

THE GUILFORDIAN

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Community Activist Visits Guilford

by Jon Hiratsuka

She held their attention with every word, every compelling gesture, every pointed accusation, every expression of hope. She spoke of people cutting food costs by 50% or fighting to regain control of their homes and lives.

Her name is Francis Goldin, and she's a community activist from New York's lower East Side who has spoken to many Guilford Seminar groups in New York. While at Guilford on Feb. 26 and 27, Ms. Goldin spoke before student groups on topics such as the housing shortage, cooperative buying, and the American System. She also discussed her trip to Red China.

In all her lectures, Ms. Goldin emphasized that, by banding together and taking responsibility for their own lives, people can resist victimization by a profit-seeking, "thoroughly rotten" system.

To illustrate this process, Ms. Goldin explained how the food co-op for which she works can secure fresher, more nourishing food at half the cost one pays in supermarkets.

The co-op buys bulk quantities from wholesalers or directly from organic farmers. Co-op members are responsible for buying, transporting, and packaging food, and for other cost adding functions usually performed by middlemen. Since middlemen's profits are eliminated, farmers can sell their food for higher prices, while consumers pay less.

Since the food is not processed and stored by half a dozen middlemen, it is fresher when it reaches the consumer. It is also free from dangerous pesticides and chemical additives.

Ms. Goldin suggested that similar food co-ops could function well in Greensboro, especially since the city is relatively close to the farm areas.

In other meetings, Ms. Goldin discussed the housing situation in America as an example of what she is trying to fight: the greed of the

vested interests and the sense of powerlessness felt by the little person.

She denounced urban renewal for "tearing down far more low income housing than it has built." She scored landlords for making profit by cutting back on services and playing off racist fears. If a black family moves into an area, landlords and realtors then panic the other residents into moving out. They then rent or sell the hastily vacated buildings to blacks for higher prices.

Ms. Goldin claimed that "profit and racism are destroying housing," and that there is "a basic conflict between profit and good housing."

The evils of the housing situation were what first drew Ms. Goldin into activism. After getting married and moving into a Lower East Side apartment, she joined a tenant's council because she felt her rent was too high. She never left; "that stint led to other stints," she said.

The 50 year old Ms. Goldin is a home grown radical. Although she holds a job as a literary agent, she devotes most of her free time -and secures her greatest satisfaction from--community struggles.

Her conviction that far reaching changes are needed rests not on idealism or abstract theory, but on self interest and on her actual life experiences. "My comfortable apartment is not safe if one third of the community is in despair," she said.

As regards institutional changes, Ms. Goldin advocated a form of socialism which limits the acquisition of great wealth and returns to the masses some basic control over their own lives. "Rockefeller would not be free to rape Nicaragua, but the poor man in Mississippi would be free to eat," she said.

As part of socialist reform, control of housing projects, transit systems, etc. would be taken away from high salaried managers and bureaucrats and given to the people who actually use and operate these facilities. "Tenants know what

is best for their apartments; passengers, engineers, and conductors are best qualified to run the subways," she said by way of illustration.

Ms. Goldin emphasized that the socialism she advocates would not restrict intellectual freedom and would not be inconsistent with democracy.

Ms. Goldin also stressed that neither socialism nor any other change can be forced on people. Large numbers of people will make changes only when they realize the need to do so. High food costs may drive more people to cooperative buying; widespread unemployment may cause people to re-examine the capitalist system, she suggested.

"I know we can have a country without racism, unemployment, homelessness, and the fears of old age," she said.



Frances Goldin captivates her audience as she talks about her experiences in China and her views about the U.S. system of government.

Hunger Appeal-Fast Wednesday

The Guilford College Community Senate and College Union invite all members of the Guilford College community to participate in the Greensboro Hunger Appeal Fast. The 24-hour community-wide Fast will begin at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 4, and will conclude at 6:00 P.M. Thursday, March 5, with an inter-faith service of "Breaking of the Fast" to be held at West Market Street Methodist Church. Guilford people who intend to fast may want to eat together in the

cafeteria on Wednesday evening. At breakfast and lunch on Thursday, fasters can also come to the cafeteria to share their concern and support with other students and faculty.

Money saved from the meals missed will be sent to the Greensboro Hunger Appeal, c/o The Residential College at UNC-G, and it will be divided 60% to UNICEF and 40% to the Greensboro Urban Ministry.

The service of "Breaking of the Fast" will feature Senator McNeill Smith as speaker and will include time for persons to share experiences and concerns. Participants at the service are asked to bring their rice bowls and cups to receive tea and rice, in the style of refugees or others in food lines. Persons who wish to go to this service may meet in front of the college cafeteria at 5:30 P.M. to car-pool downtown.

Other events of the Hunger Appeal Week include a talk by David Burgess, Senior Officer for UNICEF, to be held at Greensboro College Cowan Humanities Building at 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 3. There will be a talk by Mary King Rose, documentary filmmaker, at 8:00 P.M. at A&T University on Wednesday evening, March 5 when she will show her film on Hunger in India, Nigeria and Columbia. Guilford persons wishing to go to either of the events may meet in front of the cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. to car-pool to the meetings.

Most Blood Ever

by Jeff Pratt

Last week the American Red Cross enjoyed the most successful blood drive ever sponsored by the Guilford College Union. 187 potential donors contributed a total of 137 pints of blood. Mary Hobbs Dorm gave the most

blood proportionate to dorm size, thus winning the \$75.00 award for top participation. Joanne Pate, head of the Greensboro chapter of the American Red Cross, extends her sincerest thanks to the students of Guilford College and the Guilford College Union for making the drive such a success.

Dorm	Population	Donors	% of Dorm
Mary Hobbs	50	23	46.0
English	48	17	35.4
Shore	49	14	28.6
Binford	144	37	25.7
Milner	214	35	16.4
Bryan	181	18	9.9