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# GUILFORDIAN



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## Presidential Election Part of Syllabus for Guilford Class

by Marla Smith

To many Americans, the presidential election this fall is an important event. To the students in Guilford's Political Sociology class, that event is part of their daily homework.

The senior-level sociology seminar is the brainchild of assistant professor of sociology Vaneeta D'Andrea, who originally conceived the idea of centering a course on the American political process during the Nixon/McGovern election of 1972. This is the first time she has taught such a course at Guilford.

The class is composed of mainly senior sociology majors and meets twice weekly under D'Andrea's supervision. D'Andrea supplies a degree of

structure to the class meetings, but it is the students who form the basis of the discussions, delving into the often-complex issues surrounding the political climate of the election season.

D'Andrea calls her class "a teacher's dream." She sees the students as being "very involved in their work ... the class essentially set up the whole project [of covering last week's presidential debate and several other area-wide political events]." She says that she can "feel the enthusiasm of the students and how excited they are over the [class's] content" and that she is impressed with the group's overall sociological background. D'Andrea says, "they are able to focus in on relationships between what they've been taught before and

the complex information that they are receiving now."

The primary objective of the class is to use the campaign and elections as illustrations of power in society and to analyze the whole election process from a sociological perspective. This is not an easy task, according to many class members.

Says senior sociology student and class member Amy Mast, "Each week we're doing lots of field work and then coming back to class. Vaneeta gives us a framework and helps us relate this to basic sociological theories."

The class initially focused on all electoral activities in Greensboro so that they could learn how to use the camera and

video equipment. The events they covered to "get a feel for this type of field work" says Mast, included the Republican executive committee meeting and several Dukakis and Bush rallies.

As class member Susan Nelson states, "unlike students in traditional history or political science courses, we have chosen to dedicate a great deal of extra time to conducting fieldwork research."

The pinnacle of their fieldwork experience, says D'Andrea, was the presidential debate at Wake Forest two Sundays ago. For the debate, the class was split into three groups. The first group covered the area around the university and interviewed the spectators, protestors and media people. The second group went to the

Dukakis rally in the Benton Convention Center to watch the debate on wide-screen T.V. and to videotape it from a special press area. Meanwhile, the third group went to the Bush rally in the Dixie Classic Fair Barn to watch the debate from there.

Amy Mast was not in any of these groups; she watched the debate from inside Wait Chapel and was thus able to gain different insight into the evening.

One of the main themes of the class is the significance of the media's role in creating and maintaining social definitions. Since Mast was able to get an inside view into the debate proceedings, she saw different sides of the Presidential nominees than those who

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## Joint Meeting Begins Residential Life Initiative

by David Simpson

A meeting of students, faculty, and staff took place Wednesday evening for discussion of the short and long term plans for expanding and improving the college campus.

Groups represented at the meeting included the newly formed Student Residence Council, the Student Affairs Committee, the Quality of Residential Life Task Force, the Senate Executive Council, the Administrative Council, and members of the Residential Life and Student Development staffs.

Plans for a ten to thirty year campus expansion were unveiled by Jim Newlin, Director of Financial Planning and a member of the Quality of Residential Life Task Force.

Newlin showed slides depicting the campus with future academic and administrative buildings, residence halls, expanded parking, as well as many cosmetic changes. Newlin stresses that academic, administrative, and residential structures will be built only according to need and he gave a tentative schedule for proposed improvements.

The first project is, of course, the library expansion. Next, the college wants to address the parking and traffic problems by redesigning the entrances to the school, adding a

stoplight at the back entrance (which will become the front one), and expanding parking lots.

A recent gift to the school is allowing the start of a telecommunications center. Newlin said that the center will be built and that if things run smoothly, it could be finished about the same time as the library. This structure will house a new computer center, a new phone system for the entire campus, and cable hookups for residence halls.

Newlin also said that the school is looking at nearby properties to see if it would be advantageous to purchase them.

The meeting also established some short-term improvement priorities and named which groups would be in charge of these improvements. High on the list were security and maintenance concerns. The S.R.C. and S.A.C. agreed to form joint committees to address both of these issues because they thought that more would be accomplished this way.

Other issues of concern include residential life student programming, minority affairs, off-campus housing, residence hall staff selection and training programs, budget needs, and judicial procedure reviews.

The groups will reconvene in mid-November to report their findings and progress.

## Has Your Favorite Book Been Banned?

by Carol Joy Crane

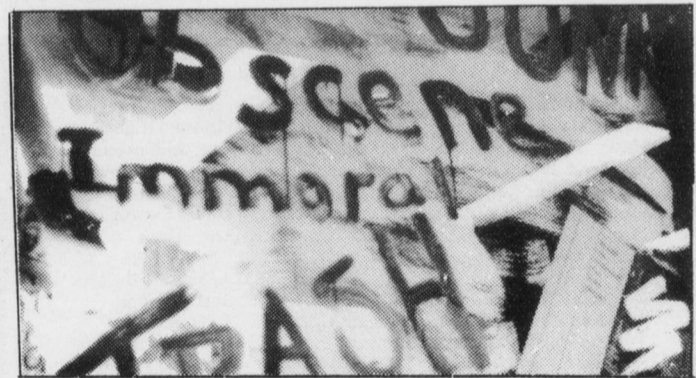
"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

So reads the First Amendment to our Constitution, protecting our freedom to publish and read without censorship -- the removal of material from open access by any governing authority.

Last week -- September 24-October 1 -- the Guilford College Bookstore participated in the seventh annual "Banned Books Week," working to demonstrate the harms of censorship.

Near the entrance to the store, black and red "CAUTION" signs alerted visitors to a display of books that have recently been challenged or banned in the United States, along with a brief explanation of the where and why of each controversy. Students may be alarmed by the titles listed, four of which are currently on reading lists for classes at Guilford.

Store manager Betsy Johnson stresses the currentness of the exhibit. Students should realize that censorship "is not just something that went on back in their grandma's days." It's going on today, in North Carolina.



CAUTION - banned books!

photo by Eric Buck

John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* was challenged in Cummings High School, Burlington, NC in 1986 with this objection: "The book is full of filth. My son is being raised in a Christian home, and this book takes the Lord's name in vain and has all kinds of profanity in it."

Four members of the Alabama State Textbook Committee in 1983 called for the rejection of *The Diary of Anne Frank* because it is a "real downer."

*Catcher in the Rye*, by J. D. Salinger, was banned from a required sophomore English reading list at the Napoleon, ND High School in 1987 after parents and the local Knights of Columbus chapter complained about its profanity and sexual references.

*The American Heritage Dictionary* has been removed

from at least four districts due to "objectionable" language.

Most ironically, Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, a futuristic novel about censorship (451 degrees Fahrenheit is the heat at which books burn), is also on the banned book list.

Challenges have not been limited to any one political perspective. Among the hundreds of other titles that have been banned are Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *The Joy of Lesbian Sex* by Emily L. Sissley and Bertha Harris, *American Foreign Policy* by Thomas Paterson, *Mother Goose: Old Nursery Rhymes*, Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*, and *The Bible*.

The observance of Banned Books Week means to show "that it is only when all speech is protected for all citizens that everyone's rights are

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