

# A date with dignity

ADAM LUCAS  
Sports Editor

I've tried to stay away from commenting on Dennis Rodman, I really have.

Remember how when you used to play hide-and-seek you'd put your hands over your eyes, figuring that if you couldn't see the "seeker," they couldn't see you? That's how I felt about Dennis. Maybe, I thought, if I just ignored him, he would go away.

Unfortunately, he doesn't seem to be playing along with my little game. Rodman recently enlisted the help of Jesse Jackson to appeal his 11-game suspension for kicking a cameraman in either the leg or, um, other area, depending on which version of the story you believe.

Rodman does deserve support in one area of his defense. If he really did kick the cameraman where the guy said he did, then my version of that body part is apparently located in the wrong place.

However, Jackson ruined any chance of credibility for himself or Rodman when he opined that "The NBA is trying to take away Dennis' dignity."

Listen, JJ, a little friendly advice: Dennis doesn't need any help getting rid of his dignity. If it wasn't taken away with the head-butting of the official, the showing up to book signings in a wedding dress, the autobiography that doubled as a chronicle of sexual exploits, the don't-view-it-on-a-full-stomach cover of the afore-mentioned book, or the profane outburst on live television, then it's ironclad embarrassment-proof.

It's time for Rodman to take a break from basketball and see if he can sort himself out. The Bulls are already making it known that they have no intention of picking up his contract when it expires after this season, and few other teams will be willing to ante up for a one-dimensional player that may explode at any time.

Even Bill "Why-Worry-About-the-Homelless-When-There-are-Important-Matters-of-Sport-at-Hand" Clinton has chimed in, telling the man with the hair of many hues that it's time to clean up his act.

As always (ahem), our fearless leader is correct. Dennis, it's time to either play basketball or play RuPaul, and you have to choose one or the other.

The sad truth is that the only winner in this whole situation has been sports columnist Mike Lupica, who took an early lead in the Quote of the Year contest when he wrote that "Jesse Jackson believes that the only time you use your foot on photographers is tripping them if they try to get by you without taking your picture."

Well said, Mike. As for me, it's time to retreat to my little corner. With my hands over my eyes and my hopes high, maybe Rodman finally will go away.

# Robinson follows his faith

TIM FORBES  
staff writer

Size 17 shoes are hard to fill.

Fortunately, Guilford College won't have to worry about filling men's basketball player Tharon Robinson's large-sized shoes anytime soon.

Robinson, a sophomore from Gainesville, Florida, came to Guilford with the intent of leaving it after a couple of years. Originally, he wanted to use Guilford as a springboard into Division I athletics.

"I wanted to be a better basketball player so I came here...but I eventually wanted to go back and play in Gainesville, but now I have decided to stay," Robinson said.

Robinson led the Quakers last year in scoring, rebounding, and blocked shots. He was also named ODAC Freshman of the Year.

Continuing the impressive trend this year, the sophomore forward leads the team in steals, blocked shots, and rebounds.

His basketball skills are only partially what makes Robinson special. When interviewed for this article, men's head coach Jack Jensen spoke glowingly about Robinson for thirty minutes, hardly mentioning his skills on the court.

"He has three things that carry him through," Jensen said. "He has a big heart, he has his Bible, and he has the will to study. He will make it."

Robinson graduated from Gainesville High School with dreams of becoming an engineer, but he did not come to Guilford with the math background most physics students have.

He barely passed Algebra II in high school, but he has worked hard to make sure his dream continues to develop.

"What he has learned in the last two years has been amazing," physics professor Rex Adelberger said. "When he came to Guilford, I don't think he had ever worked on a computer. Now he can write sophisticated computer programs."

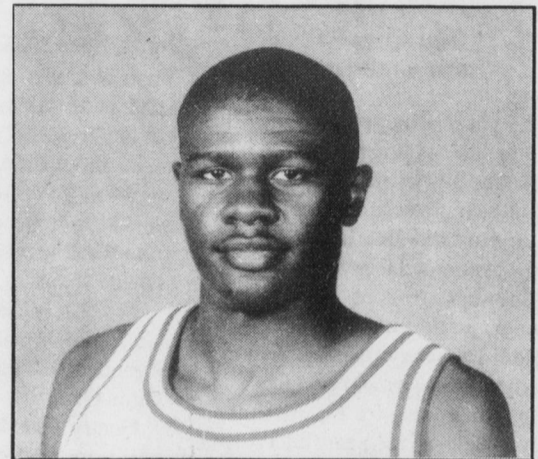
Tharon attributes his talents on the basketball court and his drive

in the classroom to God. "God has given me the gifts to do that stuff," he said.

He is a deeply religious individual, and to the pleasure of his coach and professor it is his faith that keeps Robinson at Guilford.

"I don't want to leave because of my work with New Generation Ministries," he said. "It is a Christian organization...that preaches and teaches the gospel of Jesus Christ."

It sounds like Guilford should be thankful Robinson isn't leaving--his shoes would be hard to fill on more than just the basketball team.



Guilford sports information



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## Tharon Robinson Stats

	1995-96	1996-97
PPG:	13.0	9.2
FG%:	52.0	46.7
FT%:	64.4	64.7
RPG:	7.5	6.3

•Career Double-Doubles: 9

## •Career Highs

Points: 22 vs. Averett, '96  
Rebounds: 15 vs. Ferrum, '96

Blocks: 4 twice, most recently vs. Bridgewater, '97

# AD "search" is baffling

CHRIS MILLSAP  
staff writer

Guilford College has long been known for its academic excellence, but little is ever mentioned about the athletic program. In consideration of this fact, the question is sometimes asked, does the athletic program here at Guilford receive equal treatment as that of the educational program?

During the past year, a series of events has unfolded to make one think that this so-called question of unequal treatment is true.

In early 1996, head football coach Mike Ketchum was called to a meeting with the Provost. During the course of this meeting, Coach Ketchum was asked to fill a vacancy in the Athletic Director's position, which had been vacated by Gayle Currie.

Ketchum was to become acting Athletic Director for three to four weeks. As this time period ran out, Coach Ketchum was once again asked to meet with the Provost. This time, he was asked to fill in as Athletic Director for the remainder of the year.

The responsibilities of a college head

coach are immeasurable. With the numerous responsibilities of Athletic Director piled onto that, Coach Ketchum has done the best that he can. Even with this fine job, though, the athletic program may still suffer if a new Athletic Director is not found soon, which would allow Ketchum to give his undivided attention to coaching his football team.

An attempt to reach the Provost for comment was unsuccessful. However, Coach Ketchum said "that although I am acting Athletic Director, I do know that the search for a new Athletic Director is underway."