

## Number of students withdrawing high

♦Some say that the numbers aren't anything to worry about

BY ELLEN YUTZY  
World Editor

Like most Guilford College students, Cynthia Bibber returned to school on Sunday, January 11, 1998. However, she didn't come to finalize her registration and fight her way through lines in the bookstore. She came to pack up her belongings and ship them back to Maine. She came to fill out the forms that would make official her withdrawal from the college.

Bibber had decided that she wasn't happy at Guilford. "Home is where my heart is," she said at the airport Wednesday morning, "at least for now."

She plans to apply for transfer to a school closer to her hometown of Harpswell and begin studying equine science next fall.

Many students choose to leave

the college each year. Some plan to leave college for good, while others plan to take a semester off or transfer to another school.

Marlene McCauley, academic dean, lists several reasons students frequently give as reasons for transferring.

Most of them want a program Guilford doesn't offer, to be closer to home or in a bigger city, or they can't afford to return and choose cheaper alternatives.

The college keeps track of the percentage of students who stay each semester. That statistic, called retention rate, is one of the numbers many prospective students and organizations that evaluate colleges, like *U.S. News and World Report*, use in assessing how happy students seem to be with a school.

A definite number for Guilford College's retention rate at the con-

clusion of last semester will not be available until sometime next week. McCauley was able to say, however, that the total of 85 withdrawals was more than is listed for previous years. She was confident, however, that part of the reason for the seeming increase was quirks of Guilford's computer system.

The current system doesn't allow for students who wish to take a semester off from Guilford but have every intent of returning to the school, which many students do. For example, Guilford's study abroad in Ghana program was in such demand this year that many students who applied were not accepted into Guilford's program. Some of those students chose to go to Ghana with another school.

Until they return to Guilford, they are counted by the computer the same as if they simply dropped out

of school.

Once they return, however, the computer will not count them as withdrawals anymore. Therefore, the numbers at the end of each semester are almost certain to look worse than previous semesters because students who withdrew and came back are no longer counted in the numbers of previous semesters.

"Once they're readmitted, it's like they've never been gone," McCauley said.

On a positive note, compared to last spring there were fewer suspensions, probations, and dismissals last semester.

McCauley doesn't believe that there's anything alarming about the retention rate. As to the students who choose simply to leave, she says, "Some students tell us that, and the next semester, they're back again."

## UNION VOX

BY JENN WINGO  
UNION President

Welcome Back!! I hope that everyone had a great break. This week we have several exciting events on the UNION agenda.

Tonight we are proud to present the two films "Clerks," beginning at 8 p.m., and "Chasing Amy," beginning at 9:30 p.m. in the Underground.

This Sunday we are going to have the first ever UNION Super Bowl Party in the Underground beginning at kickoff. In conjunction with Residential Life, UNION will provide snacks, beverages and pizza to munch on while watching this exciting game between Denver and Green Bay.

Monday night we will present our first coffeehouse presenting Carrie Newcomer and students (back by popular demand) in conjunction with Max Carter and Co., in the Underground at 9pm. Carrie will perform again on Tuesday at New Garden Friends Meeting at 8pm.

Finally on Wednesday evening we will have a second coffeehouse presenting the widely acclaimed

group Rockwell Church at 9pm in the Underground. Needless to say, we have an exciting semester ahead of us, and this week is just the beginning.

Keep in mind that the skiing trip is coming up on Feb. 7, and that sign-ups will be very soon. We will be going to Winterplace in West Virginia this year. Ten dollars pays for the whole trip, including transportation, ski rental and ski lift passes, so mark your calendars!

As you all know, spring semester includes the ever exciting, much anticipated weekend of Serendipity. Therefore we hope that you will consider coming forth and bringing your ideas and energy to our meetings on Tuesday evenings at 8:30 in the Passion Pit. We will be establishing a time during which we will meet to discuss only Serendipity. That time is still undetermined.

Anyone who is interested in participating in planning any events should feel free to contact me, Jenn Wingo at extension 3864 regarding Serendipity or any other UNION matters.

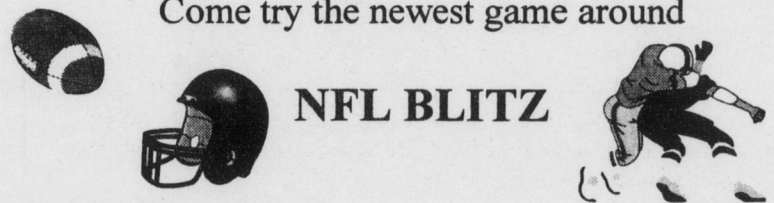
**Buffaloe Lanes** 5502 Hornaday Road, Greensboro, NC 27409  
Phone (336) 292-5100

**Hours of Operation**  
Sunday: 12noon - 11PM  
Monday - Thursday: 9AM - 11PM  
Friday & Saturday: 9AM - 2AM

**Regular Prices**  
Mon - Fri, 9AM - 6PM: \$1.50  
Saturday, 9AM - 6PM: \$1.50  
Sunday, 12noon - Close: \$1.00  
Mon - Thur, 6PM - Close: \$2.20  
Fri & Sat, 6PM - Close: \$2.50  
Shoe Rental: \$1.75

**OPEN PLAY SPECIAL**  
**Rent - A - Lane**  
Monday - Thursday 9PM - 11PM  
\$12.00 per lane  
Friday & Saturday 12AM - 2AM  
\$21.95 per lane

**Gameroom & Redemption Center**  
Come try the newest game around

 **NFL BLITZ**

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS