

The GUILFORDIAN

Vol. 76, No. 4

Guilford College, Greensboro, N.C.

Security programs aim to heighten campus safety and awareness

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Guilford's entire college community is experiencing the first wave of a dramatic "new revolution" in campus security and safety.

Three new security systems — the E[mergency]-Phones, the Whistle Alert-Defense Program and the new Bicycle Registration program — have all recently been incorporated into the Guilford community system to heighten campus safety and awareness.

"College campus security is *the* hot topic around the country right now," said Assistant Director of Security and Safety Mary Ann Weedon, "and the administration of Guilford College is prepared to back our new security department programs 100%. People know how important security on campus really is, and it's obvious because

the acceptance and support from the students and administration has been phenomenal thus far."

Half-time of the Family Weekend football game was the official kickoff of the Whistle Alert-Defense Program. The new alert whistles rang out over the stadium and off into the horizon, signifying the official start of the program and marking the start of a new era in safety at Guilford College.

Alert whistles are to be used by students who are in danger, who are witnessing a crime in progress or who need any immediate emergency response. Weedon says they are much louder than a cry from somewhere in the dark, would scare off an attacker and would bring help fast.

The new system is the first in which students are directly involved with the safety and security of Guilford. "Motivation to help and to get involved is what we need at this point," said Weedon. "Security can't do

it all; we need that extra set of eyes and ears in the environment out there."

The Whistle Alert-Defense system is the first and only one of its kind on any North Carolina college campus. The solid brass whistles are available for \$.99 in the school bookstore.

New E-Phones will also be installed within the next few weeks. Three tall, slender, blue lights will illuminate the walkway leading to the new campus apartments. In the case of an emergency at night, the blue lights will quickly turn into bright emergency strobes and a direct line to the 24-hour security dispatch, all at the touch of a button on one of these phones.

Security's dispatcher in the Bauman telecommunications center can instantly tell which alarm was triggered and send help immediately, which is especially important if the person in distress is unable to talk into the speaker phone.

Depending on the initial success of the three new phones, more E-Phones will be installed in various locations around campus as the school's budget allows.

The third of the new programs at Guilford is a mandatory bicycle registration. For a fee of \$1, students with bicycles on campus can have a permanent record and registration number to secure the safety of this personal property.

Through the new registration system, thefts will be greatly discouraged and the permanent records will aid in filing police reports and insurance claims. If a stolen bike is recovered, the identity of the owner can quickly be ascertained by the registration sticker.

The new systems are the first of many to be implemented by the Guilford College Division of Security and Safety. In the near future, for example, a SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving) chapter will be introduced to the community.

October is also National Crime Prevention Month. Several programs will be held on campus including various safety issues like date rape. A seminar on self-defense and a program on substance abuse education will also be available to Guilford students this month.

Guilford is a "best buy"

Courtesy College Relations

Guilford College is one of 19 colleges chosen nationwide and featured as "Best Buys in Top Colleges" in the October issue of Kiplingers's *Personal Finance Magazine* (formerly *Changing Times*). Premier institutions were chosen from all the nation's 1,500 accredited four-year colleges and universities with 100 or more students. The magazine states, "These 19 colleges provide Ivy League-class educations at affordable costs."

Criteria for selection included: range of appeal, student quality, retention rate, availability of on-campus housing, external reviews and cost. Other considerations were: the prestige of the institution, the graduation rate, the desirability of location and the tone of the campus environment.

Researcher Martin Nemko, Ph.D., author of the article, specializes in the evaluation of educational programs. He refers to the winning institutions as "superlative choices for the good student," adding that "they would be so even if they cost much more."

Three other North Carolina institutions are also cited in the article: Davidson College, Wake Forest University and The University of North Carolina. There were 18 runners-up, none of which was in North Carolina.

In the opinion of the author, who is a consultant to college-bound students and their families, there are four keys to a quality education: "a top-notch student body, first-rate instruction, an exciting learning and living community, and a widely-respected diploma."

Each of the 37 top-rated institutions underwent further scrutiny, with each admissions officer and student newspaper editor answering a 20-item phone interview and a 30-item survey, yielding an assessment of campus life in and out of the classroom.

The researchers' poll of guidance counselors listed Guilford "among the nation's best in 'sense of community,' 'most underrated' and 'most responsive to student needs.'"

Guilford was recently rated in the top 10 percent of liberal arts colleges in the country by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

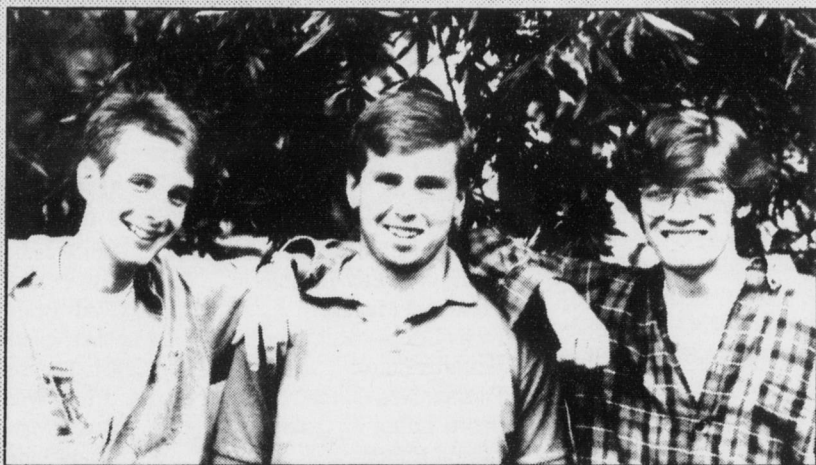


photo by Joan Malloch

Found It First, a Guilford student band, will open for *Dreams So Real* Saturday evening at 5:45 pm, by the lake. The bands are just one of many events during UROFEST.