



THE GUILFORDIAN

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JENA 6 UPDATE

Conviction overturned; Bell still in jail

By Pascale Vallee
W & N EDITOR

It has been more than nine months since a white student was beaten up at a high school in Jena, La., longer since three nooses were hung from a tree. It's also been more than two weeks since Mychal Bell's conviction was overturned - and yet he still sits in jail.

Judge J.P. Mauffray declined a defense motion for a writ of habeas corpus seeking to have Bell, one of the group dubbed "Jena Six," released from jail, where he has waited for nearly 10 months for an assault against Justin Barker.

The Jena Six story begins in September 2006 when a group of black students at the Jena High School wanted to sit underneath a traditionally "whites-only" tree. The day after the vice principal told the students to sit wherever they wished, three nooses painted in the school's official colors were found hanging from the tree.

Scott Windham, the school's principal, expelled the three white students responsible. However the superintendent overruled the decision, allegedly stating that the nooses were "a youthful prank." The white students received a three-day suspension.

"Those nooses meant hatred," said Robert Bailey's mother, Caseptla, in a telephone interview. "They send a clear

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ANNETTE GRIFFIN/GUILFORDIAN

The VOX meeting held on Thursday, Sept. 20, focused on promoting support and raising political awareness.

Vox validates sex education

New Planned Parenthood group offers women reproductive advice

By Jake Blumgart
SENIOR WRITER

"It's very important to have an open dialogue about sex," said sophomore Hailey Moses at Guilford's first Vox (Voices for Planned Parenthood) meeting. "Because people do it a lot. And they don't need to be afraid to talk about these things."

Vox (which means "voice" in Latin), is a new campus organization that seeks to educate people about their reproductive rights and freedoms. It provides support for people dealing with reproductive issues on campus and will soon offer free car rides to Planned Parenthood.

"I thought it was ludicrous that a college

like Guilford didn't have a Vox program," senior Co-President and Co-Coordinator Beth Tyson said. "The idea is to educate people about safe sex, sexual health, the right to choose and where to get the resources to ensure those things."

But Vox wants to reach beyond the Guilford College campus. With a presidential election coming up, Vox wants to raise political awareness about reproductive issues and help promote pro-choice candidates.

"Vox is a great way to get involved with contemporary politics," said senior Co-President and Co-Coordinator Ana Martinez. "We can focus on things like George Bush's global gag order. Guilford can be a very insular place, but with Vox we can try to raise awareness about bigger issues outside the campus setting."

While the political aspect of Vox is important to the founders, some members have

become involved for reasons that are more personal.

"I'm a single mother and I know how difficult it is for young women out there," said junior CCE Vox member Adrienne Martin. "I have a cousin who is 21 and is pregnant and in college and it has been very hard for her. She has to finish out her senior year and start being a mom all at the same time. I want to help out other people and help set up support for them."

Providing support and guidance to Guilford students will be Vox's bread and butter. Martinez plans to work with the Health Center to provide information to students about Planned Parenthood. She is particularly interested in combating the widespread misconception that Planned Parenthood only deals with abortion issues.

"People think that Planned Parenthood

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Hollywood stars at home in War Memorial Auditorium; panel tackles social service issue



By Alana Gibson
STAFF WRITER

BRYAN SERIES KICKS OFF

On Sept. 18, the first major event of this year's Bryan Series brought together three veteran actors: Louis Gossett Jr., Jane Seymour, and Kathleen Turner. The heart of the matter was not Paris Hilton or Britney Spears, but social service, one of Guilford's unofficial core values.

Seymour, a contestant on this season's Dancing with the Stars, sat in an elegant posture stage left. Turner, voice of the seductive Jessica Rabbit, emitted a contagious energy as she laughed boisterously in her seat, stage right. Gossett, winner of an Emmy, Academy Award and Golden globe, sat casually between the two ladies.

The moderator began by asking how the actors' professions contributed to their social change efforts.

"I really believe everyone should do what they can do," said Seymour. "When you

have a voice that can reach many people, you should use it to bring their attention to a positive cause."

Seymour's response led the moderator to ask, "should a celebrity take a political stand once they have a platform?"

Turner, chairperson for Planned Parenthood of America, warned that celebrities tend to unintentionally influence people.

"What I say and do in my own life is separate from my work ... I feel when the two mix, it creates a sort of propaganda," said Turner.

Seymour announced that she is careful to conceal her political stance, preferring to associate her name with issues, such as child abuse for which she is an activist, instead of candidates.

Gossett, who runs the Shomba Center, a mentorship program for youth, believed that concealing your vote was

irresponsible.

"We have a duty to tell what we think," said Gossett. "Whether you agree or not is different. We travel all over the country and the world. We see things that you guys can't see."

The moderator then asked if the actors' passions for social change stemmed from their careers or were instilled earlier. The three actors agreed that service was instilled in them first and they began to discuss the need to impart the duties of service to following generations.

Turner remembers learning as a child that service was a step to enhancing communities.

Seymour shared that she prefers service because volunteers can see the benefits of their labor. Often it is hard to ensure that donations

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