

Furness Articulate On Rights Of Consumers

What do television sets, aerosol cans, cars and trucks, and dishwashers have in common? According to Betty Furness, consumer advocate speaking in the Moon Room last Tuesday night, all can present dangers to the unwary consumer. Introduced by Kathy Sebo as the woman who has come from "that Westinghouse Lady" to "that woman of consumer rights defense", Ms. Furness struck a responsive chord in her audience as she outlines some of the problems that the consumer faces as he or she tries to distinguish the difference between the 1700 brands, sizes and makes of tires currently available, or the seven different types of packaging of Coca-Cola in one store. (This packaging determined the difference in price, which ranged from 27 cents a quart to 60 cents a quart).

Furness came out strongly for unit pricing, commenting "Most of us can't multiply by eight and divide by 32 while the Muzak is playing 'Sweet Lorraine' and the kids are dismantling the bubble-gum machine," and claimed that unit-pricing could save up to 10 percent on the average grocery bill.

Ms. Furness outlines a basic "Consumer's Bill of Rights" as 1) The right to choose, 2) the right to be informed, 3) the right to be safe, 4) the right to be heard.

Of the right to be informed, she said that the consumer had the right to know "if the detergent is made of phosphates, the container made of plastic, or the food made of food." She read off a list of vile-sounding chemicals, asked if anyone in the audience would feed their child such a product, and revealed that that was the total ingredient list in orange kool-aid. A slightly more appetizing list turned out to be the ingredients in a synthetic fabric pantsuit.

The former actress also said that a consumer had the right to be informed how long an appliance would last and how much power it takes to run it. "Bargain" air conditioners, in particular, she said, are no bargains if they take more power to provide the same amount of cooling.

Stressing that the right to be protected from unsafe products is a basic one, Ms. Furness informed the audience that baby food manufacturers put monosodium glutamate, which may be harmful,

to babies, in baby food, so that the food would taste better to adults who might be sampling it, since, after, all adults do the majority of baby food buying.

Speaking of safety in broader terms, Ms. Furness criticized the modern automobile saying that it is "an ecological disaster." She said of the future, "We have to choose between bigger and better."

Of the final consumer right -- the right to be heard -- Ms. Furness said that "we must complain every time we are dissatisfied" and outlined the best ways to complain. She said that if a visit to the place where the defective product was bought didn't yield results, a letter to the President of the company might. She reminded her listeners, that, as a last resort, small-claims court is "the people's court."

Concerning the future of the consumer movement, Ms. Furness stressed that this is not the time to sit back and gloat about past successes. She added that "women are going to lead the consumer movement...men think of themselves first as producers, then as consumers." She said that consumers need each other for strength and closed her talk by saying "There is much to be done, and it can only be done by us."



John Lloyd makes valiant effort in pie-eating contest Saturday. Photo by Causey

Most Dorm Positions For '74-75 Filled

Interns and some coordinators for next year have been selected. In Binford, the interns are: Barbara DeBoise, first floor; Gwenne Raschke, second floor; and Pat Holman, third floor. In Bryan, the interns are: Crystal Duval,

The Guilfordian

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1974

GREENSBORO, N.C.

One Woman Show By Actress Burrows

by Dave Owens

Actress Vinie Burrows, who holds the record for the longest running off Broadway one-woman show, will appear at 8:15 p.m. Monday, April 15, in Dana Auditorium at Guilford College.

Her visit to the campus -- to meet with students as well as to perform -- is an integral part of Journey Into Blackness II, a week-long program sponsored by Brothers and Sisters in Blackness.

BASIB's president, Eloise Gray, explained that "Journey II" is made "in an effort to bridge that gap that need not exist between blacks and whites on the Guilford campus and in the community."

Cosponsoring Ms. Burrows' visit are the Guilford College Arts Series and the college's "Being Human in the Twentieth Century" course.

Tickets for the Burrows program, expected to be similar to her successful one-woman show, "Walk Together, Children," will be available at the door.

Of "Walk Together, Children" a New York critic wrote: "On stage there is only an unpainted wooden stool, three

screens loosely hooked together, and Vinie Burrows, a pretty black lady in a flowing red dress.

"That's the inventory of 'Walk Together, Children' but it adds up to more theater than you are likely to find in six other shows combined.

"The credit and the thanks all go to Miss Burrows -- for her enormous talent in this 'black journey from auction block to new nation time!' and for her taste in selecting and compiling the material from black writing past and present."

The topics she selected for use in the show deal with "what it means and how it feels to be black in America."

A native of New York City and a graduate of New York University, Ms. Burrows made her Broadway debut with Helen Hayes and has since performed in a number of successful plays both on and off Broadway, appearing with Ossie Davis, Raymond St. Jacques, Mary Martin, Ertha Kitt and Godfrey Cambridge.

Since beginning her career as a solo artist in 1963 she has



Actress Vinie Burrows

created seven distinctly different one-woman shows for the college and national theater circuit.

Her "Walk Together, Children" opened in New York in 1968, causing Clive Barnes of the New York Times to call her "a magnificent performer" and the New York Post to describe her as "funny, gusty, diverse and colorful, ironic, apocalyptic."

Ms. Burrows then performed at the First Pan-African Cultural Festival in Algiers, did a TV special in Bucharest, appeared before 10,000 people in Stockholm and made another TV special in Amsterdam.

She was invited to return to Holland and, during the winter of 1970, "Walk Together" played 28 cities during a six-week tour in which more than 50,000 Dutch youth applauded her artistry with nightly standing ovations.

"Walk Together" reopened in New York City last season and the new edition broke all existing records, its five-month run being the longest for a one-woman show in off Broadway annals.

Be An Editor!

Applications for editors of the Guilfordian, Quaker, Piper, and Urban Word are now being taken by the Publications Board. Applications may be submitted to Frederick Parkhurst, Gary McCown, Dave Owens, Kris Rice, Marc Weiner, or Daniel Rumpf. Interested students should apply immediately.