

Guilford hosts Convocation on Nuclear War

By Mark Lieblich
Special to the News

Over a hundred college campuses throughout the nation, including Guilford, have set aside a day for what the Union of Concerned Scientists has called a "Convocation on Nuclear War." Here at Guilford College on Wednesday, November 11 there will be opportunities for us to express our concerns, learn more about nuclear war and its consequences, and help to prevent such a war from taking place in the future.

Already massive protests in opposition to the arms race have been taking place throughout Europe. In the meantime, President Reagan has made comments about attacks with nuclear weapons which indicate he may not view this event as grimly as some people feel he should.

In response to this increasingly accepted attitude, a group of

Guilford faculty members and students have come together to plan this day which addresses the need to take a closer look at the threat of nuclear war and to stimulate greater concern for this issue.

10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.: Information Table. In the lobby of Founders you will be able to obtain information about the day's activities, sign your name to a set of principles drawn up by students, review literature, and write letters to government officials.

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Silent Vigil. A gathering in front of Founders Hall for a vigil will take place. This will be to show concern (bring placards) for nuclear war.

Lunch: Film "War Without Winners". This film will be shown in the Walnut Room of the cafeteria two times during the lunch hours.

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Media Events. Presentations to be

shown in the Gallery of Founders Hall will include "The Last Epidemic" and "Nagasaki." Check the information table for precise schedules.

4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.: Community Vigil. Transportation will be provided (sign up at the information desk) to a vigil being held at the Post Office in downtown Greensboro.

Dinner: Film "Hiroshima". This will be shown in the Walnut Room of the cafeteria during the dinner hours.

8:00 p.m.: Remarks and Discussion. A talk in the Boren Lounge on the "Medical Implications of Nuclear War" by Robert Doolittle will be followed with remarks by Theodor Benfey, Gerald Enos, and Joseph Groves. An open discussion will take place afterward.

Thursday, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.: Radio Show. Richard Zwiegenhaft will do a show on WQFS including songs related to nuclear war.

Guilford physician, Dr. Robert Doolittle will speak on the "Medical Implications of Nuclear War" in the Boren Lounge at Guilford College's participation in a nationwide "Convocation on Nuclear War" on November 11.



Column by Dr. Doolittle

The final epidemic

By Robert Doolittle, MD

The Guilford faculty has endorsed educational planning for concentrated study in the area of peace and justice. The possible use of nuclear weapons looms as the major issue to be faced. Our present government argues that a limited nuclear war can be won, and supports development of a weapons system (MX missile, neutron bomb) that we could use offensively in addition to our present defensive capabilities. The protection from a nuclear explosion planned for us is a combination of mass evacuation from populated areas to rural areas and housing in fallout shelters. The Federal Civil Defense Register lists 6

designated fallout shelters on the Guilford campus: Binford, Milner, Shore, King, Dana Auditorium, and the Library. This listing disregards a 1969 letter from then college president Grimsley Hobbs informing civil defense officials that the faculty and Board of Trustees of the college had voted not to participate in the shelter program since the false hope of protection would make the possibility of a nuclear exchange more feasible to the American public.

A Soviet intercontinental missile carrying its usual 20 megaton nuclear weapon (1500 times more powerful than the weapon used on Hiroshima) would travel from Russia to the States in about 30 minutes. If the

bomb exploded over the Petroleum Distribution Facility near the airport, the airport would be instantly evaporated by the temperatures greater than that at the center of our sun. Here at Guilford glass would melt and the buildings would either burn or collapse. The enormous blast pressures and a fire storm traveling at 200-300 mph would kill almost everyone in a 15-20 mile radius. People in fallout shelters in this area would suffocate as the air would be literally sucked out of the shelter. Those who did survive the immediate explosion would require medical attention for severe burns, traumatic injuries, and acute radiation sickness that would be fatal within several

days or weeks. Yet Wesley Long and Greensboro Hospitals would have been destroyed and portions of Cone Hospital would be damaged by fire. In addition many health workers would have succumbed thus paralyzing emergency medical operations. Those persons at the periphery of the weapon's blast effect would be left with no food or water that was not contaminated with radioactivity. This long term exposure to sublethal doses of radiation would produce a high incidence of leukemia and other cancers as well as genetic damage that would not be obvious for several generations.

Intelligence sources estimate that every military base, every fuel storage depot or power

generating facility (including nuclear power plants) and every city with a population over 25,000 is targeted by the Soviets. The US and USSR have approximately 50,000 nuclear warheads aimed at each other and their allies, enough to kill everyone on earth several times over.

There can be no winners in a nuclear war, and the only rational policy can be to prevent a nuclear exchange, not to prepare for one. As the arms race continues, we grow closer to catastrophe each day. Join in the activities that will provide information about nuclear policies and their consequences that are scheduled on this campus for Nov. 11, and find a role for yourself.



Like NASA, WQFS has had its problems. Launch date for the new transmitter now is 8:00 a.m. Saturday. WQFS will broadcast at 91 on the dial, with 1900 watts of power. Tim Little and Clark Eldrege install equipment.

College Notebook

International day is coming November 22!!

A special chance to help special people. Volunteers are needed to help with the Special Olympics. The Olympics will be held on the evening of November 4. For more information, please call the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Special Populations Division: 373-2173.

There will be an exhibit entitled Watercolors 1981 by Adele Groulx Wyman in the Founders Gallery from November 8-29. The opening reception will be from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, November 8. All are welcome!

Seth Howard Dworkin will present a free concert featuring electronic music at the Nightshade cafe November 14 at 9:30. The cafe is located at 330 Tate Street in Greensboro. All Guilford students are welcome.

Central America: United States Foreign Policy and the Crisis is the topic on Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at St. Mary's House, Episcopal Campus and Community Center at UNC-G, 930 Walker Ave. Dr. William Leogrande, Professor of Political Science at American University and author of numerous articles on U.S. policy toward Central America, including "The Revolution in Nicaragua: Another Cuba?"