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Guilford Gay and Lesbian Group Chooses Low Profile

by Michael Jack

The Guilford Gay and Lesbian Awareness and Support Group, after a year of high visibility, is pausing to redefine its identity.

The purpose of the group, according to president Jeff Kingsley, is "to support each other and to keep Guilford supportive [of gay rights]." Formed unofficially during the 1986-87 school year, the GGLASG was not officially recognized by the Community Senate until the end of that year.

Last year the group, led by several enthusiastic students, enjoyed a busy and active schedule. The highlight was a 19-person trip to Washington, D. C. on October 11th to participate in the National March for Human Rights.

The group is keeping a lower profile this year for several reasons. Kingsley considers last year's high visibility to have been a necessary step "to keep our

personal respect, which was being compromised." Although there have been occasional problems with student attitudes toward the group, Kingsley mentioned that there has been "a great deal of support from the administration."

Kingsley said the group is "very different this year," attributing the change of pace to the difference between last year's leadership and his own. While "much of last year's action was due to the leaders," Kingsley feels that this year "the action has to come from the group."

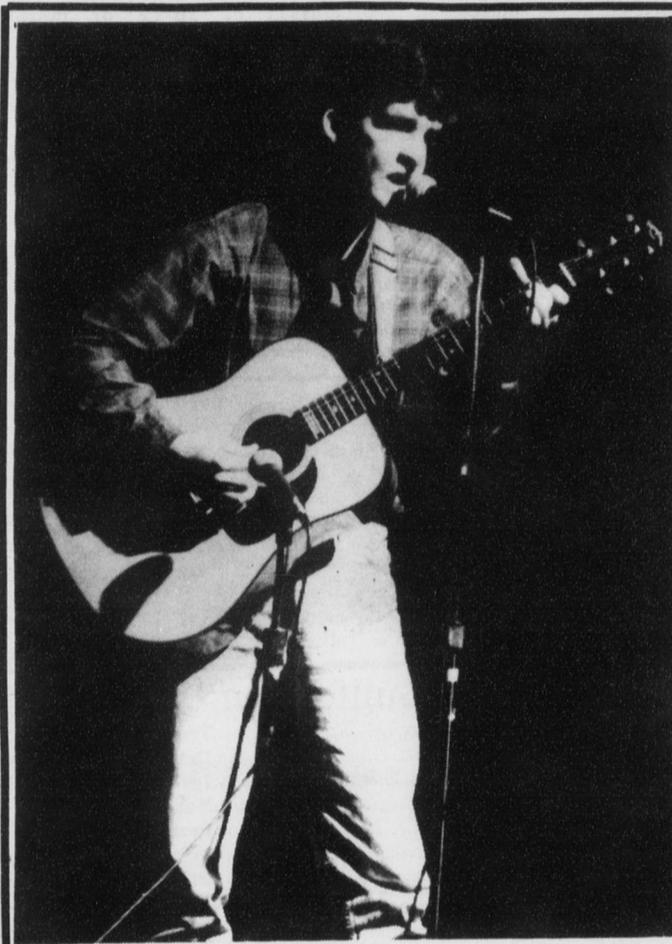
The GGLASG members have been attempting to come up with activities that will involve the entire campus. One member arranged for the group to distribute lavender armbands on October 11th. These were worn by students to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the march on Washington. The group also held a booth in the Organizational Fair, which was approached by "a few very brave

students."

In the future, the group hopes to co-sponsor a campus-wide Minority Awareness Week with the help of the Women's Support Group, Hillel, Quaker Concerns, and the AACS, all of whom have previously joined the GGLASG in various group endeavors.

The infrequency of this year's meetings--an average of one per month--is primarily due to clashing schedules. As membership is confidential, group news travels by way of the mailing list or, when time is short, by word of mouth. The group numbers approximately 23 students at present, including four or five heterosexuals, and the mailing list includes 10 members of the faculty and administration, as well as alumni.

All prospective members are interviewed by a group leader. Only one person has been denied (cont'd. on p. 6)



Vic Johnson, singing an original composition, takes first prize at the Choir Talent Show on Saturday, November 12. photo by Eric Buck

Friends Meeting Harbors Refugees

by Maria Smith

In response to the United States' low acceptance rates for Central American refugees, churches and synagogues all across the country have started a protest movement that has brought religious leaders and others involved in direct confrontation with the U.S. government.

The movement is called Sanctuary, and it offers asylum to refugees who have fled their homelands for fear of imprisonment or death due to activities that threaten human rights. Sanctuary grew out of a frustration with the Immigration and Naturalization Service's inability to protect human rights activists from their own governments.

There are roughly 200 churches in the U.S. right now that have declared Sanctuary. One of these is Friendship Friends Meeting, across from Guilford College, which first declared itself a sanctuary three years ago and now, with the support of the American Friends Service Committee, harbors four Guatemalan refugees.

Between June 1983 and September 1986, 1,475

Guatemalans applied to the U.S. for legal asylum. Fourteen of them were allowed to remain in the country.

The remaining 91% of the applicants were sent back to Central America, to a country where student activists, labor unionists and a substantial Indian population have been the targets of persecution by armed forces and civil patrols despite the newly-elected civilian president.

Refugees that apply for asylum and are denied will almost immediately be deported. Because most Central American refugees in the U.S. fear death upon returning to their own countries, they are hesitant to apply for this legal refugee status which would almost assuredly return them to the danger they had hoped to flee. The sanctuary movement has provided shelter for these thousands of refugees who would likely be turned away from this country if legal options were employed.

According to Damon Hickey, former convener of the Sanctuary Committee at Friendship Meeting, sanctuary is a "combined ministry and

haven for the Guatemalans - it satisfies their physical needs and provides them with the opportunity to witness to others about their experiences." The movement has also "helped the refugees reach a point of stability and independence that they haven't had" since they left Guatemala, says Hickey.

Terry SoRelle, Director of the A.F.S.C. in Greensboro, has arranged for the refugees to speak to groups all over the Carolinas, including a talk at Guilford last spring, because it is "important for them to tell their story."

The main goal of sanctuary is to help the refugees become independent as soon as possible, and to adapt to this culture, explains SoRelle. However, this is no easy task, since there is "resistance to the U.S. culture and language. These people don't want to be Americans - they want to go home." It is the commitment of the sanctuary movement to aid the refugees in their struggle as much as possible.

There are four refugees living in Greensboro now, Arturo, Omar, his wife Soledad, (cont'd. on p. 6)

Scholarships Provide Source of Tuition Aid

by Linda Kreem

Looking for a way to beat the high cost of getting educated? With tuition increasing more than ten percent over the past two years, Guilford students may be looking for additional sources of funds, including scholarships.

—Presidential Grants, ranging from \$500 to \$3,000, are the newest awards offered at Guilford. They were created this year as a step toward providing money to students who take on roles of leadership among their fellow students. These scholarships will be awarded to student athletes, who cannot receive athletic scholarships under NCAA rules, and to other student leaders. Anthony Gurley, Director of Student Financial Assistance and Planning, estimates that between fifteen and twenty of these renewable grants will be awarded annually.

—Honors Scholarships are merit-based scholarships which

range from one-fourth to full tuition and are renewable, provided the student maintains an overall grade-point average of 3.0 or higher.

—Charles A. Dana Scholarships are available to Guilford students with at least a 3.25 cumulative G.P.A. Selection is based on academic merit and leadership, and the amount of the individual award is based on need. Awards range from \$100 to half-tuition. Applicants are reconsidered each year.

—The George A. Alden Excellence Scholarship is a \$2,500 scholarship awarded to a rising junior on the basis of merit.

—Dorothy and Stanley Frank Scholarships are renewable scholarships ranging from \$1,500 to half-tuition. A committee selects about six students each year who, through an essay and interview,

(cont'd. on p. 7)