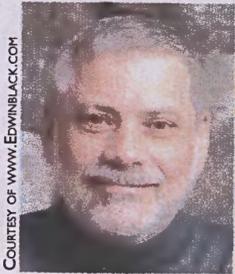


## BLACK

## Edwin Black requests retraction from SJP

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Edwin Black visited campus Nov. 4-5, 2014.

with the decision to bring Black. Black had come in 2011 to give a presentation based on his book "The Farhud—Roots of The Arab-Nazi Alliance in the Holocaust." Some members of the Guilford community at that time construed his presentation as Islamophobic and disrespectful to the Palestinian community on campus.

In response to that previous Guilford visit, SJP organized a peaceful walk-out at the Nov. 4 presentation. Prior to the beginning of the talk, they filled

the East Gallery and stood or sat in complete silence, many wearing signs with the names and ages of Palestinian children killed in Israel's recent incursion into Gaza. They waited until shortly after Black began his presentation. Then they got up and left.

"Is this what Guilford has taught you?" called out Dean of Continuing Education Rita Serotkin as the students exited the room.

"Yes, what Guilford taught me was to uphold our core values ... of justice and equality," said SJP head Walid Mosarsaa, after the event. "The whole purpose of this walk-out was to tell people like Black that their presence on campus is not welcome. As a student body, we will not provide our ears to listen to the hate and alteration of information to serve his political agenda."

Many students and faculty who did not participate in the walkout shared similar opinions, even though they stayed for the entire presentation.

"It's not the fact that somebody came to the College who was of a different opinion, or who went against prevailing opinions, it's that somebody came to the College who was so blatantly un-academic," said senior Matt Carter. "I totally respect the need for different opinions, but someone who is intentionally inflammatory and makes very arbitrary arguments is something I can't really give a high end to."

Jeremy Rinker, visiting assistant professor of peace and conflict studies, commented on Black's ideas of conflict resolution.

"He modeled the exact opposite of what I consider conflict and resolution by dominating conversations, jumping in, cutting people off, not allowing the other side to actually say what they wanted to say," said Rinker. "I would call it beautiful in the sense that it was modeling the opposite of what I try to teach people. I agree with his last words for the need of dialogue, but when you talk in that kind of name-dropping and book-dropping way, that's not really dialogue."

On Wednesday afternoon, after speaking to a journalism class, Black held a Q&A session to allow the community to respond to his previous night's presentation. However, Black did not accept any "live" questions; rather, he picked questions that had been emailed to him, causing frustration among those present.

Among the questions that Black read were three from Max Carter, director of the Friends Center and adjunct professor of religious studies. In the course of responding, Black challenged Carter and accused him of endorsing the SJP walkout. He also pulled up emails that had been sent to him by a Guilford student who had received emails from the SJP calling Black a "notorious racist" and "Islamophobic" and warning him of the walkout.

"Several students saw those emails, and checked me out, and they know I am not a notorious racist, but a crusader for human rights," said Black.

After the events, Carter expressed dissatisfaction with Black's public presentations.

"I feel that his hope for coexistence and his statement that 'all human beings should have the same human rights' were overshadowed by an overly simplistic view of the conflict and the obfuscation of technical, legal terms that probably confused everybody and clouded the reality that what he is promoting prevents coexistence and equal human rights — so it was frustrating," said Carter.

In an interview with The Guilfordian after the Q&A, Black said, "The Students for Justice in Palestine exceeded the bounds of decency. They infringed my academic freedom ... my constitutional rights to express myself and they infringed the ability of the students to learn."

To an SJP representative who had been present at the Q&A, he said, "I want a full retraction, from your organization for calling me a notorious racist. If I had done that to you, in a newspaper, it would be libel."

On the Friday after Black's departure, Rinker convened a "healing circle" to offer participants in the previous days' events an opportunity to recover from negativity and stress they felt the visit had caused.

"Please join friends as we help to mend and strengthen our communities' relationships by finding ways of collectively sharing our experiences of pain, frustration and hope in a caring and interconnected way," said an announcement in the Guilford Buzz.

## Robberies and burglaries near campus raise security questions

BY LILY LOU  
STAFF WRITER

Two robberies and three burglaries in one night. All within two miles of Guilford College.

On Nov. 1, Greensboro police arrested Eric Jenkins and charged him with the crimes.

The first call to the police came at 10:10 p.m., from Brownstone Lane, to report a burglary. A purse had been stolen.

Five minutes later, another call was made, reporting a robbery on Tower Road. This was followed by another phone call to the police. Jenkins crashed a silver Buick into an ATM at the Bank of America on College Road.

Greensboro police later spotted the Buick, leading to a pursuit by police. The police managed to stop Jenkins at Guilford College Road and Big Tree Way.

Later investigation revealed that Jenkins had also allegedly broken into two homes on Auburndale Road, where Jenkins had stolen the silver Buick.

According to Public Safety, there is no correlation between these robberies and the assault at the North

Apartments that occurred in September.

"The man that got arrested in this case was a man that was in his 50's, and the people who were described as being involved in the assault at the North Apartments were much younger," said Director of Public Safety Ron Stowe.

One arrest has been made for the assault at the North Apartments, but Greensboro police are still searching for the other attackers.

Despite the recent crimes near Guilford, many students feel safe on campus.

"(Public Safety) responds really quickly whenever you need help," said first-year Jessica Canar. "My friends live in Binford Hall and I live in Milner Hall. Sometimes I'm at Binford Hall until 2 a.m. and I'm not afraid to walk back (alone)."

However, there are still some improvements to be made.

"Schools in more urban settings have more security than we do at Guilford," said sophomore Davia Young. "Our only security is a (card) swipe to get into the dorms and a key to get into your room. There's none of that in the public buildings."

## Serendipity weekend in danger

BY LANDON FRIED  
STAFF WRITER

Forty-one years of tradition. A budget of \$40,000. Seventy-three reported incidents last year.

One chance to keep Serendipity. The culture of Serendipity has degenerated into an attitude that students should push their boundaries when using alcohol and drugs during the weekend. Now, administrators have made it clear that unless major changes happen to increase student safety, Serendipity will be cancelled.

"Unfortunately, (students) have six months (to change the culture)," said Jennifer Agor, interim dean of students. "It either works or it doesn't."

Multiple organizations, including the Campus Activities Board, Campus Life and Community Senate, hope to solve the safety issue before Guilford has to remove the tradition.

"Alums are horrified at the thought of losing this tradition that, for so many of us, has defined the Guilford experience," said Esther Hall, '74 and co-founder of Serendipity. "(Serendipity) is like lore."

Community Senate and the Campus Activities Board have hosted a series of forums to educate students about the issues with Serendipity and discuss the possible solutions to make this year's events successful. So far, the forums have brought new issues to light and provided potential solutions.

"The conversation had to start



Students at Killer Mike's show during Serendipity '14 in the Alumni Gym.

broad, and then narrow down into action steps," said José Oliva, sophomore and president of Community Senate. "It takes time, and education will be a key piece of solving the issue."

Certain measures to make Serendipity safer have already been decided. For example, instead of holding concerts outdoors as in past years, the concerts will occur exclusively indoors in 2015. This will allow the concerts to extend later into the evening and give Public Safety more control over who can enter the events.

Some have expressed concern that Serendipity cannot change

enough this year.

"You can't see (a culture shift) within a year," said Mara Stern, sophomore and treasurer of Community Senate. "Little seeds will be planted, but I think it will take maybe four or five years to see a real difference."

However, if that culture change fails to happen in time, the College will have to cancel Serendipity to eliminate the safety and liability risks of the weekend.

"I think that everything needs to be focused on what we're doing to improve (Serendipity)," said sophomore and Serendipity Chair Darion Bayles. "No more negative talk and blame games."

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