

In This Issue...



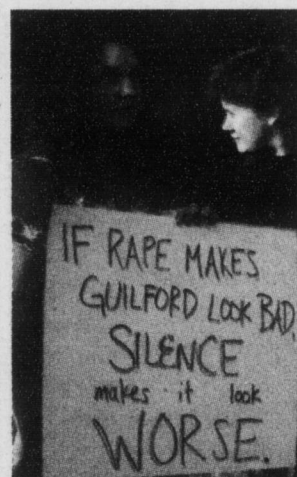
Page 6

The women's soccer team strives for a winning season...



Page 16 and 17

Cyndy Briggs and Will Pizio discuss different aspects of rape and sexual assault...



Page 10

Reflecting on the sexual assault protest...

S.A.F.E. from Rape?

**Mary Layton Atkinson
Daisy Partington**
Staff Writers

For nearly seven years, Guilford College's sexual misconduct protocol has remained an unchanged, unofficial document. With rumors about a sexual misconduct case that went before the judicial board earlier this month sweeping across campus, the protocol has now found itself under careful scrutiny by students and faculty alike.

"Last year, after listening to student, staff, and faculty concerns, the faculty requested that the College create a position addressing gender issues in Campus Life," said President Kent Chabotar, in a recent letter to the community.

In response, the college created the position of Director for Gender Issues and Retention, filled by Cyndy Briggs. Briggs, in turn, handpicked members of the recently formed Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), comprised of faculty from the departments of campus life, women's studies, counseling services, and student health. The group formed to revise the protocol.

Despite these recent efforts,

the protocol remains a topic of discussion and concern among students.

"It doesn't seem like [the administration has] the ability to bring about justice," said Caitlin Whitney-Gallagher, co-coordinator of the Feminists Reaching



Junior Kat Allen joins in the protest against Guilford's rape policy

James Tatum

For more info. on the protest, see page 10

Equality for Everyone (FREE). "I'd like to believe that if I was ever raped, I wouldn't go to the judicial board ... I would file a police report."

Jodi Gill, Assistant Dean for Campus Life, believes that part of the problem stems from fundamental misunderstandings about the document itself and the procedures it outlines, specifically the judicial board process.

"One of the biggest misconceptions students have is that the avenue for individual recourse is the judicial board," Gill said. "That avenue is the civil or criminal courts. The judicial board is there to determine the status of the accused as a student."

Sophomore John Pickard disagrees with Gill's assessment. "We [students] already know that. The problem is, it's very difficult to trust the administration right now."

The ability to trust the administration is not the only concern raised by students in the last few weeks.

The Sexual Assault Task Force and Education (SAFE), a student organization dedicated to support and education on

the topic of sexual assault and misconduct, recently devoted one of its meetings to discuss student concerns with the current sexual

misconduct protocol. The meeting, held Oct. 10, drew a larger crowd than previous SAFE meetings held this year, according to SAFE President John Boyd.

Concerns voiced at the SAFE meeting expressed the need for the protocol to more clearly serve the students.

"The protocol is written as though it is [the Administration's] protocol," said John Boyd, president of SAFE. "But it's not. It's ours, the students', and it needs to be user-friendly."

Specifically, SAFE feels that the rights of the assaulted student, rather than only the responsibilities of Guilford's administration, should be clearly outlined.

Interpreting the protocol is also difficult because sections of it are documented in several locations, including the Student Handbook and the Campus Safety Manual (available online through Guilford's home page).

For example, while students at the SAFE meeting said they felt that the handbook discourages the victim from talking to friends for confidentiality reasons, the Campus Safety Manual actually encourages students to "find a friend. Friends can be

continued on page 2 ...

Please
Recycle