

NEWS  
CAMPUS

## The Guilford tree rests in pieces

By Aml Worthen

During the first days of school, those walking by New Garden Hall could not have missed the enormous corpse of the Guilford Oak, toppled on its side. The Oak has served as the college logo and symbol since the early 1980's when it was sketched by President Bill Rogers.

On August 17th, at 7:45 a.m., Groundskeeper Barbara Hill was mowing the lawn by New Garden Building. Shortly after mowing under it, she glanced back to see that it had fallen, crushing a picnic table under its weight.

Having been struck by lightning last year and water-logged since, it apparently fell victim to a stiff wind. Because of the tree's symbolic value, a Quaker-style memorial service was held on Wednesday, August 26, at noon. Reporters from local TV stations and newspapers were present.

Campus Minister Max Carter opened the ceremony by reading from Genesis and Thomas Berry's book *The Dream of the Earth*. Then everyone fell into a Quaker silence. From this silence people began speaking of what the tree has meant to them.

James Bell, who graduated from Guilford in 1985 with a Religious Studies degree, told how the tree was a special part of his first year at Guilford. He and his friend Janice Lynch would go together to get ice cream and climb up into the tree to eat it. At that time "you could just walk up into the tree.... It was a wonderful place to be, a very welcoming place."

Bell also told the *Guilfordian* in an interview how "the tree helped put bread on my table" during lean times. He worked shuttling papers between New Garden and a design firm as the Guilford logo with the Oak was being produced.

Ann Deagon, who retired as head of the Classics Department this summer,

talked about how her career was "sandwiched" between two dead trees. When she arrived at Guilford in 1956 with her husband, the Revolutionary oak had just fallen and was lying in New Garden Cemetery. Now, "36 years later...the college oak dies."

She still feels "positive about the trees and her Guilford experience." In fact, Deagon joked that she felt like one of those trees, because of the "couples that have courted under my shade," referring to, among others, Bell, who is to be married soon.

At the end of the service, Cindy Swartz ('92) and Carl Christie ('94) led the "congregation" in the hymn "Victor's Now."

To Beverly Rogers, the oak represents Guilford's exceptional campus. "The trees and spaciousness of the campus effect us," and the trees "symbolize part of the process of growth, birth, and change."

She feels strongly that the oak "has contributed something to all of our lives." She sees the Memorial Service for the tree as reflective of how "each member of the community has some place here." By valuing the tree, Guilford expresses the importance of valuing each individual.

Director of Grounds Bill Scott heads a committee to determine what will be done with the tree. Many possibilities were suggested before the tree was hauled away last Thursday. Many have made requests for a piece of the oak.

Alumni and craftspeople have come forward offering to make benches, tables and bowls from the tree. There has also been discussion of making mementos for alumni, students, faculty and staff.

There are plans to use a cross section for historical purposes, marking important dates in Guilford's, Greensboro's and the nation's history.

Tannebaum Park had requested a cross-section for the Hoskins House, a Quaker House where wounded British



Campus Minister Max Carter commends the fallen Oak to the ages.

Photo by Charles Almy

and Rebel soldiers were cared for during the Revolutionary War.

Several black oaks will be planted in memory of the deceased.

The tree was previously thought to be 200-300 years old. However, when the oak was examined Thursday, it was discovered to be only 112 years old.

Campus Minister Max Carter commented on the discovery by saying, "Even though the tree proved to be young, there is still a significant event in its parting."

He then added, "If I live to be 112 years old and they call me young, I'll be happy."

## Library gets wired

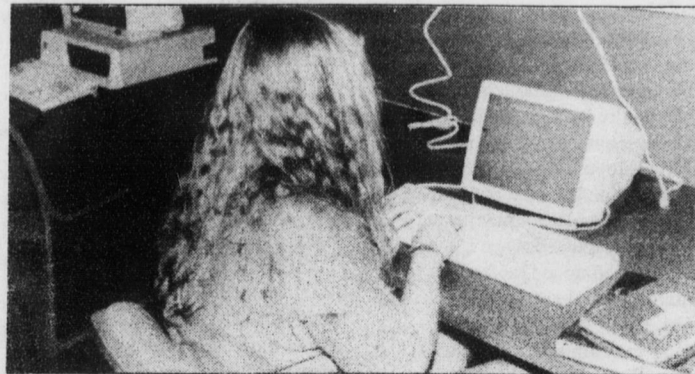
By Chelle Stinson

The second largest private college library collection in North Carolina just got bigger. Computerizing Hege Library's card catalog and linking it to the libraries of five area colleges has made borrowing books at Guilford and elsewhere faster and easier.

The network group is entitled the Piedmont Independent College Association (PICA), and includes Guilford College, High Point University, Elon College, Salem College and Greensboro College.

Library automation will eventually lead to the complete elimination of the paper card catalog. Thus, everyone wishing to use the library must eventually become familiar with PALS (PICA Automated Library System).

Classes will be offered for students who are anxious about computers or eager to use them. Librarian Betty Place



Beth Pope gets acquainted with PALS.

Photo by Carl Beehler

is "encouraging FYS teachers to require their students to [take a course] simply to get their feet wet."

Despite rumors to the contrary, the availability of interlibrary loans is not negatively affected. In fact loans will

be easier to arrange. The collections of all PICA schools will be listed in the computer, with resources in Hege Library highlighted on the screen to make them quickly distinguishable from those held at other locations.

WHISTLE  
DEFENSE

## BLOW THE WHISTLE ON CRIME!

WHAT IS A WHISTLE  
ALERT PROGRAM?

A whistle alert program is a campus-wide safety effort that involves the cooperation of each individual to ensure the safety of all persons within the community.

## Use the whistle whenever:

- you or your neighbor are in danger or feel the threat of danger
- you want to summon help when you are witness to a crime-in-progress
- you or another are in need of an immediate emergency response (sick or injured)
- you are in the vicinity of another whistle alarm and can lend support by sounding your own whistle

HOW DOES USING  
THE WHISTLE  
PROMOTE SAFETY?

The safety whistle is an effective, life-saving tool. As a signal alarm system, it is more powerful than a cry in the night... and sends out a call for help! It frightens off attackers and brings help fast. Whistles won't fail in moments of stress, as a human voice can.

## HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Buy a whistle! For a limited time, these solid brass Guilford College whistles will be available in the campus bookstore for just \$1.00. The safety whistle program provides an alternative to those who don't want to get involved simply because they don't know how to help.

PLEASE NOTE: The whistle constitutes a piece of emergency equipment, and public use during the absence or more of emergency equipment are detailed in the Guilford College Student Handbook.

DIVISION OF  
SECURITY AND SAFETYEMERGENCY: 2911  
NON-EMERGENCY: 316-2908