

THE GUILFORDIAN

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Since 1914, but never quite like this

February 27, 1998

State NAACP president visits

◆ Alston talks with administration, staff

BY MARJORIE HALL
News Editor

Melvin "Skip" Alston, the president of the state NAACP, came to campus on Monday, February 23, to meet with several prominent members of the Guilford community and discuss possible measures that the school could take to increase awareness of race issues on campus.

The meeting was attended by President Don McNemar, recently instated director of African-American activities Santes Beatty, Board of Visitors member Robert Brown, and local NAACP president Harold Cotton, among others.

Alston and Cotton co-wrote a press release last week demanding that Guilford and the Greensboro Police Department find a suspect within two weeks or he would call in the State Bureau of Investigation. The press release also included a list of suggestions for the Guilford community.

The meeting proved to be positive. "We came here in a cooperative spirit in order to try and bring a good resolution to this unfortunate matter," Alston said. "We are very excited about what we are going to be doing from here on out."

Alston rescinded his prior threat to call in the SBI. "After gaining more details and discovering that not one but four detectives are working on this matter, we feel confident that they will bring forth whoever is responsible for this," said

Alston.

The investigation is now also probing into the most recent incident on campus, when two black female students received threatening phone calls in which racial slurs were used.

The group discussed spearheading a race relations institute on campus, co-sponsored by Guilford and the NAACP, which would not only be a resource for those on campus but for the greater Guilford community.

The group stated that Guilford has a zero tolerance policy towards racism.

"We have a history of good race relations in this community and we want to keep that tradition," said Brown. "We will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law." The college is looking at instating a hotline for students

to report racist incidents and to encourage students to report them. McNemar also emphasized that the school is currently trying to build values into the new curriculum to help students understand issues such as racism and sexism.

The group was not able to discuss all of Alston and Cotton's suggestions at the meeting, but plan to continue working together to develop more concrete initiatives.

Alston commended McNemar and the staff for sitting down and talking. "The Quakers in this area were a part of the Underground Railroad," he said. "Our ancestors worked together in the past, and we want to work together in the future."

"We came here in a cooperative spirit in order to try and bring a good resolution to this unfortunate matter."

—Melvin "Skip" Alston



Senators discuss the possible reelection at Thursday's called Senate meeting.

PHOTO BY CHRIS CARLSTROM

Senate almost calls for new election

BY MARJORIE HALL
News Editor

The controversies surrounding the 1998 elections did not end when students voted Tuesday, February 17. One more was added to the list at the Senate meeting the following day when some Senate members called for a new election.

Current Senate treasurer Colin McFadden-Roan, who ran for both Union and Senate, read a statement raising several concerns about the election procedure. After Senate discussed the issue for almost four hours, the senators decided to reconvene on Thursday night to finish the discussion.

The Senate constitution states that student I.D. must be presented before a student can vote. The constitution is not completely clear on whether or not drivers' licenses are acceptable. In the morning, election committee members working at the voting table in the Founders lobby turned away students who only had drivers' licenses as I.D. In the afternoon, elections chair Steve

Karakasidis decided to begin accepting drivers' licenses as I.D.

A list of all eligible student voters is at the table with the ballot boxes, and as each person votes, his or her name is crossed off the list, so no non-Guilford students voted and no one voted twice.

In 1996, a similar controversy arose when there was only a two-vote difference in the results and it was discovered that some people had voted without showing ID of any kind. The election results were allowed to stand.

"I think Senate's failure to face the issue two years ago has contributed to the problem now," said McFadden-Roan.

McFadden-Roan also claimed that Karakasidis was biased against the Thomas ticket, which he ran on in the Union election. He claimed that Karakasidis made several disparaging remarks about Thomas and had actively searched for another candidate to run against her. Karakasidis said that although he might have made negative

please see ELECTIONS on pg. 2

Faculty holds meeting to discuss race relations on campus
News pg. 3



Molly Martin looks to the past for lessons for future
Features pg. 6

Changes in financial aid and the effect at Guilford
Forum pg. 14



Five senior women bid farewell to the Quakers
Sports pg. 16

"We always did feel the same; we just saw it from a different point of view." —Bob Dylan