



THE GUILFORDIAN

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QUAKERISM AT GUILFORD

Is Quaker presence on campus declining?

By Benjamin Sepsenwol
STAFF WRITER

The meaning of how Guilford should be Quaker has changed over the college's history.

According to Friends Historical Collection Librarian and College Archivist Gwen Erickson, the question of whether Guilford still adheres to Quaker values can be problematic.

"There is no Quaker template," explained Erickson.

"Quakerism is a very diverse tradition," continued Erickson as she pointed at a chart of the several different branches of Quakerism. "An issue such as gay marriage has just as much dispute within Quakerism as outside Quakerism."

Erickson said that when Guilford was founded as a boarding school in 1837, only Quakers were allowed to attend. As a result, Guilford could, in some ways, be considered less Quaker today because fewer students are Quaker.

However, Director of the Friends Center and Campus Ministry Coordinator Max Carter said that although the boarding school was all Quaker originally, it was segregated and had no women's sports teams.

"Today, Guilford offers courses on women's studies, African studies, and queer studies," said Carter. "We are far more in touch with the Quaker values than before."

However, Erickson affirms that Quakerism still plays a vital role in the college despite the ambiguity of what exactly Quaker values are and whether Guilford remains Quaker.

Quakers have values universally agreed upon, such as stewardship and diversity. While these values are humanitarian ideals, said Erickson, Guilford as a Quaker college holds these humanitarian ideals to a higher standard.

"The very fact this article is being written shows that there are people concerned with whether or not Guilford still is Quaker," said Erickson.

According to Carter, Guilford is perceived by those outside of Guilford as one of the most strongly Quaker-associated Quaker colleges in the country, rivaled only by Earlham.

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SEE PAGE 4 FOR THE REST OF OUR MULTI-STORY EXPLORATION OF GUILFORD'S QUAKER PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.



ERIC CAMPBELL/GUILFORDIAN

LEADERSHIP AND EMPOWERMENT ANNUAL SOY UN LÍDER CONFERENCE INSPIRES AREA HIGH SCHOOLERS

By Eric Campbell
STAFF WRITER

"Raise your hands. Who here is a leader?" asked Latino Community Program Coordinator and International Student Advisor Jorge Zeballos in Spanish.

A veritable forest of raised arms filled the Alumni Gym.

The Soy Un Líder ("I Am a Leader") Conference is an annual event at Guilford that brings together students of Latin American descent from all over the region, this year welcoming students of Palestinian, Sudanese, and Congolese descent as well. About 200 students from over 20 high schools took part.

After addresses from Zeballos and event organizer and junior Yazmin Garcia Rico, keynote speaker Raúl Granados

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HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS WEEK

Workshops illuminate realities of hunger and homelessness in GSO

By Abbey Dean and
Chris Matteo
STAFF WRITERS

Imagine the last meal you ate. Envision the satisfaction of having a full stomach. More than likely, you chose what you wanted, when you wanted, and where you wanted to eat.

Now, imagine not having a choice.

From Nov. 16-22, an array of events took place across campus to commemorate Guilford's own celebration of Hunger and Homelessness Week. Each event was designed to enlighten the Guilford community on the reality of hunger, and the people for whom hunger and homelessness are a daily reality.

The week began with a showing of the

movie "Fresh," which emphasized the importance of local, organic produce and advocated the need for a sustainable food source.

"'Fresh' highlights a more grassroots activist approach to cure homelessness," said senior Hunger Fellow and event coordinator Damian Popkin. "It challenges people to deal with homelessness from the bottom up, instead of self-perpetuating the bureaucratic cycle."

The film was a plea for viewers to become more knowledgeable about where their food comes from, as well as conscious of the health and economic factors that should be taken

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CLOUD GAMBLE/GUILFORDIAN

Daniel Woodham, a local organic farmer, discusses sustainable food options with CCE student Leshia Marcus. The panel, which included other locally based hunger activists, spoke in the Greenleaf on Nov. 17.

Kenyan tribe faces eviction from native land

By Madeline Lambelet
STAFF WRITER

Disease. Corrupt politics. Invasive spread of industries. Disdain from fellow countrymen. Abusive attacks. The Ogiek people of Kenya have survived it all, but a new opponent may be too much.

The Ogiek have lived in the

Mau Forest for centuries and are some of the last remaining groups that live off traditional hunting and gathering.

Now, a government plan to evict thousands of people from the forest is threatening their cultural existence.

"This is very serious; the Ogiek have nowhere else to go," said Kiplanget Cheruyot of the Ogiek

People's Development Program to Survival International in an interview. "People are crying about the eviction. The government said it would spare no one, not even a goat or a chicken."

The eviction plan has already begun receiving criticism from Ogiek supporters, as well as environmentalists. Over the

past 15 years, the forest has already lost 25 percent of its trees, according to The New York Times, which has caused substantial environmental concerns and has raised doubts about the government's intentions.

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