

## Senator's Notebook

James Green

### Senate calls for student involvement

The meeting on this Wednesday was no ordinary Senate meeting. We kicked things off with a spectacular laser light show and moved right into our band of the week, Pink Floyd, playing live.

Yes, Boren Lounge was really rocking on Nov. 21. Following that we had our standard moment of silence.

The meeting began and we approved the minutes from last week's Senate meeting with no problem.

From there we downshifted into the Senate executive's Officer Reports when Brian Platt, our Senate secretary, reported on tuition increases on which the Strategic Long Range Planning committee decided.

Drum roll please, tuition will increase 9.75 percent, and room and board will increase 8.75 percent for a grand total of a 9.5 percent increase.

Under Committee Reports the Student Services Committee reported that within days we should have a wafflemaker in the cafeteria for student use.

The Environmental Concerns Committee announced that recycling of glass bottles will start soon in the Underground.

Carried over from last week was the Proposed Sexual Harassment Policy which we discussed in great detail again.

We had a lot of good discussion and we're making progress towards getting this policy approved and into the handbook.

We still need to have the community's views so talk to your senator about this issue.

Also under old business was the keg policy which we also discussed. A new keg policy proposal was introduced in Senate on Wednesday so it is important that we get everyone's opinion on this new policy as well as on the one's that have already been proposed.

Please talk to your senator about this issue and also about the sexual harassment policy.

Senate meetings are always a blast and they're better than a grocery store for meeting eligible singles.

So come on out and join us at 2:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Boren Lounge—and bring your breath mints.

*Editor's Note: The opinions expressed by the author of this column do not necessarily reflect those of The Guilfordian or of the Community Senate.*

## Amnesty speaker decries death penalty

Susan C. Roberts  
Staff Writer

A presentation followed by a discussion about the death penalty took place in the Guilford College cafeteria Wednesday, Nov. 13. Norman Smith, who is an attorney and member of the community Chapter of Amnesty International, spoke about the different aspects of the death penalty throughout its history.

Analyzing the application of the death penalty throughout the world, Smith concluded that this form of punishment has been reduced, if not abolished, from many countries. In the United States today only first-degree murders are punishable by death, and, even then, only in certain cases. Many years ago, a person who committed robbery was subject to the death penalty.

Smith also gave a short explanation of the history of the gradual decline of the death penalty in the world. Looking at different nations and their laws concerning the death penalty, Smith noted that many countries have abolished this form of punishment. Even among communist countries efforts have been made to eliminate the death penalty. East Germany was the first communist country to abolish it, and many others followed their example.

Focusing specifically on the United States, the number of executions has also been reduced drastically. There were 200 executions in 1935. By the 1980s the death pen-

alty was applied less than 15 times per year. Likewise, many states gradually abolished the death penalty, the first one being Michigan in 1846. In many countries, and even in some states within the United States, efforts to reestablish this form of penalty have been mostly unsuccessful.

Smith explained that torture was a common form of punishment many years ago, but it gradually disappeared from society. Corporal punishment, too, has been abolished. Smith said that today the death penalty is not a form of torture anymore. Laws have mandated greater compassion towards prisoners who have been sentenced to capital punishment. In most of the states where the death penalty still exists, the electric chair is no longer being used; it was seen as very painful for the person. States now use painless lethal injections to execute convicted murderers.

In analysis of the death penalty's consequences, Smith said that it is not a deterrent for crime. Studies have proven that executions have the opposite effect on society than they are intended. After an execution takes place in a city, the crime rate actually tends to increase during the following weeks. It is seen as an example of the government utilizing "crime and brutality." Smith said, "It cheapens life." In an effort to prevent this

### Did you know...?

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- Years ago robbery was punishable by death.
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unwanted backlash in society, executions today are not made public.

Another point presented by Smith was the fact that death is final and can not be undone by any means. There is always a risk of human error involved in judging a person, and it is not possible to say that the judgment is going to be 100 percent fair or just. There have been cases in which authorities and police officers proved that the already executed person was innocent. Then in other cases, the laws change, making specific forms of crime no longer punishable by death, only after many people had been killed for committing those crimes.

Since the death penalty is not intended to be a form of revenge, and it does not have an apparent utility, Smith indicated that an increasing number of people are growing skeptical about the capital punishment issue.

## Internships

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to report to the Academic Dean for credit-bearing internships and to the Dean of Students for Career Development. Irene Harrington, a newly hired administrator, also serves as a full-time assistant director to Kaplan.

Despite the elimination of Keith for budgetary reasons, two full-time administrators remain within the program.

However, according to President Bill Rogers, Guilford could afford to maintain two full-time administrators within the Internship and Experiential Learning Program as a result of additional revenue provided by a grant from the Bonner Foundation.

Although the future structure of the program is still undetermined, the Experiential Learning Committee is currently considering three options for the program.

One of the options would leave the current interim structure unchanged. Another option would involve a continued split between career development and internships and experiential learning, representing virtually the same model as last year. A final option would involve more faculty representation, reducing the current full-time administrative Assistant Director position into a part-time job, and creating a part-time

position to be handled by a faculty member who would be responsible solely for credit-bearing internships and experiential learning.

In outlining the three options, the Experiential Learning Committee considered a variety of concerns including the need for an emphasis on cost-effectiveness, the importance of liberal arts and service learning elements within internships, and the importance which career development plays within the internship role. The committee also wanted to achieve an effective integration of internships, experiential learning, and career development, avoiding unnecessary duplication of resources within the various elements of the program.

During Jim Keith's stint as Director of Internships and Service Learning, it was argued that internships involving various pre-professional departments were not fully developed and that there existed a bias in favor of internships involving the traditional liberal arts.

It was also suggested that unnecessary duplication of resources was occurring and students were confused as to which director to consult when considering various intern-

### Three options being explored by The Experiential Learning Committee:

- Maintain the current interim structure, which is employing two full-time administrators.
- Support of a continued split between career development and internships and experiential learning, virtually the same model as last year.
- More faculty representation, reducing the current full-time administrative Assistant Director position into a part-time job, and creating a part-time position to be handled by a faculty member.

ship opportunities. The Experiential Learning Committee hopes to address these concerns while at the same time maintaining a cost-effective program as a result of the current budget restraints.

In addition to the open forum, three Guilford committees will have the responsibility of exploring various options concerning the future of internships and experiential learning at Guilford. These committees include the Clerk's Committee, the Enrollment Management Committee, and the Experiential Learning Committee. All three committees will be forwarding their recommendations to Administrative Council which is responsible for making the final recommendation to the Board of Trustees. A final decision is not expected until the middle of spring semester.