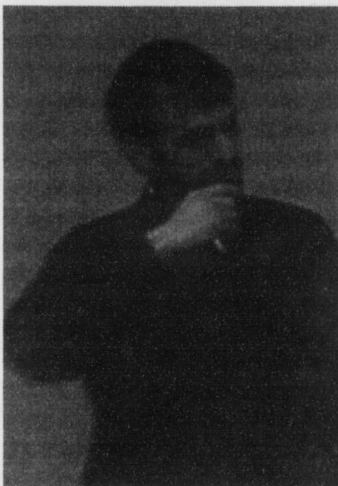


Quakers speak on Apocalypse

Taleisha Bowen
Associate Editor



Taleisha Bowen/Guilfordian
Ben Pink Dandelion

Janet Melnyk and Ben Pink Dandelion were on campus Jan 14-16 as J. M. Ward Distinguished Quaker Visitors. Melnyk and Dandelion spoke on various subjects and concluded their stay with the annual J. M. Ward Lecture. This year's topic was "A History of the End of the World: The Apocalypse in Quakerism, Christianity, and Culture."

"Quakers don't talk theology, they talk history," said Mary Ellen Chijioke, Director of Hege Library, who attended Thursday's talk.

Dandelion, with his British accent – his meeting has a clear view of the original Pendle Hill – kept his audience's attention as he talked about history, revealing the connection between early Quakerism and apocalyptic thought.

"Christianity is all about waiting for the Second Coming," he said.

He argued that Quakerism is no different. George Fox and the early Friends taught that the Second Coming was internal and happening in the mid-seventeenth century.

Dandelion then said that the next generation of Quaker belief was a step removed from the first: the Apocalypse hadn't arrived but was still imminent.

"If the first Friends heard the alarm clock of the Second Coming, the seventeenth century Friends sort of pressed the snooze button," Dandelion said.

Melnyk concluded with the Book of Revelations. The Apocalypse story illustrates the problems John saw with the Roman Empire.

"Apocalypse stories are written during times of storm and stress," Melnyk said. "When a culture reaches a level that violence is entertainment, there's a close connection between that culture and Rome."

"It was nice to learn some things that I hadn't really considered before," said Sally Stevens, a senior concentrating in Quaker Studies. "It was really neat to study the topic from an analytical perspective as opposed to a theological one."

The evening concluded with the typical question and answer session. An audience member asked what true modern American Apocalypse stories have to say. Melnyk's response?

"Well, they feature a lot of donkeys and elephants," she said, smiling.

Cole links past to present

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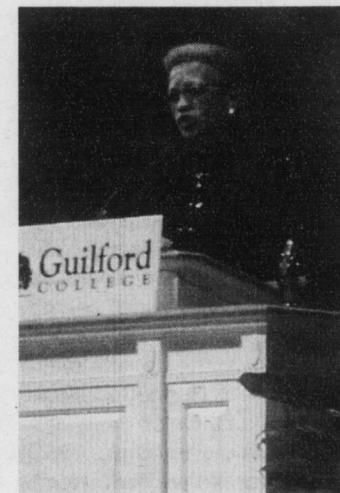
Dean Adrienne Israel.

Various students and faculty members were responsible for the variety of celebrations on campus during the holiday. One group that helped take much of the responsibility was the student organization Blacks Uniting Society (BUS).

"Just his birthday is not enough to recognize him [but] any part I can do that makes people more aware of the problems going around and makes people celebrate him in anyway shape or form, I want to be involved in," sophomore Kristi Matthews, a member of BUS, said.

The night ended with a candlelight vigil on the steps of Dana Auditorium where the community gathered and sang the Black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice

and Sing". As Monica Walker, a visiting instructor in Justice and Policy Studies, said in her welcome, "For some of us [Martin Luther King day] will never be more than a holiday." To the crowd that gathered on Monday night, however, it was obviously more than a day off from school and work.



Emily Mann/Guilfordian
Dr. Cole

Guilford welcomes transferring students mid-year

Sarah Weiser
Staff Writer

For some students, the winter holiday was a mid-year break, but for 15 students, it was the beginning to a new college and a new life.

The transition period for the spring semester students is quite different from the Community, Health, Advisement, Orientation, Service (CHAOS) program of the fall semester. Instead of taking place over five days, all of the information sessions, math and foreign language placement testing, registration and moving in happens in one day, First Year Advisory Director Shelley Crisp said.

Fortunately, CHAOS leaders for the upcoming fall se-

mester are available for the transfer students. Additionally, the Student Health Center, the Career and Community Learning Center and the Academic Skills Center had an exhibition within the past week in Founders Hall to answer new students' questions about campus resources.

The timing of the arrival of the transfer students coincided with the returning classes this year. In previous years, new students arrived two days before the beginning of the spring semester and saw an empty campus, without the vital signs of human activity.

The social atmosphere has made the beginning of the new semester easier for two

students, first-year John Owusu-Ansah and transfer student Charlie Clay, lightening their difficult transitions into attending the college.

Owusu-Ansah, a native of Accra, Ghana, applied to about 20 universities internationally, but finally chose the college because he got the impression that it was a place where one could "really become what you want to be".

Though he is still learning his way around the community, he had already made many friends in his dorm hall quite quickly. "Everybody respects each other here," he said. He plans to double major in computer science and economics, and his other interests lay in music, especial-

ly the guitar and piano.

Clay transferred from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in upstate New York. When he first applied to colleges, he applied to Guilford, but chose RIT when they accepted him.

So why the big change? "I left after the first quarter," he said. "RIT was a total mismatch for me. They have one track in their approach to education; there was a set path for everything. Guilford helps you find your own way, to really own your education."

Clay says he was sure that the college was a better match for him, and he wanted to get here as soon as possible after his first-quarter experience. Clay's parents sup-

ported his decision to transfer to the college, which holds more opportunity for one-on-one work with teachers, which was not an option at RIT, a technical college with an undergraduate population of 7,000.

Though the adjustment process is not completed for these students, they both look forward to a productive semester. Even though they have not experienced the same amount of CHAOS as students who enroll in the fall, they receive the same amount of friendly support from campus members and official resources.