

THE GUILFORDIAN

Greensboro, N.C.

Volume 91, Issue 21

March 18, 2005

www.guilfordian.com

Black History Month celebrations conclude

Karim Ali

Staff Writer

Through a collection of skits, performances and presentations, on Feb 22, the Guilford African American Studies Department celebrated Black History Month in an evening, titled "Understanding Our Past...Creating Our Future."

Jazz music orchestrated by the N.C. A&T Jazz Ensemble marked the evening. The master of ceremonies, senior Cesar Weston, introduced first performer, sophomore Jada Drew.

Drew performed "Phenomenal Women," verse by black author Maya Angelou, to cheers from the audience.

"I am a phenomenal woman, a phenomenal woman that's me," read Drew.

Next, CCE student Dionne Curry's read Angelou's celebrated poem "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings." Curry said that Angelou's poem immortalizes the spirit inherent in African American generations even in the face of hardships and struggle.

"A caged bird sings of freedom," concluded Curry's reading.

Dressed in yellow and blue, the A&T State University Gospel choir sang next. Shaking hips and moving feet, they clapped and

laughed to high-tempo music.

The evening's events also recreated African American struggles and hardships for its audience of around 200. Each performance sought to celebrate the obstacles overcome by African American people.



COURTESY JADA DREW

Dancers perform at Guilford's celebration of Black History Month

For example Crystal Ellen spoke of Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman in Congress, who ran for the U.S. presidency in 1972.

"I ran because someone had to be first," Ellen reported Chisholm as having said. Chisholm, like many others, fought for inclusion so blacks could take control of and shape their own destiny.

Shifting from women to men, Ameryst's

lyrical "One Rib" was a tribute to all black men. Her rhymes, lyrics and style, which received a standing ovation, celebrated black men, who engage in a struggle "from the womb to the tomb."

Another performance, "Unsung Heroes," commemorated African American contributions to society. Remembering scientists and inventors responsible for peanut butter, door stops and blood plasma separation, among others, the skit reminded the audience of the role black pioneers played in world history.

"Africa is the cradle of intellect, not just the home of humanity," said skit performer Lou Berrier.

In a speech, Gerard Connell underlined the present state of far-from-equal services, status and positions of African Americans.

"There is still no equal education in public schools," said Connell. "It's not fair, but we can change that. You and I can make a change."

Towards the end of the ceremony, CCE student Larry Draughn read of the "Spoken

Continued on Page 3

GSO sexual assaults concern Guilford students

Meredith Veto

Staff Writer

Police from Greensboro and Winston-Salem are investigating six recent sexual assault cases that may be related. The alleged serial rapist targets women in their twenties living alone, several of whom are students.

In the first Greensboro case, a man broke into a Woodstream Lane apartment around 2:30 a.m. on Jan. 14, and assaulted the woman living

there alone. The second attack occurred Feb. 1 on Mayflower Drive near the UNCG campus. The man fled after a brief struggle. Two of the four Winston-Salem victims are Wake Forest University Students.

Kara Simpson, a Guilford junior who lives in a Woodstream apartment, was shocked when she turned on the news and saw reporters in her neighborhood.

"Ever since then I've seen some police with dogs walking

through the woods, probably looking for evidence," Simpson said. "I feel safe having neighbors, but someone could get raped next to me and I wouldn't know."

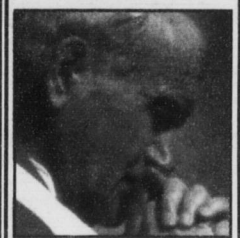
Police report that the attacker enters apartments through unlocked doors or windows. Because the six women all live alone, investigators believe that the attacker may shadow their victims beforehand.

"(He) may watch them come and go for several days before (he) does anything," said Gary

Hastings, commander of the Greensboro Police Department's criminal-investigations division. "One can almost deduct that he likely spends some time in the area before he commits the crime."

The attacker who may be responsible for the sexual assaults has been described as a man who speaks with a Hispanic accent, wears dark clothes and covers his face. In some of the cases the attacker

Continued on Page 3



Pope returns to Vatican

Page 4



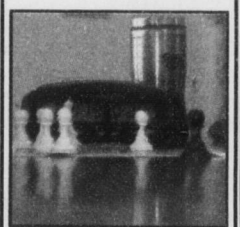
Serendipity preview

Page 7



Once upon a drive through Mexico

Page 8



Introducing Guilford Intramurals

Page 11