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## Sidney Poitier and the human family



Aaron Demoss/Guilfordian

**Poitier takes questions from the audience after his lecture**  
**Seth Van Horn**

Staff Writer

"Well, here we are; you looking at me, me looking at you."

So spoke Sidney Poitier at the beginning of his lecture in Dana Auditorium on Dec. 2, right before complimenting the entirety of the packed house on their good looks and moral character.

"Now how's that for sucking up to 1,200 people?" said Poitier.

Guilford theatre professor Jack Zerbe introduced him as, "a man of great charm, and

great intelligence."

Poitier, actor for over 50 years and 1963 winner of the Oscar for Best Actor, came to speak about what the program called "The Oneness of the Human Family."

"Snap judgments too often obscure how much we don't know about each other," said Poitier.

He then elucidated his point by giving 14 vignettes, what he called "snapshots" about his life.

In snapshot one Poitier spoke about his mother

Evelyn and his father Reggie, tomato farmers from Cat Island in the Bahamas. He spoke about how his mother wouldn't give up on him and even went to see a soothsayer when he was born two months premature.

"My favorite part of the evening was listening to him talk about when he was a kid," said Senior Laura Myerchin. "He's graceful, charming, and a very eloquent speaker."

Throughout the evening, Poitier continued to stress the integrity and values his parents instilled in him. From discussing his mother's "whap-whap method" of teaching, to the day his father decided that Sidney should go to America at the age of 15, Poitier spoke of them with respect and care.

"There were lessons to be learned from everything they said and did," he said.

Poitier did not hesitate to discuss some of his less proud moments; for instance, he described the first time he got drunk, and the time he was arrested at age twelve.

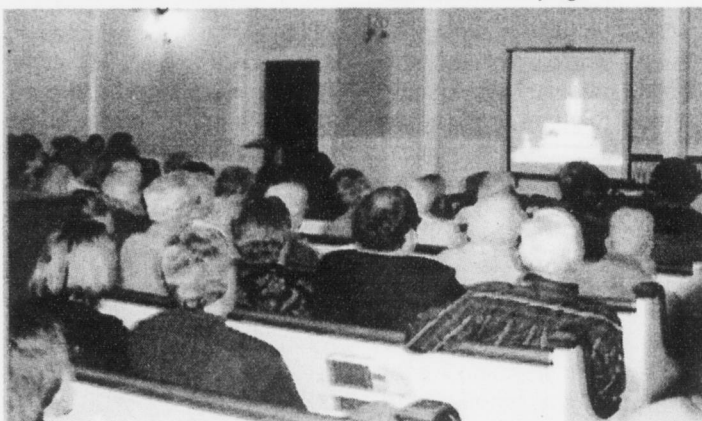
"I believe that everything, all of my experiences in the aggregate, good ones, bad ones, all of them, are what brought me to this spot on which I stand," he said.

The audience remained silent as Poitier shared his experience of the segregated South and the race riots in Harlem.

He made it a point to thank the police officer who introduced him to the Catholic nuns who cared for him "with genuine love and affection," during the winter of 1943.

Poitier spoke of how he decided to become an actor after having been rejected by a man who told him to "get out

*Continued on page 2*



Aaron Demoss/Guilfordian

**The Moon Room provided live feed for fan overflow**

## Intersection of sexism and racism

Dylan Grayson

Staff Writer

"There's too much feeling about race and not enough thinking about racial privilege and power structures," said Peggy McIntosh, Associate Director of the Wellesley College Center for Research on Women, early in her speech Nov. 17 in Dana Auditorium.

Judy Harvey, Director of Community Learning and Bonner Scholars said, "I knew that much of [McIntosh's] work has been done around the issue of gender bias and I thought she might help the Guilford community think about the intersection of sexism and racism as well as deepen our understanding of white privilege, an important concept in working from an anti-racist analysis."

"Her presentation was the final and fifth anti-racism forum for the fall semester which were all planned to help the Guilford community continue to think and talk about racism from an anti-racist perspective."

McIntosh said that when she first began noticing white privilege, one of Virginia Woolf's writings inspired her to

*Continued on page 2*



Women's health concerns

Page 2



NYC fashion in G'boro

Page 6



Cost of war in Iraq

Page 9



LA elects female governor

Page 9