

What's Happening in Human Rights

by Eric Longley

The True Meaning of Human Rights

Dear Reader, I want you to perform a little experiment. Think of one person or group of people whom you hate above all others. Perhaps it's an obnoxious teacher or classmate. Perhaps it's your boss. Perhaps it's your former spouse's lawyer. Perhaps it's Communists, Nazis, racists, Republicans or Baptists. In any event, I want you to fix firmly in your mind an image of the person or group which you hate. Remind yourself of the reasons for your hatred. Whip yourself up into a frenzy against the object of your detestation. Take a moment to do this. Yes, right now. I'll wait.

Have you done it? Have you worked yourself into a lather over the wickedness of your enemy? Good. Now I want you to imagine that someone is attempting to violate your enemy's rights.

If your pet peeve is Communists, imagine an attempt to send Communists to prison (as happened in the 1950s) or to prohibit Communists from speaking on the campuses of state colleges (as the North Carolina legislature did in 1963).

If you despise Christian fundamentalists, imagine that several high schools and colleges have forbidden student fundamentalist groups from holding meetings on school property after school hours (which many high schools and colleges did until Congress and the Supreme Court stepped in).

Are you outraged at the sight of antiwar demonstrators protesting outside the White House in the middle of hostilities? Then imagine an attempt by the government to send the protestors to prison (the United States sent innumerable anti-war activists to prison in World War I, and as late as 1970 Nixon was trying to break up the peaceful Mayday protests against the war in Indochina).

Do bigoted statements about women and minorities distress you? Then suppose several colleges were to enact codes under which students could be punished for bigoted speech (many colleges have done precisely that).

Are you resentful toward a particular individual? Then imagine the government imprisoning him or her without a fair trial (as the government does in many countries).

Now that you have imagined your enemy in such dire straits, I will permit you to savor the thought of his distress for a few

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GUILFORD LIFE

Let's Go the World

Almost One-Third of Guilford Students Enjoy Life Abroad

Jacob Stohler
Editor in Chief

"One day I went to a wedding with a Mexican friend," said Camille Hayes, a Guilford College student thinking back on her semester in Guadalajara, Mexico. "And my friend bought the bride's shoes."

"Money's a big issue in these people's lives, but they're not attached to it the way Americans are," she said.

Like Camille, a junior, 29 percent of Guilford students spend at least one semester studying abroad. The average at other American colleges and universities is only 4.2 percent, according to the Institute of International Education in New York.

The idea of studying in another country is nothing new, but in the late 1980s there was an explosion of interest in other cultures. "Whereas study abroad was a quiet backwater now it is the crest of a wave," wrote Craufurd Goodwin in the 1985 publication

"U.S. Students Abroad." Guilford College is one institution riding that wave, adding five programs in the last six years.

"You can never really know another culture until you've lived in it and been a part of it," said Hayes. "My three months in Mexico taught me more than any amount of reading could."

Martha Cooley, the director of Off-Campus Education, attributes the high rate of participation to several factors.

"We run our own programs," said Cooley, "And therefore students can use their financial aid on the programs, so it's not more expensive."

She also said that having Guilford pro-

fessors lead the programs makes students more willing to go abroad since they will be with someone they know. There is also good publicity and personal encouragement within the campus, said Cooley, and that increases student involvement.

"[These programs] are seen as a strong component of academics," she said. "There's encouragement and publicity from faculty and the student body."

A proposal is scheduled to come before the faculty this fall which would make

domestic, which offers an experience in a different cultural setting

In a memorandum on behalf of the Curriculum Task Force, Cooley said that 54 percent of Guilford students already meet at least one of these requirements.

The memo also said that to make this proposal possible, Guilford would need to add as many as three more professors to compensate for the extra faculty members spending semesters abroad. In addition, said Cooley, the Off Campus Education Office would need "reorganization," defined as "additional clerical or administrative assistance or a full-time director."

"We're being very careful in moving," said Cooley, "But the support and interest is here."

The Guilford study abroad programs have their origins in a 1967 summer abroad program which took students on a 10-week study of Europe. By 1977, the college had established its first full semester program,

taking 30 students to London.

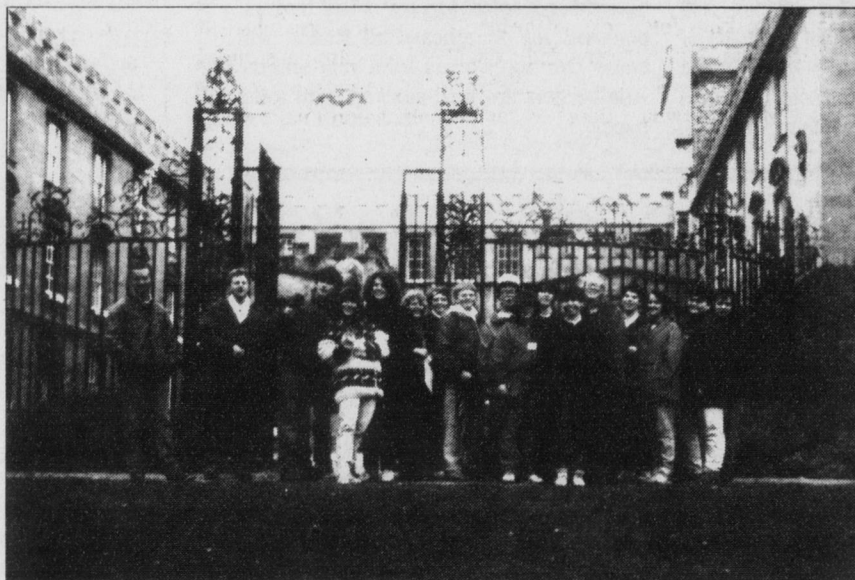
Other programs followed: Munich in 1978; Paris in 1983; Tokyo in 1983; Guadalajara in 1985; and two Beijing programs in 1988 and 1989. The college plans to add two more programs by spring 1992: one to Brunnenburg, Italy, and another to Africa.

Junior Scott Genualdi spent fall 1990 in London with the Guilford program. He said he learned about the unique ways other cultures look at people.

"In England, shoes are very important," he said. In fact, [the English] can tell your nationality by the shoes you wear. They knew we Americans because we wore running shoes and docksiders."

According to its assistant dean for study abroad, nearby Duke University is comparable to Guilford in that it sends approximately one-third of its students abroad and is looking to send more. Wake Forest's study abroad program has managed to double student participation rate in the

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The Guilford students who studied in London this past year pose in front of Christ College at Oxford/photo by Greg Schmickle

study abroad or an off-campus internship mandatory for graduation. If passed, students entering Guilford as soon as fall 1992 would have to complete one of the following:

- a semester or year on an overseas program
- a semester or year on an off-campus domestic program which offers a different setting from Guilford's
- an internship which places the student in an environment different from the student's original home environment
- a combination of four seminars completed during school breaks
- a summer program, either overseas or

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