

**Editorial Board**

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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.

**Martin: a fall from grace?**

By Jacob Noble  
STAFF WRITER

*Editor's Note: This is the first piece of a three-part series.*

Watching someone you hold in great admiration slowly fall from grace is hard to accept. Whenever I think of our former Senate President, Molly Martin, the idea of what could have been is replaced with the possibility that Martin and her actions might have hurt Guilford for years to come.

Molly Martin first entered the executive branch of senate when she ran on the '96 Marasco ticket. This experience could have been Martin's first insight into the stress accompanying a presidential race.

The race was one of the tightest in Guilford College history with the Marasco ticket edging out the Davis ticket by merely two votes.

It was also during this time that Martin was allegedly involved in an incident in which she claimed she was attacked in the woods. Friends and acquaintances of Martin spoke candidly to each other about the alleged attack, questioning the validity of her story.

The next year was a bit easier for Martin, who, this time, ran successfully for Senate president. The ill-prepared '96-'97 Ford ticket

proved no match for the experience which accompanied the Martin ticket. The margin was overwhelming with Martin receiving over 60% of the vote.

The '97-'98 school year, however, was filled with much more turmoil; Guilford's laid-back approach towards easing racial tensions finally caught up to it.

Many African Americans were tired of their concerns about the college falling on deaf ears. Martin seemed to sense this and wanted to help; the potential question was would it hurt her chances at re-election?

Then Rob Owens, an African American staff member, resigned, largely in part because only a small portion of his job dealt with African American affairs. After his resignation, minority members of the community were visibly shaken and tired of being the victims of what some felt was a his-

torically racist institution.

Whites, too, were shaken. Never before had anybody publicly questioned whether or not Guilford as an institution was racist, nor were they prepared to deal with the list of grievances outlined by African Americans. Through all of this, Martin took a stand. Unfortunately for Martin, this stand was beginning to cost her the support of some of her constituents.

Election time was nearing. While Martin spoke of an easy victory amongst her ticket, she seemed concerned to her friends at the realistic possibility of losing something she loved: the executive office.

The tension mounting in the community was immense. Racist letters and flyers began to stream across the campus; some were even distributed to members of Senate. Something was getting ready to happen, and then it did.

**Our alcohol policy should be enforced**

By Daniel Fleishman  
STAFF WRITER

During freshman orientation I, unlike many of my peers, did not consume any alcohol, and so I had the unfortunate opportunity to observe the reckless abandon of drunken teenagers. It disgusted me because all those who had been drinking showed the common signs of drunkenness: slurred speech, crooked walk, and the inability to focus on one thing at a time.

It appeared to me that these students, friends of mine, cared not one bit what the consequences of their actions might be. Their conduct was immature and unreasonable, and it led me to the opinion that the alcohol policy on campus should be toughened and enforced much more often.

In my opinion, teenagers are not yet able to make reasonable judgments, and when in college, they jump at their newly found freedom. Poor choices are made, and people are hurt. This includes both innocent bystanders as well as those drinking.

Horrible incidents on campus in the first week perfectly demonstrate this point, and I am in strong support of the recent modification of campus-wide alcohol regulations. I hope that these rules will now be enforced.

The emphasis on education seems to have been forgotten by many. College, to the drinkers, is

merely a party. It's time for everyone who spends their entire week looking forward to getting wasted on the weekends to start concentrating on scholastic achievement and extracurricular activities.

I don't live in the substance-free wing of Binford Hall. I do drink but *only* occasionally and *only* in moderation. My parents taught me very early that "anything is all right in moderation."

I am not trying to tell you that I'm a wonderful person who should be idolized, but I want to make it clear that no one needs to get blasted beyond recognition; no one should feel obligated to drink because it appears that everyone else is doing it.

If Guilford College students can ease their gross partying habits for a few months, then maybe the new rules implemented this week could be relaxed or eradicated. But this should be done only after careful consideration and the sufficient confidence of Guilford administration that events of the past week will not be repeated.

I am now dreading the weekends when I have to walk through campus, distrustful of my friends as to whether or not they are sober. It will bother me for as long as I am here, but I guess all I can do for now is hope that someone else will understand my view and perhaps help me understand the views of those who drink.

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