

# Tong discusses views on motherhood

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back page editor

You are a poverty-stricken, single mother with two children and no means of utilizing what skills you have.

In the past, many women in this situation would often turn to prostitution as a way to raise money and support themselves or their families.

Now, there seems to be another possibility for women.

Surrogate motherhood.

The parallel between prostitution and offering surrogacy services may initially seem far-fetched. A closer look into the ethics of this type of assisted reproduction suggests something startlingly similar.

This situation and many others involving surrogate motherhood and other forms of assisted reproduction were the topic of a lecture given by Rosemarie Tong on Monday in Founders Gallery.

Tong, the Thatcher Professor in Medical Humanities and Philosophy at Davidson College, was brought here through a joint effort of women's studies and the philosophy department.

The general focus of her lecture was on how reproduction controlling and aiding technology, which helps to implement reproductive choices, help or harm women.

Kit Wellman, a professor in the philosophy department, hoped Tong would "provide an under-

standing of the different feminist perspectives on surrogate parent-hood."

Tong explained that liberal feminists -- coming from the perspective that each woman is an autonomous person, should utilize whatever possible avenues for their own betterment provided they don't harm anyone in the process.

From this perspective, these feminists would support the possibility of surrogate motherhood.

Women who do not have this economic need are often attempting to fulfill another need, namely the need to be a good person. Tong suggested that girls, throughout childhood, are told they are better than boys because they are nice and generous. So, a woman, for various reasons, will submit to being a surrogate mother.

Robert Biggers, a philosophy major, said "I think she did a good job of reviewing different perspectives on the ethics of assisted reproduction."

"It's a really simple argument," added Biggers about the liberal

perspective on surrogate motherhood. "The other side [Marxist and radical feminists] seemed to point out that surrogate motherhood could result in more harmful relationships between people."

Tong echoed these effects throughout the latter half of her lecture. She raised questions involving: whether surrogate mothers should be governed by the same rules that govern adoption; whether or not genetics

holds a stronger claim to a child over gestation; and what an adult must do to merit the title parent.

After the lecture, Tong discussed questions from the audience. In a reply to one question about genetic engineering and how far it can go, Tong worried that "we will not accept anything but the best and the brightest."

Although she took no solid stance, the feeling was that Tong did not share the liberal feminists' positive outlook on surrogate motherhood, hoping that a better alternative will be found in the future.

*"It's really a simple argument... the other side [Marxist and Radical Feminists] seemed to point out that surrogate motherhood could result in more harmful relationship between people."*

- Robert Biggers

## THE COMMUNITY RECORD

vital issues and events in community senate

### RECYCLING PROGRAM TO BE IMPLEMENTED

A recycling program will be implemented next weekend in which Bonner Scholars will receive Bonner hours for picking up students' recycling bags from their dorms. This program is going to allow students to place the green recycling bags outside of their dorm rooms or suites on Sunday afternoons where they will be picked up and taken for recycling. Look outside your senator's dorm room for more information.

### POSSIBLE CHANGES FOR DANA LOUNGE

The Student Services Committee proposes to transform Dana Lounge into a game room/lounge for Founders Hall. This would involve moving current games and furniture from the current lounge

downstairs in Founders. The new lounge will have two pool tables, a ping pong table, a tv, leather couches, arcade games, a card table, and chairs. The proposal is aimed at making Founders Hall more of a student center.

### WORKER APPRECIATION DAY/ ACTIVITIES TO TAKE PLACE

Worker Appreciation Day will be held on November 15, 1996. A dessert potluck will take place on the 15th at 7:30pm in Founders Hall. All are welcome to attend.

### E-MAIL ADDRESSES ONLINE?

Senate approved a proposal for student email addresses to be included in the Guilford College Web Page. Senate approved this proposal provided that students were given an opportunity to remove themselves from the list that

will appear on the site. If enacted this semester, students will have to request to be included in the site. More information will follow.

### SENATE CONTINUES TO LOOK FOR SECRETARY

Senate is currently looking for a secretary to fill the position that will be left vacant. Interested parties should contact Steve Marasco in the Senate office at x2310.

### BE RESPECTFUL OF THOSE WHO CLEAN...

Senate would like to remind residents of Guilford College to act responsibly and remember those who must clean up after you. The messes do not magically disappear; there is someone on this campus who has to pick up what you leave behind. Be mindful of these people and help them by keeping Guilford clean.



Two youths, disillusioned with urban life and civilization, leave the metropolis in search of utopia in the Guilford College Theatre Studies Department fall production of Aristophanes' *The Birds*. The show will be staged on November 8-9 and 14-16 at 8 p.m. in Sternberger Auditorium.

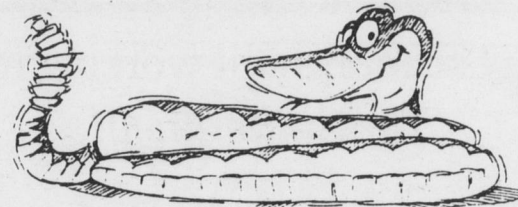
Directed by Theatre Studies Professor Ellen O'Brien, this funny modern adaptation of the ancient Greek comedy is made up of one of the largest casts in the department's recent history.

Tickets for students are \$1 for reserve and free at the door.

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