

Letter from the Editor



JOSH COHEN | EDITOR IN CHIEF

Last year was the most difficult I've experienced since my 2004 autumn arrival at Guilford. Friends tell me I'm not alone. A series of violent events challenged the comfort and ease that, along with caring faculty and staff, often create an escape from the thunder of the conflict, poverty, racism, and warfare that lurk beyond the peacefulness we experience daily.

Eleanor Branch used to teach English here. She received a negative tenure decision and had to leave Guilford. There are issues of privacy and professional peer review, no doubt, that can interfere with a fully open discussion of what happened. But, the Guilford student community is deeply affected by what happens to faculty and staff and, at the least, we need to find ways to better understand college decisions that impact our lives. It is not simply that the college's tenure practices are, or are not, fair. Or even that barring deeper understanding, a suspicion that race was a factor, whether it was or not, can drill into perception and routine. The controversy surrounding tenure should lead to a critical examination of the school's faculty hiring and retention practices – for the sake of student understanding, as well as for faculty security.

There were other controversies. Some students called the ethics of Sodexo, the multinational corporation that provides our cafeteria food, into question over their corporate policies. There were concerns about their corporate conduct and their involvement in private prisons, which fueled questions about the treatment of Guilford cafe employees.

The infamous Bryan incident caused more pain than the physical bruises inflicted on each other by the students who came to blows in the residence hall. Our school was divided into factions. We experienced an unbelievable range of emotions that stretched us beyond our zones of comfort and safety. Anger and sadness and frustra-

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IN
BRIEF

Largest first year class in history

JOANNA BERNSTEIN | STAFF WRITER

Guilford's 2007 first-year class is the largest in the school's history, with 450 freshmen accounting for 31% of the traditional student population.

This year Guilford's pool of applicants reached a record high of nearly 3,500. Of the less than 60% accepted, 23% chose to enroll.

The goal of Guilford's strategic plan for fall 2007 was to enroll 1,405 traditional students.

"We've surpassed that goal by 43 and enrolled 1,448 students," said Vice President for Enrollment and Campus Life Randy Doss. "Next year's goal is to have 1,471 traditional students enrolled on campus, and then have 1,520 enrolled the following year."

Doss doesn't attribute the growing number of applicants to print advertisements or to Guilford's quality of life rating of 75/99 in the Princeton Review.

"When it's all said and done, it comes

down to word of mouth," said Doss. "It's not about the Website or our other publications. It's about people talking to one another about the school."

While Doss is quite satisfied with this growth, students dining in an overcrowded cafeteria are finding themselves somewhat flustered.

"It's overwhelming (in the cafeteria). There are a ton of kids in here and I feel like I don't recognize any of them," said sophomore Raji Ward. "Most of them are probably freshmen, but that's not a bad thing."

"This semester's traditional student headcount doesn't differ much from last year's. It's just that there are more students living on campus," said Doss.

"I wonder about the future of the school since the on campus population keeps rising," said junior Matt Harris. "I have no qualms with this large first year class, but is Guilford going to keep

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Amnesty International goes pro-choice

SIMON KELLY | STAFF WRITER

In the wake of its call for the decriminalization of abortion last April, human rights organization Amnesty International faced the general rebuke of the Roman Catholic Church. Now, with Amnesty showing no signs of retracting its decision to remain pro-choice after this August's conference in Mexico City, Vatican officials are urging Catholics to stop funding the organization.

"To selectively justify abortion, even in the cases of rape, is to define the innocent child within the woman as an enemy, a 'thing' that must be destroyed," said Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, to the National Catholic Reporter.

"They think of abortion as an act of violence, and therefore it fits in with their opposition to violence—which is an internally coherent logic," said Jane Redmont, assistant professor of religious studies.

American Catholic organizations, such as the United States Conference for Catholic Bishops, are not any more charmed than the Vatican by Amnesty International's decision. In fact, the group's president, Bishop William S. Skylstad, pre-

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Another year, another housing shortage

SEAN URQUHART | STAFF WRITER

The fall semester has begun, a new batch of students has arrived, and once again Guilford has a housing shortage. There are currently four rooms on campus with three residents, all of them located in Shore Hall.

"It sucks," said Dean of Campus Life and Interim Head of Public Safety Aaron Fetrow "It was a problem and we did our best to fix it. We refused to take the student lounges in Milner and Binford like we did last year. We picked Shore because it has large rooms that can accommodate three people better than rooms in Milner and Binford."

Guilford is currently in a transitional period; the administration keeps admitting more and more students in the hopes of making Guilford a larger institution while still keeping class sizes small. Both Fetrow and Randy Doss, the vice president of enrollment and campus life, have said that the school is trying very hard to get the funds to build a new dorm, but until then, housing shortages may occur.

The housing shortage has not only affected first-year students. In April of last year, when the housing lottery began, many people did not get the rooms that they

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