



THE GUILFORDIAN

Greensboro, N.C.

Volume 92, Issue 8

November 4, 2005

www.guilfordian.com

Doctor - clown Patch Adams visits Guilford

"My house burned down today. Oh, I have a much better view of the lake!"

Warren Parker

Staff Writer

Patch Adams paid a visit to Guilford on Oct. 25 to speak about his life, drugs, poetry, The Gesundheit! Institute, clowning, his movie, and whatever else anyone was curious about.

Dressed in a shirt that looked as though someone had flung paint all over it, a plaid tie, and colorful baggy pants, his casual and humorous attitude provided a comfortable atmosphere for the students. He gave two talks while on campus: one in The Hut, the other in Greenleaf.

Adams, who is 60 years old, explained in his introduction that he is an activist whose main goal is to serve humanity. He believes that medicine is not necessary to make people feel better, but rather spreading joy and dedicating your life to peace is the only true way to become happy. This philosophy is known as "live joy," and as a result of it, Adams claims he has gone 42 years without having a bad day.

"I am an expert at being happy," Adams said to his audience at Greenleaf.

His introduction continued



PHOTO BY WARREN PARKER

Adams is a self described expert on being happy

with an open invitation to those who were interested in joining him on a clowning trip to Venezuela. The trip takes the volunteers to orphanages and hospitals. There is no clowning skill

required for the trip.

"These trips are great because you can be really bad ... naughty bad," Adams said with a devilish smile.

If students have any questions

regarding the trip, Adams' son Lars, who has traveled to several countries to clown, is a first-year at Guilford.

He also touched upon the movie made about his life in 1998

starring Robin Williams. Unfortunately, the film was a very inaccurate portrayal of his life and he cried the first time he read the script. In addition, the director, Tom Shadyac, would not let him be in the film.

When he finished his introduction, Adams opened the floor for questions. When asked about the use of prescription drugs as a means of curing mental health problems, Adams said, "Pharmaceutical companies are evil to the bone! Each person can make their own mental health. I have never written a prescription for psychiatric medication."

He continued by explaining that the purpose the Gesundheit! Institute, the first silly hospital in history, was to dismiss the idea of prescription drugs and to integrate medicine with the performing arts. He sees himself and his staff more as artists than medical staff.

"Patch Adams is a man of serious principles who has the courage and convictions to follow through on them. It seems like his life has pretty much become his message," said sophomore Garrett

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Hill recounts experiences

Sevilla Trevisani

Staff Writer

Julia Butterfly Hill had never protested a day in her life before climbing 180 feet up a redwood tree in 1997. She remained in the tree for 738 days, the longest tree-sit to prevent deforestation.

Hill is now an activist, poet, author, and founder of Circle of Life, an environmental program dedicated to activating people through inspiration and connection.

In a speech given Oct. 30, Hill spoke about her childhood and how it affected her as an adult.

"I was raised very poor," said Hill. "We wore clothes that other people gave us. And I was made fun of, because we live in a culture that says money is God and it's all about the way you look."

"So I was made to feel stupid, ugly, bad, and ashamed from a very early age. So that made me decide that I wanted to make money. When I got to college, I didn't study anything that had to do with the environment or social justice. I majored in business."

When she graduated, Hill and her father operated a restaurant together. They sold



Hill spent two years in a tree

the business two years later and Hill then went through what she described as a "self-destructive period." She then became an independent consultant for the restaurant and bar industry.

Hill recounted how she felt during the period of her life before she was an activist.

"I never quite felt full. I never quite felt alive. I always felt like I was on the verge, but couldn't quite get there. But then of course if you look at our media you'll see that we have a culture that perpetuates that story of not quite getting there. Right when you buy the clothes that are in style what happens? It changes. Right when you buy

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Crowded student parking

Turi Dell'Amore

Staff Writer

Enrollment at Guilford College is increasing. The growth in the ranks of CCE and traditional students influences the availability and convenience of on-campus parking. The increasing number of CCE students is a large factor in this issue.

Over the last five years, the number of CCE students has significantly increased. Out of the 2,700 students currently enrolled at Guilford, 1,300 are CCE students. Only five years ago, there were 270 CCE students attending Guilford College.

Guilford College offers one of the most renowned CCE programs in North Carolina. It offers convenient schedules including a wide variety of courses offered at night. It provides a broad selection of programs and adequate parking situations when compared to other schools offering CCE programs in the area.

While the CCE program provides an opportunity for adult students to earn a degree, the steadily increasing population is causing conflict on campus. Many of the traditional students have complained about the "lack of parking."

"The issue is not about a shortage of parking spaces, but rather the convenience of them," said Bill Stevens, Dean for Continuing Education.

The CCE students typically attend classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. The lack of convenient parking spaces affects them as they run from work to class between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. By the time they arrive on campus, the prime spots have already been taken. Often they arrive late to class.

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