

# Our Voice

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## Guilford on the brink

**B**eneath the shell of Guilford College, a new era is waiting to be born. It is a day of historic possibility: of change and progress yet unimagined. However, possibilities prove uncertain. Guilford must rediscover its identity, and do so soon, or these forces of evolution will unleash harm.

The color of the Guilford community changes with each autumn. Yet somehow today the hue strikes one as unfamiliar. From the droves of first-year students to the flock of fresh faculty to the family of new administrators, the college stands confused.

We must attract students who will be content at Guilford. How may we do so if we cannot define ourselves to ourselves, much less to the outside world?

We cannot. Meanwhile, the crisis of student retention looms. The chalkings, the merit scholarship controversy, the re-evaluation of the curriculum, the drug and alcohol policy, and the military recruiting debate all symbolize this internal conflict.

Therefore, the Community Senate and others are working to craft a statement. A single statement, and a simple one, articulating the uniqueness of Guilford College. The product of the effort has yet to be seen, yet will be vital to the institution's interests.

We must move forward. Yet to do so, Guilford must not only determine what its identity is—Guilford must become what it heralds itself to be.

This means we must be a community. A community diverse yet unified in respect

for each other and our college.

To nurture a community we must begin with a continual orientation. FYS professors must keep a higher purpose in mind: to prepare students not just for any college, but for *Guilford*.

We must commit ourselves to teaching first-year students that apathy doesn't belong here. They must know that through the Quaker style of governance, each student plays an integral role in the decision-making process.

When students feel empowered and part of a larger and greater community, the retention problem will fade.

During this period of inward probing and outward progress, we shall question the very nature of this school and sculpt its future. The "we" must include students. Guilford's leaders must then heed the student voice.

How will the voice be informed? *The Guilfordian* commits itself to covering, in an objective and thorough manner, the vital issues of this transitory period. When needed, you will hear our opinions and the development of debate. We dedicate ourselves to informing the student body so that it may rise in empowerment.

And then we will provide a journalistic microphone into which the voice must speak.

In this significant time in its history, Guilford searches. From the past? It must preserve. Into the future? It must soar. *The Guilfordian*, seeking its own identity, follows. We exist for this community, to enlighten during the infancy of this new era.

## Letter to the Editors

To the Editors,  
*Re: Article "An Immodest Proposal to Student Health"*

As the Director of the Student Health Service I must respond to a statement in the above-named article. The third column, paragraph two, states: "I will not mention here the numerous misidentifications that occur weekly in Student Health Services (Don't worry about that rash. It'll go away)"

The staff in Student Health are all licensed professionals who care a great deal about the health and welfare of our students. We do not diagnose a problem without numerous questions concerning the problem and a physical exam of the problem area. Any problem which the Registered Nurse or Physician Assistant feels is in need of further evaluation is referred to the physician when on campus (currently Tuesday and Thursday). We are also in telephone contact with the physician for any necessary consultation when the physician is not on campus.

It is irresponsible to write such a misguided statement without at least speaking with the Health Center staff or to the numerous students who seek our advice and treatment each week. To quote that a rash might not need worry since it will go away without further stating that, at the end of each visit, the patient is told to return for

further evaluation if not better in a specified amount of time is leaving out an integral part of the health care provider-patient contact. You should be aware that some common rashes (eg. contact dermatitis and pityriasis rosea) do go away with little to no treatment in many cases.

If the students involved had called the Student Health Service after hours they would have heard our voice mail message stating numbers to call for after hours emergency care. Many people calling find our message long and tedious, but when you need those numbers for emergency care, they are available.

A final note on information available for after hours care. Each new student receives a copy of *Your Guide to Basic Health Care Information*. This guide contains the telephone numbers of local hospitals, urgent care centers, pharmacies and crisis counseling centers.

If your intended message was to increase Health Service availability on campus you should have at least explored resources already in place. Defaming the staff in the Student Health Service was not an appropriate route.

Charlotte Schmickle  
Director of Student Health Services

## You are responsible for your own happiness

**Cara Skeat and Susan Allen**  
*Staff Writers*

Think back to the day you decided to come to Guilford. What was it about the school that made you want to spend four years of your life here? For me, it was the fact that Guilford students all seemed happy, involved and satisfied with their school lives. I still see that happiness and satisfaction. So why have these happy folk kept quiet lately?

Because of this silence, you may still be wondering what is going on at Guil-

ford? What can a freshman do? Well, how about play a varsity sport, chair a Union committee, write for the *Guilfordian*, go on a work trip, be secretary of NCSL,.... Knowing that you may not be interested in everything that two people have done since August, the list will stop there. The point is, however, that there are a lot of different and enjoyable things to do.

Perhaps, you are not inclined to commit your life away. What else is there to

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## The Guilfordian Editorial Board

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## Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed in editorials and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff and editorial board.

The editors reserve the right to edit all submissions for length, style, and taste.

## Submissions

The *Guilfordian* encourages submissions. Typed articles and letters are due by 7:00 PM., Sunday. Letters are limited to 250 words or less and should be on disk if possible. They must include author's name, phone number and P.O. Box. Write to:

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Staff meetings are held weekly in the Passion Pit, second floor, Founders Hall, Monday evenings at 9 o'clock. All are welcome.