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REVELERS Dedicate Tartuffe

The Guilford College Revelers will open their 1985-86 season this weekend with Moliere's "Tartuffe," running Thursday through Saturday nights at 8:15 p.m. and Sunday Matinee at 2:15 p.m.

This year's production holds a very special meaning for Guilford. It is dedicated in the memory of Dr. Donald Deagon, chairman of the Drama department for more than 25 years. Away on Sabbatical last year (his first in 27 years), "Doc Deagon" passed away in late June.

Joan Zubl, acting chairperson of the Drama department, worked with Anne Deagon, of Guilford's Classics department, to decide on a production which would pay tribute to Donald. They decided on "Tartuffe" not only because of its lighthearted, enjoyable comedy, but because of its educational merit. Deagon had always felt very strongly about the importance of educational theatre, and was impressed that this timely comedy was as enjoyable now as it was three centuries ago.



The Guilford REVELERS rehearse for their upcoming production of "Tartuffe."

The play, set in 17th century France, centers around Tartuffe: A conniving, hypocritical con-man played by sophomore, Adam Robinson. Orgon, the master of the household who is ultimately conned by Tartuffe (played by sophomore Spencer Diggs), sees Tartuffe as a sincere

religious man of high morals and good intentions. The others in Orgon's household, however, see through Tartuffe's charade. They, of course, are involved in charades of their own on many different levels. These others include Orgon's over-bearing mother, Madame Pernelle

played by sophomore, Abbey Donahower; Orgon's alluring wife, Elmire played by sophomore, Donna Stauser; their son Damis, played by sophomore, Tim Moore; and daughter Marianne, played by Earlham college junior, who is in love with Valere, played by freshman

Michael Simmons; the ever-reasonable brother-in-law Cleante, played by freshman, Seth Hassett.

As if these intricate family ties weren't enough, Moliere throws in a few more characters to spice things up a bit. These include: the mettling out-spoken maid Dorine played by junior, Becky Gunn; the officious Bailiff, Monsieur Loyal, played by sophomore, David Eades; the officer, played by senior, Mark Kramer; a maidservant Flipote, played by freshman Sarah De Hart and Tartuffe's manservant Laurent, played by freshman, Michael Orentlicher.

Though set in 17th century France, this play is as relevant and hilarious today, as it was then. The preconceptions (and misconceptions) of the lovers, friends and professional pretenders of this play make for a delightful comedy to be enjoyed by all.

The Ropes Course: A Personal View

By Philip Henson

Recently, many Guilford freshmen have had the chance to take on Guilford's "New Ground" ropes course with their IDS class. Apart from being both a mental and physical challenge, the course also brings classmates closer together by providing a program in which trust and cooperation are essential to its success. You are asked to trust people you have known only a short time by leading them blindfolded through the woods, spotting them on the low events and even protecting their lives by belaying them on the high events. This kind of trust brings groups like these closer together, thus into far better working relationships for everyday life, such as an IDS class.

In addition to trust and cooperation, the program encourages you to set your own goals. You are not forced to do the entire course, yet you are encouraged to do as much as you can, whether restricted by physical limitations or your own fear of heights. A lot of your own success, depends on how much fear you are dealing with; it is

important to remember, in an event like this, that you should judge yourself proportionally to your limits and not to other members of the group.

Although fear can be overwhelming, the feeling, once you complete the course can be just as great. As one member of my IDS class said, "I use to worry about setting my goals to high, now I know I don't have to worry about that anymore." In the my group, I think everyone pushed himself and nobody came away disappointed.

Our IDS class spent two Saturdays in the Guilford woods, tackling the low and high ropes courses. The low course, while it required some individual coordination, was more of a group oriented activity than the high ropes course. In the low exercise it is important that everyone function as a group because the object of many of the events, such as the tire swing, wall and spiderweb, is to move the entire group from one point to another, using imagination and cooperation. The high course required less group effort, yet, for some

only the encouragement of classmates got them through the course.

I personally am not scared of heights, and did not expect I would need any encouragement, but when it came right down to it I realized what a difference just a few words from my belayers made when I was up on the course.

So far I have talked about fear but I haven't given you a sense of what the course was like. I'm estimating the high course is about 75 feet up in the trees. Its only access is a rope ladder, secured at the top, leading you to the first event consisting of two 1400 lb test wire cables, on five feet above the other, narrowing as they span the distance to the next tree. A small poem, which I'll spare you, is on the near side of the tree.

In between the branches of the next two trees is a log, which runs for maybe 30 feet to another tree. Five of six feet from the end of the log is the first in a series of five ropes supported by a cable. These ropes end in small wooden steps no bigger than the size of

your foot. In order to reach that first rope, you must draw it in with a stick or jump from the log and try to grab the rope in mid-air. If you survive, the final obstacle is (in the trees), climbing to a cargo net and then finish the event with a more than 200 yard ride down a zip wire. As dangerous as it may seem there really isn't a lot to worry about on the high course. All the time you are in the trees you are attached to a rope which is hooked through a steel pulley cable above and below you. The job of your belayers is to take up the extra slack on the rope and tighten the rope if you should fall.

This course is fun and designed to build friendship and trust among its participants. I remember one of the people who did the high ropes with our group who, having just crossed the log, had done all he wanted and sat down. He didn't want to attempt the air steps. Ray, our instructor, asked him why he was here. My classmate thought and replied, simply, "I'm here to have fun." Ray asked him how he could have fun. Again he thought and to my

dismay, since I was belaying him at the time, he said he wanted to do a back swan dive off the log. Ray said that if that's what he wanted to do, he could. And he did. He went as far as he felt he could and then quit.

The ropes course really isn't a physical test, it's a mental exercise in dealing with your own fear, setting your own goals and learning to trust.

Anyone who has been on the course will recommend it. New Ground is something that everyone should at least attempt, if not for the ground and individual satisfaction then simply because it's a great way to spend a day. Afterwards you'll see you have a lot to gain from putting yourself "out on a limb."

