

Sustainable energy comes to Guilford College

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Staff Writer

The Pines, the environmental-themed alternative house, is working with the college to reduce their energy usage.

The Pines residents are still deciding between wind and solar power as an alternate source of electricity. Currently, the two most likely options are NC Green Power or Transferable Renewable Energy Credits (TRECs).

The idea behind the project is to figure out how much of the campus' energy the Pines uses and then to offset that amount by buying that much in green energy credits.

They are starting the project now because of how it fits into the Strategic Long Range Plan (SLRP) the college is currently implementing.

"This all ties into the Strategic Long Range Plan," said junior Tristan Wilson, "which has Section 3.1 about ethical procurement, which means looking at the companies where Guilford gets everything and making sure that they're ok on a social justice level and not just a financial level."

Jon Varnell, Director of Facilities and Campus Services, has worked with the Pines on conservation before, and was happy to talk with them about their new project.

"Sustainability is actually something we spend a good deal of time on," said Varnell.

"We've been steadily making improvements, such as the Sustainability Committee - made up of faculty, staff and students - which was designed to give a voice and inertia to sustainability on campus."

Another reason the Pines sees this as a strategic time to go ahead with this project is because "it's becoming more economical to buy renewable energy, especially with NC Green," said Pines resident Ian Breckheimer.

The project grew out of the Pines' concerns about issues of social justice related to the environment and their constant goal to minimize their effect on the environment.

"The energy we use affects the health of everyone in North Carolina," said Breckheimer. "Mountaintop-removal coal mining, which is the most prevalent form of coal mining on the east coast, makes for worse air quality and devastates the communities that they extract their coal from. Another big thing is fossil fuel-produced



The Pines is looking to reduce energy consumption

electricity releases a lot of chemicals that lead to global warming."

Although this project is based in the Pines, the residents look forward to working with the campus. "We're starting to work with the administration to make sure that what we're doing with the Pines is saving the most energy possible," said Pines resident Parks Marion.

The members of the Pines want to work with the campus because they see this project as benefiting not only the environment

but also the college. "Renewable energy can be a drawing point," said Breckheimer. "It's a good marketing tool."

Although the administration does not have room in the budget to buy TRECs, the members of the Pines are working on ways to raise capital to get the project started with the hopes that it will perpetuate itself once it gets off the ground.

Senior Laura Wigand, who helped the Pines with research, explained the process that will have to happen at Guilford for this project. "There is going to have to be up-front money and a commitment on the part of the college to continue paying for green power," said Wigand. "Energy awareness campaigns have been done at other schools really successfully. It's about getting it into the culture of the college and normalizing energy savings."

Pines resident Eliza Hudson wants to get the community involved in this project. "We want to work with the campus to take little steps to have a big impact," said Hudson.

Varnell pointed out that the Pines is only a "small percentage of the total energy usage" on campus, and that education efforts on campus-wide energy reduction are also important.

Sophomore Jalika Street is part of one such energy usage awareness project for her Environmental Studies class and hopes "to educate people and further energy-conservation knowledge." ❧

Tutu "an inspiration"

Continued from page 1

his audience.

Tutu conveyed the desire to heal in South Africa by showing love even to those who did his people the most harm. "Even the worst of us," Tutu said, "still remains a child of God."

He and Nelson Mandela declined to hold Nuremberg-like trials, preferring to move on and commence the rebuilding process.

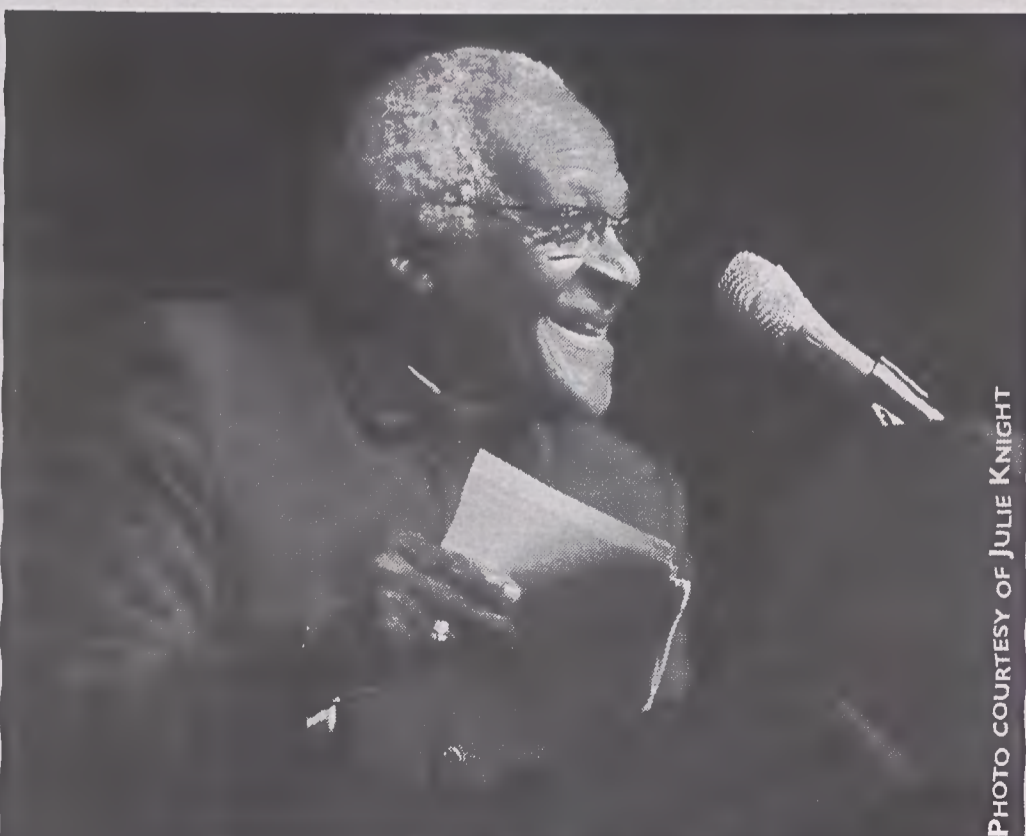
"After hearing him speak, I have a better appreciation, for who this man is and where he comes

from," said Miller. "It is amazing what he did for his country and the people of South Africa in one of the country's worst phases in its history!"

Laughter filled the auditorium during the Archbishop's lively and heartening lecture.

Applause, a standing ovation, and a yearning for more ended the night and his lecture promptly at 9 p.m. This is one speaker who left a lasting impression on his audience.

"He is an inspiration," said Mortensen. ❧



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Students discuss gender-blind housing

Continued from page 1

sexual assault would increase. As addressed in the official petition put forth by Benson and Norton, this opinion assumes that women are the victims of assault by men.

This ignored the possibility of same-sex sexual assault.

The petition reasons that if opposite-sex roommates could mutually request to be roommates because of feelings of safety and trust, then that would actually decrease the chances of assault.

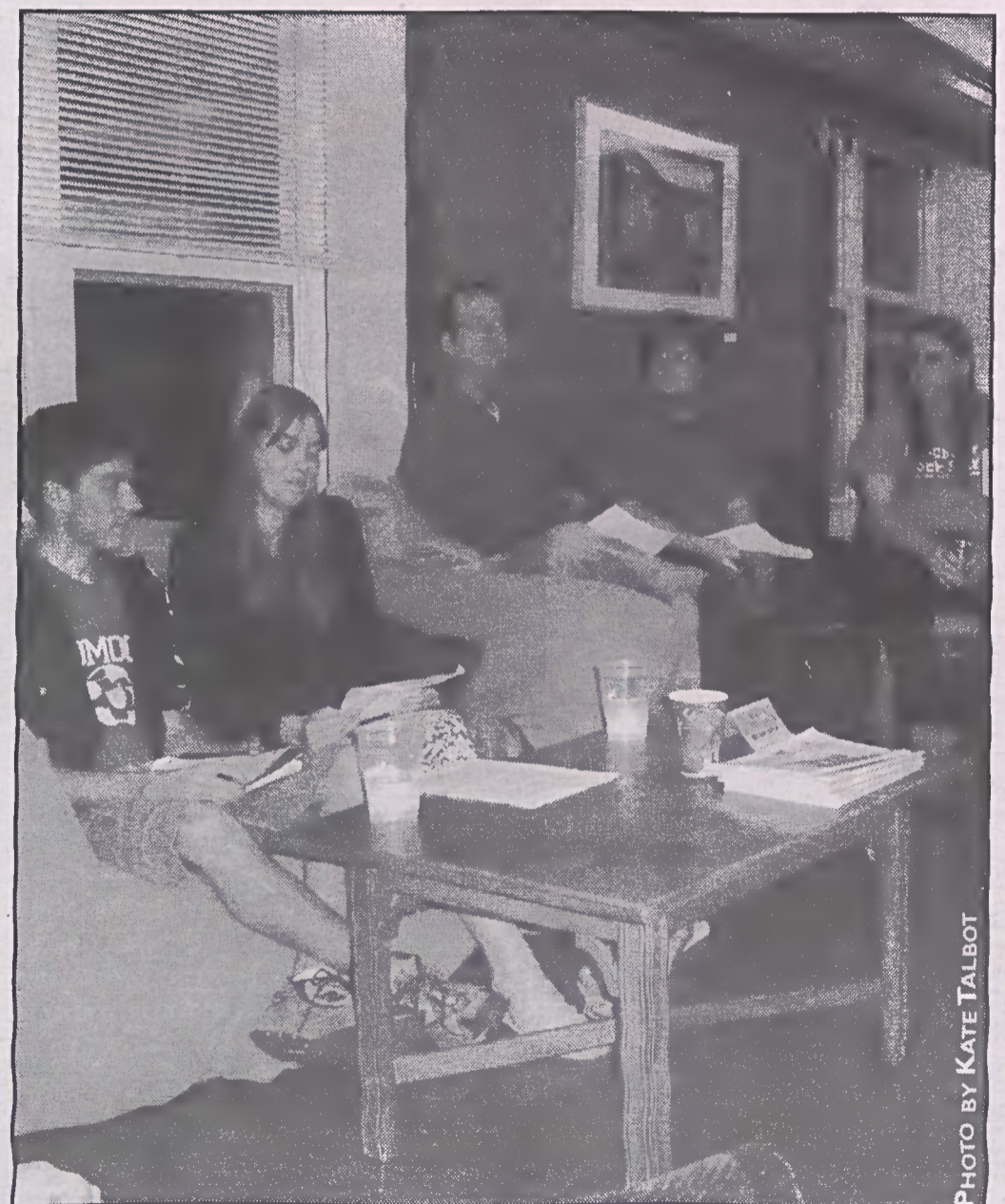
The option is not going to be offered to incoming first-years, not because of their age, but because of their lack of knowledge about dorm life.

The option will also not be applied to random roommate assignments.

The goal of this petition is to create a more diverse, comfortable, and safe living environment - random roommate assignments with mixed-sexes would endanger that safety and comfort.

Benson and Norton found 14 colleges that already offer mixed-sex housing, including NYU and Sarah Lawrence College. Also noted in the petition, Quaker colleges Haverford and Swarthmore offer gender-blind housing.

All colleges that present the option of mixed-sex housing have reported no significant problems with the arrangements after being contacted by Benson and Norton.



Senate passed the gender-blind housing petition on Nov. 10

Students may email Anya Benson and David Norton via their Guilford email accounts at abenson@guilford.edu and dnorton@guilford.edu, respectively.

There will be two petitions cir-

cling the campus shortly: one for those in support of the proposal and one for those interested in participating in mixed-sex housing arrangements. ❧