

# THE GUILFORDIAN

Greensboro, NC

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February 20, 1998

## Martin ticket wins Senate election

BY MARJORIE HALL  
News Editor

After what may have been the most eventful election in Guilford history, the Senate elections committee announced at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday night that current Senate President Molly Martin had been re-elected along with her ticket, Gary Young, La Shaira Fullwood, and Olivia Riordan.

More than half of the campus's eligible voters voted, an average turnout. In the final count, the Martin ticket received 326 votes, the Morris ticket received 199, and 45 voters wrote in candidates or abstained. South Park garnered the most write-in votes.

The election committee had discussed postponing the election because of the events of the past few weeks, including the racist fliers posted and the attack on Martin on Wednesday, but eventually decided to hold the election on schedule. "We felt we did the right thing," said Steve Karakasidis, chairman of the elections committee. "Post-

poning the election would only be prolonging the issue. Getting through the election gets us a step closer to solving this."

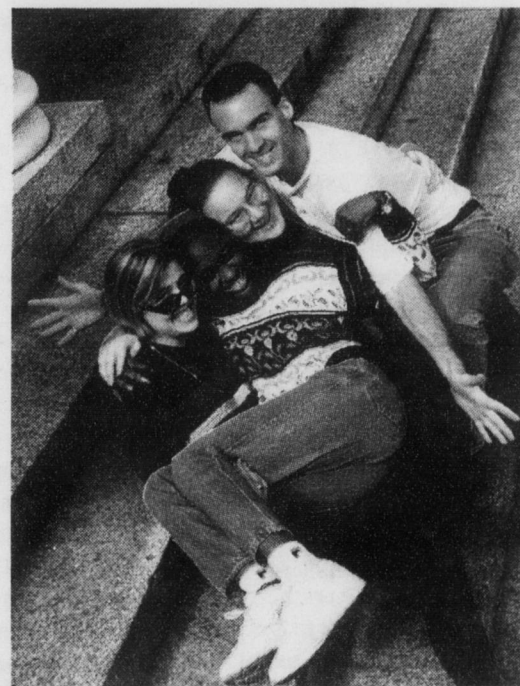
Students were not the only ones interested in the election. Reporters for the Associated Press and the *Greensboro News & Record*, among others, spent a good part of the day on the steps of Founders trying to talk to students.

In an interesting development in the last days of the campaign, John Robichaux claimed authorship of an anonymous letter criticizing Martin that had been circulated around the Guilford community in the middle of last week. Following the posting of several racist fliers and the attack in the Senate office, Robichaux stepped forward to make it clear that the first letter was in no way connected to the racism and violence that occurred.

Copies of the letter and a signed apology by Robichaux were posted in the Founders lobby on Monday morning.

They were accompanied by Colin McFadden-Roan's admission that he was aware of the letter-writer's identity. McFadden-Roan was running as secretary on the Morris ticket. The other members of the Morris ticket asserted that they had no involvement with or knowledge of the letter or the fliers and attack.

Members of the Morris ticket declined to comment on the outcome of the election. Martin believes that holding the election as scheduled was fair. "I think those are legitimate numbers," said Martin. "I wondered what I was going to think when I saw them, but the numbers that came out really reaffirm my faith in the election committee and the Morris ticket."



The Martin ticket—Molly Martin, LaShaira Fullwood, Olivia Riordan, and Gary Young—celebrates.

PHOTO BY MARIAH DANCING

## Higher education reevaluates tenure system

BY ELLEN YUTZY  
World Editor

Tenure is a time-honored tradition in colleges and universities and is something

that most who are not directly involved do not understand. Tenure is an agreement between a professor and a college that protects the professor from being fired for saying or doing things that the administration

may find politically offensive. The result is that tenured faculty are assured of employment far into the future or until they wish to leave an institution.

Recently, it has begun to come under attack at a national level. South Carolina has abolished tenure for professors in its state universities, and other states are considering following its lead.

Few see tenure as endangered in the near future at Guilford College, but many admit that at some public institutions, tenure is going the way of the slide-rule. Pressure from taxpayers and legislators who see tenure as an unnecessary and unfair perk to professors have caused it to be questioned.

The pressure is not limited to those who don't understand the system. Matthew Finkin, in the current issue of *Academe*, writes, "David Breneman, a distinguished economist of higher education, uni-

versity dean and former college president, questions the continued viability of academic tenure and proposes a scheme for elimination."

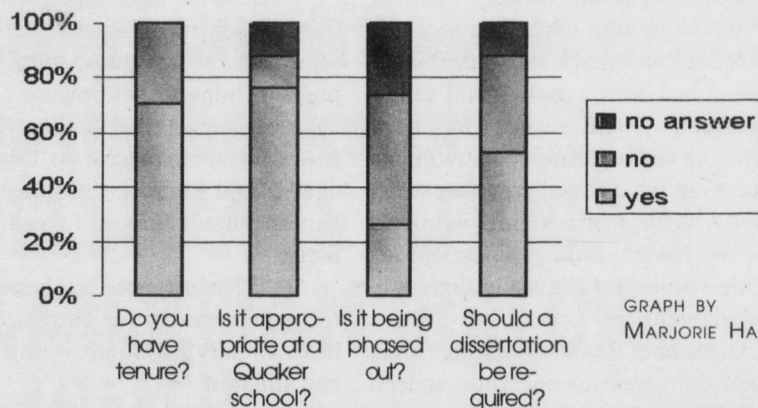
The recent denial of tenure to one of Guilford's most popular professors has created an outcry by students and sparked an interest in learning the ins and outs of how tenure works and why it exists at Guilford.

Historically, tenure was created to protect academic freedom. "Faculty, in teaching, are supposed to be able to pursue truth," said Martha Cooley, academic dean.

Tenure protects professors who are outspoken about national, local, or collegiate events. It was partly through the actions of outspoken professors that Guilford was integrated in the 1960s. Without tenure, it would have been much easier for the administration, many of whom were against integration, to fire those people.

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### Faculty opinions on tenure



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*For nothing can seem foul to those that win.—from King Henry IV, William Shakespeare*