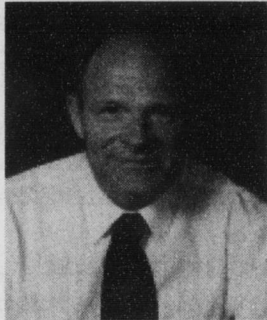


## In This Issue...



Page 3

John Jenkins says farewell to Guilford...



Page 8

Lucas Wolf reflects on study abroad in Mexico...



Page 15

Josh Neas discusses why he thinks Howard Coble, above, should not speak at graduation...

# Coble Won't Speak if Seniors Oppose; Petition in Progress

Casey Creel

Senior Correspondent

Guilford alumnus and U.S. Rep. Howard Coble, R-Greensboro, whose comments about Japanese American internment in World War II have sparked criticism nationally and from Guilford students, told *The Guilfordian* Wednesday that "if there's one senior who does not want me to give the graduation speech, I would happily withdraw."

Coble, scheduled to speak at commencement in May, said no Guilford administrator has contacted him yet about dropping or keeping him as a speaker.

"I think that would be up to the college," Coble said. "But graduation belongs to the seniors, and if they're not happy with the speaker giving them the address, that would mar the day.

"So if one senior suggests that I should not be on the podium, I will not be on the podium, with no hard feelings."

President Kent Chabotar said he had been waiting for a more pronounced student reaction before he told Coble about any protest on campus, and said that he has so far received only three comments from students - two of them seniors - requesting that the college revoke its invitation to Coble to deliver a commencement address.

"I'd be disappointed if he withdrew at the objection of one senior, and so would the senior

class," Chabotar said.

It appears, however, that many students, including a number of seniors, believe Coble should step down after saying on a radio show last week it had been appropriate to intern Japanese Americans during WWII, which he said had been done to protect them from an unfriendly public.

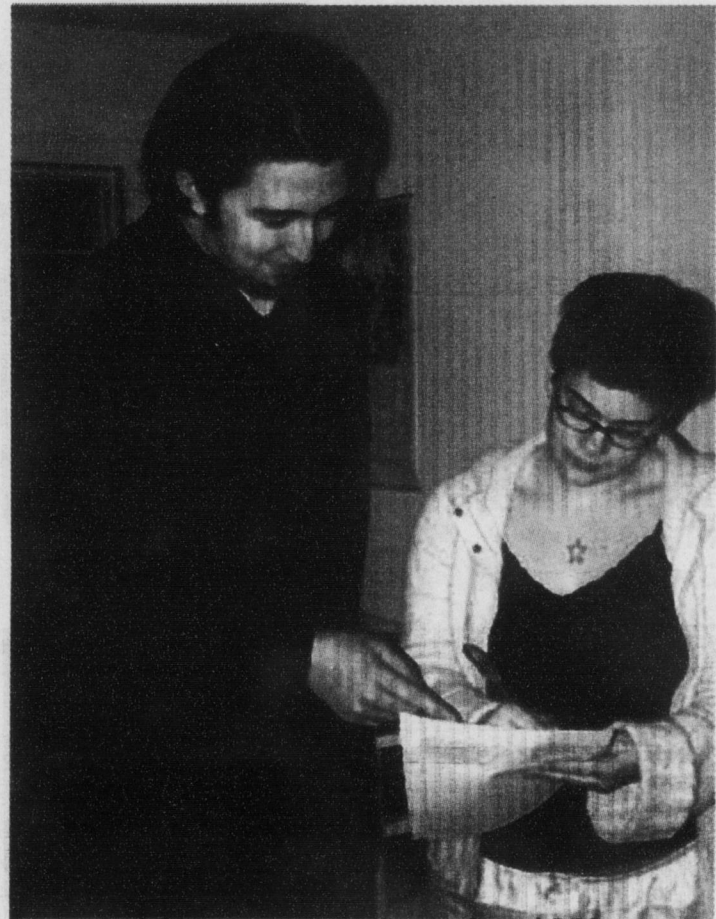
Coble made the comments in response to a caller who suggested the internment of Arab Americans, an idea Coble rejected.

Senior Josh Neas was among the first students to protest the internment comments, starting a petition declaring that Coble's comments "are not in line with the teachings and values of Guilford College, and as such we feel he does not represent the graduating class, or the college, in a fit manner."

According to Neas, 250 people, including undergraduates, seniors, and a few faculty and alumni, have signed. Neas said he planned to present the petition by the coming Wednesday to Chabotar and Dean of Campus Life Anne Lundquist.

He estimates that between 40 and 50 seniors have signed.

Some seniors, like CCE senior Scott Smith, support keeping Coble on. "Although I'm not a Republican, I did vote for Howard Coble last year," Smith said. "I think it's unfair to rescind his invi-



Senior Josh Neas reports having gathered 250 signatures from students, faculty, and alumni on his petition to have Howard Coble replaced as graduation speaker.

Sarah Austin

tation based on comments he made on a crisis that happened over 50 years ago." [Smith is Busi-

ness Manager for *The Guilfordian*.]  
**See Coble, page 2...**

