

Choosing a table for one



By Kara Thomas
STAFF WRITER

While some singles lamented this past Valentine's Day as Hallmark's way of pointing out their disappointing love lives, others didn't vow to dress in black or eat their weight in chocolate because being single is a choice, not a curse.

But, when you can barely turn on the TV without seeing a reality show about a bachelorette finding her Prince Charming, that can be hard to believe. Yet, there are some people who enjoy being unattached and make a conscious effort to stay that way.

There are several perks to going stag. A desire to maintain my independence is one reason I've had over the years.

To me, a Facebook-official, attached-at-the-hip relationship conjures images of straightjackets. The idea of not only having to call or see someone every night, but of having to want to call or see someone every night, seems ridiculous.

The guilt I used to feel when I would miss a call or choose to spend a night with girl friends instead of my

supposedly-significant other was more annoying than heart-wrenching. And I could certainly do without the quasi-interrogation that sometimes succeeded those nights.

Another less common, but still valid, motivation for maintaining solo status is school and work.

People with this set of priorities may sound like a bunch of uptight, party poopers who would rather spend a Friday night in the library than out painting the town red. Or, they could want to have every opportunity to let loose in their free time without the added stress of having to incorporate a plus-one.

Other people, like first-year Claire McCarty, would rather sample from a buffet than order an entrée. To some people, college should be more about playing the field and experimenting, not finding The One or getting your MRS or MR degree.

"I would have killed for a boyfriend in high school," said McCarty. "But now, I just want to have fun."

McCarty is not alone in that mindset. The evidence is there whenever you see people at a party swapping spit in a way that makes it seem they are as concerned with romance as with each other's middle names.

Not all of those people have emotional or self-esteem problems. Sometimes people just enjoy flirting. And making out. And hooking up.

This may come as a shock to the people who view Valentine's Day or their Facebook relationship status as a measurement of their self-worth, but not everybody needs a hand to hold in order to keep walking forward.

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Guilford College Republicans a safe haven for conservative students



By Crosby Blair
STAFF WRITER

Calling all elephants — there's a new Republican organization on campus. It's called Guilford College Republicans, and, as of last week, it's an official club.

Some believe the establishment of this club symbolizes a shifting student demographic. While this may be true, let us not forget some of the values that our school holds dearly: diversity, equality, and justice. It's only fair that there be a Guilford College Republicans club since there's already a Guilford College Democrats club.

"I'm a Republican on a noticeably liberal campus and I wanted there to be a place for Republicans to get together and discuss their thoughts and opinions," said sophomore Claire Massagie, one of three chairpersons for the organization.

As a senior, I'm well aware that there has never before been a pervasive presence of Republicans on campus. All past attempts to establish

a club have been foiled by lack of interest and numbers. So why is this Republican presence emerging now?

It could have to do with the election of Republican Scott Brown in Massachusetts, in what some are calling a "Republican resurgence." It could have to do with the obvious shift in student demographics. There are more athletes and in-state students now, some of whom seem to be more conservative.

But, in all honesty, I'm not sure where all the Republicans are coming from or why. Truth be told, it doesn't matter.

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The core question is this: at a college that promotes and cherishes such values as equality and justice, why has it taken so long for there to be a respective counter-part to Guilford College Democrats?

In an unofficial constitution submitted to Senate, the new club included the following in their mission statement: "Despite the conservative foundation of the College Republicans,

the organization will actively seek to understand other political leanings, rather than seek solely to be understood."

If that doesn't fit in with the tolerant and open-minded values of the school, I don't know what does.

Now, don't get me wrong — I'm definitely a liberal. I voted for Obama. One of the main reasons I chose Guilford specifically was because it has a largely liberal student body.

But, I also believe in fairness and impartiality. It's only right that the college harbor a Republicans club, even if the club's presence represents

a coming apocalypse for some.

Establishing this club is a step in the right direction if Guilford is serious about upholding its core values. Where past attempts have failed, this one may too. Yet, with almost 30 members already, Guilford College Republicans have already proven that they will give conservative students a place to call home on this predominantly liberal campus.

Staff Editorial

Graduation statistics essential to college's commitment to diversity

In the Jan. 29 Guilfordian article "Football coaches discuss graduation rates, diversity on football team," we asked the coaches how the football program provides necessary social and academic support for its black student-athletes, citing statistics about lower graduation rates for black male athletes at Guilford. On a national level, black male athletes are statistically less likely to graduate than white male athletes. When we asked these questions, we were operating under the assumption that the national data about graduation rates applied to this institution.

Shortly after printing the article, we learned that Guilford is in the beginning stages of developing a system to track the graduation rates of black male athletes, but that they don't have the data to complete these statistics yet. Some of the interview questions were flawed since they assumed that this statistic existed, and that it reflected national trends. We acknowledge our mistake and it cannot be excused.

Since no concrete statistical data currently exists on the graduation rates of black male athletes at Guilford, it is hard to investigate whether or not black male athletes graduate at a lower rate than white male athletes do.

Guilford's situation is not unique. Most division-three institutions, including those in the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC), do not keep track of the rate at which their black male athletes graduate. Most division-one schools, on which the national data is based, do keep these numbers.

Guilford has not been remiss in its dedication to diversity. Many steps have been taken to increase our quantitative understanding of diversity, and a continuing emphasis on qualitative aspects continue to improve diverse experiences in our community. Knowing the retention and persistence rates of all demographics is an important step in this process. Not collecting data on the graduation rates of different demographics of athletes limits our ability to assess how well we as a community are succeeding in our efforts at being a supportive, diverse community.

We have stated in previous staff editorials that a sound commitment to diversity must be both quantitative and qualitative. In order for this institution to proactively bolster diversity quantitatively, any statistics that could reveal possible trends concerning a segment of the student population's success should be gathered.

While this institution works toward a comprehensive analysis of the graduation rates of not just black male athletes, but of all demographics, The Guilfordian will continue to report on how diversity affects the community, and how the community affects diversity. Our commitment to a qualitative understanding of diversity remains steadfast, even as we emphasize the necessity of grounding our understanding in concrete data.

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