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Unclear safety policies cause confusion

Benjamin Kelly

Staff Writer

I don't know anything about the safety rules. What are they?" asked a Guilford senior, who wishes to remain anonymous. A group of first-year and sophomore students sitting on the stoop of Binford hall laughed and nodded.

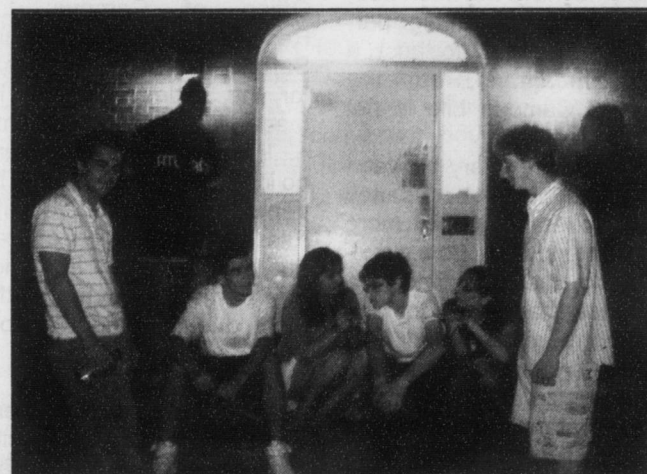
Interviews with students from every class and residential lifestyle revealed a widespread ignorance of basic safety policies.

...This ignorance, combined with the resignation of Safety Manager Jeff Vail just days before the start of the fall semester, has thrown residential safety into what Dean for Campus Life Anne Lundquist described as a "transitional period."

Guilford is currently operating without a safety manager. Not having a safety manager should not greatly affect student safety, said Lundquist.

She notes that a safety manager is often more concerned with bureaucratic safety procedures than in maintaining residential safety. Safety is a collaborative effort between Public Safety, the RA's, and the administration, she added.

Vail, who has taken a job as safety manager in the private sector, emphasized that his resignation was unrelated to the Guilford working environment. [Director of Facilities and Campus Services] "John Varnell was the best guy in the world to work for," Vail said. The office of Facilities and Services has been reviewing applications, but has not yet



BENJAMIN KELLY/GUILFORDIAN

A group of students socializing outside of Binford

hired a replacement.

The bureaucratic safety procedures that were Vail's purview are starting to confuse students. From first-years liv-

ing in Milner to seniors living in alternative housing on-campus, students expressed concern and confusion about two

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Pilot community programs launched

Carlos D'Agostino

Staff Writer

In its second year at Guilford, the community "Living Learning Halls" project in Binford hall has added two new themes. Binford has also added a new program: The Community Agreement Initiative (CAI). Professors lead the "Living Learning Halls." The Conflict Resolution Resource Center (CRRC) guides the C.A.I. Though different programs led by different people, both work to create community cohesion among the first-years.

In the Living Learning Halls programs, 14 to 18 students with a similar interest live in the same wing of Binford hall so they can identify each other's gifts and talents. By living in the same areas, neighboring students can help their peers with problems they've encountered throughout the day, reducing stress.

"The purpose of the program is to give

students with common interests the chance to live together and to do activities outside of class and off campus to support those interests," said Shelly Crisp, Director of First Year Program.

Scott Pierce Coleman, Director of QLSP/Career Services Liaison, heads the program themed "Search for Life's Work," and has arranged for all of his current students to live in the east wing on the third floor of Binford.

"The quest for one's calling requires that you know yourself really deeply," said Coleman.

...Coleman encourages his pupils to engage in fun and constructive activities outside of his class sessions. For example, students will often gather to eat together at a local restaurant.

"...I like the fact that we can be open with each other, talk to each other, and feel comfortable as a group," said Shannon Singleton, first-year and member of Coleman's class.

Doug Smith, Professional Tutor, Jenn Brown, Part-time Lecturer in English,

and Coleman, Director of QLSP/Career Services Liaison, have led Community Living Halls before. Anne Glenn, Associate Professor of Chemistry, and Jack Zerbe, Professor of Theatre Studies, guide the new programs, themed "Science Laboratory" and "Fine Arts Gallery," respectively. Those programs are still in the process of settling.

...The C.A.I. program is a program in which students gather to formally address complaints and resolve the grievances that arise from living together. A similar program started in 1994 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Upon analyzing the damage and vandalism done by students, the administration speculated that the students had no sense of ownership. Therefore they decided to gather the students together so they could agree on what rules by which they wanted to live. At Guilford 154 first and second-year students are affiliated with the program, and work with six Residential Advisors (RA's) and

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RNC Concludes

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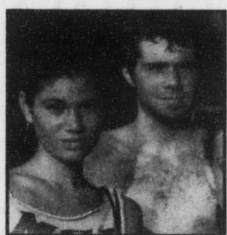
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