

# Martin attack spurs student outcry

◆ Emotional outpouring from all sides of the campus follows attack on Senate President

BY MARJORIE HALL  
News Editor

Shortly after midnight on Wednesday, Feb. 11, Senate President Molly Martin was assaulted in the Senate office on the second floor of Founders. She was knocked unconscious and the attacker wrote "nigger lover" on her chest. Many community members claim the incident was not just an isolated occurrence, but an extreme example of the racism present on the campus.

The attack provoked an open forum for the Guilford community on Thursday night in the cafeteria. Several hundred students and members of the faculty, staff, and administration attended to voice outrage and concern over the incident and to offer suggestions about what can be done. "We are here, not to apologize, to try to atone, or to feel guilty," said Martin. "We are here to act. And there are certain people at this school who have been begging us to act for a long time now."

After a brief description of the assault, microphones were opened to any who wanted to speak. English professor Beth Keiser commented, "I've been around here a long time. I've seen a lot of meetings, and I've never seen anything like this."

Many of those who spoke ex-

pressed anger over the inaction of the faculty and administration in the wake of Rob Owens' resignation last semester.

"We have a people who are unsupported and we need to do something about it," said sophomore Cassaundria Penn.

Others also expressed frustrations that the position was not a position just for African-American students, but that the position was described as "multi-cultural."

Students also complained that faculty had not responded after a group of African-American students made an emotional presentation at a faculty meeting on Nov. 5. All of these issues were also the subject of an AACCS meeting attended by President Don McNemar, Academic Dean Martha Cooley, Dean of Student Life Mona Olds, and others on Wednesday night, previous to the attack.

Cooley acknowledged that the faculty had not met as a body concerning the Nov. 5 meeting.

Institutional inaction was not the only issue, however. Many African-

American students spoke of an overall attitude on the campus which excludes them from the community. "You cannot call yourself a community and behave the way Guilford is behaving," said freshman Michelle Otis.

Though many talked about the need for greater dialogue among the students

and faculty, many speakers also called for action. "The continued inaction of languid liberal whites enrolled and on staff is not ac-

ceptable," said freshman Ian Watlington. "I hope dialogues regarding race become routine and not merely reactionary. Dialogues on issues such as race should be like breathing."

Ideas included discussion groups regarding race sponsored by JPS, an offer from WQFS news director Mike Filoramo to put together a daily forum for race and gender issues for the radio, and theatre studies professor Jack Zerbe's assertion that values should be an integral part of the new curriculum.

"Incidents such as this are proof that we are not currently successfully teaching values," Zerbe said. "If we were, it would show up in the shape of our curriculum."

Issues besides that of race were also addressed at the forum. "I think we need to question whether or not this would have happened if the student body president had been a male," said senior Chris Weber. "The pressure has been building up and building up, drawing its source from the issue of race, but when it finally broke, it was onto a woman's body. We need to look at where our hierarchies connect, because in this case, I think they do."

Director of Residential Life Elgina Manuel delivered an energetic speech

calling for a greater representation of minorities and women in the faculty and administration of the school. "We need to put people in these positions who look like us," Manuel said. "When I say people that look like us, I mean people who are black, white, Asian, women, and people in wheelchairs. How can you talk about race and gender issues when you have people of a certain gender or color who are not represented?"

On a more specific level, many people expressed their fury at the incident itself. "I can not believe the audacity of a person who would come into our home and do this to Molly, do this to all of us," freshman Kemba Bloodworth said. "No more."

Students also expressed concerns about security.

Security did not call the Greensboro Police Department or Director of Security Sylvia Chilcott until the next day. Zerbe proposed installing key cards in all buildings on campus and instituting a 24-hour lock-down. More security guards and GPD officers than usual patrolled the campus over the weekend.

The incident is still under investigation by the GPD and the security department.

"The investigation is moving along quickly," Chilcott said. She says that her department will release information to the student body when that can be done without jeopardizing the investigation.

Amid the anger and frustration of the Thursday meeting and the rest of the aftermath of the attack, some have expressed hopeful sentiments. "Things have happened here that have not happened in other places, so I'm encouraged," said Manuel. "But just because I'm encouraged doesn't mean I'm apathetic."

"What happened was horrible," said religion professor Joe Groves. "But we have a really good opportunity out of a bad situation."

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*"Incidents such as this prove that we are not currently successfully teaching values."—Jack Zerbe*

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## The Week at Guilford

### Week of February 20-26

**20-** Morning Quaker Worship, Hut, 8:05 a.m.

- Two Short Plays, Moon Room, 8 p.m.

- Union Flicks, *Breakfast at Tiffany's* at 8 p.m. and *The Muppets Take Manhattan* at 10:30 p.m. in the Underground

- Friends on the Land Conference at New Garden Friends Meeting

- Theater Studies presents "The Devil's Gateway," Sternberger Auditorium, 8 p.m.

**21-** Morning Quaker Worship, Hut, 8:05 a.m.

- Two Short Plays, Moon Room, 8 p.m.

- Friends on the Land Conference at New Garden Friends Meeting

- Theater Studies presents "The Devil's Gateway," Sternberger

Auditorium, 8 p.m.

**22-** GCRO Meeting for Worship, Moon Room, 9:15 a.m.

**23-** Morning Quaker Worship, Hut, 8:05 a.m.

**24-** English Awards Banquet, Carnegie Room

- ArtsECT presents Sweet Honey in the Rock, Dana Auditorium, 8 p.m.

**25-** Morning Quaker Worship, Hut, 8:05 a.m.

**26-** UNION presents Blues Coffee-house with KJ James, Underground, 9 p.m.

- Two Short plays, Moon Room, 8 p.m.

- "The Devil's Gateway," Sternberger Auditorium at 8 p.m.

## Corrections

Perfection is our goal, but we don't always achieve it. *The Guilfordian* strives to correct all errors, so please contact us at x2306 if you see a mistake.

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