

Strange But True...

Records Show College's Changes Over the Years

Bev Rogers
Guest Writer

Guilford College Builds Gymnasium for Women Dateline: 1896

Guilford College in Greensboro, NC, is the first coeducational college in the country to start a physical education department, engage a director and build a gymnasium for women before building one for men. The director will have charge of classes for men.

Women participating in the physical education program will be required to wear long sleeved black blouses, black collars, flowing black ties, wide pleated black serge bloomers, long black stockings and soft-soled black shoes.

Public exhibitions of skill will be given by members of the department.

Source: *Things Civil and Useful: A Personal View of Quaker Education*, by Helen G. Hole

Students Decry Alcohol Abuse Dateline: May 28, 1877

A number of Guilford students joined with citizens of the Greensboro community to protest the increased use of alcohol and nicotine. Many carried banners of protest, while others chanted the following: "Three things I will never do: I'll never drink, nor smoke, nor chew."

Source: *Things Civil and Useful: A Personal View of Quaker Education*, by Helen G. Hole.

Enrollment Drops, School May Close Dateline: 1874

During this academic year, the enrollment of the school

has dropped to only 42 students. Trustees, in their annual report, said, "We feel the necessity of a better and higher grade of school, one more accessible to a larger number of our members." ('Members' equate to 'Quakers.' All the trustees are Quakers, and the school has a tuition surcharge for non-Quakers.) It is widely rumored that the school will close at the end of this academic year.

Source: *Guilford: A Quaker College*, by Dorothy Gilbert

Guilford College Faculty Has Total of Ten Ph.Ds Dateline: 1939

Guilford College is proud of the fact that there are a total of 10 people on its faculty with Ph.D. degrees, including one woman. The only other small college in North Carolina with an equal number of Ph.D. degree recipients on its faculty is Davidson College. Even the president of Guilford holds a Ph.D. degree.

Source: *Guilford College: On the Strength of 150 Years*, by Alex Stoesen

Faculty Opposed to Music at Guilford Dateline: early 1890s

Guilford faculty have gone on record that music is not to be encouraged at Guilford College. Vocal and instrumental performances are not consistent with Quaker simplicity, say those who are opposed to music in the curriculum. Even in extra-curricular areas, music is not to be encouraged. Students will not be allowed to purchase a phonograph for their use.

Source: *Guilford College: On the Strength of 150 Years*, by Alex Stoesen

Class Schedules Considered Demanding Dateline: 1847

Student Delilah Reynolds states that the school has a rigid schedule that keeps students from enjoyment, except at mealtimes. She notes the following hours:

- 5 a.m.—Bell rings for rising
- 6 a.m.—One hour class in grammar
- 7 a.m.—Breakfast
- 8:30 a.m.—Classes until 11:30 a.m.
- Noon—Lunch with waiters at tables
- 2 p.m.—Classes resume until 5 p.m.
- 6 p.m.—Supper hour
- 7 p.m.—Study hours enforced in residence halls
- 9 p.m.—Lights out

A bell rings for each change of interval, and students march to classes and dining hall in pairs. Some students have protested.

Source: *Guilford: A Quaker College*, by Dorothy Gilbert

Band Chick Speaks

A Weekly Record Review

Camille Hayes
Staff Writer

Blackgirls—Happy (Mammoth)

I'm going to try not to gush. As far as I'm concerned, Blackgirls can do no wrong. That's the thing about Blackgirls: their sound is fairly idiosyncratic, so either you really, really like them or you really, really don't. For one thing, the music is very simple. It's just a guitar, a violin, a keyboard and three female voices.

So anyone who doesn't like listening to women sing may now stop reading. And the music is also very gentle and pretty. Anyone who doesn't enjoy listening to pretty music may also stop reading.

Now that we've gotten rid of the misogynists and the head-bangers, we can talk about the album. *Happy* differs from *Procedure*, Blackgirls' first effort, in that on this second album, the group is sounding more cohesive; they seem more like a band instead of just three people playing, if you know what I mean. And the recording of the album itself is less flat than that of *Procedure*. *Happy* has more, um, texture. (Forgive me, I'm still trying to master the jargon.)

As the name promises, *Happy* is more light-hearted than the first record. The album is dominated by keyboardist Dana Kletter's ethereal singing and song-writing style. Kletter has a penchant for wistful ballads, which at its best produces truly fantastic songs (like the surprising waltz "Cathedral") and at its worst smacks of self-indulgence. (Beware the lyrics of "Mother" and "The I Love You Song.")

As always, Kletter's almost too-whimsical presence is tempered by guitarist Eugenia Lee's gritty vocals and "up yours" attitude. The two women's highly divergent styles are more fully integrated on *Happy* than they have ever been before.

I get the sense that the band has finally come into its own. The album is great, really wonderful. Buy it, take it home with you, sleep with it under your pillow, listen to it over and over and over again.

Rating: **A++**

Dinosaur Jr.—Green Mind (Warner Bros.)

You know how it is with alternative bands. They play in tiny clubs, they release albums on obscure, cleverly-named labels, they develop a following. Then the minute they achieve any sort of success they sign with a big company and suddenly they're dull. It's like some sort of curse; at times it seems as though creative and commercial success are mutually exclusive. As much as I hate to be the bearer of bad tidings, I'm afraid it's my job to tell you: *Green Mind*, Dinosaur Jr.'s fourth album (and their first release on Warner Bros.), may well mark the beginning of the band's descent into tedium.

Mind you, I use the word "band" loosely here. In fact, the only original member left is singer/guitarist J. Mascis. Though he is backed on all of the songs by various and sundry musicians, *Green Mind* is largely a one-man effort. This might be the key to understanding why all of the songs sound the same. Okay, not all of them. *Green Mind* gets off to a promising start—"The Wagon" is probably the best song on the album. It is strictly standard college fare (ragged guitar and fashionably off-key vocals) but Mascis has a nifty voice, and the beat is catchy. But the first song, alas, is the album's high point. By the third track my mind was beginning to wander, and by the time the sixth song rolled around I was snoozin' hard.

Now, I don't mean to sound unduly harsh. Most of the songs are fairly good taken individually. But I am not critiquing individual songs, I am examining the album as a whole. And taken as a whole, *Green Mind* is simply uninteresting. Uninteresting art is kind of a pet peeve of mine. Obnoxious I can deal with; I can even handle the occasional *bad* album (as long as it's funny). But I reserve my particular ire for boring music.

Thus, the rating: **B-**

Rating Guide

- Five Turnips=Almost Perfect
- Four Turnips=Pretty Darned Groovy
- Three Turnips=Fair to Middlin'
- Two Turnips=Much to be Desired
- One Turnip=Yuck-o

FREE+\$50

You drive my car to Idaho,
ONE-WAY
Leave mid-April or
beginning of May

643-6175

or leave message: 852-7662