

THE GUILFORDIAN

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YMCA and Guilford College cancel joint expansion plan, will separate instead

Daniel Fleishman
News Editor

Over the summer, Guilford College and the YMCA scrapped their plans to jointly renovate and expand the Ragan-Brown Field House, where the YMCA is currently housed. Instead, the two sides will separate, leaving the current facilities for the sole use of students and faculty.

Both sides searched for alternate options for the YMCA and produced two distinct possibilities, one more likely than the other.

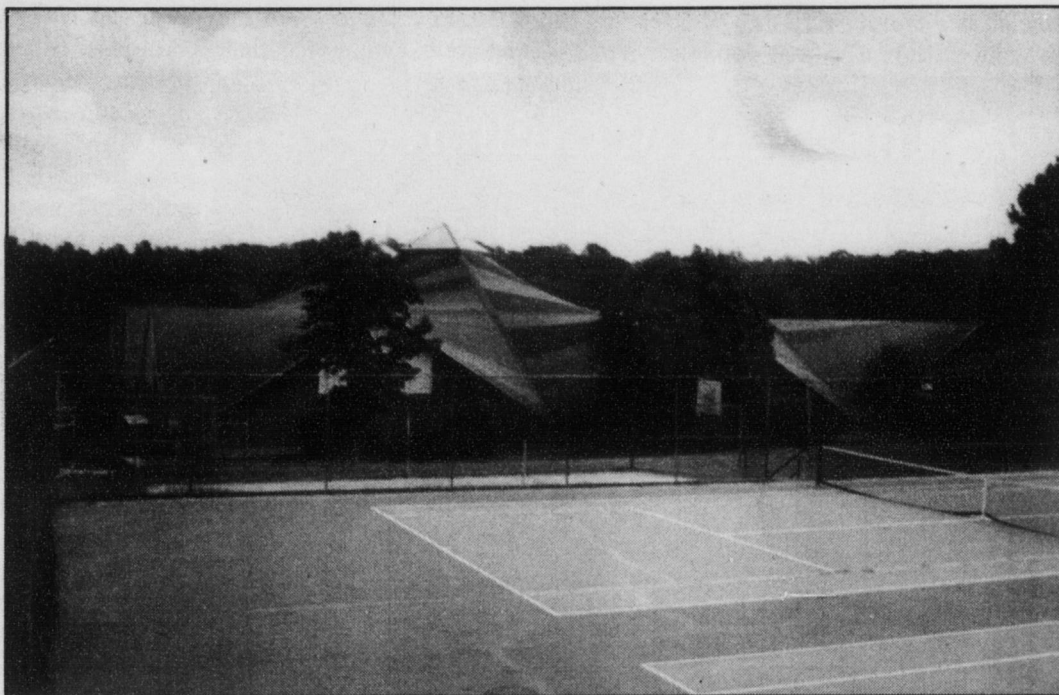
The most probable plan puts a new YMCA facility off campus in a brand new, as yet unbuilt structure. The YMCA would not, however, sever its ties to the college. Guilford would still host day camps and lease its athletic fields to the YMCA on a monthly basis, as they do now.

The second idea calls for Guilford to lease three to five acres of land to the YMCA for the development and construction of a new building, which would be

used by community YMCA members only. The land in question lies along New Garden Road, north of the soccer fields.

Bobby Wayne Clark, Special Assistant to the President, said that the latter idea is less likely because the college is reluctant to give up its land. "President McNemar talked about these misgivings and some concern about leasing such valuable land for that kind of purpose," said Clark. "Our land is really our endowment for the future, and it's best to be used for important institutional purposes."

The Board of Trustees, convening on campus later this month, will be presented with



The YMCA and Guilford College will end a 100-year partnership, leaving the Ragan-Brown Field House for the use of Guilford students and faculty only.

DAVE SCOTT

both proposals and asked to make a final decision in the matter.

The plans for the building shifted dramatically only a few months ago, coinciding with the departure of former Chief Finan-

cial Officer Art Gillis.

For the past two years, Richie Zweigenhaft has been the Chairman of the Facilities Com-

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Leonard Pitts speaks on moral values

Smiles Smith
Staff Writer

What do Oprah Winfrey, Frank Sinatra, Sylvester Stallone, and Bob Costas have in common? They are all or have been fans of Leonard Pitts.

Pitts, a nationally syndicated columnist with the Miami Herald, has fans all around the country. He spoke to a full house at the New Garden Friends Meeting Wednesday night.

After a moment of anxious silence followed by wild applause, Pitts began by asking an important question: "What's our topic today?"

Pitts' message was about doing the right thing. He went on

to express his opinion about family values, social issues, and violence. According to Pitts, parents need to act as role models. They are the most important influence for children. Pitts' most recent book, entitled *Becoming Dad*, addresses the issue of fatherhood.

The responsibility does not stop there, said Pitts. He used the old African Proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child," to illustrate his point. Pitts grew up in a neighborhood where he was answerable to every-

one in the neighborhood. If he got in trouble three blocks down, his mother would eventually hear about it. As a result, he feels he grew up knowing the difference between good and bad.



Pitts at New Garden Friends Meeting Hall.

BRENDAN WEDEHASE

Pitts gained much life knowledge from these early experiences. By the age of five he knew he wanted to be a writer. At the age of seven Pitts bought his first typewriter. Unfortunately these days it seems some seven-year-olds have already bought jail time with murder convictions. Pitts explained that we don't live in a world where everyone does like Roy Rogers and thinks like Ben Cartwright. "[In today's society] evil is in the air. Hatred lurks looking for justification," Pitts said.

Pitts mentioned case after

case of unbelievable cruelty where kids were the criminals. "Today's society is plagued with the 'If it works for me that's all that matters' mentality," said Pitts. At the height of emotion, Pitts repeated, "We have to be decent."

One audience member, a Greensboro resident, said, "He fielded many questions. I was very glad to hear him. He used humor very well." Many others were pleased with the plentiful time for questions. Pitts, however,

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