

Clark, Neas Call Coble to Honor Promise if Seniors Oppose

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record on topics ranging from the environment to issues of civil rights.

"I had problems with Coble even before he made his infamous interment comments," said senior Kristina Millhiser, who helped gather signatures for a second round of petitions against Coble's planned commencement speech.

"I believe his voting record goes against every Quaker tenet you could think of," Millhiser said.

Senior Caroline Clark spearheaded

that petition in response to what she felt was President Kent Chabotar's lack of serious regard for the first one, signed by 200 students in February.

"I'm more impressed with Coble's handling of the situation than Kent's," Clark said. "Coble stood by what he said about stepping down if one senior protested. Kent did not care what students were saying and didn't care that we didn't want him there."

Chabotar said the weight of the first petition was weakened because the majority of people who signed were not se-

niors, and because most signed before Coble issued an apologetic statement of regret for any offense his comments may have caused.

Clark's petition contained signatures from 54 seniors, roughly a fourth of the senior class.

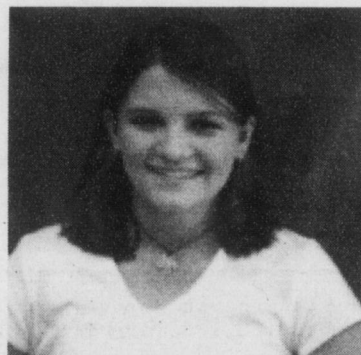
"We knew he had apologized, and that did not affect our not wanting him here," Clark said.

Coble, who told *The Guilfordian* in February that he would step down if one senior opposed him, called Chabotar on Wed., April 3, to tell him he had decided not to give the address.

"After our prior conversations on the subject, I expressed my deep regret but did not try to dissuade him again," Chabotar said in a statement to *The Guilfordian*.

Chabotar had met with Coble in March for an alumni/prospective student reception at Coble's office in Washington, DC, and told him that the college would never ask him to withdraw.

"I argued that it was the 50th anniversary of his graduating class and he was a respected member of the Guilford



Petitioner Caroline Clark.

community with a 20-year record of service in the U.S. Congress," Chabotar said. "Our community needs to hear divergent views on public policy issues on every occasion, including commencement."

Clark and senior Josh Neas, who was the

first person to organize student disgruntlement with his initial petition in February, defended their actions against those who say their protest is intolerant of views not in sync with their own.

"The college never rescinded its offer," Neas said. "It was always Coble's decision."

"The point was never to keep Howard off campus, but rather to have him here to facilitate a dialogue about what he said in a way that a commencement speech can't."

The second petition, which Clark and others delivered to Coble's Greensboro office, said "We welcome you to come and speak at Guilford, but we feel that in light of many circumstances ... your presence as a graduation speaker would be inappropriate."

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VP Israel Committed to Teaching, Anti-Racism, Guilford's Core Values

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she has focused primarily on the quality of education for Guilford students. She helped found the study abroad semester in Ghana, coordinated reenactments of the Underground Railroad, and helped develop the African American Studies concentration, now a major.

"She's great. She inspires students," says one senior who says she became a history major because of Israel's influence as a professor. "I wanted to do anything for her. I'd write a 100-page paper for her."

When asked how she felt about the announcement, Israel exhibited a variety of feelings. She intends to work more earnestly on improving the teaching and curriculum of the college. She also will maintain her commitment to the antiracism/diversity campaign that Guilford initiated in the spring of 1998.

Focusing on the core values of the college is also important to her. The appointment now gives her the opportunity to work more with faculty.

On the other hand, Israel

seemed upset that she will have to give up one of her favorite pastimes - teaching - and replace it with more administrative leadership. She will no longer be directly involved in the African American Studies program, history department, or Ghana program.

One can tell just by talking to her how much she will miss being a full-time professor.

"Frankly, I care about the college, how it can get better. That's my whole passion."

Israel said that like herself, all administrative faculty should teach.

Professor Rob Whitnell headed the search committee that interviewed candidates. The finalists presented open forums for the Guilford Community between the 20th and 28th of last month. The two other finalists were Mark Stern and Reginald Avery, who later withdrew his application.

Israel is sincerely thrilled with her new position. "I'm humbled by this appointment. I'm confident that I will be working with a strong team. There is a strong group of people in administration. They are all different. I'm continually learning from them."

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