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CCE

Adult students rally together

“There are all kinds of options on the table. Regardless of what might happen, we would not abandon the CCE students.”

JANE FERNANDES, GUILFORD COLLEGE PRESIDENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Saturday in Fall 2014, and enrollment was below 10 for two of the three,” said Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean Adrienne Israel in an email interview. “Student demand for classes as well as student need for courses that satisfy a major determine, for the most part, whether or not they are offered. Student demand and need indicate that Saturday classes should be suspended for the time being, not necessarily forever.”

Summer classes have been cut for similar reasons. “Summer school courses are offered based on student demand/need,” said Israel. “Summer school enrollment has dropped in proportion to the decline in CCE enrollment. That is the reason why fewer classes might be scheduled for Summer 2015 than for Summer 2014. Another reason might be the availability of faculty to teach summer courses.”

Some CCE students are concerned with the 2 percent tuition raise for all students.

“At a time when Guilford is looking for ways to cut its expenses ... to have raised tuition at a 2 percent level when the national average is 3.6 percent is a positive message of how the college has prioritized access, the cost of college and the student experience,” said Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Todd Clark.

Guilford is also merging the admissions office for CCE student and traditional students under one vice president for enrollment. The Registrar’s office will be handling all transcript evaluations for traditional and CCE students.

“We’re trying to reduce duplication that we see now by having two separate admissions offices,” said Guilford President Jane Fernandes. “It doesn’t mean that there aren’t specialists in adult education ... it’s only an attempt to strengthen the CCE program.”

Some students are concerned about the possibility of moving the Office of Communications and Advancement to Hendricks Hall and moving the CCE student lounge out, despite CCE students paying \$33,000 in renovations through student fees.

“There is nowhere else that CCE students can feel welcomed besides Hendricks Hall,” said CCE student president and senior Monica Jones. “Hendricks has always been a one-stop shop for

CCE students.

“You can come in here after five o’clock to talk to a financial aid advisor. Your student government is here. Your advisers are here ... everything you need is here. But now that you get rid of all the supporting staff, where are CCE students supposed to feel connected?”

This move, however, may help ease the college’s deficit.

“If we cut the lease (with the company that owns the office space), we will probably save three staff positions,” said Fernandes. “(We’re looking at what’s possible. It’s possible that the Office of Advancement and Communications will move into Hendricks. They were in there before. Maybe they could move to New Garden ... There are all kinds of options on the table. Regardless of what might happen, we would not abandon the CCE students.”

CCE students have fought against these potential changes to the CCE program by starting a petition.

“The Student Government Association is collecting signatures in hopes (of dissuading) administration from what we feel is a dismantling of the Center for Continuing Education,” said a flyer from the CCE Student Government Association. “We also feel that some of the proposed initiatives to help eliminate the College’s debt may not be in the interests of the students, traditional or CCE.”

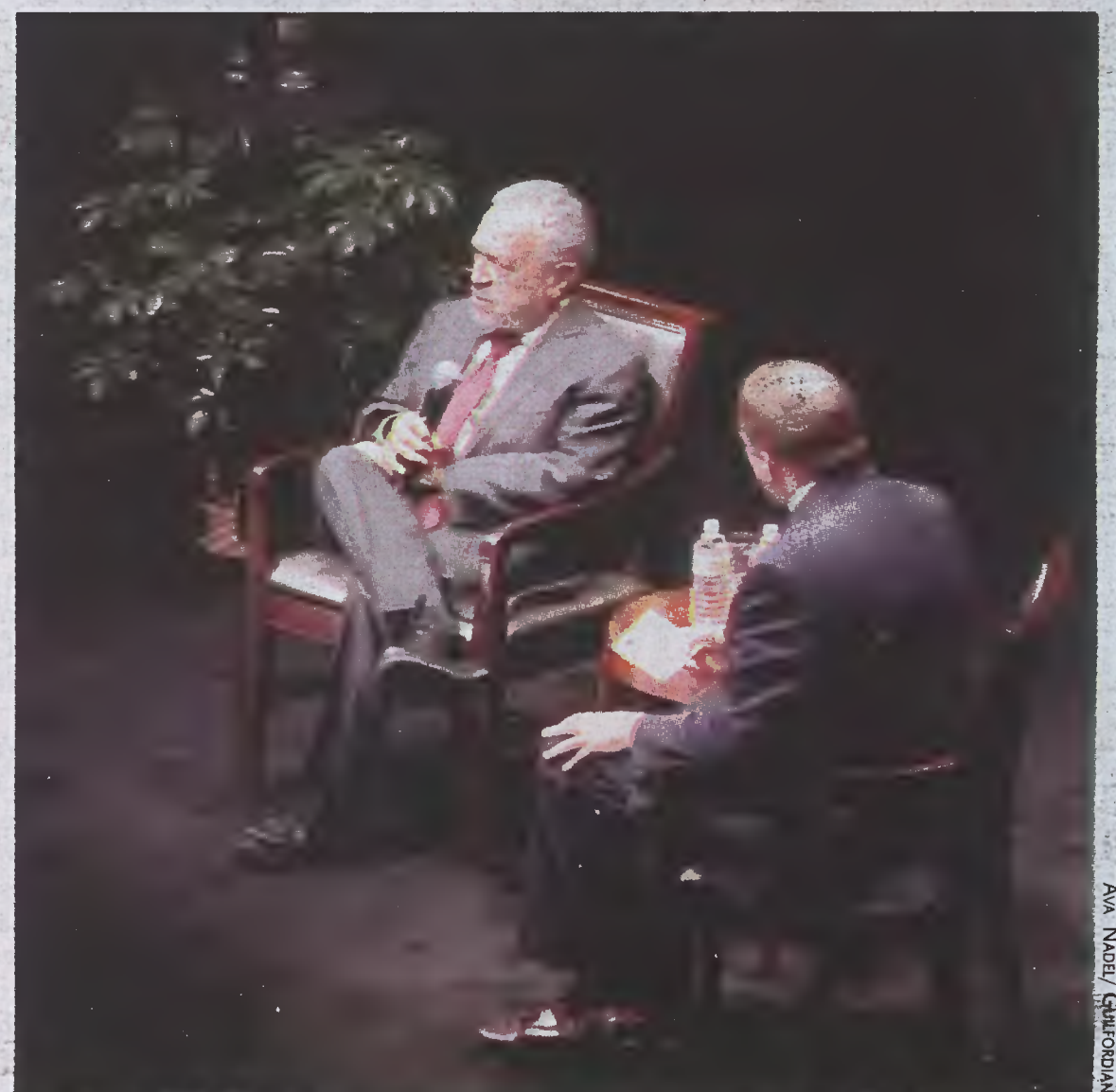
Some CCE students are also upset because of the lack of communication between Guilford and its students over the budget cuts.

“If Guilford would at least have a meeting with us, listen to our concerns and tell us what’s going on, it would ease the panic,” said CCE junior Jessica Hilliard.

Though decisions have not officially been made, Guilford’s budget cuts will affect its students and faculty. When making these cuts, Guilford administrators say that they will be looking out for its students.

“In the decision-making process for budget cuts, the goal is to have the least possible negative impact on students,” said Center for Continuing Education Assistant Dean Martee Holt. “Students are our first priority. Right now the College is facing a budget crisis that will require some tough decisions and changes in the way the College operates. We can operate differently and still provide a great student experience.”

Although late, Reich’s presentation inspires



Former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich spoke at the Coliseum on Tuesday, April 7.

BY AUBREY KING
STAFF WRITER

A man whose small stature only hides his fiery determination, Robert Reich, captured audiences last Tuesday.

Originally scheduled for Feb. 17, Robert Reich, who is Chancellor’s Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley, former Secretary of Labor in the Clinton administration and director of the documentary “Inequality for All,” gave a presentation on April 7 as part of the Bryan Series.

Titled “Bipartisan Solutions for America’s Economic Future,” Reich’s talk highlighted his skill set as an orator, the same skill set that made him a perfect fit for the Bryan Series.

“We do a lot of research on speakers before we invite them to the Bryan Series,” said Associate Vice President of Communications and Marketing Ty Buckner. “Robert Reich has been on our ‘radar’ for a while. “As a distinguished professor and former labor secretary and as a very popular and skillful presenter, (Reich) was a person we believed would be great for the series.”

Like the event’s organizers, the Guilford and Greensboro communities buzzed with excitement as the event drew closer.

“We’re very excited because he’s just such a dynamic speaker,” said event attendee Joan Smith.

Even before the big night, Reich connected with the Guilford College community in a question-and-answer session. Held in Bryan Jr. Auditorium, the session allowed Guilford students and faculty exclusive access to Reich.

“I thought (the Q & A) was amazingly engaging,” said sophomore Seth Rose.

“It was extremely stimulating on a mental level in terms of tangible ways of attacking the complex theories we discuss in the classroom.”

The hour-long session saw Reich answering the questions of students and staff in a relaxed yet practical manner.

“He was wonderful with interacting on an intimate level and making sure everyone had a chance to ask a question,” said Instructor of English Caroline McAlister.

“Sometimes I worry that students don’t get enough access at Guilford to the Bryan Speakers, but I thought this was a very nice opportunity for any students that took advantage of it.”

A few hours after the session, Reich gave his larger presentation in the Greensboro Coliseum.

Reich’s larger talk drew in Guilford students as well as a massive crowd from the Guilford County area.

“I’m part of the AP Academy at Western Guilford High School,” said event attendee Symone Smith. “When I heard we had this opportunity, I was very excited to take advantage of it.”

During the talk, Reich expounded on the value of investment in education and the importance of bipartisanship while humorously working in references to buying cars, hip replacements and even meeting Hilary Clinton in high school.

“Talent and responsibility,” said Reich to the crowd. “That’s what will revive education in this country.”

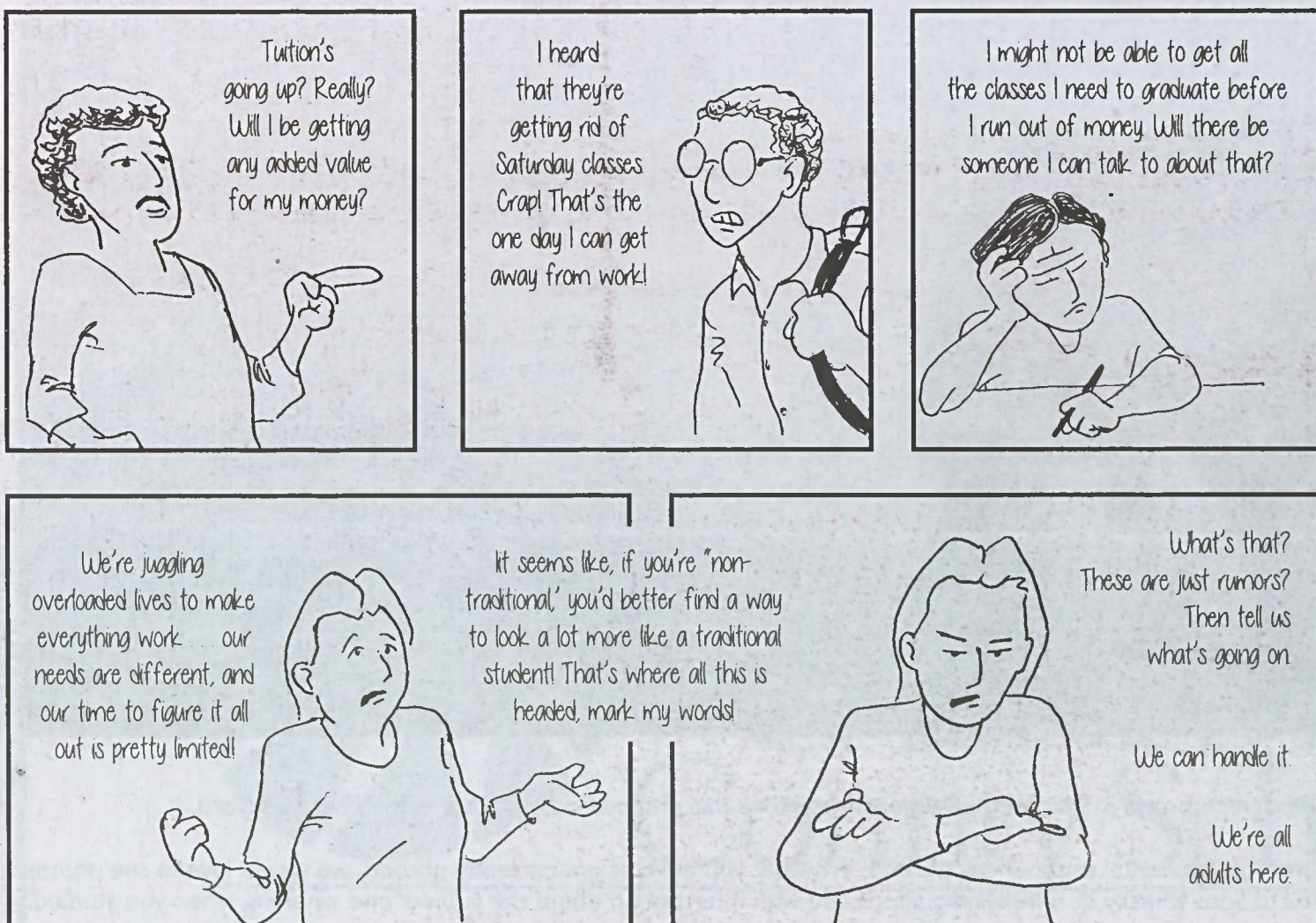
After concluding with another brief, albeit less personal, Q&A session, Reich excused himself, leaving behind a satisfied and entertained crowd.

“I found the talk very inspiring,” said Early College senior Morgan Klenke. “He was very down to earth and his story about Hilary Clinton was fantastic.”

The Bryan series has always brought interesting speakers into an environment where their presentations enrich the Guilford College and Greensboro communities, and Robert Reich’s humorous yet practical talk stands well among them.

The next Bryan series event will host international reporter Anderson Cooper sharing his experience as journalist on April 19.

What’s going on with the College of Continuing Education?



BRIAN SMITH/GUILFORDIAN