

THE GUILFORDIAN

Greensboro, NC

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April 3, 1998

Halting progress on race issues

♦Administration soon to make big decisions, but communication questioned from all sides

BY CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Staff Writer

In a year defined by the issue of race, the Guilford community is striving to come into new ways of thinking. Yet many see gulfs between faculty, staff, and student, and wonder if the community will arrive together or in pieces.

Kris Belmonte is a third-year student who attended a recent presentation on racism given by Ervin Brisbon, an activist with American Friends Service Committee.

What she saw at the presentation's end troubles her.

"When Ervin spoke," says Belmonte, "many of the faculty members who were there got up and left before the question and answer period, where it gets really personal. I think that is an indication of where we are."

"The community is insular now, drawn into small groups, especially the faculty."

Adele Wayman, clerk of the faculty, agrees that professors do not always value what students think impor-

tant. "Though there's a desire on the part of faculty and staff to see student's voices as equal," Wayman says, "I don't think they're always seen as equal."

This breakdown of communication might have unforeseen consequences.

Santes Beatty, director of African American affairs, fears students may leave Guilford if they are not heard.

"Faculty and administrators don't know what students are feeling. I hear a lot that this is a time when people are exhausted. A lot of faculty and administrators are saying, 'Let's just make it to summer.'"

"Exhaustion and the repercussions of not acting now will come back to haunt us," says Beatty. "If I'm a student, I want to go away from school seeing that Guilford has done things to stem the problems that are hurting me instead of talking about doing things."

But important decisions are nigh, and Wayman thinks these will demonstrate a commitment to change.

The faculty is drawing near consensus on the new curriculum, which



A focus on communication is a centerpiece of the recent discussions about race.

PHOTO BY BECCA LEE

requires all students to take at least one course in cultural diversity, one in social justice, and one in intercultural studies.

English 151 has also been retooled. The course's new name will be, "College Speaking and Writing:

Many Voices," and it will emphasize diversity in writing.

Faculty hiring may also be an avenue to change.

Six departments have requested tenure-track positions, and Guilford's please see **RACE** on pg. 2

Theatre studies plans AIDS benefit

♦The department will produce the nationally touring *Pieces of the Quilt*

BY ELLEN YUTZY
World Editor

While Guilford's theatrical productions are usually popular, the spring production promises something special.

Guilford students, under the direction of other students, will present the southeastern debut performance of a nationally touring play, *Pieces of the Quilt*. Part of the college's AIDS Awareness month, *Pieces of the Quilt* features one-act plays by playwrights Tony Kushner, Danny Hoch, Migdalia Cruz, David Henry Hwang, and Naomi Iizuka. The theatre department has set the lofty goal of raising \$10,000 to support AIDS treatment.

Pieces of the Quilt was first conceptualized by actor Sean San Jose of San

"Hopefully we put together a selection that is pertinent to the Guilford College community. Hopefully people will leave the theatre thinking more about it."

Amy Gorelow

Francisco, whose parents both died of AIDS. Today the series of plays is touring the United States and has become one of

the most talked-about AIDS awareness activities.

Guilford was awarded the rights to produce the plays because Jack Zerbe, chair of the theatre studies department, asked San Jose what he would think of letting a college perform the pieces. San Jose was receptive to the idea after hearing about Guilford. Guilford's producing the plays in an area where they had not been produced was also important. "[The fact that Guilford was in N.C.] was the thing that cinched it for him," said Zerbe.

Guilford is the first college in the entire country to produce *Pieces of the Quilt*, beating out San Francisco State by a mat- please see **QUILT** on pg. 2

Pieces of the Quilt

•Performances will be in Sternberger Auditorium on April 23, 24 and 25 at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.

•Tickets are \$5 with any student ID, \$10 for Guilford faculty and staff, and \$15 for the general public.

•There will be one performance, at 7:30 p.m. on April 24, which will be "pay what you can" for Guilford students only. Reservations are not available for that performance.

For information about Guilford's production of *Pieces of the Quilt* or reservations, call the box office at 336-336-2414.

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Admission office has proof this weekend of a job well done
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Women's lacrosse team goes on a tear, wins three straight to start season well
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Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed.—Mark Twain