

PERSPECTIVES

William R. Rogers

The entire Guilford College community was shocked and saddened by the news of Grimsley Hobbs' death on November 19, 1990. The circumstances of his death were first reported in conjunction with a one-car accident nine miles north of Pittsboro, but an autopsy has shown that his death was caused by a heart attack as he was driving. We shall deeply miss Grimsley's presence as a teacher, colleague, friend and leader.

As the fifth president of Guilford College between 1965 and 1980, Grimsley was responsible for a number of significant changes within the college. He was a builder and a shaper. During his time, nearly all of the major buildings on campus were either refurbished or completely rebuilt. He developed a new committee structure within the college and improved the process of budget preparation and budget control. He helped to open up the Board of Trustees to membership of non-Quakers as well as Quakers and brought a number of significant leaders into this area of the governance of the college. He developed an effective fund-raising program that was helpful in construction projects and in increasing endowment. And he helped to inaugurate a new era of student life and revision in the student behavioral codes, dropping a number of restrictions from the past. Perhaps most importantly, he helped to build the strength of the faculty through a substantial number of new appointments of people highly qualified and very dedicated to teaching. He also made sure that this teaching strength was incorporated into the adult education program, as well as the main campus program.

Grimsley's days as president were not always easy ones. He led the college through periods of social upheaval. There were controversies over curricular development and the social codes of the college.

And there were some difficult times in working with the Board. But Grimsley's stature as a man, both physically and personally, carried him through these times with a continuing sense of vision and a disciplined quality of determination.

Before assuming the presidency, Grimsley had a long legacy at the college. His grandfather, Lewis Lyndon Hobbs, had been the first president of Guilford College. His grandmother, Mary Mendenhall Hobbs, had taken active leadership at both Guilford and in the formation of Woman's College—now UNCG. Her father had been Nereus Mendenhall, one of the most outstanding principals of the original New Garden Boarding School from which Guilford College emerged. Nereus Mendenhall was not only an educational leader and teacher, but he was also a scientist, a physician, and an engineer—a person who had even helped to lay out the North Carolina railroad system.

Something of that range of talents was reflected in Grimsley's own career. Not only was he an administrator, a faculty member and a research scholar in the area of philosophy, but also he was an engineer and builder and artist who loved old mills, restored them, wrote about their history and even lived in two of them—Cox's Mill outside Richmond, Indiana and Baldwin's Mill outside Pittsboro, North Carolina. Indeed, one of the most touching stories surrounding the events of last week, as people have grieved his death, was the gathering of his family on Saturday, November 24 with many friends at their mill. A project that Grimsley had been working on for a number of years, to get the mill

Henry Hood

Artistry takes many different forms; John Grice was an artist among teachers. His secret was no secret at all; he simply wanted to share his enthusiasms and, above all, his voracious appetite for learning. His scorn

for cant, for the merely vogueish, or for meretricious and slip-slop pretense of scholarship was part of this. John Grice was what he seemed to be; pretense and intrigue were entirely foreign to his nature. So he gained

devoted friends among his colleagues and admiring students to whom he gave his best, and of whom he demanded the best in return.

He also made enemies because he was plain-spoken; a virtue prized traditionally by Quakers but sometimes unappreciated in certain quarters.

wheel working, was nearly complete. But his family pulled together to put the finishing touches on the project and started the wheel, generating electricity and milling corn meal which was gathered and bagged and shared with their many friends.

As a teacher, Grimsley was admired by students and colleagues alike. I had the privilege of serving as a colleague of his both at Earlham College and here at Guilford. His attentiveness to student questions, his concern to help individuals, his excitement about the ideas in classic and contemporary philosophy, and his will-

John had flair; his choice of a doctoral dissertation topic, "Late 20th Century Terrorism," is as lively a subject as one could have chosen and its ramifications are as subtle as they are fascinating. Small wonder that John gravitated to law enforcement and small wonder, too, with his background in history, literature and philosophy, he could bring so much to bear on his chosen subject.

John was also intensely private. He often spoke of his wife Maggie and of his daughter Malinda. But I never recall his speaking much of religion. I believe that John, like most Lutherans, took his religion seriously and disliked talking about it—as if that were a profanation.

John had a passion for music and even, since he adored Italian opera, learned Italian so he could understand what it was all about, learning for the sake of learning. There was a man.

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Henry Hood is a retired professor of history

IN MEMORIAM Grimsley Hobbs and John Grice

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Grimsley Hobbs' son Ruffin plays bagpipes last Wednesday in tribute to his father/photo by Charles Almy

ingness to grow and change were quite remarkable. In the middle of his career at Earlham, he began paying more attention not only to classic Western philosophy, but to Eastern philosophers. He became interested in the philosophy of language as well as of metaphysics and ethics. His most recent work has been focused on new developments in ethics. He has left with us a manuscript of a book that was in preparation—a book which hopefully some of his colleagues will be able to complete on his behalf and have published. This had been a particularly productive and enjoyable time in his life. We feel all the more sad that his life came to such an abrupt end.

Students and colleagues gathered both on Sunday, November 25 in New Garden Meetinghouse and on Wednesday, November 28 in Sternberger Auditorium to recall stories and images associated with our life with Grimsley and with his family. Both of these memorial services were punctuated by the poignant bagpipe playing of his son Ruffin. Many images emerged during those gatherings that will be indelible. Some of the most striking to me were the comments of admiration and gratitude for the way in which Grimsley always wanted to build from a solid foundation and the cooperative activity that is essential in turning the wheel that Grimsley worked so hard to build.

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Bill Rogers is the current president of Guilford

The *Guilfordian* extends its sympathies to the families of Grimsley Hobbs and John Grice. This college will dearly miss their contributions and their presence.