



According To The Voyager...

The Rockford Promise scholarship encourages brighter futures

College is a necessity for people who aspire to be successful in today's society, but it's not easily accessible for everyone. People in low income families often don't attend college purely for financial reasons—something completely out of a student's control—or they have to rely on loans, grants, and scholarships. Rockford provides an abundance of options for schooling, with many students going to either Rock Valley College or Rockford University for a more accessible, but still high-quality, post-secondary education. The Rockford Promise scholarship, which has gained much more recognition in recent years, has been taking huge steps towards creating a better future for both Rockford and those who inhabit it.

The Rockford Promise scholarship has made college more easily available for Rockford residents who otherwise wouldn't have been able to attend college. The organization has focused their efforts on specific low income neighborhoods, such as the area around School Street, but also provides opportunities for

many students outside of those areas. By giving these students a financial boost, Rockford Promise is investing in the future of America. It is becoming more and more difficult to obtain a job with just a high school diploma now-a-days. A bachelor's degree, or even an associate's degree, makes future employees more desirable in the job market.

This is an opportunity that can benefit many low income and minority students. It is unfair that hard working students with so much potential are denied a post-secondary education due to their financial instability. That is why it is so important for students from these sorts of backgrounds to apply for Rockford Promise and not miss out on the chance to further their education to a new career. There are a couple of requirements to meet the scholarship standard, as stated in the front page story (give it a look!)

The number of students applying for the scholarship has also increased the number of students who actually get into Rockford University and Rock Valley

College. With this opportunity, students are secured a definite spot into receiving a high quality education. Rockford University and Rock Valley College are great outlets for those who want to take a 'safe route' rather than paying an expensive tuition. Many students decide to stay in Rockford after high school, but only for two years. Once they've received their Associate's degree, students head off to a bigger university, and by doing so, have become more accustomed to the lifestyle of a college student.

Although Rockford Promise scholarships are targeted to help students coming from low income families, it is still open to anyone who wishes to apply. It does not deny any person who wants to apply due to their financial or racial background since its overall goal is to help local students achieve a higher education.

When people donate to Rockford Promise, they are investing in the future of Rockford. Many students who receive the scholarships go on to achieve great

things and give back to the communities that they once (or still do!) call home. No other program is more influential on Rockford Students in the area as Rockford Promise.



This editorial was written by and reflects the views of the The Voyager editorial board.

TRICK OR TREAT YO'SELF: HALLOWEEN 2017

Matt Huf
Reporter

'18

Whether you spend your Halloween dressing up, trick-or-treating, or curled up on the couch watching scary movies, there is no bad way to spend Halloween; however, there is an ideal way to spend it. In the past I have handed out candy, and I've gone trick or treating. I know some people who have tried this scenario. One idea is playing an Ouija board in an old cemetery. I haven't tried it but I've heard it is a wonderful experience.

Trick-or-treating can get old after a while, but candy never gets tiring. You can never go wrong with free candy. Chocolate is a fantastic thing in the eyes of children, and I would recommend it to anyone. Trick or treating adds to the joy and excitement you get when fall comes around, bringing you one step closer to the festive time of the year.

Scary movies go hand in hand with

Halloween. You could go the horror route, or try your hand at some of the classics. Some movies that you could choose from are Scream, Ghostbusters, The Shining, Beetlejuice, and the Silence of the Lambs. These are some great movies that can help you find the true spirit of Halloween.

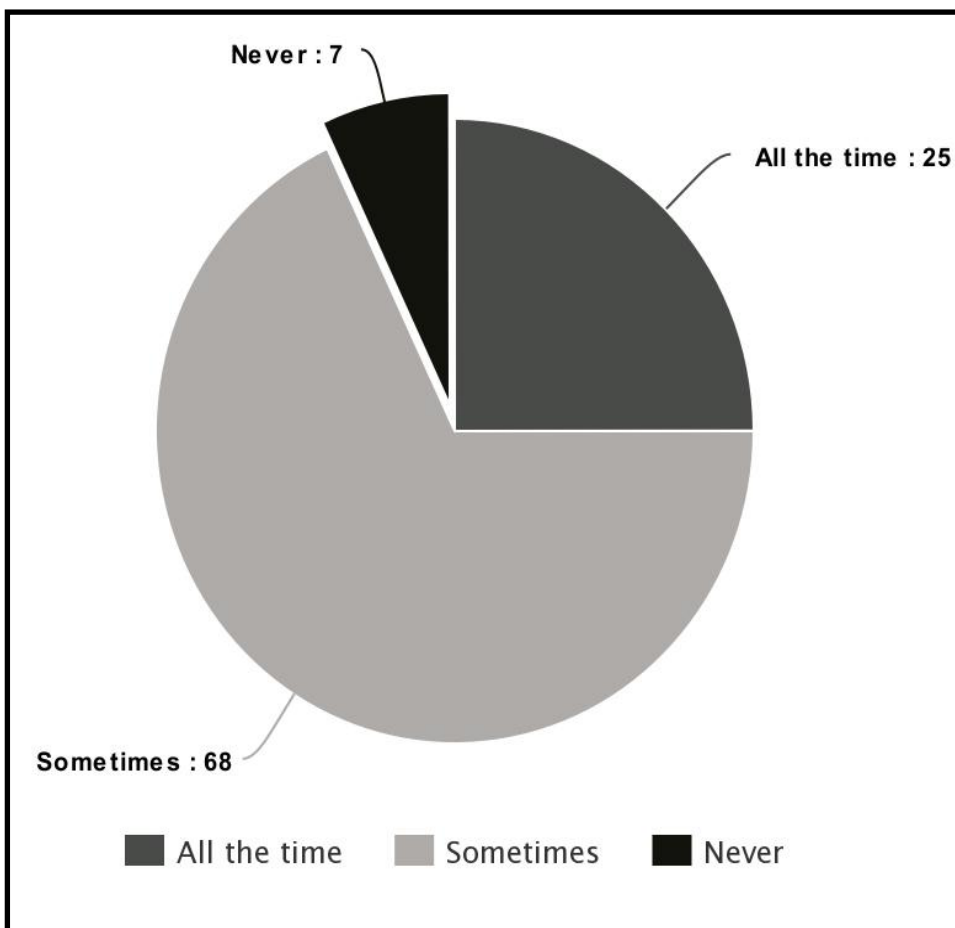
The ideal way to spend Halloween is to go out with a buddy or partner collecting candy from as many houses that you can, or buying your own candy, and eventually reporting back to base to set up a scary movie and relax next to an open fire, eating your heart out with as much chocolate as possible. This is the ideal way to spend Halloween because you have the perfect set up. Settling down near an open fire along with a stash of chocolates and treats and watching movies: a superb way to spend your night.



Isabella Pumo/PHOTO

DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR DREAMS WHEN YOU WAKE UP?

TOTAL OF 100 STUDENTS POLLED BY OLIVIA HAGERTY



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"The Voyager strives to inform, inspire, and enlighten its readers. Our goal is to report news about the school and community and to provide an unrestricted forum for the free exchange of ideas and opinions among students. We demand accuracy and hold ourselves to the highest ethical standard."



THROUGH THE EYES OF A VIKING

Administration and students share their hopes for Guilford's future

Lauren Bear
Editor-In-Chief

Contrary to administration, students are affected firsthand by the changes made throughout the district and school, which is why their opinions are the most valuable. Guilford has improved significantly over the last decade in terms of implementing academics, smartboards, and the new field house, yet students still wish to see more upgrades in the future.

Technology is always advancing, and our students deserve the opportunity to keep up with the changing times. Classrooms and school materials shouldn't be the same as they were 50 years ago.

"I would like to have personal laptops because it would save a lot of time and paper," said Gabby Bui, freshman. "You wouldn't need to sign out or worry about saving everything. I could work on projects from home and it would make my work easier to access."

Along with new technology, students should be exposed to various learning styles. Studies have proven that not every student learns the same way, supporting the call for more adaptive learning methods.

"I would like a more individualized education, more one on one," said Cruz Pena, senior. "Some kids struggle learning in the



The Guilford band members, pictured in their uniforms, prepare to perform before a football game. Edith Arroyo/PHOTO

typical classroom environment, so this would be more productive for them."

In addition to improvements inside the classrooms, other parts of the school are long overdue for an upgrade, including the performing arts.

"Band needs new uniforms, because they're old," said Edith Arroyo, sophomore. "If they were more modern, we would have more confidence and pride. People would listen to us and we would have more motivation to play better."

Kai'terra Ross
Reporter

Guilford has progressed in many ways since its opening years, but looking forward, administrators still have a lot they want to accomplish.

"In 10 years, I want Guilford to

graduate over 88% of its students, surpass the state average in national testing, and provide opportunities for all students to be college, career, and life ready," said Mr. Ronald Carter, principal.

Guilford has started a credit recovery program called Edmentum. This program helps student make up the credits they lack in the past years, so that they are able to graduate on time.

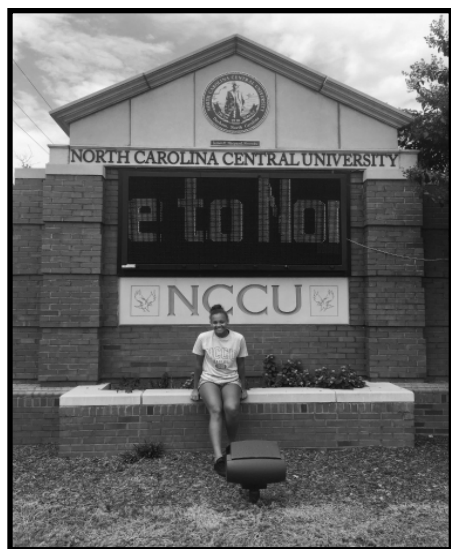
"Our goal is have our students graduate on time within the four years," said Mr. Russell Vanderhyden, EMITT academy principal. "We have provided students who are off track with various interventions to get them back on track. We have a new credit recovery program called Edmentum to help students gain school credits back."

At the end of freshman year, administrators make sure students have at least 12 credits, and they want students to maintain earning specific amount of credits.

"Specifically for the freshman academy, after the first year of school, students will need 12 credits to move forward to the next year," said Mr. Corey Shrank, freshman academy principal. "Also, we are looking for a percentage of students on track to graduate within four years."

MARIE'S DECLASSIFIED SCHOOL SURVIVAL GUIDE

..... The key to chasing your own dreams



Celene Morris, senior, sits proudly in front of her future college, NCCU, where she will play D1 volleyball. Celene Morris/PHOTO

Marie Burns
In-Depth Editor

When I was younger, about elementary school age, my parents engraved in me a passion for a certain university—which I will not name. We would often visit campus for football games and, as Christmas and birthday gifts, I would receive spirit wear from this school. It never occurred to me that my becoming a big fan of this school would be a direct result of my parents' obsession, not my own.

This unnamed university is highly selective and very competitive. Only about 19% of applicants are accepted into the school each year. As a high school freshman, I had it engrained in me that I would work hard enough to get into this school, to be able to say proudly that I was accepted, and that

I attended this school. But now, as a senior, looking back at my previous dreams, I realize that this was for me to make my parents proud, to give them bragging rights. My personal career goals do not fit with this unnamed school and the benefits of me going there are small; all that would come out of me going there—assuming I would be accepted—would be bragging rights and tons of debt.

Many other students that I have met have experienced similar situations: their parents play-down wanting them to go to a certain university, but their child knows and feels the pressure to fulfill that dream.

There are many other factors important to a student when considering the real college that they want to attend: typically personable staff, fun student life, low tuition, and quality programs. But to many people, both parents and students, the name of the school plays a big role, too. It is like an expensive brand name, like Chanel or Prada;

but for schooling, however, there is not much correlation with whether or not this relates to the overall quality of the school. So, the big question you could ask is: Does your dream college truly have what you want or are you trying to fulfill someone else's dream?



Ruthie Caballero, senior, excitedly presents her future school's sign. Ruthie Caballero/PHOTO

TAKING A STAND? TRY TAKING A KNEE

Prycilla Rodriguez
Entertainment Editor

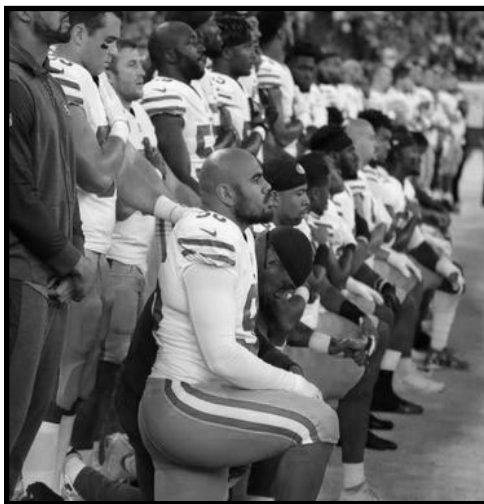
We've all heard about standing up for what you believe in, but what about kneeling? All across the country, there have been countless reports of people taking a stand (pun intended) and kneeling as a form of protest during The National Anthem. From your favorite quarterback to students in the student section, this rebellion has stirred up quite a controversy.

Kneeling during The National Anthem was first brought to our attention back in August of 2016, when the quarterback of the San Francisco 49ers, Colin Kaepernick, announced that he would not be standing for the country's anthem. This was his way of shedding light on police brutality against people of color and the injustices that still go on to this day. Since then, people all across the United States have participated in their own ways. From the NFL to the NHL, Tampa Bay Lightning forward, J.T.

Brown stood and held his fist in the air during The National Anthem on October 7th, 2017. In 2016, several Auburn High School football players took a knee while everyone else stood before the flag.

Some argue that these forms of protest show disrespect to those who served and fought for our country. They see it as a way of disrespecting the United States flag.

I would argue that the people protesting are not against those who are serving or have served this country. If anything, they appreciate them, because, without them, they



Members of the San Francisco 49ers kneel during the National Anthem on October 8, 2017. Michael Conroy/PHOTO

would not have the right to fight for what they believe in. Those who protest are simply against praising something that holds symbolic meaning about freedom when the oppression of people of color is still an issue.

According to the United States Code, title 36, chapter 10, section 171, "...all present except those in uniform should stand at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart." It says

that you should stand, not that you have to stand. Whether you choose to protest or not, there is no denying what this

country stands for, which is freedom.

President Donald Trump has spoken out and believes that NFL owners should fire players who kneel during The National Anthem and even encouraged fans to walk out if they feel like it. Following that, President Trump has praised Vice President Mike Pence via Twitter for stepping out of a Colts game after witnessing the players peacefully protest. Trump is the same man who jokingly took credit for the reason why a ceremonial song was played during an Air National Guard hangar in early October. Anyone who has served or knows of someone who has served should realize that during the playing of the symbolic song, it is considered respectful to be silent—which the president chose to ignore. It's kind of hypocritical to preach about someone being disrespectful when you're on the same side of that wall.

Even though the president doesn't believe in Kaepernick's protesting, citizens still do have the right to protest police brutality. This should not discourage individuals from expressing their rights under the First Amendment.