



THE GUILFORDIAN

Greensboro, N.C.

Volume 91, Issue 27

April 29, 2005

www.guilfordian.com

God comes before commencement for some

Cory Williams

Staff Writer

After four years of college most students are proud to walk with their graduating class at commencement. It represents the culmination of the undergraduate experience.

Yet for Aryeh Rosenblatt there is something more important than walking.

"I think [commencement] is important and I am sorry to miss it," Rosenblatt said. "But God is everywhere and in everything, and that being the case, I put God ahead of commencement."

Rosenblatt is a member of the Orthodox Jewish community. He strictly abides by the commandments laid forth in the Torah, one of which states that Saturdays are a day of rest and prayer.

Unfortunately for Rosenblatt, commencement takes place on May 7: a Saturday.

On this day of rest Rosenblatt is not supposed to work or create in anyway. The day is spent praying and rejoicing with other Orthodox Jews.

"One issue could be that Aryeh thinks participating would actually violate one or more Shabbat restrictions," said rabbi and

philosophy professor Jonathan Malino. "It's not clear to me that his participation would in fact violate the Shabbat."



MAGGIE BAMBURG/GUILFORDIAN

Senior Aryeh Rosenblatt will not walk at graduation for religious reasons

Rosenblatt agreed, but noted that participating in graduation ceremonies would put him in a position to violate the Sabbath, a consequence Aryeh finds

unacceptable.

However, there are other reasons to miss commencement as well, including group prayers and home-cooked kosher meals.

"I leave school every week to go to an Orthodox commune in Charlotte," said Rosenblatt. "We pray together and eat good kosher food. I mean, I have food here, but I don't cook. (There) I cook like a man - eggs, salad, Ramen noodles. I don't want to give this stuff up just to walk."

Rosenblatt has been an Orthodox Jew for about three years, but his intense religious feelings began in high school on a trip around Europe to several old concentration camps.

The trip was very emotional for Rosenblatt.

"We had a special service in front of this big pile of ashes," recalled Rosenblatt. "I was standing there, I looked down, and there was a human vertebra. I thought, 'This is ridiculous. It's crazy. I have to get out of here.'"

From that point on, things changed as Rosenblatt found himself drifting more and

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Guilfordian wins national college newspaper award

Jake Kalos

Staff Writer

The Guilfordian was recognized as a first-place winner for best overall newspaper in the American Scholastic Press Association's annual newspaper contest.

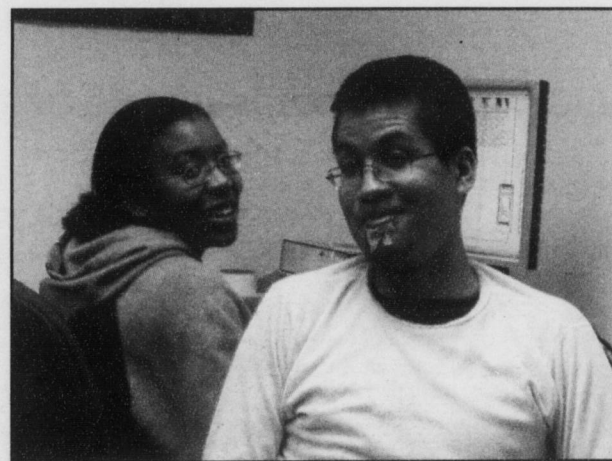
Other schools finishing in the first-place category included Duquesne University, SUNY at Geneseo, and Loyola University of New Orleans.

The contest was based on a 1,000-point scoring system. Participating schools entered three issues of their paper to be judged.

The criteria being scored

were content coverage; page design; general plan; art, advertising, illustrations; editing; and creativity.

The Guilfordian received 915 points out of the possible 1000, with a perfect score in editing.



DYLAN BLACK/GUILFORDIAN

Current and future editors-in-chief Bowen and Haselton share a quiet moment of pride

"The award recognizes the superb effort of editor-in-chief Taleisha Bowen, the editors, and this year's staff writers," said Jeff Jeske, Dana Professor of English and advisor to The Guilfordian. "Credit is also due to the staffs that preceded them, for they set the foundations upon which Taleisha and her staff have so industriously and artfully built."

Bowen sees the award as a place to grow from in the future.

"It's a sign that we've been doing well," she said. "It's not a sign to coast along. There is

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College students nationwide face rising tuition costs

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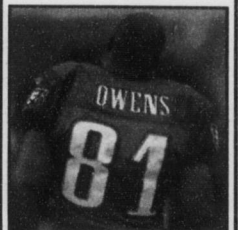
Senior thesis art exhibit on display

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