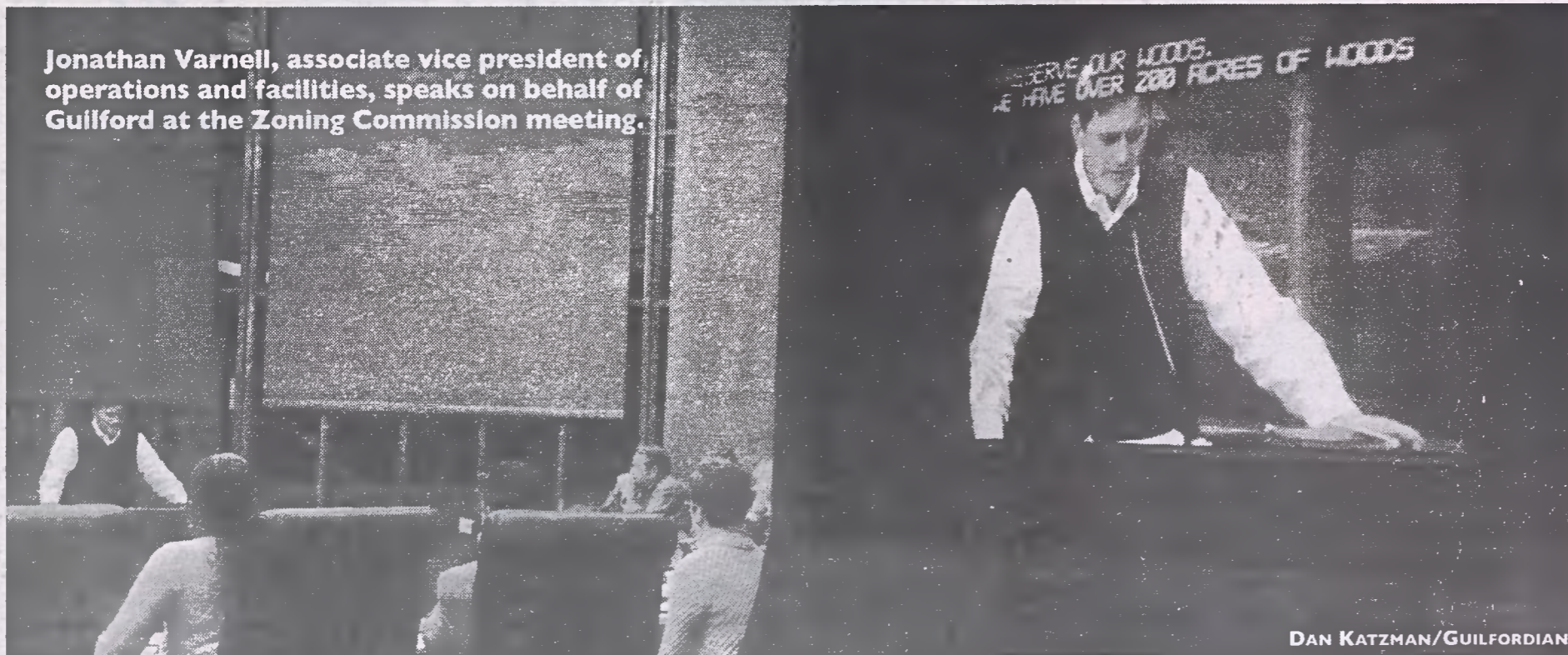


REZONING



Jonathan Varnell, associate vice president of operations and facilities, speaks on behalf of Guilford at the Zoning Commission meeting.

DAN KATZMAN/GUILFORDIAN

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housing. So this becomes a real positive in trying to keep students here near campus," said Jonathan Varnell, associate vice president of operations and facilities for the college and Guilford's representative at the Council meeting. "There are a lot of positives to the land being developed."

Other proposed changes to the property include adding a lighted walking and biking path to the college, potentially connecting Dolly Madison to George White Road, and expanding a portion of Dolly Madison to handle the increased traffic.

Dixon asserted during the meeting that he had been very transparent with his intentions throughout the planning process. Varnell affirmed Dixon's claim.

"Randy Dixon contacted the school, like he did the other neighbors," said Varnell. "I sat down with him along with Vic Cochran, the vice chairman of the board of trustees. The three of us met, and Dixon showed us his plans and we talked through them."

The neighbors did not, on the other hand, feel that Dixon had been transparent and open.

"There was never a time when the property was posted for sale and we were never directly notified about the development plans," said Les McCaskill, Foxwood Drive resident and husband of Pamela Robertson. "We were told by our neighbor, Gary Neustel. He was the only one in the neighborhood to receive a

notice of the rezoning meeting."

Greensboro regulations require zoning notices to be sent to houses within 150 feet of the property line of the proposed development.

Other neighbors had similar experiences to McCaskill's. Guilford junior and Foxwood Drive resident Gabriella Spang found out from her neighbor Jim Newlin, who had also learned of the development plans from Neustel.

Spang joined the fight against the development both to support her neighbors and because she sees this as a microcosm of greater land rights issues. She gathered 115 signatures from Guilford students and faculty in opposition.

"My experience with political science, peace and conflict studies, and environmental studies has exposed me to a lot of information about land rights conflicts around the world," said Spang. "Though this is smaller, it feels similar."

Other students voiced strong opposition to the development.

Sophomore Katrina Siladi, president of Forevergreen, was one of the seven Guilford students who attended the Commission meeting.

"I'm opposed to the idea that progress equals more apartment buildings on top of beautiful, historic woods," said Siladi.

Dixon says that their development plan will leave 1.3 acres undisturbed and leave as many of the trees alone on the property as

they can.

"Given the density he's planning to construct, and given the requirements he has for parking and just to get the job done, I'm sure he doesn't intend to clear-cut the property," said Robertson. "But, the practical result is that he isn't going to be able to construct what he wants to construct without taking down nearly every tree on that property."

Guilford has decided to support Dixon in his development efforts. The combination of needing to provide more accessible student housing and their belief that development is imminent on the property have weighed into their decision.

"If the property stays woods we're cool with that," said Varnell. "But, we're pretty convinced, based on a lot of different experience, that that property is going to be developed. In that case, we want to have a lot of say about that. That's why we decided to affirm what Dixon has agreed to do, because the guy really has been outstanding. He has acquiesced to our requests."

"Guilford's always been, by virtue of the Quaker side of the school, a very positive force in the community," said McCaskill. "The lack of support now, just indicates a change that I'm somewhat bewildered by."

Dixon's appeal case goes before the Zoning Commission on Dec. 18. The meeting will be held in the City Council Chamber in the Melvin Municipal Office Building, 300 West Washington Street. The meeting starts at 2:00 p.m. and is open to the public.

Isabel Allende speaks on life, loss and love

By Nasimeh Easton
SENIOR WRITER

"I am a writer because I was blessed with an ear for stories, an unhappy childhood, and a crazy family," said author Isabel Allende.

Allende spoke at the Greensboro Coliseum on Nov. 13 as part of the 2007-2008 Bryan series. 1,600 Guilford students, faculty, staff, and community members filled the Coliseum to hear the Chilean author speak about love, life, loss, and the role of women in today's world.

"It is from memory and a sense of love that a passion for writing emerges," Allende said. "I write because I need to remember."

The idea for her first book, "The House of the Spirits," came directly from memory. It began as a letter to her dying grandfather, eventually evolving into a manuscript, then a published novel in 1982.

Allende's writing career did not begin with her first book. In the 1960s, she briefly held a

job translating romantic novels from English into Spanish. She was fired once the editor noticed that she had been altering the stories' "Cinderella" endings to ones where the heroine found not a prince, but instead her own sense of independence.

In her speech, Allende was just as assertive about the role of women in today's society as she had been with the heroines of the stories.

"The time is right for women to participate fully in the management of this endangered planet," Allende said. "80 percent of the women of the world are still treated like cattle. Ladies, it's time for a massive rebellion."

What women can use to promote this change, Allende said, is something called "mamisma."

"Mamisma is the wild mother energy, the passionate, loving energy of the mother. It is love at its very best - warm and reassuring," Allende said.

At the core of "mamisma" is the topic that Allende focused most of her attention on

throughout the evening: love. Every point she made came back to the importance of love and its inevitable presence in everyone's life.

"Love first trapped me when I was 11. Since then, I have always been in love," Allende said.

Love led Allende to take a step away from writing and do her part to help others. After her daughter died, Allende created the Isabel Allende Foundation in her memory. The foundation supports nonprofits that provide health, education, reproductive, and anti-violence services for women.

Allende stressed the importance of helping others in love and life - an idea very familiar to the Guilford community.

"It is a wonderful truth that the things we want most in life, happiness and hope, can be obtained most easily by giving them to others," said Allende. "I'm going to be generous and helpful because it makes me feel good. That is practical love."

NEWS

Budget forum tells of spending woes

By Jake Blumgart
SENIOR WRITER

Guilford ended the 2006-07 fiscal year in June with a \$1.4 million deficit, but now, after a \$600,000 budget cut, the college's budget is back on track.

The 2006-07 deficit and the resulting budgetary modifications are at the center of the ambiguous state of Guilford's economic fortunes, which was the focus of the annual budget forum, held Nov. 14 in the Leak room.

Members of the budget committee were scattered throughout the moderate-sized crowd that trickled into the room throughout the hour-long forum session. Various faculty and staff made appearances. President Kent Chabotar slipped in mid-way through and sat in the back of the room for the remainder of the forum.

"One of the most common questions we get in budget meetings is how did we get here?" said Heather Hayton, budget committee chair, as she began her introduction to this year's forum. "One of the things that has contributed to where we are financially is that we committed as a campus to building new student housing a couple years ago ... which has limited our ability to borrow more money."

But the new apartments are just one of several constraints upon Guilford's financial situation. Hayton detailed the hiring of new faculty, the delayed launch of capital campaign outlined in the Strategic Long Term Plan (SLRP), rising inflation, the massive renovations of Duke and King Halls, and a decrease in both CCE and summer enrollment. All have taken their toll on the budget.

The college projected continued growth for the 2006-07 fiscal year but growth, (specifically CCE growth) dropped, leaving a sizeable gap in the budget. The resulting \$600,000 budget cut was taken out of every department from campus life to IT&S.

"Last year was the first year we have had a deficit in a long while," said Brennan Aberle, treasurer of Community Senate. "We only get income three times a year (at the beginning of fall, spring and summer sessions). We spend money every day and we need to keep track of that."

Aberle was one of five students at the forum, the highest student attendance rate in the last four years.

After Hayton's brief introductory presentation, the floor was given over to the audience. Many topics were touched upon including the potential for a large increase in tuition prices. An enormous price increase was deemed unlikely because the school wants to remain affordable for as many potential students as possible.

"This may be a strange question," said Jim Hood, associate professor of English and current head of the English department. "But if this were your home budget, what would you do to fix it? Would you get a new job, cut back expenses, go and sell lemonade on the corner?"

"There is no silver bullet that is going to solve our current financial situation and make (us) look like we are Earlham," Hayton said. "(But) the path we are on is a good one ... we are increasing the value of the college in the long term. That doesn't mean (we) can ignore the short term. If this were my home budget it would mean I was eating ramen a little bit more."