

Changes at Guilford receive mixed feelings

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Contributing Writer

"Students, by and large, see the Guilford administration as a churning monster, uncontrollably chewing up what this school has worked so hard to become and barfing out fancy schmancy new buildings," said sophomore Leah Begin.

I've talked with many peers who feel that way.

I don't think Kent Chabotar and Randy Doss are monsters, but after my first year, I've been concerned that Guilford may be intentionally changing its image as its enrollment and physical size grow.

"To generate wide appeal, we need to create an image that will not be offensive or exclusionary," said Jeff Jeske, Professor of English. "Not that Guilford advertises itself inaccurately, but as we broaden our intended audience, that affects messages we send."

I couldn't interview everyone I hoped. I don't claim to have data. But I will present the views I gathered on the "image change" issue.

"All members of the Guilford community should be familiar with the Strategic Long-Range Plan," said Randy Doss, Vice-president for Enrollment and Campus Life, "because that is our blueprint on what will happen here at Guilford for the next sev-

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-Leah Begin

eral years."

The SLRP can be seen on Guilford's website.

"People who see the changes negatively have to stay and be active," said Begin. "Only time will tell whether the changes are positive or negative, but it's safe

to say going with the flow won't bring positive changes."

"If you believe in a place, you connect yourself to the challenge of keeping that place alive and vital," said Doss. "Guilford has a place in America's higher educational system, but most small colleges are low-endowed and so have financial problems."

A few years ago, Guilford had low enrollment, no money for faculty raises, and deferred maintenance.

"There were problems with heating and cooling, peeling paint and broken sidewalks," said Kent Chabotar, President. "Posing issues of image and life-safety, Students were not likely to be attracted to a school that didn't look as good as its academic program."

Doss said that since 77 percent of Guilford's revenue comes from student tuition fees, the strategy of growth will allow Guilford to hire more full-time faculty and pay faculty more, keeping the student-to-faculty ratio at 16:1.

Maybe growth is financially necessary, but what does it mean for Guilford?

"Part of Guilford's charm is it feels like a bubble," said prospective student Peter Gott. "Increasing enrollment detracts from the strengths of a small college."

By the end of my first year, I recognized nearly everyone I passed. Not so last year or this year.

"We call our teachers by their first names, and students and faculty can grow close bonds," said senior Jai Dave. "I liked that about Guilford."

"People choose to go to Guilford so they can be names, not numbers," said Kathy Oliver '05. "That's being taken away, though you wouldn't know it from the brochures."

Already we've added three student apartment buildings, and Guilford will continue to add residence halls to compensate for the growing student body.

"The new apartments' quad is a parking lot, which doesn't seem to facilitate community," said sophomore Natan Harel. "Renovations and expansions may be necessary with increasing enrollment, but they should

be examined with Quaker values more in mind. Quaker values are not about outward image."

"Simplicity has always forced deemphasizing societal standards of beauty and truth," said Max Carter, Director of the Friends Center and Campus Ministry Coordinator. "There's some truth that people have been turned off by Guilford's deferred maintenance, but there has been a bit of overreaction in that we've poured a lot of money into curb appeal issues."

Begin's biggest concern is "irrecoverable change."

"How can Guilford claim to know its students at all if there are even ideas of building in the meadows and by the lake?" she said.

Dave said, "This natural environment drew me to Guilford. Traditionally our buildings' beauty has been enhanced by, instead of detracted from, nature's beauty."

Enrollment growth, necessary as it may be, has already affected Guilford in ways that are sometimes hard to verbalize. These articles are my start to a conversation that I hope continues. ❄

Chain letters are a waste of time: pass it on

Becca Spence
Forum Editor

I'll admit it. I have a MySpace account. I check it every day, and I get really excited when people leave comments on my page. However pitiful this may be, though, I am still worthy of a little respect. I don't buy into chain messages.

Whether posted as a MySpace bulletin, written on a Facebook wall, or sent as an e-mail message, chain messages are a sign of stupidity and a waste of time. They range widely in content but vary little in absurdity.

Let's examine a few of the different types:

1. The general threat letter. We've all seen them. "Send this to everyone in your address book or something horrible will happen to your family," they claim. "Repost this in 5 minutes or else your house will explode."

Get over it. Your family will be fine. Your house will not explode. Realize that

not everyone is gullible enough to pass these letters on. And, have you ever heard, "If only he had passed on the chain letter," on the news after a tragedy? You never will.

2. The "I am this girl/guy" letter. These list thoughts like, "A sweet guy will hold your hand in the rain," and urge you to pass the message on if you would do those things for someone. This is to show everyone you know how lovable you are and entice one of them into dating you.

Passing these messages on will not get you dates. People will think you're a whole lot sweeter if you don't fill their mailboxes with crap.

3. The "Pass this on and something funny will pop up" message. OK, you have an excuse for trying it once. Nothing happened, did it? It won't.

These messages often come with testimonies at the end. "Oh my god, this is the funniest thing I've ever seen! LOLLOLOLOLOL!" they proclaim.

Think about it. The hilarious pop-up

isn't supposed to pop up until after you've sent the letter. Even if something did pop up for these people, they would have already passed the message on. How could they have put a testimony on it?

There are several more types of chain messages. None of the "make a wish" letters, the "send this on and your sex life will

be great" promises or numerous others are any more redeeming than the ones I have discussed.

Don't send or post any more chain messages. If you do, you will have a miserable, lonely life. Not because this article is cursed, but because you are obviously stupid. ❄

Date: Jan 22, 2006 7:23 PM

Subject: my mom really does have a myspace. ass

Body: Since you opened this... Your whole myspace site is going to be deleted within 16 minutes or less

Sucks because this is not a joke

-friends
-layout
-pictures
-codes
quizzes

The only way u can keep ur myspace is to repost this within 2 minutes with this title...

my mom has a myspace
i lost my job

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Letters that do not meet the deadline or the word limit will be considered on a space-available basis. All letters must be signed with the author's name and contact information.