

Occupy soldiers on through cold weather



By Adrienne Mattson-Perdue
STAFF WRITER

Thousands of houses stand empty around the country. Soon, a few of these buildings will be Occupied.

Last week I stated that Occupy Wall Street should run a candidate in the upcoming election season in order to solidify the movement's impact on the world. Now, I would like to take a look at where Occupy Wall Street is actually taking their effort.

Things have not been looking good for Occupy Wall Street in recent weeks. Protesters have been bruised. Evictions across the country seem to have left the movement in shambles.

Occupy Wall Street soldiers on.

Rather than battering down the will of the 99 percent, recent attacks on the

movement have left its members more determined, with more dramatic statements in the works.

Occupy Wall Street, teaming up with the Occupy Our Homes movement, has planned a National Day of Action for Dec. 6. On this day, Occupy protesters in 15 cities will march to undisclosed foreclosed-upon homes and move in homeless families.

This action makes a clear point. The Occupy movement is tired of banks taking homes from families whose tax dollars bailed out the banks.

This action, however, does not offer a permanent solution. A National Day of Action is still just one day.

While moving a family into an abandoned house is an excellent way of demonstrating what the government should be doing in the eyes of the protesters — keeping families in their homes — it does not actually prevent families from being removed.

The people moving in to these abandoned

homes will have a place to live until they are removed, at which point the family is back to square one, or worse, should someone be arrested for the occupation.

Another issue with this plan is a practical one. Foreclosed-on houses are often not maintained properly. In my neighborhood, opportunists often break into houses and steal copper piping and metal fixtures to sell as scrap.

This can go unnoticed for months in the winter, because many of these houses are left without heat, leaving the remaining plumbing blocked with ice until spring.

Unless the Occupiers have a way of getting heating oil, electricity, and other services that are often cut off when houses are foreclosed on, their efforts will be unsuccessful.

Occupying homes makes a dramatic statement, but it does not make a permanent change. Without more long-term planning, the movement will fail to have the impact it wants.

After all, winter is cold in New York.

"Rather than battering down the will of the 99 percent, recent attacks on the movement have left its members more determined, with more dramatic statements in the works."

AIDS: a weapon of mass destruction



By Natalie Sutton
STAFF WRITER

Can you imagine a world without AIDS? Chances are if you were born in the 1980s or later, then you have never known such a world. If something does not change soon, we may never live to see an AIDS-free world.

Since it is AIDS Awareness Month, now is the chance to question how much time, money and effort has been put into AIDS research and finding a cure for the disease. Is enough being done to stop the worldwide massacre that AIDS creates?

I would say not, considering that, unlike other fatal diseases (like cancer), we know exactly how people get AIDS, and yet still millions die every year. Let's use December as the time to say, "Something must be done to stop this global destruction."

AIDS is an extremely misunderstood disease. There are many different, often extreme, conspiracies surrounding AIDS and a general closed-minded misconception of who gets the disease.

Some people speculate that pharmaceutical companies are not trying hard enough to find a cure because it is more profitable to treat the disease than to cure it.

Some say the disease was invented in the White House as a means to cause genocide of people of color.

Since there is not enough proof to back up such powerful claims, I do not buy them.

What I do believe, however, is that there is a particularly unfair and inaccurate stigma that comes with the word "AIDS."

People think of AIDS as the "gay disease" or the "black disease" or the "disease of sin." Such small-mindedness and ignorance is part of the reason that AIDS Awareness Month

is so important. Obviously, people of all ages, races, sexual orientations, religious beliefs, etc. can become infected with the disease.

To believe otherwise is ignoring science and reality. So let's use December as an opportunity to eliminate such small-minded ignorance and learn more about AIDS as a disease and the progress of research and finding a cure.

According to The New York Times, the number of deaths from AIDS "declined for the third year in a row, falling to 1.8 million in 2010 from a peak of 2.2 million." Additionally, with all of the new drugs available for AIDS patients, the disease "is no longer an automatic death sentence."

Along with a decreased death rate and increased drug supply, "the number of people being treated has soared to 6.6 million of the 14.2 million people sick enough to need the drugs," according to The New York Times.

Although this is all good news and it makes me optimistic about the future of AIDS research, there are still 1.8 million people dying from the disease and not even half of those who are diagnosed are able to afford proper treatment.

This is a huge deal. Imagine if not even half of those with cancer had access to treatment. There would be enraged protests and shouts of injustice and mass murder.

Why is there none of this for AIDS? Are people still so ignorant about the disease that they find it an unworthy cause? We should not tolerate indifference and ignorance being shoved onto millions of people's lives.

To see a world without AIDS, prevention and treatment strategies are needed. Unfortunately, with the economic recession, funding for the cause has slowed.

The New York Times reports that "the global economic downturn led to a collective decline in donor assistance last year — to \$7.6 billion in 2010 from \$8.7 billion in 2009 — well short of the \$24 billion thought needed by 2015."

Will we ever live to see an AIDS-free world again?

No one can say for sure, but I certainly hope so. With the economic crisis and huge AIDS-related death tolls, it seems unlikely at times, but recent improvements in medicine and research appear to be taking us a step closer to such a world.

But a step closer is still not good enough. As a society, we should not settle for "better," we should not be satisfied until we live in an AIDS-free world.

AIDS is a weapon of mass destruction and my hope is that people will start getting angry about this world-wide genocide and start demanding justice.

Staff Editorial

The Guilfordian's wish list for the upcoming semester

With the end of the year rolling in, everyone is wishin' and hopin' and praying' for things to help them get through the stress of finals.

The Guilfordian is no different. We have a wish list for the spring semester. These items might not fit into a stocking, but we hope they will enhance your Guilfordian experience in the new year.

Without further ado, here's our 2011 Wish List:

1. The Guilfordian is ditching our College Publisher website and creating a new more user-friendly page. We hope the website will allow for more multimedia packages, complete with videos, soundbites, slideshows, interviews and more!

2. In other Internet news, our social justice team is excited to unveil its new social justice website in January. The website will be linked to www.guilfordian.com and will provide stories from Guilford and the Greensboro community. The team hopes to join forces with CPPS and other organizations on campus to spread awareness of social justice issues.

3. Here at the Guilfordian, we work hard to represent the whole campus, and we want to make sure that everyone's voices are heard. We hope that the new website and the social justice team will offer doorways to discussion and cooperation among all members of the Guilford community.

4. A new study abroad blog will be started next semester by an editor on our staff who will be traveling to London. We hope this will close the gap between Guilford community and our students who are exploring other cultures.

5. The Guilfordian wants to put a face to the paper that you read weekly. We hope to do this by creating a brand, or an identity for ourselves, one that represents who we are. We will be holding events and functions in the future to promote this new identity.

We here wish you a pleasant, relaxing, and happy holiday season. We cannot wait to return in January and begin working on making our wishes for the paper and our community come true.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE GUILFORDIAN CONSISTS OF FIVE SECTION EDITORS, A PHOTO EDITOR, LAYOUT EDITOR, WEB EDITOR, DIVERSITY COORDINATOR, ADVERTISING MANAGER, VIDEO EDITOR, EXECUTIVE PRINT COPY EDITOR, EXECUTIVE WEB COPY EDITOR, SOCIAL JUSTICE EDITOR, MANAGING EDITOR, AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

REFLECTING GUILFORD COLLEGE'S CORE QUAKER VALUES, THE TOPICS AND CONTENT OF STAFF EDITORIALS ARE CHOSEN THROUGH CONSENSUS OF ALL 16 EDITORS.