

Brisbon speaks on racial problems

BY MARJORIE HALL
News editor

About 70 Guilford students and faculty gathered in the Gallery on Tuesday, March 31, to listen to Ervin Brisbon's presentation "Engaging the Race Construct."

The presentation opened with an African welcome dance and song performed by Samantha Scales, accompanied by Allen Horn on the drums. African dance, song and poetry were interspersed with Brisbon's presentation. "We hope to use the music and the dance to break the spell of Western mindset and civilization," said Brisbon. "We can create a new environment in here."

The intent of the presentation was to prove that there is a racial construct in this country that supports white privilege and black inferiority.

Brisbon believes that Western civilization has developed a system of domination based on race, class, and gender. The

three different problems are interrelated and he believes they can not be solved independently of one another. "You have to deal with the question of race before you can beat sexism in this country," he says.

Brisbon said that even though the construct was developed long before anyone alive now was born, it is our responsibility to deal with the racial problems that have grown out of this construct.

According to Brisbon, the institutions in place reinforce the construct economically and politically. "We were born into this," he said. "The oil is on us. They were here and they are going to come again, and they will not stop until we en-

gage this problem."

Brisbon also talked about the current local problem of school redistricting. Many

Greensboro schools are still segregated by race. The city has bussed students to different schools to try to solve the problem, but almost all of the students bussed

are black. White children are not sent to black schools.

He encouraged Guilford students to be aware of issues such as these in Greensboro and to get involved. "Some of you are going to be here for a while, and some of you are going to be here for the rest of your lives," said Brisbon. "You should get involved in the issues of the community."

The presentation also included artwork

by Erica Linear, including several paintings, a painted gourd, and a turtle-shell mask. The artwork focused on Linear's study of her African heritage. "I paint pictures related to what I've studied of my history," she said. "If I wrote it out, maybe not everyone would understand, but anyone can learn from a picture. We can learn from symbols." Brisbon invited students at the end of the presentation to stay and discuss the presentation and racism on campus. The discussion continued for an hour.

Brisbon, a resident of Greensboro, works with the Future Leaders Program, a program sponsored by the local American Friends Service Committee. Several Guilford students volunteer with the Future Leaders Program and decided to bring Brisbon to campus.

Scales said she hoped that the presentation could help bring growth to the campus, even if some of the ideas presented were unpleasant to those who attended. "Growth is not an easy thing," she said.

"We were born into this. The oil is on us. They were here and they are going to be back and they will not stop until we engage this problem."—Ervin Brisbon

ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!

Terry Olson, M.A.
will be giving a presentation on clinical

BIOFEEDBACK & HYPNOTHERAPY

date: **Monday, April 6th**
time: **@ 7:30**

(yes, that's THIS Monday!!)

place: **King Hall—room 228**
(second floor)

All are invited.

Admission is free.

Spread the word.

For more info:

Jimi x3964

Catherine Kannenburg x2233

Brought to you by the Psychology Club.

the week in Campus Ministries

Daily: Unprogrammed worship. 8:05 a.m.-8:20 a.m. Hut.

Friday, April 3

• **Noon:** Confronting AIDS with nonviolence.

Saturday, April 4 DAY WITHOUT VIOLENCE

• **8:00 p.m.:** John McCutcheon. Dana.

Sunday, April 5

• **9:15 a.m.:** College meeting for worship, led by Laura O'Toole, professor of sociology/anthropology. Moon Room.

• **7:00 p.m.:** Catholic Mass. Gallery.

• **7:00 p.m.:** QLSP Worship. Moon Room.

• **8:00 p.m.:** Student A.A. meeting. Hut.

Monday, April 6

• **3:30 p.m.:** GCRO Meeting. Hut.

• **8:30 p.m.:** Fellowship of

Christian Athletes. Boren Lounge.

Tuesday, April 7

• **5:15 p.m.:** Episcopal Eucharist. Moon Room.

• **7:00 p.m.:** The Spirituality of Douglas Steere, Seeker Session. Jamestown Friends Meeting.

• **8:30 p.m.:** New Generation Ministries. Boren Lounge.

Wednesday, April 8

• **5:30 p.m.:** Midweek meeting for worship. Hut.

• **8:30 p.m.:** InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Boren Lounge.

• **9:00 p.m.:** Unitarian-Universalist students. Hut.

Thursday, April 9

• **7:00 p.m.:** Seeker Session: The Spirituality of Gandhi and King.

Friday, February 6

• **Noon:** Brown Bag Lunch: Egg Dyeing Eggstravaganza.