

The FORUM

editorial board

Cory Birdwhistell
Adam Lucas
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statement of purpose

The Forum exists to facilitate dialogue and expression on matters of importance to Guilford College and its mission. Toward this end, active community participation in these pages is vital.

editorial policy

Every effort will be made to print appropriate submissions of editorials, cartoons and letters to the editor. They must be signed, with the phone number of the author or artist included. Editorials must be no longer than 400 words and letters to the editor must be no more than 250 words. The Guilfordian reserves the right to edit submissions for grammatical correctness and brevity.

The ins and outs of consensus

Senate rejected Union's beer garden proposal last week.

In doing so, it valiantly protected students' only source of power on this campus. Consensus emerged gleaming from the struggle.

Many students' reactions, however, did not.

Some exhibited hostility toward Senate Treasurer Dave Fleig, who blocked Senate from reaching consensus to approve the proposal. Others derided Senate for failing to call for a vote.

Inexcusable.

Berating individuals for their beliefs firmly contradicts the spirit of our governing system. As equals, we search for the wisest decision, the best course of action. Each one of us holds a piece of this greater truth.

Thus, we have no choice but to hold everyone's opinions in high esteem.

Further, lashing out at someone for having the tenacity to stand up for his beliefs is simply thoughtless. One person can block consen-

sus. *That's the idea.*

While often frustrating to the crowd, this one person feels strongly enough about an issue to believe its passage would bring about great harm. Fleig, for example, believed the beer garden may have contributed to endangerment of students' lives.

If the person's concerns are not as severe, he or she could choose to stand aside, letting the proposal pass with reservations.

Many senators understood these principles.

The majority also wanted to see the beer garden pass.

But not as much as they wanted to preserve the spirit of consensus.

They held our system of governance in too much esteem to destroy it by bringing the proposal to a vote. Voting is easy.

Consensus is difficult, but worth it.

Last Thursday morning at 1 a.m., concluding a special session of Senate, it was preserved.

We Get Letters..

Why they asked why

Dear Editor,
First, we would like to thank Laura O'Toole for her response to our "Why?" article. Second, we would like to apologize if the article offended anyone. That was not our intent. The purpose of the article was to inform the administration. We were simply voicing our concern. It was not meant to be negative towards the administration or staff. We understand the problems of student apathy and the misconception associated with paying tuition at a private college. Our goal was to make the administration aware by defining problems. The first step is informing the community.

The most important aspect of Guilford, which both letters pointed out, is the need for direct communication from the administration to students. We understand things need to be done and we are willing to help. However, if students are expected to help, they need to know when and where they can help.

Sincerely,
Steve Marasco

(on behalf of those involved in the "Why" article)

A word from Senate

Dear Editor,
As members of the Guilford College community we wish to inform students of the effects of vandalism on campus. Every year the college must spend thousands of dollars to repair what has been maliciously destroyed by vandals. Over the past semester Guilford has seen an increase in the amount of repair costs due to vandalism. These acts include defacement of the football field, the leveling of two heavy concrete pots, as well as the discharge of fire extinguishers.

The money needed to pay for this wanton destruction is taken out of the facilities budget. As a result, the college has less to go toward improvements to the facilities on campus.

Guilford students should know that the damage done by others to our facilities prevents other improvements to the college. Please be aware of the consequences and take action to protect our buildings and grounds. It is everyone's responsibility to care for and protect our campus.

Sincerely,
Community Senate

Stereotypes: break the mold

RICHARD DAILEY
staff writer

As one of the few black students on this campus, one of the things I have to deal with everyday is stereotypes. Unfortunately, this occurs in most environments where there are not many black people. There are a few stereotypes which I would like to address because, even though they may be true in some circumstances, they are not true in all situations.

Not all black students on this campus are athletes. Some are here because of academic excellence or a number of other reasons.

Some black students on this campus are not on huge amounts of financial aid. We might pay just as much, if not more, than any other

student on this campus.

There are black people who do not live in large cities. The color of our skin does not dictate the manner of our living.

Believe it or not, there are black students who do not use any type of drugs or alcohol. We may or may not, but it is wrong to just look at someone's appearance and assume that they engage in certain activities.

I am sure that this problem exists not only on this campus, but on many others as well. We must all take a step in understanding by asking before we assume. Remember that judging people as individuals is essential to understanding them and that one person's experience or lifestyle does not speak for all the people of his or her race.

Disagree with something you read? Write a letter to the editor. E-mail to "Guilfordian" or drop it off at the pub suite in Founders.