

# Guilfordian

Serendipity

plans

See page 2

Volume LXIV, No. 14

Guilford College, Greensboro, N.C. 27410

January 29, 1980



Dr. Michio Kaku prepares for his Sternberger speech in which he told of previously undisclosed nuclear accidents.

## N.C. next?

By Paul Holcomb  
News Editor

Dr. Michio Kaku, a visiting nuclear physicist said here Thursday that North Carolina is a likely site of the next Three Mile Island and that the Nuclear Regulating Commission has ordered only "cosmetic changes in the design and construction of nuclear plants since Three Mile Island."

Dr. Kaku cited documents obtained from the U.S. government. He said that the Brunswick II reactor near Wilmington had more accidents in 1976 than any reactor in the country.

The physicist said the reactors built by N.C. utilities were

"at best lemons, at worst another Three Mile Island." He was most distressed because several of the malfunctions at Brunswick occurred in the reactor's Emergency Core Cooling System (ECCS), the last defense against a meltdown in a serious mishap.

Dr. Kaku quoted a recently published best-seller by the Harvard School of Business called *Energy Future*. It said nuclear power was not a feasible energy source for the years ahead.

He said the "oil crisis" was actually a "profit crisis," and that "we certainly have enough oil to last us for a transition to alternative sources."

## We must denounce nuclear power

# Kaku presentation energetic

By Gordon Palmer  
Features Editor

Partial meltdowns, hydrogen gas explosions, and fatal and harmful accidents have been going on at commercial nuclear power plants since long before the Three Mile Island accident. And North Carolina could be next.

These are the bold assertions of Dr. Michio Kaku, a nuclear physics professor from City College of New York, and they form the main thrust of his argument against nuclear power in his press conference and speech!

The message may be a big jolt to some, but the youthful-looking Dr. Kaku exudes a very calm manner as he delivers it. As to why he thinks that North Carolina may be the site of the next Three Mile Island-scale accident, he goes into very precise technical detail, elucidating the factors visually for the laymen in the audience.

Dr. Kaku refers to a reactor in the vicinity, the Sharon Harris plant. In particular, he is talking about the testimony of a former worker at the site of the plant, Ron Shackelford.

This testimony includes allegations of foremen who couldn't read blueprints, shifts of workers who okayed the use of parts listed as defective by the previous group, two workers being killed by a falling crane, and a wall being built without steel reinforcement bars.

Also, says Dr. Kaku, two foremen were fired at the Sharon Harris plant for being truthful about the shoddy, unsafe construction, and this firing caused 140 workers to

wildcat.

As he speaks, Dr. Kaku is clad in a navy-blue suit and a tie with small red dots. His trimness and long, coal-black hair give him his appearance of youth; several on lookers comment that he looks about 20.

"Actually," he says, "today is my 33rd birthday. This image that many people have of the shaggy-white-haired physicist isn't true; by the time you're that, you're usually a philosopher. I started very young, and physicists as a whole are quite young. For a physicist, I'm middle-aged."

Dr. Kaku himself has been interested in nuclear physics since his teens. He says that he was pro-nuclear until the partial meltdown at the Fermi reactor near Detroit in 1966.

last year. How was this done?

Dr. Kaku credits his access to TMI to the fact that he is tenured at CCNY, and gives the story behind his tenure.

"About ten years ago, I was finishing up my doctorate at Berkeley. It was the Vietnam War; many of us were marching against the Livermore Weapons Laboratory, and speaking about the SL-1 accident . . . just after it happened."

"We were met at the Livermore Laboratory with machine guns and barbed wire; we were the next generations of nuclear physicists. At that point, we realized, 'This is for keeps.'"

"There was a split in our group at Berkeley. Half of us said, 'We have to denounce nuclear power now. The American people . . . don't know about

"The American people . . . don't know about the link between weapons and nuclear power."

At the time, he was an undergraduate student at Harvard, and his physics professors were called in to deal with the accident. Dr. Kaku says he wondered why the government was trying to hush things up, since the prevailing notion about nuclear power was that it was "safe, clean, and too cheap to meter."

For his Guilford College appearance (sponsored by NCP-PIRG), he is billed as "the first physicist with a non-nuclear stance to visit Three Mile Island," a feat which he accomplished in September of

the link between weapons and nuclear power."

"The other half said, 'You're crazy -- you'll get fired. We'll go underground for seven years, and when we get tenure, we'll come out.'"

"I got tenure a year and a half ago, and my friends around the country are now getting tenure, and they're going to be surfacing and denouncing nuclear power."

There are more advantages to this tenure than simply holding a steady job. Dr. Kaku is able to

See 'Kaku,' page 5

## Loughlin expands Piper's scope

By Brian Carey  
Editor

Guilford's biannual literary magazine, *The Piper*, is enjoying a pleasant revival, thanks to editor Chip Loughlin.

Loughlin joined the magazine as editor this fall, with the idea of making it more of a literary group, and so far has succeeded with his goal.

"Sometimes you feel like you've not done enough," says Loughlin. But he has managed to keep the group together, infuse them with energy, and put out a successful fall issue.

Loughlin's chores began early in the fall when he organized the group and began soliciting contributions for *The Piper*. By way of notices, signs, and knocking on doors, he collected enough material for

the issue.

Then, with the aid of a few other staff members, Loughlin made the selections for publications and laid out the magazine.

Coordinating the literary readings and dinners occupies an equal amount of Loughlin's schedule. Last semester, the group had a dinner with Rob and Charlotte Williams, with Rob reading an original short story and Charlotte reading translations of several Russian poems.

"I hope that we are able to talk sensibly about what is being read," says Loughlin, and this is usually the case.

Loughlin feels that financial realities will force *The Piper* to continue to use newsprint, and wishes for more faculty feedback and comments. But he's

positive about the student response to the Piper. "They appreciate a place to talk about writing, and that's important."

Loughlin plans to have readings every other week this semester, and hopes to get Carter Delafield and Jim Gutsell to speak with the group.

They're coming!

Forbert  
and Mas

February 19



Chip Loughlin, Piper editor.