

# PERSPECTIVES

## Look to religious leaders and philosophers for answers

Max Carter  
Campus Minister

Noted foreign policy expert, humanitarian and head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, Buddy Ryan was asked recently what he would do about Iraq. "I'd turn it into a parking lot," he replied.

Perhaps Buddy was actually thinking kindly toward the Iraqis and wanted simply to bestow on them what every true Philadelphian values most highly: parking space. But I don't think so. Rather, his visceral answer indicates the disturbing inclination to address complex international problems with the subtle politics of "bomb their butts off!"

Of course, not all foreign policy strategists are as blunt as Buddy. Citing the realities of economics, the balance of power, regional politics and historical precedents, pundits inform us of our obligation to intervene and, if necessary, wage war. Their analyses are couched in the parlance of precision befitting disciplines labeled as sciences.

Yet other realities are habitually left out. By its very nature, any discipline claiming to be a science depends on control, experimentation and quantification. The "net" of science cannot, therefore, capture any fish in the sea that do not already conform to its requirements.

Slipping through the net are religious and

philosophical truths. For example, just check out the fields of expertise consulted in discussions about the Gulf crisis: economics, military science, political science. How many philosophers, theologians, rabbis, priests or ministers are seriously queried? It makes me feel like Andy Rooney, but I'll say it anyway: Ever notice how "experts" like sports figures and movie stars are interviewed for their opinions but not people of faith? Why is that?

There are other realities that should inform our actions. What of the Golden Rule? It certainly is not the sole province of Judaism and Christianity but reflects the ideals of many of the world's religious traditions. What

of removing the artificial boundaries that define friend and foe? Again, cultures around the world have fundamental teachings about universal brother and sisterhood. What of love and compassion? What of citing "experts" such as the prophet Isaiah, Buddha, Jesus, al-Ghazzali, Lao Tze?

To be sure, my response to world situations is informed by "the sciences," and I do tune in daily to NPR so I can hold my own in conversations around the office coffee pot. But when political push comes to popular shove, I must be informed by even higher realities. In the words of the apostle Peter, I must ultimately obey God rather than humans.

## Pomises, promises: Senate gears up to work on agenda

Jacob Stohler  
Editor in Chief

As part of a yearly tradition now celebrating its second year, **The Guilfordian** reprints here the platform of your 1990-91 Community Senate officers. For the most part, copies of platforms appear by the hundreds around campus during elections but then disappear immediately thereafter, leaving hapless transfers and freshmen no way to evaluate their Senate leaders.

This past election year gave Guilford a fairly typical—and often mundane—Senate election. Both tickets (one led by then-junior Peter Smith and the other by then-junior Vance Ricks) sounded many familiar themes: experience, leadership, community, etc. However, with the exception of tuition (both vowed to keep increases under 10 percent), the two tickets touched on vastly different issues. While the Smith ticket stressed increased faculty salaries and CCE tuition equal to that of main-campus, the Ricks ticket

called for increasing the endowment and for equitable representation for athletes in Senate.

Without the benefit of exit polls and other such trend-marking devices, Guilford elections are hard to predict. However, for most people the turning point in a fairly even race seemed to be the Feb. 25 forum where the two tickets (along with the two Union tickets) met to answer students' questions. It was clear by the end of that forum that Ricks had built a larger and more loyal voting base and that Smith would have to play catch-up.

The student body later that week elected Ricks and his ticket (Paige Mahaney, vice-president; Gilbert Bailey, treasurer; Jason Smith, secretary) by a 2-1 margin.

As this year progresses, **The Guilfordian** will report on major events in Senate as well as on the progress of the officers to fulfill the goals they set last spring. Here now is the verbatim platform of the 1990-91 Senate Executive Council.

### WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

It's not because we enjoy smothering the campus with Astro Green-colored flyers. Nor is it because we like to fly bedsheets over the main walkway at four in the morning. It is because we feel that Guilford College needs a stronger sense of community. And we feel it is necessary for the Community Senate to focus on a variety of issues which are equally important in bringing this about.

Here are some specific, realistic ways to address those issues.

**COOPERATION**—We are committed to re-establishing good relations between student organizations. We will resurrect the Leaders' Club, bringing campus organizations together to share their ideas. We will also encourage and support independent student initiatives, such as Project Community and Students Against Painter Boulevard.

**TUITION AND ENDOWMENT**—While working to keep tuition increases in single digits, we will also take an active role in finding alternative sources of income. We propose the hiring of a full-time Director of Development, whose sole purpose would be to increase the endowment as an important step towards easing the College's tuition dependency.

**ADMISSION/RETENTION**—The fact that

college admissions are declining nationwide makes it all the more imperative for us to make the college more attractive not only for potential students, but for those already here. Senate next year must work to support groups such as the Spirit of Guilford and organize a Homecoming celebration for alumni AND students. We feel that such actions will help create more pride in Guilford.

**ATHLETES**—Although student-athletes make up a sizable portion of the student body, they have not been adequately represented in campus issues. We will address specific concerns, such as more flexible cafeteria hours for athletes and better communication between faculty and athletes regarding absences due to games.

**SENATE OPEN HOUSE**—To increase Senate's visibility and accountability, the four Senate officers should hold informal, monthly Open Houses, at which any student can talk face-to-face with the officers to voice his or her concerns.

**SAME OLD SAME OLD**—It's time to follow through on those plans and promises that have been made year after year. Parking, adequate lighting, condom machines, 24-hour study space—these problems can and should be resolved to allow Senate to address new issues.

## Gantt is the man for N.C.

Chris Ward  
Guest Writer

believe that being liberal is different, and that liberalism is a stigma that Harvey Gantt carries.

The 1990 United States Senate race in North Carolina has become a conflict between two different value systems. The campaign tactics used by incumbent senator Jesse Helms include negative campaigning and mudslinging. In television advertisements run by the Helms' campaign, one notices Helms' lack of discussion of relevant issues and topics; instead, he categorizes his opponent Harvey Gantt as "extremely different" and "extremely liberal." One is led to

Another Helms political "announcement" uses a clip of a member of Gantt's administration when Gantt was mayor of Charlotte. This clip has been edited by the "masterminds" at the Helms campaign to have this person repeating the same words about four times. As the announcer is criticizing Gantt for his "liberal" management of Charlotte, Gantt's aide is saying "An outright distortion

see GANTT on page 3 >

### THE GUILFORDIAN

Editor-in-Chief .....	Jacob Stohler
Managing Editor .....	Peter Smith
News Editor .....	Courtney Roberts
Features Editor .....	Lara Ramsey
Editorials Editor .....	Lisa Pope
Sports Editor .....	Butch Maier
Photo Editor .....	Charles Almy
Layout Editor .....	Bruce James
Copy Editor .....	Suzanne Moore
Business Manager .....	Erskine James
Advertising Director .....	Lesley Funk
Faculty Advisor .....	Jeff Jeske

**The Guilfordian** is the student newspaper of Guilford College, Greensboro, N.C. Submitted articles are welcome. Opinions expressed in editorials and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff and editorial board. The editors reserve the editorial licence to **The Guilfordian** staff. Please address all mail to: **The Guilfordian**, Box 17717, Greensboro, NC 27410.