

## ERA, Marijuana, and Liquor Discussed in Senate Forum

On Wednesday, September 28, three state senators, McNeill Smith, Kathy Sebo, and Rachel Gray, held an informal forum to answer questions from students, faculty, and members of the community interested in current politics in North Carolina. Six people showed up for the forum.

The question of why the Equal Rights Amendment did not pass in the senate was foremost in the minds of participants. All three senators supported the ERA, and Rachel Gray said, "I was terribly disappointed." She feels that equal rights for women is a long overdue reform. The ERA will not come before the senate again until January, 1979.

A bill currently before the senate proposing that liquor be sold by the bottle in Grade A restaurants was also discussed. Kathy Sebo explained that the bill would provide a local option: each community would hold an election to decide if liquor should be sold

by the drink. If the community approves it, the individual restaurants will decide what permit they want: one allowing liquor by the drink only, liquor by the drink and brown-bagging, or just brown-bagging. Senator Sebo added, "much of the opposition to this bill comes from people who realize that liquor will be much more expensive by the drink." She supports the bill, however, feeling that brown-bagging is much more offensive to non-drinkers than liquor served by the drink.

Other developments in the state senate include a law recently passed which reduced the penalty for first time marijuana violations to a maximum fine of \$100. The senators were concerned with the large difference in penalties for first and second time offenses, and hoped to see more equitable laws passed in the near future.

Some very interesting discussion stemmed from a question by a brave individual

who admitted to knowing little about North Carolina politics and wondered how he could become more involved. McNeill Smith suggested working in a candidate's campaign such as his campaign for the U.S. Senate. Rachel Gray stressed the importance of citizen involvement in precinct meetings, admitting, however, that they are often quite dull. Kathy Sebo said that letters are an important contact with her constituents. She admitted that they are not an accurate gauge of public opinion, but often a source of different and interesting outlooks on a problem.

Everyone was disappointed that the forum did not attract more students, but delighted to have the chance to talk informally with the senators. Hopefully people will realize next time that one need not be a political activist to attend a senate forum and they will take advantage of this rare opportunity.

## Scholarship Society Inducts 17

The Guilford Scholarship Society held its first meeting Wednesday September 26th for the purpose of recognizing new members. Advisor Rudy Gordh and President Bobbie Jones introduced the President's Committee which consists of Phil Manz, Amie Fort and Jim Hood to the group and recognized the following new members: Scott Culclasure, Amie Fort, Donna Harris, Jim Hood, David Hurley, Bobbie Kent, Lynn Lippincott, Phil Manz, Vance Massey, Connie Mazzoli, Janice Poston, Bonnie Pratt, Susan Sabanos, Jeanette Sachs, Mae Sexauer, Deborah

Stoessel and Virginia Wagoner.

Members inducted last spring are Cyd Atkins, Ellen Cashwell, Randy Catoe, Pat Collins, Andrea Deagon, Debra Doggett, Robin Ernest, Marianne Frierson, Joel Groce, Charles Haworth, Sue Hughes, Dan Hurley, Bobbie Jones, Kathy Jones, James Osborne, John Poag, Mark Snyder and Carolyn Williams.

An organizational and planning meeting will be held **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, FROM 5:15 UNTIL 6:15 PM IN THE EAST DINING ROOM.** All members are requested to attend.

## History Club News

The History Club met September 21 for planning and election of officers. With Martha Cooley as advisor, the club discussed projects for the first semester. There are plans for a field trip and picnic at the Guilford Courthouse Battlefield, discussion groups about selected readings, and films of past or current history. Club members also discussed the need for revision of the History curriculum. Tentative plans were made for a party

to be held for History Club members at Henry Hood's house.

No officers from last year returned, so a new slate was elected. They are as follows:  
 President: Mark McDonald  
 Vice-President: Frances Alexander  
 Secretary: Frances Henderson  
 Treasurer: John Pendergrass

All History Majors and anyone with an interest in history is invited to join.

## Too Close for Comfort

BY PAT STABLER

Calling Guilford an Ivory Tower is admittedly like saying there are snakes in the lake, but *Taxi Driver* in both its content and people's reactions to it, leads me irresistably to try and describe some of those snakes.

The movie is set in New York City, with Robert DeNiro playing Travis, a completely alienated, distressed individual. We first identify with him, despite the barrenness and dreariness of his life, because he is dealing with the circumstances in a way we can understand. He chronicles his thoughts, spawned by loneliness and sleepless nights, in a journal, and finally reaches out toward another person.

That person is Betsy, who is working in a Presidential campaign office. She is highly idealized, and when she responds Travis feels that at last he has found an authentic person. At this point, our identification shifts, however. Travis bungles the potential friendship by taking Betsy to a porno flick, a move that is natural within his world; he is bewildered by the resulting rejection. We feel that she is right, somehow, but the movie carries us with him beyond this point where, like Betsy, we would have refused to see more. (Many people in

the Guilford audience left shortly after this happened.)

The content of the movie does indeed become upsetting, as we watch Travis train himself for murder, with fearful intensity. He also befriends an adolescent prostitute, who eventually forms the focus from which he bursts into violence. What is important, though, is the manner in which the action is dealt. We are swept into Travis' world in which his reaction is psychologically very real and understandable. For him, the pimps, the drug dealers, the clientel of both, the petty thieves, are all so much trash, like the garbage he complains about littering the street. And he realizes it is a world that Betsy and her Presidential candidate do not care to see. The murders he commits enables the girl prostitute to go home to her very grateful family. Travis accepts, however, that he has no choice but to stay among the filth and violence, the price of that admission costs him his sanity.

At the end of the movie, we see Betsy, who is left on the curb side by Travis, fascinated grotesquely by the twisted heroism of his actions. But secretly, we are glad of being able to walk into that ivory tower and say to the elevator man, "Eighth floor, please."

## Collum's Column

This past week, while I was gathering rosebuds behind Bryan, one of the Flying Martini Brothers flew by and knocked me on the ground. Stunned, I attempted to collect my brown paper bag and its contents. But, alas, the cups and dishes that I had borrowed from the cafeteria had shattered into sparkle-bursts of fragmented glass. So much for trying to complete Pammy Jo's set of dishes! Our nuptial pattern was to be Cafeteria Crustware. But, at least the seven years' bad luck brought about a welcomed marriage postponement. (What an appropriate time for the disco version of the "Hallelujah Chorus!")

I don't want you to think that I'm always complaining. I have found much pleasure, and many good points, here. At what other school would the student union sponsor a finger-painting contest? or a dance with those novices of nighttime entertainment, the Rockin-pneumatic Nuns? or an exotic dance demonstration by Madame Gladine? Only at Guilford College would we find such cultural offerings.

Bertie Lou phoned me today. She informed me that she and her Binford Buddies, or rather Buddettes, are designing a new doll, Binford Barbie, the battery-operated bed-toy. It's refreshing to come across such innovative entrepreneurs.

As for myself, I'm spending most of my time these days in the geology lab. Sure, things are slow, but then again, I used to live in George White House.

I guess, noble reader, I ought to terminate my literary lingering I still have a few chapters to read in *Savage Surfer*, the memoirs of a violated beach-bunny.

Big Col

Coming soon: how SAC abolished itself and how I wrote a paragraph of mandatory sentences.

## Colloquium Schedule

"The Hero" is the subject of the Guilford College Faculty Colloquium to be held at 3:30 p.m. most Wednesdays through Dec. 7 in the Gallery of Founders Hall. All sessions are open to the public at no charge.

There will be no session Oct. 19 because of fall break nor Nov. 23 because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Dates, speakers and individual topics are:

Sept. 28, Jim Gutsell, "Is There a Hero?"; Oct. 5, Rose Simon, "George Chapman's The Courtier — Hero in Bussy Plays"; Oct. 2, Nick McDowell, "The Outlaw As Hero"; and Oct. 26, Bill Burris, "The Hero and American Presidential Politics."

Also, Nov. 2, John Stoneburner, "Thoreau: The Hero and The Wilderness" and Melvin Keiser, "The Scientist As Hero II: An Archeology of Loren Eiseley's Theopoetic Quest"; and Nov. 9, Jerry Godard and Dick Morton, "Explorations About Ahab of Moby Dick."

Also, Nov. 16, Ann Deagon and Carol Stoneburner, "Autobiography and The Woman Hero"; Nov. 30, Donald Deagon, "The Hero in Drama"; and Dec. 7, Ed Lowe, "The Hero in Opera."