

## A personal challenge

# How can you let people starve?

By Joe Albright

"How can you let people starve in India?" Have you ever asked yourself that? I have, most of us have. Why do you let people starve in India?

You and I are enjoying three meals a day, more than adequate clothing, shelter, and health care, and don't think twice about it. What we do think about is whether or not we have enough money to buy albums, go on trips, and put gas in the car.

Beyond food, shelter, clothing, and health care anything we own is a luxury, and certainly not a necessity.

Media coverage of World Hunger comes in spurts, either in wartime or in famine. Today reports are almost non-existent, yet today people are starving in

India, Africa and Cambodia. These are people denied the necessary, minimal food intake.

We can't stop caring when the media stops coverage.

Three Guilford students, tired of their own inactivity, challenged each other to each put up a substantial amount of money to help the starving of the world. Our checks for \$100 each are waiting to be sent out.

We would like you to think about the issues raised here for five minutes. Can you give an acceptable reason for allowing the death of even one person? Can you really say that you need to go out tonight more than another person needs a meal to survive?

We are challenging each Guilford student and faculty member to put up \$100 of his own money to stop hunger.

Yes, that means more than the

\$3 you gave to the dance-a-thon. We are not saying it will be easy. In fact, we hope it won't be.

Maybe by giving enough to really have to sacrifice something, we won't forget so quickly that there are people suffering terribly around the world. And maybe we will realize that that album we thought we "needed" we didn't really need after all.

We are in the process of accumulating information on the present world hunger situation and deciding which organization to send our money to.

If you are thinking of accepting our challenge or just want to be better informed, contact us through Jim Keith in the Housing Office, 854-2319, or Dick Dyer. We will be glad to talk with you.

Thank you.



Though media coverage comes and goes, the problem of hunger in the world remains. Three Guilford students challenge the community to recognize this problem and act to help solve it.

## Gay minority emotional needs explored

By Mark Gurley

The emotional and psychological health needs of Guilford's gay minority concern Lucy Austin, one of the college's counselors. "Frankly, it amazes me that gayness is something that is just being opened up as an issue on this campus," commented Ms. Austin. As a onetime resident of Chapel Hill (a North Carolina University town with a traditionally large and open

population of gay people), she said that Guilford's relative silence about the subject of homosexuality is a big change for her.

Drawing on her experience as a therapist, Ms. Austin discussed a number of problems which gay students might encounter here at Guilford. Loneliness, she stated, can be a serious problem. Finding other gay people is especially difficult, for the Greensboro gay community is "almost invisible". She stressed that "one of

the things therapists will try to do if a lonely gay person comes to us is to help him or her find the gay community. In Greensboro, however, the gay community is really hard to find if you're not already in it." (Author's note: A future Guilfordian article will suggest some places in the Greensboro area where gay students can go to meet other gays for friends, worship, recreation, etc.)

Ms. Austin also recognizes the desire of many gay students to keep their sexual orientation secret. "Being open about gayness is not tolerated in many areas of our society," she said, "I don't know any gay person who doesn't hide it at some time in his or her life." The lack of sympathy and support which gays often experience at the hands of family, friends, and the church contributes to the wish for anonymity. Ms. Austin argued that the effect of the church's condemnation of homosexuality, for example, is particularly devastating to religious gays, because it cuts them off from an extremely important part of themselves.

Not surprisingly, Ms. Austin said that the relationship between gay students and the heterosexual majority can be a source of problems. Increased communication is the best way to prevent misunderstandings, Ms. Austin stressed. Since "its always true that the minority knows more about the majority than the majority knows about the minority" Ms. Austin suggested that heterosexuals should not be afraid to question gays about their sexuality. Moreover, she urged heterosexuals to include gays in their conversations about sex.

"I think we are all generally

curious about sexuality," Ms. Austin said, "and we certainly shouldn't stifle that curiosity when it comes to the sexuality of gay people. Gays should also be able to talk without fear to straight people about who they have a crush on, or about lovers or about who they think is good-looking, etc. We often think that gays can't relate to these things, which just isn't true."

The two gay students who were interviewed for this article expressed concerns which were similar to those mentioned by Ms. Austin. The wish to avoid hurting parents was a common theme in their remarks. One student, who allowed us to print his initials, J. C., said that "if I told my parents, I was gay, it would cause them a lot of agony." The other student was also adamant in his unwillingness to tell his parents. My parents grew up in a

very fundamentalist religious environment. They would never be able to understand my homosexuality. They can understand me as their son, but they would never accept me as their gay son. Because of this, I will never be able to share with my parents one of the most important parts of myself. That really hurts..."

Both students also mentioned their need for intimate love relationships with others but asserted that our society's oppressive attitude towards homosexuals poisons the very atmosphere which such relationships require to take root and grow. The anonymous student described the effect of this oppression on his search for intimacy and companionship. "I want a relationship with a lover who will always be with me; I don't want one night stands. But straight society

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## HARAMBEE

The warmth and beauty of the first few spring days have touched me, even in my torrid pace. In one of those brief moments of appreciating nature it occurred to me how we often forget to take a moment to reflect upon ourselves and nature. By doing so we can expose ourselves to the ills of a superficial reality, day to day existence.

With the end of school near, many of us have thoughts of succeeding responsibilities; for instance, summer jobs, graduating (graduate school). These concerns do grate nerves at times but they are only minor compared to the responsibilities and decisions that we will face in the future. Such as family, career and death for those who choose not to accept life's challenge.

However, for those of us that will accept the challenge the road ahead is demanding. A looming economic catastrophe and a morally degenerated society are two harsh realities that await us. For those who have gone before us, although sad, have in many cases become cynical and callous in their hearts.

We cannot allow ourselves to get caught up in this vicious cycle if we are to lead our society forward from its present state.

"You can have good ideas but you must also eat and sleep; to do so you need money, and as you struggle to survive you lose sight of your idealism" said one Guilford administrator when discussing the issue. He had once been an idealist. I trust that the main stream of society is a sobering experience, but I fear like those that have gone before us, we may lose the inner warmth and sensitivity I cherish today. In discussing this issue I am reminded of a philosophical work which states in part, "Beyond a wholesome discipline be gentle to yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the stars and the trees you have the right to be here...be at peace with yourself...strive to be happy".

As we prepare for the end of school and the rest of our lives, we should remember this philosophy.

By David Davenport

## Senate supports peaceful solution

We, as members of the Guilford College Senate, wish to speak out in support of nonviolent solutions to social problems and self-determination for nations while condemning military intervention by any nation as a response to internal conflicts. We see the escalation of U.S. military involvement in El Salvador as contributing to continued violence while only offering an unclear solution to the social and economic conflicts within that country.

Furthermore, we view the training of Salvadoran troops at Ft. Bragg as a contribution to the escalation of U.S. military involvement in the international affairs of El Salvador. Support for a negotiated, peaceful solution to the conflicts in El Salvador comes from our allies in Western Europe as well as international and domestic authorities such as the United Nations and a growing number of our Congress members. We encourage the U.S. to consider and seek a negotiation rather than a military solution to the current Salvadoran conflict.