

# FEATURES

## Students for Justice in Palestine works against prejudice

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Students for Justice in Palestine are on a mission to work against the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

SJP is a nationwide effort that began at the University of California at Berkeley in 2001 and now boasts chapters on over 80 U.S. college campuses. Guilford College's SJP chapter was established in spring 2014, after splitting off from another organization, Students Allied Against Privilege and Supremacy.

Walid Mosarsaa, president and founder of the Guilford chapter, explained that SJP members think the issue needs more specific attention.

"Often when people think about the Palestine and Israeli conflict, they think of two countries, two independent peoples, two militaries fighting against each other and that's really not the case," said Mosarsaa. "It is the case of a superpower occupying a marginalized and disenfranchised group of people. The Palestinian people are neglected, and they do not have rights."

"Whenever Palestinians want to fight back to resist the occupation, whether peacefully or not, they are labeled as terrorists, and their voices are shut down. That's what we're trying to say on campus: listen to the underdog's side of the story. (This) is not a conflict of equals."

Mosarsaa was born into a Palestinian family in Amman, Jordan.

"I was raised during the time of the peace accords when they started to collapse," said Mosarsaa. "I went to a Quaker school growing up and met Guilford students when they would come to Palestine to learn about the conflict."

"Guilford has always had a relationship with Palestine. However, it has not (taken) a stand even (though it's) taken a stance on other issues. One of the reasons we started SJP was so we could educate and help Guilford, as a college and as a community, to take a stand."

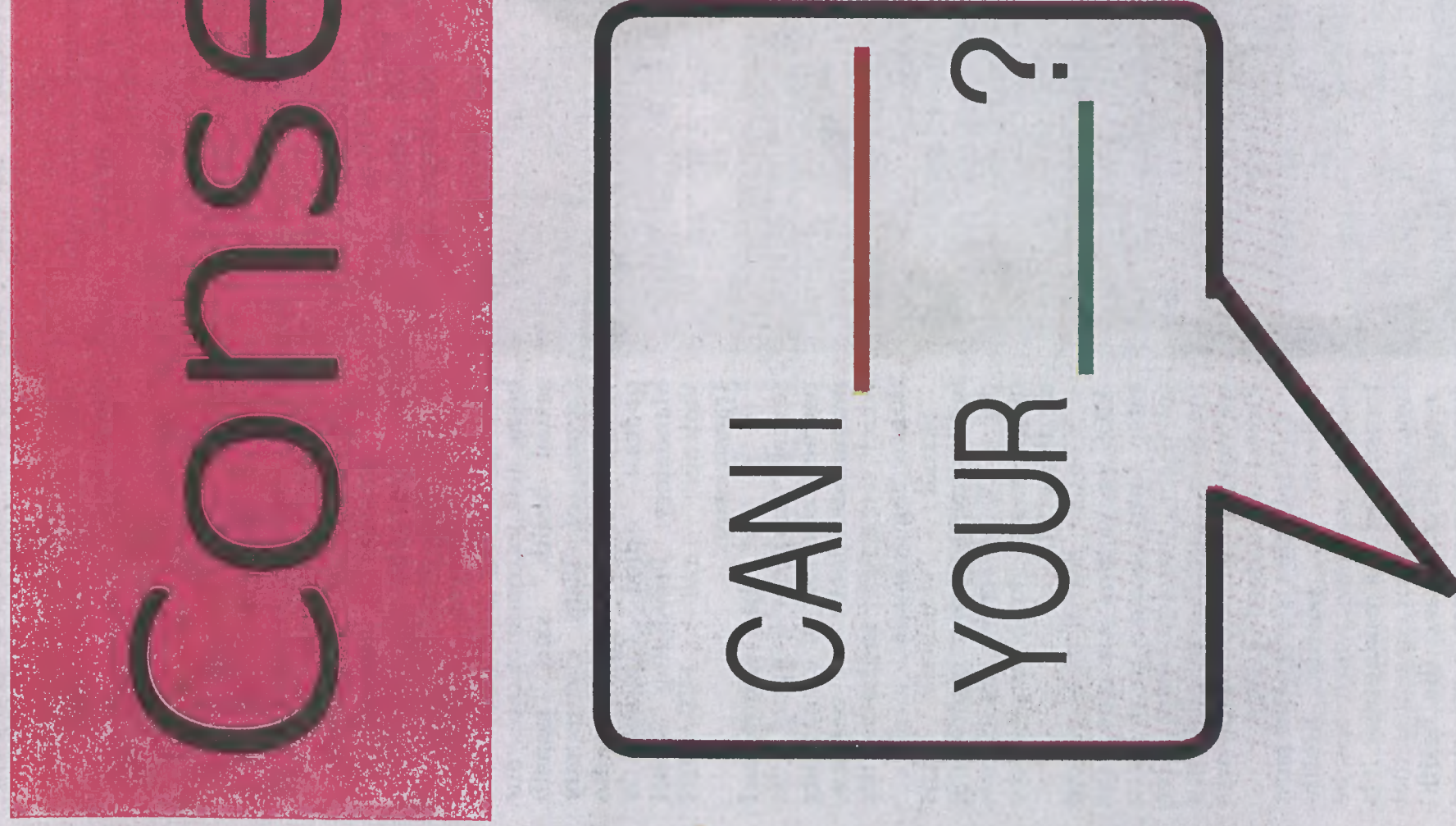
The club has already made an impact on both students and faculty members.

"Watching those images over the summer of Operation Protective Edge was heartbreaking," said senior and SJP member Omar Hamad. "It made me become more aware of how unjust it is. I really feel like the military occupation of Palestine, West Bank and Gaza should end and that's why I joined the group."

"SJP is crucial," said Diya Abdo, associate professor and chair of English and faculty mentor of SJP. "It raises

### CONSENT

## Consent Fair kicks off semester-long campaign to combat sexual assault



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on the importance of consent.

"The activities they had there were very creative and informative," said sophomore Zi Huang. "Especially the kissing booth, which was actually just Hershey's Kisses. People would ask, 'Mind if I give you a kiss?'"

Crowds of students made their way to the fair, drawn in by the music, courtesy of WQFS, free ice cream, free merchandise.

"I'm grateful that I go to a school that really promotes the importance of consent, getting awareness out and making it fun, too," said senior Elizabeth Croce.

However, Croce also noted that some students were only in it for the free things.

"Consent is not a limited concept, it applies to everyone in every situation," said sophomore Molly Anne Marcotte, a peer health and wellness educator, intern for the wellness education coordinator, and organizer of the fair. "This is about keeping our campus safe, and also embracing the joy of consent, so ideally, we would have everyone attend."

According to Wyatt, several hundred students attended. Within the first hour, 200 "Consent is Sexy" t-shirts had been given out.

Though it cannot be denied that the fair was popular, many students were confused by the lighthearted take on consent.

"It was interesting," said first-year Sebastian Krüger. "Some of the stations were just silly. So in a way, that portrayed it in a funnier way than it was supposed to be since it's such a serious topic. But all in all, I think it was a nice, funny way to represent their ideals."

Olivia Chalkley, sophomore and vice president of Sexual Assault Awareness Support and Advocacy, represented the group with a table at the fair. However, SAASA is no longer directly involved with the campaign, and Chalkley was bothered by the campaign's strategy for spreading awareness.

"I don't want people to think of it in terms of 'Consent is Sexy,'" said Chalkley. "I think it's ridiculous. Asking for consent doesn't mean that you're going to get a yes."

"That's the whole point of it. But that's kind of the implication behind a lot of this campaign."

Many of the activities have more of a focus on catching students' attention than on informing them about the complexities of consent. However, that focus is intentional. Wyatt wants as many students as possible to find out about the Consent Campaign so they will become interested in learning more.

"I do think they try to use language that will attract people who are college-aged," said senior and CAAP treasurer Khadija Carr, who sat at the CAAP table during the fair. "I know people have (had) their issues with the slogan, but it's how we educate that has the biggest impact."

Now that the kickoff event has sparked students' interest, students can continue to attend the engaging and informative activities hosted by the Consent Campaign throughout the semester.

Advertisements for these events will be spread across the campus, and knowing this campaign they will be hard to miss.



Five members of Guilford's Students for Justice in Palestine meet in the hut to discuss the club's events on campus for the school year. much needed awareness about the plight and rights of the Palestinians under occupation, blockade and the diaspora.

"It combats oppressive and dehumanizing rhetoric about Palestinians and resists the discourses and ideologies that work to silence them."

SJP embodies Guilford's core values and honors Guilford's Quaker heritage of fighting for social justice."

Some see the situation differently, which has caused some issues for SJP.

"We've had some challenges," said Mosarsaa. "Oftentimes, what we say is taken out of context and

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