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Guilford Students Join in March for Women's Rights

by Eliza Blake

Over 30 Guilford students and faculty travelled to Washington, D.C., last weekend to march in support to Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and constitutional abortion rights.

Service Committee and various health, legal, women's and religious groups.

Originally the march was called as an anniversary celebration of the Suffrage Act to reintroduce the ERA.



photo courtesy Autumn Miller

Chris Gosney and Susan Flee at the Washington March

The march was organized by the National Organization of Women (NOW), but had multiple co-sponsors, including the American Friends

The ERA, which reads "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of

sex," was proposed in 1923, and was proposed to Congress every year thereafter. It has been approved by Congress, but it has not been ratified by the necessary two-thirds of the states in order to become law. North Carolina was one of the final states to defeat it.

March organizers decided to add abortion rights to the agenda because the Supreme Court has decided to look at the abortion issue on April 26. A Missouri case coming before the

Court will call into question the use of public money for abortion.

The 1973 Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision made the right to abortion constitutional. Carol Stoneburner, women's studies professor, commented on the changed political climate that makes the overturning of that decision possible and imminent: "The choices of the Supreme Court justices have been carefully designed [over the Reagan years] so that now there are five new

justices who will re-consider Roe v. Wade."

Stoneburner fears that Roe v. Wade might be overturned, leaving the issue of abortion up to the individual states. She voiced concern that at that point the state, or individual doctors, or perhaps parents or husbands, not the pregnant women, would become the ones making the choice about abortion.

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Students Remember Abbie Hoffman

by Eliza Blake

"There was something about him that was smokey and hoarse, like a fire going out, but still burning," says junior Lisa Bogar.

Abbie Hoffman, radical leader in the 60's and a defendant of the Chicago Seven trial following the riots at the 1968 Democratic Convention, died last Wednesday night at the age of 52. He was found fully clothed in his bed in his home in New Hope, Pennsylvania. Guilford College had a memorable relationship to Hoffman, who called modern universities "a hotbed of rest."

Two years ago, Jonathan Zimmerman, then editor of the Guilfordian, invited him to speak to students on political activism. When Hoffman came to Guilford in April of 1987, he held a workshop for a group of about fifty students in Boren Lounge, and spoke to a much larger group later in Dana Auditorium. He met with numerous students informally.

Hoffman created a deep impression on a great many Guilford students, whose reactions to him ranged from delight to disgust. Senior Rich James says, "Abbie was subversive in every single way. He didn't accept any sort of authority, even social convention. So in that regard he was both repugnant and inspirational." Junior Matt Feinberg says, "Abbie Hoffman was an extreme person. He was firm in what he believed and nobody could persuade him otherwise."

Feinberg continues, "He drove himself really hard. The morning I picked him up [from the airport], he was dead tired. He said he never got

more than three or four hours of sleep. Later we took a walk and he was really lethargic, dragging his feet. ... So in a way it's not so surprising that he died yesterday."

Senior Comer Gaither had mixed feelings about him. "My general impression of Abbie Hoffman was not good. He was intense. It was a really frustrating time working with him. He was bitter, and I think that was reflected in a lot of his ideas. ... He was funny. His performance, and it was a performance, was funny."

He continues, "My feelings changed after he left. While he was here I was all caught up in the emotion with everyone else. His political humor and his intensity were very overpowering, but with that came a lot of things that didn't sink in until after he left."

"It became a status thing to say 'I got high with Abbie Hoffman.' I mean, that's not his purpose."

Rich James also had strong words to say about Hoffman: "He had a lot to say but he couldn't listen. He was very hard to have a conversation with. ... I was disappointed because he was

an outspoken radical and I expected him to be more disciplined, living out his principles."

Yet James also called Hoffman "brilliant," in reference to the protest of CIA recruiting at the University of Massachusetts. Shortly before his visit to Guilford, Hoffman and Amy Carter were acquitted of charges of obstructing CIA recruiting efforts.

Says James, "They chose Massachusetts because there they have a law that says you can break the law in order to prevent a more serious crime. And they won. So in a sense it's saying that the higher crime is the CIA's covert actions in Central America. That was brilliant."

Senior Seth Hassett, Community Senate President, says "If everyone lived the kind of life Abbie Hoffman did, we would have utter chaos. But we need people like him to shake things up and challenge us from falling into complacency."

"He was the ugly face of radicalism," says James, "but he was still very effective."

photo courtesy College Relation Dept., by Steve McCollum
Abbie Hoffman speaking in Boren Lounge in 1987

Serendipity Not a Washout

by David Simpson

Despite a rainy weekend, Serendipity '89 was a success thanks to coordinated efforts by students and administration to move the event into Dana Auditorium.

Last year parts of Serendipity were moved to Sternberger Auditorium because of rain, but that space was unavailable this year because of production of a school play.

Steve Luber, Facilities Manager/Director of Summer Conferences, said that there was minimal damage to Dana Auditorium above normal wear and tear. Luber said that the only actual damage consisted of a few broken seats on the auditorium chairs, a broken hydraulic arm on a bathroom door, and some stains on the walls from a pie-eating contest which turned into a pie-throwing contest.

Bob White, Director of Security, agreed with Luber, saying that "there were no major problems over Serendipity." He said that there was a problem with people smoking inside the auditorium but pieces of plastic were put on the carpet to protect it. White added that he sees a need for a multi-purpose building that students

could have access to for this type of events.

Luber said that in talking to the physical-plant people who surveyed the damage the following Monday, "they were impressed with the lack of things that were broken." If there was a major problem over the weekend, Luber said, it was that someone had set fire to the toilet paper in several of the port-a-johns by the lake and caused extensive damage to them.

Assistant Dean of Students Dick Dyer said that there were very few—no more than two or three—judicial write-ups over the weekend, and those were alcohol-related.

According to Luber, one of the reasons that Serendipity ended up in Dana Auditorium was because the final date for the event was not set until November or December, so it was hard to calculate space.

Luber said that the administration plans to begin processing next year's Serendipity now to avoid space problems next year. He urges students who want to give positive or negative feedback to contact their Union representatives this year.