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Tropical storm Hugo hits home

Laura Seel
Assistant Copy Editor

A tropical storm resulting from Hurricane Hugo ravaged Guilford's tree population Thursday night with 70 m.p.h. winds and caused campus power outages and water leaks.

The rain and high winds felled trees across campus; three were downed between the library and Duke Hall, and several pine trees toppled by the college lake. The walkway from Founders to King Hall was roped off Friday morning because a broken tree limb hung precariously over the path.

Tornado watches were in effect until Friday afternoon, and campus electricity was unavailable until late Friday morning, forcing college staff to use candles and emergency phone lines.

But the scenario could have been much worse.

Dean of Students Nancy Cable Wells expressed concern that blackouts and falling debris posed a danger to students and staff, but most classes met as scheduled on Friday.

"I think we got off pretty lucky," said Dick Dyer, assistant to the dean of students. Besides the lack of electricity from 4:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in college buildings and strewn debris, the College did not suffer much damage. Facilities Manager Steve Luber said the power outage was "inconvenient," but that the storm "caused no other problems."

The storm aftermath will not delay construction of the new library, though the heavy rain resulted in some seepage. "Drainage off of the building tends to

cause leaks in the basement," said Herb Poole, library director. "There was some standing water in the art storage room. It's a problem we've been fussing about for a long time." However, the facilities suffered no major damage and construction is on schedule.

The library staff prepared for flooding Thursday night by moving all bottom-shelf books in the basement to a higher-ground storage area, where they will remain until the library move next month.

Heavy flooding was just one of the legacies Hugo left in Charleston, South Carolina this weekend. The category 4 hurricane, classified as "damage extreme" by the National Weather Service, devastat-



photo by Charles Almy

A Guilford maintenance worker blows debris off sidewalks in the wake of Friday's storm.

tated sections of historic downtown Charleston and prompted mandatory evacuations of coastal regions. One hundred and thirty-five m.p.h. winds blew the roof off of Charleston City Hall and demolished the downtown market. Drinking water, electricity and phone service were scarce.

U.S. troops were sent to the island of

St. Croix to restore order after 90% of the power poles were rendered inoperative and widespread looting added to the chaos.

In Puerto Rico, thousands were left homeless by the cyclone.

President Bush declared coastal South Carolina, St. Croix and Puerto Rico disaster areas on Friday.

Career development buckles down

Peter Smith
News Editor

In a move Guilford College hopes will both boost the college's admission profile and improve retention figures, more attention is being devoted to the Guilford College Career Development Center.

Efforts for improvement include a modest increase in the Career Development budget, extensive surveying of past alumni classes, improved alumni "new working," and research from a student Career Advisory Board.

"I am very delighted with the improvements made in Career Development," said Meg Kaplan, director of the Career Development Center. "With these improvements we are hoping to make students more aware of what we can offer here."

Improvements of the center come at a time when Guilford appears to be making more of an effort to improve retention among currently enrolled students, improve job placements rates among graduating seniors, and offer a more attractive package to prospective Guilford students. Job placement rates are often consid-

ered important because they can reflect the college's ability to provide employment upon graduation. Prospective students may consider the job placement percentages among graduating students of a college as one of the many factors in deciding on which college to attend.

"With the high cost of private higher education, parents are asking what they will receive in return after paying four years of tuition," said Larry West, director of admissions. "Although there is certainly more to college than finding a job, some parents do look at the bottom line."

According to statistics released by the Career Development Office, last year's job placement figures indicate substantial room for improvements.

Of the 283 Seniors in the class of 1989 who responded to the Senior Survey, 170 indicated they would neither continue their education nor be employed the year after graduation.

"We have several good strategies bringing attention toward Career Development. As a result, more people are taking advantage of what we can offer," said Kaplan. "I believe with these efforts, the placement

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