

**Editorial Board**

Adam Lucas  
Laura Parker  
Marjorie Hall  
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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 and turned in to the box outside the publications suite by 3:00 on Monday before that Friday's publication date. 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.

**Political correctness is a folly**

STAFF EDITORIAL

As a private, liberal arts school, Guilford has little legal obligation to encourage free speech.

However, as a school which prides itself on the openness of its community, Guilford has every reason in the world to create an environment that fosters free speech.

It is only by having an atmosphere where students of all backgrounds, creeds and opinions feel safe in expressing their ideas can Guilford live up to this idealistic, lofty goal.

Recent events on campus have challenged Guilford's commitment to free speech. Race discussions are unnaturally one-sided when any segment of campus feels unable to talk.

If we are to make progress, then every effort must be made to prevent students from being afraid of backlash caused by misunderstanding. We must put aside personal differences and belligerent attitudes.

John Robichaux expressed his opinions in a now infamous anonymous letter

addressed to the editor of this paper. He later came forward, voluntarily, and took credit for authorship of a letter which, at that point, had become one of the foci of what bordered on a crisis at Guilford. He should be commended for having the courage to come forward at all.

The letter penned by Robichaux was not necessarily right, and this editorial desires to make no pronouncement on the appropriateness of the ideas therein expressed. Those ideas were, however, clearly *not* politically correct.

Political correctness can be a touchy subject. It is also detrimental to conversation. When people are more concerned with the language used to express ideas than with the ideas themselves, the potential for growth from that discussion is hindered.

What good does it do to learn that the use of the n-word is improper if the underlying attitudes and stereotypes behind the language go unchallenged, unvoiced due to the veil of political correctness?

The problem extends far beyond race and Guilford.

Women are not to be referred to as broads, chicks, or bitches.

A headline using the phrase "head negro" recently sparked an outcry in Boston. The discussion centers not around the history of the issues involved, but over the use of that specific term.

We are taught to not use terms which are not "politically correct." We are taught that those terms are inherently bad. This results in repression instead of exploration of any ideas associated with that terminology.

The national debate over race relations has a tendency to get bogged down in its own rhetoric. Guilford has an opportunity to rise above rhetoric and make real changes in the attitudes of the people in this community.

Changing the outlook of people who leave Guilford and enter our prejudiced society would be far preferable to instructing those people as to which terms they may and may not use.

The choice is now ours. Will Guilford College have a true discussion or simply punish those who have the courage to voice unpopular ideas?

**THE GUILFORDIAN**

"Since 1914, but never quite like this."

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Staff meetings are Mondays at 7:30 pm in the Passion Pit. All are welcome.

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**Cowards on computers**

BY JACOB NOBLE  
Staff Writer

There seems to be an increasing amount of students who are too scared to step out of their comfort zones and instead choose to hide in vax notes.

Now, with the Senate vax notes, students are able to say what they feel in an overtly racist and ignorant manner.

No one has executed this privilege more tactfully than John Robichaux. Robichaux loves being in his comfort zone, where he can fire at will all the ignorant comments he has and face no repercussions because vax notes are only used by him and his followers.

The ignorance has now spilled over into Senate, and an increased amount of Molly Martin bashing has ensued.

While all of these comments are public, none of the authors have come forward during Senate to disclose what they have been saying on vax notes.

Instead they keep silent about the race issue until they find their comfort zone, which is in front of the computer screen and away from their constitutions. I thought this issue was to be tackled face to face.

Robichaux's cowardice and computer misuse should not surprise our campus,

however, seeing how he has used computers before to bestow his ignorance upon us.

What is worse about Robichaux and his entries is how he manipulates Quaker principles and teachings so he can be seen in a more favorable light, yet not have to directly look at his dissidents. If he is so strong about his beliefs, he should be able to look someone in the eye and justify them. So far Robichaux has been incapable of doing that.

That is why he is a coward.

Quakers conduct meetings through live attendance; they do not hide behind technology and fail to face their constituents. I have a suggestion for Robichaux: if he has a problem with the direction Guilford is heading with race relations, why do not he and his friends write a letter and this time sign their names? Then he can organize his colleagues and attend an AACS meeting and proceed to Senate. They need to stop hiding and start standing.

Colin McFadden-Roan, Nathan Parsons, and John Robichaux, I have read your vax note entries; your ignorance is quite evident and dangerous to the Guilford community. These three men are examples that technology + ignorance = cowards on computers.