

THE GUILFORDIAN

Greensboro, NC

Since 1914, but never quite like this

February 13, 1998

Seniors choose wrestler Ric Flair

◆ Though the class of '98 wants him to speak at graduation, he has a prior engagement

BY JOHN CLINTON
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Feb. 1, the senior class gathered to choose the keynote speaker for their graduation.

Each senior received one ballot and contemplated the possibilities.

Among the choices were Glaxo president Bob Ingram, Guilford's own Carolyn Beard-Whitlow, and wrestling superstar Ric Flair.

Bringing back memories of the flap caused when country singer Charlie Daniels addressed UNC-W several years ago, Flair won the vote by a landslide and as expected, controversy ensued.

Senior Mary Brandenburg, like other members of her class, strongly opposed the idea of Flair speaking at

this year's commencement. "I'm afraid of Ric Flair. I'm afraid of what he stands for, and therefore I'm afraid of him speaking at graduation," she replied angrily.

Some seniors thought that their classmates were being extremely arrogant about having a professional athlete/top-billing entertainer address the greater Guilford community.

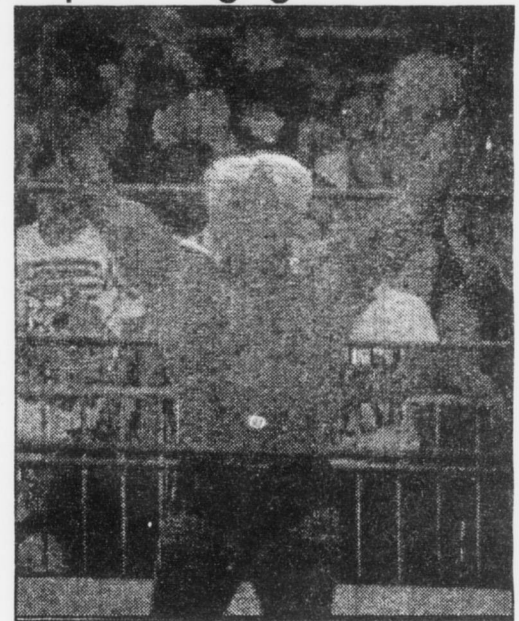
Senior Brian Lowit, who came up with the idea and initiated contact with Flair's entourage, thought that the bleached-blond veteran would make an excellent speech and that his classmates were overreacting. "If people are dumb enough to think that he really kicks in heads for a living, then screw 'em," he said.

Responding to those who thought that Flair would have taken

the event as a joke, senior Annaliese Pollack retorted, "He'll take it seriously. He has some very important things to say. He would not come out in wrestling trunks and scream 'Whoop!'" (Flair's ringside holler).

Unfortunately, for Lowit, Pollack, and a score of other members of the Guilford community, the brawny Charlotte native will be unable to speak at the May 9 graduation. Flair has a prior engagement.

He is destined to be filmed for *Baywatch*, the most popular television show on earth, during the weekend of graduation. "Baywatch is the root of all evil," laments Lowit.



Flair will miss graduation for an appearance on *Baywatch*.

FYI: The board of trustees

Who: 27 out of 32 possible positions are currently filled: 7 females, 2 minorities, 11 alumni, 50% + 1

Quaker; broken-down into 8 committees, 6 of which have student representatives

What: the governing body of Guilford College; they approve the policies, concepts and budget that the administration implements; the President answers to them

When: there are 3 scheduled annual meetings: in Sept., Jan. and May; individual committees may hold extra meetings as desired

Where: meetings are held on the Guilford campus

How: trustees must be nominated by someone and then approved by the full board twice before being invited to join; there are no set requirements for a nominee; appointments last 6 years and may be renewed without limit; the board reaches decisions on all issues in the manner of Friends by "seeking the sense of the meeting"

Two new trustees named to board

◆ William Burchette and Charlotte Roberts join the Guilford community

BY PHOEBE JEWETT
Staff Writer

President Don McNemar expressed his delight in welcoming two new trustees to the Board last week. McNemar highlighted the "tremendous energy and vision" of William H. Burchette and the "knowledge and expertise" of Charlotte Roberts as valuable assets they will bring to Guilford.

Burchette and Roberts are equally excited about joining Guilford during the current period of growth and restructuring and are eager to benefit the community as best they can.

Burchette, a '68 political science graduate from Guilford, brings a strong background in business, particularly law.

In 1993 he co-founded Brickfield, Burchette & Ritts of Washington, DC and Austin, TX, a

firm designed to deal with energy law.

Although he is known on a national level as a representative of rural electric cooperatives, Guilford students may recognize Burchette for his Hall of Fame sports status. He was inducted into Guilford's Hall of Fame in 1985, having been both a quarterback and baseball pitcher.

Charlotte Roberts, a Quaker, specializes in management and leadership skills.

She is president of Charlotte Roberts & Associates, a consulting firm that works with companies to hone their learning and leadership methods.

In 1994 she co-authored *The Fifth Discipline Fieldbook: Strategies and Tools for Building a Learning Organization*.

Roberts is known best at Guilford for the presentation she gave at the opening faculty meeting of '97-'98. Held at the New Garden Meet-

ing Hall, the presentation dealt with strategies for adapting to change.

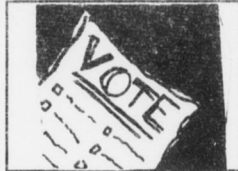
Carolyn Moore, interim director of Institutional Advancement at Guilford, has met with both Burchette and Roberts and is enthusiastic about their appointment.

"I'm glad we have another alumnus," she remarks, speaking of Burchette. "He's interested in getting to know who today's students are."

She adds that Burchette encourages the changing curriculum and new computer technology, perceiving it as a pursuit of relevancy in the education Guilford offers.

In Roberts, Moore praises "holistic leadership skills, a knowledge of Quaker processes, a good level of professionalism and a deep belief in Guilford College." She foresees Roberts' contact with businesses as positive future exposure for Guilford and its graduates.

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True love is like ghosts, which everyone talks about and few have seen.—Francois, Duc de la Rochefoucauld