

## Senate Approves Funding for Choir

by Jay Underwood

In a meeting last Wednesday the Community Senate, in response to the Guilford College Choir's request for funding as a student organization, decided to allocate the choir a "token" amount this year amounting to much less than their \$1500 request.

"I think it's appropriate to fund some choir activities, but their request of \$1500 is way out of line of what we can provide right now," said Seth Hassett, Senate President. "I suggest that we make some funding in future years, with a token amount this year."

After reaching a consensus, the Senate approved Hassett's suggestion. The exact allocation will be decided some time this week in a meeting of the Senate Budget Committee.

The Choir requested the funding on the grounds that it is not only an academic organization, but a student



Choir leaders in Senate session organization as well. Maria Graves, President of the Choir Council, stressed in a letter to the Senate that Choir is open to the student body: "There are no auditions and there are no requirements concerning previous musical training. The only requirement is the student's desire to sing."

The Choir, which has been financially supported by the Music Department and the college, plans to sponsor events such as a "Gospelfest" and a variety show along with its usual series of concerts, which will be open to the entire student body. "While the Music Department can fund the essentials needed to make a choral singing group, it should not be responsible for funding the activities students wish to undertake outside of choir that will benefit the entire campus," wrote Graves.

photo by Eric Buck

## Committee W

by Laura Peters

On Thursday, September 21, a panel of seven met in the Gallery to discuss the formation of a new group, Committee W.

The W represents "Women," although women's issues are only one area of concern for the group. A broader range of concerns includes gender issues, sexual preference and minority issues. These issues relate to faculty and staff at Guilford, as well as the student body.

These three areas of Guilford's population will at last be able to come together and discuss these important issues. Meetings will allow a place of support; the Committee was presented as an advocacy group.

Chairperson for the Women's Studies Committee at Guilford, Carol Stoneburner, introduced the panel and explained the idea behind Committee W's formation. Her fellow Women's Studies' members have also been involved in Committee W and contributed to the panel. These members were Mel Keiser Susan Fleer, and Claude Mouri-Burris. The Women's Studies Committee has been concerned with

bringing women's issues and history into the mainstream curriculum at Guilford College. Committee W will build on their work.

The Women's Studies Group is bringing issues to Committee W that were brought to their attention last January. Some of these that concerning students are date rape, use of sexist language, leadership opportunities and development and problems in collaborative projects and research. Issues concerning faculty and staff include a pattern of firings of women administrators, wellness and stress, women speaking but not being heard, and maternity leave policies.

Carol Stoneburner commented on the large turnout at the Committee's first organizational meeting. She went on to say, "I'm excited about the coming together of student and faculty to support each other in advocating women's issues and gender issues. It's open to anyone who wants to come."

She also pointed out the (cont'd. on p.7)

## Disabled Students Lobby for Accessibility

by Elise Lillard

The Disability Action Committee was formed through the efforts of Peter Boulay, who has been pushing Guilford since last year to make the campus more accessible to disabled students.

Problems such as no spaces for the handicapped in several of the parking lots, no ramps to many buildings, and inaccessibility within some buildings make Guilford a veritable obstacle course for the disabled student.

Ten years ago, Guilford was known for its accessibility for the disabled, but it has not progressed as other colleges have. After much lobbying by Boulay and the committee, the

school has finally agreed to make the necessary changes.

The alumni gym and New Garden Hall, as well as English, Milner and Shore residence halls, need entrance ramps. Shore and Milner will have ramps either this semester or next, and the others will have ramps at later dates.

The field house will have a hydraulic lift installed by spring, which will make it easier to get to the lower level. Dana Auditorium will get ramps to the choir room and the Moon Room, but because of the building's structure, no solution has been found for the inaccessibility of the second floor.

The school is also looking into hooking a computer onto

the large screen in the Leak Room and Boulay is trying to get Guilford to buy large-print books for the visually impaired students.

The committee hopes that the school will hire someone who will be the Disability Action Coordinator. This person would be knowledgeable in disability law and be readily available to answer questions and provide disabled students with any help they might need.

One thing Guilford is not planning to do is build elevators in the residence halls. Since they are not academic buildings, the school does not think it necessary for the disabled students to be able to move around above the first floor.

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