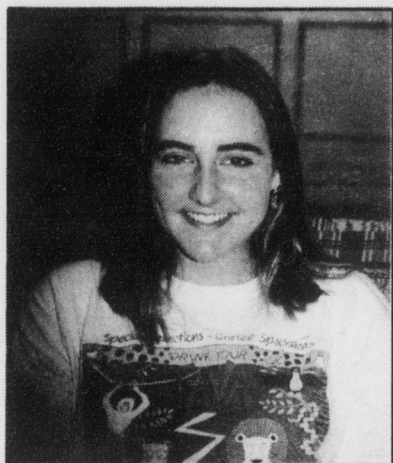# THE INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

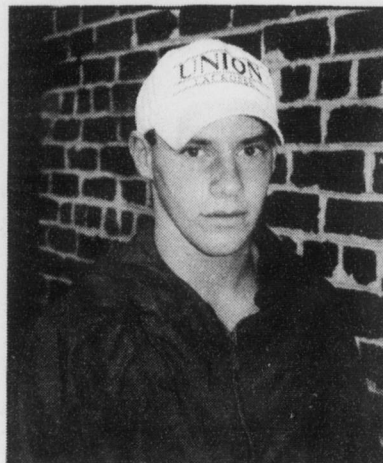## First-year students: Why did you choose Guilford?



**Libby Hinsley**
Morristown, TN

"I wanted a small college, and when I visited last year the atmosphere just seemed right for me. I think this place has a lot of great things to offer, it's beautiful and I'm glad to be here."



**Kara Champagne**
Bethesda, Maryland

"Because I'm Quaker, and I like small schools. Guilford's a nice place to be."



**Ezra Benson**
Syracuse, New York

"Because of the Lacrosse team, the sports medicine major, the size, and because prettier girls come down South!"

Cory Birdwhistell/The Guilfordian

# Avanti: Keeping with Quaker tradition?

### by Adam Lucas

Guilford College is an institution that prides itself on its Quaker heritage, a legacy that emphasizes equality for everyone and the eliminaton of "cliques." If all-inclusiveness truly is the hallmark of a Guilford education, why then has the college allowed its incoming freshman to be exposed to such a blatant example of one group being given a head start on the college experience?

Avanti was supposed to ease the transition to college and foster togetherness of a group of students. Unfortunately, the desire ot create comraderie achieved its goal all too well. While the program was made available to all incoming freshman, the reality is that some students simply could not attend.

The most common reason for missing Avanti was the fact that many students had summer jobs. At a private institution costing $20,000 a year such as Guilford, every little dollar helps, and some freshmen felt they needed to work as much as possible to be able to afford attending the school. Little did they realize that their desire to make money would actually end up hampering them once they arrived at school.

The first day at any school is always hard, but the first day of college is especially difficult. As a private school, Guilford attracts a mix of people from all over the United States. The wide variety of people attending the institution makes it highly unlikely that an incom-

> Avanti is what Guilford supposedly hates most—a fraternity of people who already know each other...

ing freshman will know anyone else at Guilford when they arrive. However, the apprehension of being new is eased for most students by the knowledge that everyone else is enduring the same problems. This year at Guilford the Avanti program rendered that statement meaningless.

Avanti is what Guilford supposedly hates most—a fraternity of people that already know each other and have no need or desire to look for more friends. To make matters worse, freshman orientation groups were mixed with both Avanti students and non-Avanti members, immediately splitting the group into two factions. While the true "new"students were left to wonder what was going on and how all these people

already knew each other, Avanti members were busy laughing and joking with their two-week old friends.

It may not be necessary to totally get rid of Avanti. Administration should consider making the program compulsory while also eliminating the extra cost. By doing this, Avanti would become an extension of the regular orientation program and also make the Guilford orientation method a leader among universities. What college would not want to have an orientation program that created friendships that lasted throughout the college years?

While it is true that it would be very costly for the college to provide this program free, in a few years Avanti would pay for itself by drawing more and more students to Guilford as word spread of the wonderful new orientation program at the institution.

Had the program innovators stopped and thought about the program they were creating, however, they would have seen that it violates the principle that Guilford College holds most dear—the idea that everyone is equal and has an even opportunity to succeed socially (and academically). To the directors of Avanti—is there not a more inclusive, a more Quaker, way to lead the students through orientation?

# Mouthing off: it's everyone's responsibility

### by Keir Bickerstaffe

Please don't leave me hanging on this one.

My job as Editor of Editorials, while time-consuming and unhealthy, is a relatively simple one. It consists of two parts—first of all, personally speaking my piece, which you will undoubtedly grow very used to in the following weeks. And secondly, of much more importance as well, collecting all the thoughts, both the criticisms and the kudos, that the student body has to offer.

Now, while I have a certain amount of control as to how interesting and full this page is—well, I can only talk so much. This page, with regards to Uncle Sam, needs you. The importance and power of a publication like this, and the opportunity it presents its readers, cannot be underestimated. There is no better forum available to you that can express your views as accurately and as publicly than the school newspaper.

• **It's easy.** Presently there is a drop box outside the Publications Suite, and there will soon be one in the lounge. We also take, for those of you unable to strip yourselves away from Bauman, entries by e-mail addressed to GUILFORDIAN@rascal.guilford.edu

• **It's effective.** The Guilfordian is put in racks around campus every Friday, providing students, faculty, alumni, and other members of the community a chance to read your thoughts.

• **It illustrates the student body.** Your words give Senate members, assorted faculty members and other such authoritative figures, who may occasionally lose touch with whom they stand for, a dose of reality.

• **It's necessary.** The paper and the students are a true symbiosis. You may not be able to keep up with the surrounding world without us, and we certainly can't accurately portray the school without you.

So if you find yourself questioning a regulation, muttering under your breath about campus bureaucracy, feeling bitter about portions in the cafeteria, anything—write to us. Put the student body in the limelight. Make your feelings known. Keep me busy.