interactions, I get depressed. When I stop exercising, I feel restless and irritated.

It took me years of paying attention to the little things to piece together the bigger picture, and my time at Guilford helped shape all these insights and decisions.

Sitting in a cafe writing poetry may sound interesting and deep and terribly romantic, or it might also make you feel bored and restless. That doesn’t mean you aren’t romantic or deep or interesting; it just means that isn’t your thing. Find your thing, then find the people who encourage and support you to do that thing and then go for it with all you have.

My advice to you this semester is to pay attention to what makes you the most happy. Guilford is the best place to cultivate this kind of awareness. I’m not going to urge you to join a new club, or run for student council or study abroad, because I don’t know if that will actually

make you happy.

But those things will open you up to new experiences where you can learn about yourself. Following your curiosity, and letting it show you the bits and pieces of life that make you happy and excited, is a good thing.

Navigate by heart, and see where you end up. Guilford is a rare place that allows you to do this. It encourages you to grow and become You without telling you what

that means or what it should look like. You also have direct access to tremendous resources through Guilford, and I am going to encourage you to take advantage of that.

This semester, take some risks. I promise you won’t get lost. You’re at Guilford! Love every second of it.

Grace graduated from Guilford in 2007. She is a freelance writer and photographer and also works in radio.



First-years enjoy the beauty of campus and get to know each other while relaxing on the quad.

This Week’s

STAFF EDITORIAL

We keep you informed, you carve the future

As we move into our 100th volume year at The Guilfordian, it is important not just to look back at the past, but to look at the future as well. This school year will be a defining one, and we plan to keep you informed.

One of the most striking stories we will continuously cover this year is the search for a new president. President Kent Chabotar is leaving the college after 12 years of service. Even as you’re reading this, the Presidential Search Committee seeks his replacement. Who they choose for the position will greatly affect Guilford’s future. We have assigned our most experienced writer to tackle this story in its entirety.

With a new year also comes a new judicial system, complete with a controversial points system. Will we see a spike in judicial charges, or will students be more aware of the consequences of their actions? Only time will tell, and The Guilfordian will be ready to provide a forum for discussion.

No matter your opinion, the new fountain caused a backlash last semester and in response to the Bryan Jr. Plaza’s construction, the Student Advisory Committee was born to seek more community input in the donation process. Its proponents hope to ensure that donor funds are used where they are most needed.

Meanwhile, Community Senate is also looking to make a positive change by creating a scholarship for undocumented students.

At this juncture, student influence is one of the most important aspects of this new school year. For this reason it is vital that all remain well-informed on every new issue that develops at the school — lest you forfeit your opportunity to wield that influence and perhaps not even realize a change took place until it is too late.

The Guilfordian plans to be there every step of the way to bring you all the latest updates, just as it has for the past 99 volumes.

REFLECTING GUILFORD COLLEGE’S CORE QUAKER VALUES, THE TOPICS AND CONTENT OF STAFF EDITORIALS ARE CHOSEN THROUGH CONSENSUS OF ALL 16 EDITORS AND ONE FACULTY ADVISER OF THE GUILFORDIAN’S EDITORIAL BOARD.