

guilfordian

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Photon: Sail or Sale?

By Rebecca McCullam

A sleek aluminum hull of unusual design cuts through the waves of the Pacific, and crosses the finish line ahead of all other yachts. This racing yacht, designed by Bill Lapworth set the record for this particular race and still holds it today, although the yacht itself has retired from racing. Its name is the Photon and its owner, since 1983, Guilford College, is considering the sale of this magnificent asset.

The Photon has been used for many things since that date. This spring it sailed to the Virgin Islands, for research of Halley's Comet. The crew consisted of five students: Rex Adelberger, Steve Linvill (the mate) and of course captain Deborah Dunn. The Photon winters in St. Thomas, where it is chartered for \$4000 a week.

The dim comet was not visible this far north because of light pollution, so the Physics department chose the Virgin Islands because of their southern location and because the view out across the ocean is unobstructed by light for thousands of miles. Every day of their seven-day visit, the Comet was easily seen at 4:00 am. It appeared about as big as a hand, two hand-widths above the horizon.

This trip was also a good chance to see the clear southern sky. They set up a telescope on shore because the yacht moved too much, and The Comet filled the entire lens. The crew also learned some of the history and geology of the area from geology major Linvill, and everyone had a chance to skipper the Photon under Dunn's trusting eye.

Admittedly, the trip was half-serious and half fun. It improved the confidence the crew felt in each other as they learned to work as a team, and they enjoyed the intensity of

living together on a 49-foot yacht.

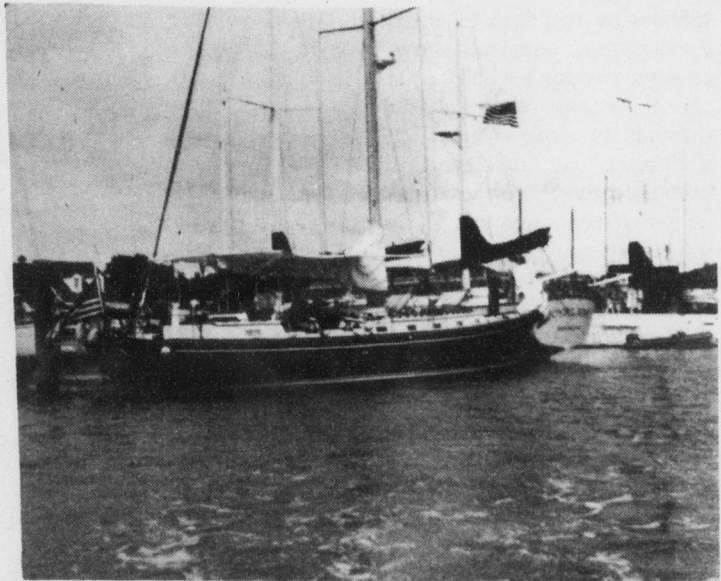
Last summer the Photon with Dunn, Linville and Adelberger took five adults students out for six days off Beaufort, the Photon's summer home. It was part of Guilford's program of continuing education by giving adult students a Liberal Arts course under the guise of technical training course, and the trip was paid for by their company. None of these students (ages 29-52) had had any exposure to Liberal Arts, and this trip shook them to the foundation. Adelberger reports, "one of them even moved out of his yuppie apartment."

Guilford pinpointed this lack of Liberal Arts as a problem with America's factory workers. The trip on the Photon was ideal because it made the students think, got them out of their boring set schedules and allowed them to argue ideas without being held responsible, for the first time in their lives.

Most recently, The Photon was enjoyed by the students who participated in the Venture program. Six students made the seven-day odyssey in the Venture program. Six students made the seven-day odyssey off the North Carolina coast with Linvill and Dunn. It was an educational trip, teaching the students to sail and chart a course. They also kept journals. Freshman Dan Baur said that it eased the uprooting from home to be put in a situation with a new group of people without the pressures of school. He added that it was a great help to have close friends to talk to during the hectic orientation week. It made the transition much smoother, he claims, and he says, "There's nothing negative about it." Freshman Susan Welsh, another veteran enthuses, "I definitely think they should keep the program."

When I went to Deborah Dunn's beautifully simple hideaway in the woods, I was instantly impressed by a charismatic woman, who in between trying to negotiate her way out of something on the phone, began to talk to me and gave me the sense of a strong creative, humorous person. Once she was off the phone, she explained that the main difficulties of insuring the Photon are: its age, that it has an aluminum hull, and that it is chartered. A goal for the Photon is to keep it busy, which can only be achieved with the support of the student body, coming up with good ideas for its employment. Deb

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Miriam Schapiro: "Im Dancing As Fast As I Can"

By Collette McShea

Just another one of those visiting artists? Not really. Miriam Schapiro's visit and display at Guilford can be looked upon in a much broader sense. Her art work, displaying her deep sensitivity, captures the feeling of women throughout history and their constant search for liberation. She created "femages," her own version of a collage. In

these, she incorporates the domestic art of women through glue, pins, and fabric. Her displays show thoughts which all women may have inside, but would never think to convey to others.

Another variation seen throughout her later works is the theme of the theatre, which represents "glamour" and acts as an escape from the women's world. Miriam created a "Theatre of

Spring," which was her first attempt at bringing out this theme. She uses the stage of the theatre as a shrine and to create the idea of space. The theatre is house shaped as this is the true women's theatre where women fantasize and create their own glamour.

Miriam Schapiro considers her breakthrough works, to be those she created from her feelings and memory of childhood dance. In these self-interpretations she represents herself with a unrealistic doll face. She explains that this conveys her feeling of "not yet being whole" and that she was still in search of her real self when the work was completed. In her lecture she explained, that she is now closer to the feeling she was always looking for, and that now it is appearing in her work, as well.

Miriam Schapiro work is on display in the gallery upstairs in Founders until October 30 and should not be considered as an exhibition for just art majors, but as an experience in women's history open to everyone.

