

THE GUILFORDIAN

Greensboro, NC

March 23, 2001

Student Loan Fund Auction held

Kara Price
STAFF WRITER

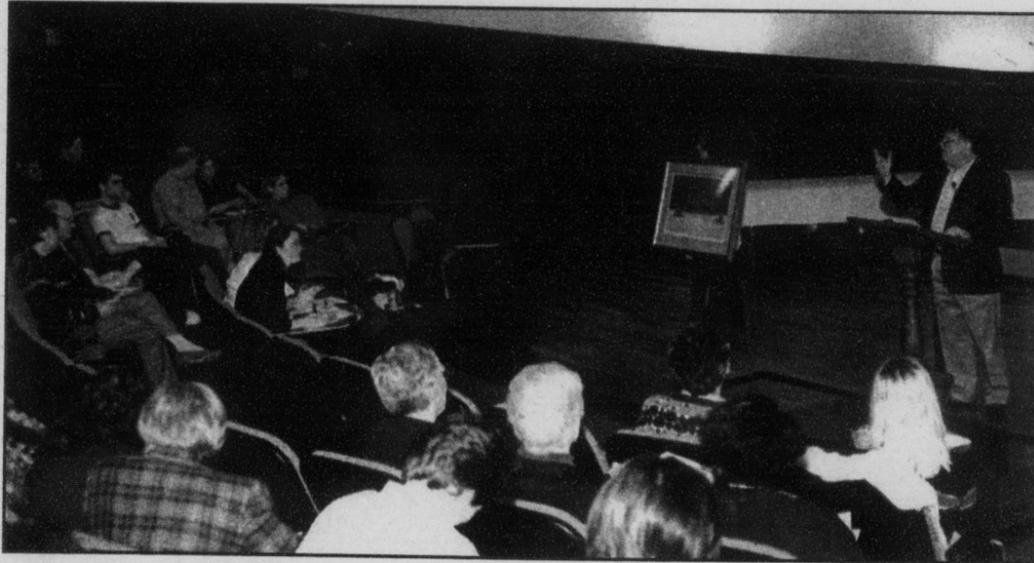
"I'm going to have some fun now," said JJ McEachern, director of the First-Year Center, as he left the Student Loan Fund Auction with a new pair of golf clubs.

McEachern joined approximately 80 faculty, staff, students, alumni and supporters in filling Bryan Auditorium last Friday night.

Under the leadership of senior Community Senate president Cynthia McKay and president-elect Megan Page, Senate organized the 18th annual Student Loan Fund Auction, raising a total of \$8,210 (\$5,032 in bids and \$3,178 in monetary donations).

Senate made two distinct changes in the auction this year. First, they moved it back to campus and, second, they added a small students-only section. Here, the bidding was limited to students so they would not have to compete with bidders having bigger budgets.

"[The students' only section]



Trustee and alumnus Billy Ragsdale auctions off a painting at the Student Loan Fund Auction on Friday, March 16. The event raised \$8,210.

is a real neat concept and I hope it's something we continue," Page said. "But we need more students in attendance to really make it work."

A silent auction occupied the first hour, followed by the live auction. Auctioneer Billy Ragsdale flavored the evening with many fast-paced quips, matched by one-liners from those in attendance.

When a basketball signed by Bill Bradley was brought up for auction, vice president of enrollment Randy Doss shouted, "Go Princeton!"

All items up for auction were donated, many by faculty and staff. Library director Mary Ellen Chijioke donated a home-cooked West African meal for eight, which sold for \$240. A stool made by John Watkins (husband of associate dean of student life Dawn Watkins) went for \$170.

Gertude Beal of the Correspondence Center put together a "survivor pack" in mimicry of the popular television show, stuffed with everything from munchies to nature books. President Don

McNemar won the pack with a bid of \$100.

Some items were donated by students, such as the *Food for Peace* vegetarian cookbook written by CCE student Robin Brinkmann, won by administrative assistant Debbie Bowman in the silent auction.

Other items were gifts from campus visitors, such as signed copies of two of poet Nikki Giovanni's books and a signed copy of playwright Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* script.

The highest bid of the evening was \$370 for a table carved out of the Guilford College oak, the tree that served as a model for the school's logo and that formerly stood by New Garden hall.

From soliciting, to sending out invitations, to securing a space, Senate had a year's worth of work to do before hosting the event. However, Page and McKay's detail-oriented approach kept everyone on task.

"I can't think of one stone that was left unturned," Steering Committee member Andrea

Union budget problems

Ben Many
STAFF WRITER

"In order to put on good events, we need more money," said Erica Sammartino, co-chair of this year's Serendipity. Unfortunately, Serendipity was allotted considerably less money than was requested. This year's budget was \$38,000, while Union requested \$42,000.

Union is spending \$20,000 on the bands, lighting and sound. The rest is being spent on the carnival, shirts, the Bryan quad dance, and security.

Also, Union's budget, from which Serendipity is funded, was over \$5,000 less than last year, down from \$105,007 to \$100,001. The decrease in funds allotted by Senate to Union is due to the heavy amount of requests on student activities fee money for clubs.

According to Dawn Watkins, associate dean for community activities, "Enrollment trends over the past few years affected student activities fees. While the club system has continued to grow, greater demand among all clubs has created a strain on the total pool of funds." Such clubs include *The Guilfordian* (\$40,000) and *The Quaker* (\$40,000).

One of the other reasons for Union's budgeting problems is that Union front-loaded its schedule this year while expecting more funding during the spring. "We were under the misleading impression that there would be additional funds that we could special-request in order to bolster our spring activities schedule, including Serendipity," said Union vice-president Dain Roose-Snyder.

Fortunately, a solution to

these problems is in the works. "We won't have these budgeting problems next year because of the raise in student activities fees," said Union treasurer Josie Black. The student activities fees will be raised from \$250 per person to \$300. Accompanied by the projected increase in enrollment next year, Union and Serendipity will have larger budgets to work with.

Eric Leaf, next year's Union president, said "Expect a good year and big stuff happening."

See page three for a Serendipity Schedule of Events

The Guilfordian
c/o Student Activities
5800 W. Friendly Ave.
Greensboro, NC 27410

Dodson said.

