

Wal-Mart

Vote like your life depends on it

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eyeglasses store by offering them a management position at Wal-Mart Optical.

At what point are we willing to overlook past evil in favor of a superficial new leaf? If, as a Time magazine cartoon once suggested, the Ku Klux Klan began promoting children's literacy, who would applaud? Tuition increases be damned, I won't spend money that ought to be in someone else's paycheck.

Please think about this when you're riding Guilford's shopping shuttle this Saturday, and think about it even harder when the van pulls up in front of Wal-Mart. Last year, Guilford's motto was "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Do you care enough about changing the world to spend a couple more dollars buying your thumbtacks, pens and batteries someplace - anyplace - else?

If not, then what are you doing at Guilford?

Welcome, Freshmen

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The concept has been sucked dry.

Student Health: Great for dispensing cold medicine and the occasional antibiotic, not so good for unusual ailments and emergencies. It would be wise to locate an Urgent Care center that works with your insurance.

Academic Skills Center (ASC): You've proven you're smart enough to get into college. Now swallow your pride and go here for help with anything academic. By no means is this a resource for dummies - the staff really knows their stuff.

Classes: If you're thinking that an 8:30 won't be so bad, stop now. It will be that bad. Don't do it. Want to read more about classes? Then go pick up a handbook. This is MY survival guide.

Welcome to college, kids. Now, who wants to go to Wal-Mart?

Editorial Policy

Every effort will be made to print appropriate submissions of editorials and letters to the editor. They must be signed, with the phone number of the author or artist included and received by 5:00 on the Sunday before that Friday's publication date. Editorials must be no longer than 400 words and letters to the editor must be no longer than 250 words. The Guilfordian reserves the right to edit for grammatical correctness and brevity.

By mail: c/o Student Activities, 5800 W. Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27410. By phone: (336)316-2459. By e-mail: guilfordian@guilford.edu

Staff Editorial

Since 1972, every state has allowed persons aged 18 and older to vote in local, national, and presidential elections. Those first young voters, 18 when the laws were changed, are today seeing their fiftieth birthdays.

Back then, more than 72% of the country's population was registered to vote. Only 58% of the U.S. citizens aged 18-20 were registered to vote and not even half of them exercised this new right, accounting for six percent of all ballots cast.

Richard Nixon won that election.

Isn't it funny that this is the group that has decided that we, the current batch of 18-to-20-somethings, are the most politically apathetic generation ever?

But maybe they have a point. How many of us can honestly say we have consistently exercised our right to choose our leaders to govern us and represent us to the rest of the world?

Only 18 million (of almost 59 million total) people in the 18-to-25 age group voted in the 2000 presidential election,

accounting for about 16% of all the votes cast.

That's substantially better than the stats from 1972. But how effective are we in using our votes?

Because so few in our age demographic are voting, politicians are passing us over. They see no reason to court our votes, because it's obvious we're not going to help them get elected-or get them kicked out of office.

Are we really politically apathetic? We certainly hear plenty of political opinion. So what is it that's keeping us from going out and voting?

Whatever it is, that's the biggest failing of our generation.

We proclaim that our one vote won't make any difference, citing Gore's popular vote victory but the fact that Bush is in office. However, if something similar happens this election, politicians will be forced to fix the system, to make sure that it never happens again.

That's something your vote can accomplish.

When you vote and your age demographic is noted, you give us clout. We

all give each other clout. When 54% of people aged 50-65 are voting, politicians promise things like social security funds and Medicare.

When it's shown that 48% of the 18-25 age group voted in the 2004 election, maybe they'll start promising funding for higher education and reducing the national deficit.

Register to vote and learn more about voting at these Web sites

- www.rockthevote.com
- www.declareyourself.com
- www.vote.wwe.com
- www.vote-smart.org
- www.registerandvote2004.org
- www.justvote.org

Can't Wait To Complain?

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The Guilfordian

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