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Students Mourn Start of War



Students gathered at a candlelight vigil Monday night in front of Dana Auditorium to express their concern and hope for the Middle East photo by George Brand

Courtney Roberts
News Editor

War has begun. At 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 16, 1991, Americans learned their nation had gone to war with Iraq.

"People were glued to their television sets," said campus minister Max Carter, referring to students as he walked through residence halls the night war broke out.

As word of the hostilities spread across Guilford's campus, students were heard saying, "Wow," "Oh my!" Hands covered faces and tears welled up in several students' eyes.

During the days prior to the deadline President Bush had set for Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait, Guilford students voiced their thoughts about the Gulf situation.

Quaker Concerns and Guilford College Religious Organization (GCRO) organized several peace movements.

On Monday 250 students participated in a candlelight vigil organized by GCRO on the steps of Dana Auditorium.

Tuesday evening, the night of the deadline, Quaker Concerns organized a "walk-out" at 6 p.m. and students and faculty walked out of their classes, the library, the cafeteria and their residence halls, to voice their desire for peace.

Max Carter was pleased with the participation at the demonstrations.

Now that war has begun, the move across campus is to help students deal with their feelings towards what is happening in the Gulf.

Psychology Professor Richie Zwiegen-

haft, in conjunction with the psychology club, is helping to set up support groups.

GCRO has made the Moon Room available 24 hours a day. "The Moon Room is available for those who need a place for quiet reflection," said Max Carter.

GCRO is also planning on having a support group for those who have friends or family in the Gulf and for those who need to talk with others. This group will meet on Tuesday at 9 p.m. in Boren Lounge. "It really helps when those around you are worried about the same thing," said sophomore Blair Fingerhut.

A posterboard on which people can write down their concerns and prayers has been placed in Founders Hall by GCRO.

"I don't know what to think. I feel very detached because I don't know anyone over there. I feel like we could have waited longer for a peaceful solution," said sophomore Deirdre Murphy, a member of GCRO.

Quaker Concerns has organized a table in Founders Hall for students to write letters to the troops. As of Thursday several hundred letters had been written.

Quaker Concerns has also invited a local attorney to come to speak about his conscientious objector experience during the Vietnam War.

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Faculty, Administration Acknowledge Rising Grades

Justin Cohen
Assistant News Editor

Faculty members and administrators continue to express a variety of opinions to explain why grades have become steadily higher over the past 25 years.

According to statistics released by the Registrar's Office, 56.2 percent of the final grades distributed during the fall and spring semester of the 1989-90 school year were either 'A' or 'B.' That denotes an

increase of 7.7 percent from the 1979-80 school year and a 10.0 percent jump from the 1969-70 school year.

Statistics for summer sessions date back to 1980. Even though the percentage of students receiving an 'A' or 'B' for the summer sessions has actually dropped slightly, students earned 1.4 percent more 'A's during the 1990 summer sessions than in 1980.

Though the increases are somewhat consistent with national trends, members

of the Guilford community are still alarmed by the figures.

"It is an unfortunate trend," said Political Science Professor William Carroll, a Guilford faculty member for 22 years. "It's a problem that we fail to address... Ideally, if more than 50 percent of our students are getting 'A's or 'B's, then there is something wrong."

Academic Dean Sam Schuman ex-

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