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Campus counseling, health respond to criticism

Kaitlyn Moore

Staff Writer

One suicide and several attempted suicides have brought mental health issues to the attention of the Guilford community this year. Some students, though, have concerns about Guilford's counseling and health services.

"A lot of things can combine together to make it why, on a college campus, you might have suicide attempts," said Dean for Campus Life Anne Lundquist. She lists factors such as class and relationship stress, and the change in environment when students move to school. Some students also decide to change routines, such as therapy or medication, upon coming to school.

Though the campus Counseling Center and Health Center are available, some students are wary of going to them, citing them as impersonal or inadequate. Some, such as third-year Benjamin "Ben G" Katz have specific complaints about particular offices.

"When you try to kill yourself and you go to the counselor and are actually open about it, they make you sign a piece of paper saying that you'll never do it again, or they'll kick you out of school," Katz said of a friend's experience with the Counseling Center. "That's the last thing you should do to a person who tries to commit suicide - give them an ultimatum."

When asked about the policy, Lundquist said, "No, there's no blanket way that this works ... there does come a point where you're a member of a community. When people make a suicide attempt on a campus where everyone's living so close together, that can trigger things for other people."

"It's very rare that what the student wants and what the college wants are two opposite things," Lundquist added. "Usually it's collaborative ... working with the student, working with the counseling center, working with their family - if the student has given permission to contact them - and trying to come up with the best solution for that person."

A related office, on-campus health services, receives similar criticism. "I kind of feel like cattle, being herded through the bureaucracy of Guilford's health system," said first-year Amanda Szabo.

Szabo explained that, because she could not get a Friday appointment, she had vomited all of one weekend. She said that the health office should be open every day, and that medication should be easier to get. She said of other appointments with the health center,

"Even when you are treated, a lot of time it's in a very bureaucratic manner that's very dehumanizing."

When asked about student complaints of impersonality, Director of Student Health Helen Rice said, "I'd hate to think they felt that way."

"We're all trying to do the best we can," said Health Services receptionist, first-year Mary Juravich. "If people are rushing or impersonal, it's probably because they have 10 other people waiting."

A physician's assistant who can prescribe

medication is on campus from 9-12 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:15-4:00 p.m. Students with after-hours emergencies or more serious illnesses are sent to Greensboro's Urgent Care facility.

Students must have appointments to see a physician's assistant.

"People get frustrated, but it's really just the school that

doesn't fund enough hours," Juravich said. "We're all doing the best we can."

Health Services shares the umbrella of Campus Life with the Counseling Center. Lundquist calls each part of the counseling process individualized from the beginning. "There are a lot of different options of ways to get in the door, usually I just encourage

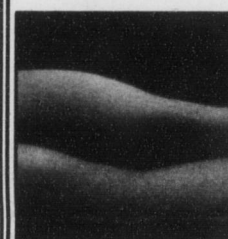
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Ukrainian election decided

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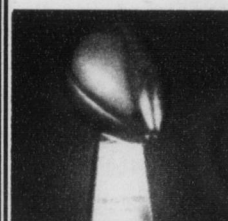
Sex and the Semester

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Bring Back slapstick!

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Students neglect Bryan series

Kaitlin Ugolik

Staff Writer

In the past three years, campus attendance at Bryan Series lectures has decreased from 300 to 75, according to a list of attendance estimates for the events since 2001. Guilford students aren't attending the lectures and the organizers are wondering why.

The Bryan Series is a gift from namesake Joseph M. Bryan Jr. Bryan, an alumnus and current chair of the college's board of trustees, set up an endowed fund to be used to hire speakers.

The annual sum of money Guilford receives from this fund is to be used only for speakers, with an aim to honor the arts, humanities, and public affairs.



INSLEE HACKETT/GUILFORDIAN

Bryan speakers in 2004 included Mary Pipher

"I will be the first to tell you," says Director of College Relations Ty Buckner, "not every speaker is a household name. We use the input of the faculty, Joe Bryan, and the students, to keep the series academically oriented."

Buckner, who is one of the

program's organizers, sees a strong integrity in the program. He emphasizes that the program's purpose is educational.

Though the series provides good publicity for the college and is designed to appeal to a wide range of people all around the city, the true goal is education. Speakers are never hired for pure entertainment.

"I want to emphasize," said philosophy professor Jonathan Malino, another key organizer in an e-mail, "what an extraordinary opportunity the Bryan Series offers both the entire Guilford community and the wider Greensboro community. The speakers are not ones we normally have

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