

Wilson Fellow Discusses Guilford Visit

by Robert Schnitzel

I had heard a good deal of Guilford, all favorable, before we arrived in Greensboro. The atmosphere of the college is remarkable, composed of enthusiastic faculty, keenly interested students and an excellent relationship between the two groups. Dr. Bryden, the Coordinator, is a marine biologist and we both wondered just how it would work bearing in mind the entirely different fields of my experience. Indeed it was Dr. Bryden's standing in the college, and the active science faculty that he leads, that contributed so much to the success of our visit.

Curiously enough I was more exposed to the students in the exact sciences than to those in history or political science. In part this was due to Dr. Bryden, in part to the caliber of young professors in the science department. Almost without exception these professors had had extensive non-academic experience before coming to Guilford. This may explain their receptivity to the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship program.

I was Guilford's second visitor and hence they were still feeling their way. Dr. Bryden had carried out an extensive advance canvass of the campus. My program included, for example, extensive attendance at various classes and seminars, meetings with the faculty, a dinner with students interested in careers in foreign affairs, luncheon with a science club made up of faculty and students, and a dinner given by President Hobbs for Greensboro parents and their sons or daughters contemplating attending Guilford. In addition, I did four television affairs for the local CBS and NBC studios.

The week at Guilford demonstrated the usefulness of the program to the visitor. The intensive discussions and meetings confirmed vividly the degree to which the country is moving in an anti-internationalist direction. The pre-occupation of the students is almost exclusively with domestic problems. The lack of information and misinformation about foreign affairs are pervasive. Within

this context, there was naturally enough a strong bias against military expenditures and indeed against Western Europe.

Once again it was hard to spark any real dialogue with the students. They would ask questions, of course, which ranged over the whole field of international affairs and domestic economics. Given the inevitable difference in the level of knowledge between one who has worked thirty years in a field and undergraduates, it will always be hard to find that common ground. A rather striking footnote on the visit was a morning spent at the Greensboro Day School, with which Guilford has close relations. Here the upper form students were open, lively and

inquisitive and without that inhibition that seems to surround college students. It may be that college age is also the age of sensitivity to the risk of exposing one's ignorance.

I agree with Dr. Bryden that it may be useful to bring together, on the first evening, those key faculty members and students who can be expected to provide the core of support for the visit. I also share his judgement that the formal address is a questionable device. Not only are students lectured at enough, but the informal affair, with brief introductory remarks and then extensive questions, answers and discussion seems much more preferable.

In conclusion, this was a most profitable and enjoyable week. The warmth and interest of President Hobbs

and his wife set the tone for the visit. Dr. Bryden could not have been more attentive to all details of our visit, a better guide to Guilford and its work, or a more pleasant companion.

While it is for Guilford to have the final word, I feel strongly that this visit demonstrated the value of the Woodrow Wilson program. On a number of occasions, both students and faculty came up to say how much they appreciated the opportunity to get a first-hand information on international economic and political issues. I think I may have been able to give some guidance to several students interested in careers in foreign affairs. One senior in particular I shall keep in touch with in order to give him some further help.

New Geology Offering

The Geology Department is offering a course next semester which they believe will be of very special interest to many students. The course is entitled: "Energy and Natural Resources: The Limits to Use", and is intended to be an in-depth look at the realities of our present array of crises.

Most people today have only the vaguest of ideas about the source of our energy supplies and about how those supplies are translated into services for the society; the same can be said about the resources that go to make our industrial output possible, to make our homes, conveniences, and essentials, available to us in the market place.

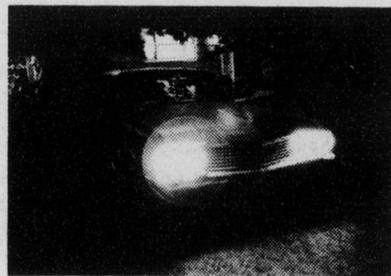
All this sounds very dry...until you recognize that the shelves are beginning to become bare, the plants are beginning to shut down, the pipelines to

run dry...and we are going to have to do something about it! The instructors come from a background of activism in the Sierra Club and from five years in one of the country's basic industries (Donald Gibbon) and from eight years in one of the largest oil companies (Charles Almy).

They are going to try to clarify the nature of the problem and how it got that way...and then encourage the class to analyze the possible solutions in terms of the effects they will have on tomorrow's society!

These are gut issues; it's easy to show how scarcity of oil makes sugar prices go up...and the Geology Department believes they can convince anyone that everything's connected to everything else...in such a way that we now have to know the consequences of our actions before we act.

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