

Getting away from it all

by Howard Luehrs

After a late start, the Biophile Club roamed off campus last Saturday, on a field trip to Stone Mountain State Park. Taking 2½ hours for a 1½ hour drive, we visited glorious Elkin and Arlington, N.C., before arriving at Traphill, the nearest corner to the park.

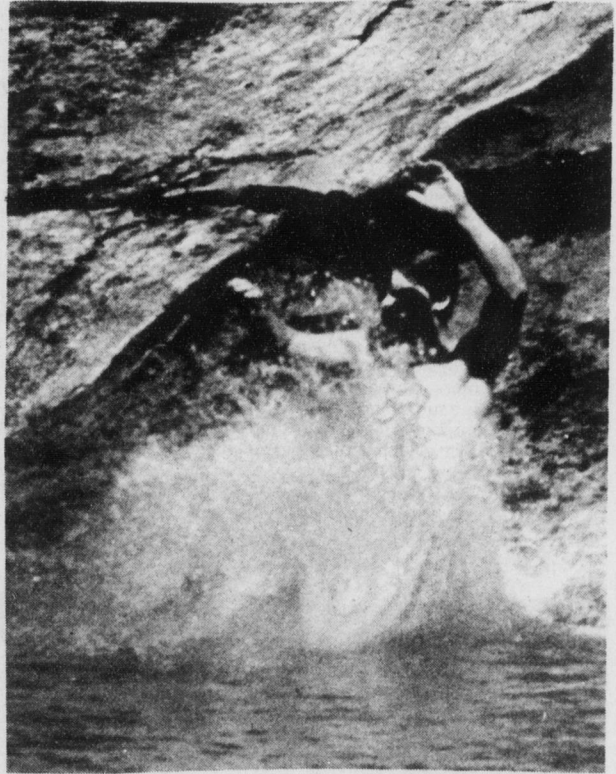
Rambling down the one-lane, dirt road into the park, the immense granite outcropping loomed in front of us. Lacking a fear of heights, we practically ran up the trail to the towering peak of Stone Mtn. Sidetracked onto the rockface, four of us learned how to lower our center of gravity while climbing.

While our free-lance photographer took light meter readings, the rest of us tested wind

currents with the official Biophile frisbee. After posing for our group picture, hunger drove us to "Eagle 1" and lunch. Munching out on PB&J, apples and oranges, we prepared for the second half of the day, to be spent in the lower half of the park.

Walking down the near-level trail, a break from the morn-

ing's mountain climbing, we anticipated sliding into the refreshingly cool waters of Middle Falls. The walk was worth it; for the next 2 hours, the rocks were our waterslide. Leaving, at the invasion of the Boy Scouts, we descended to Lower Falls. Here, a second waterslide provided entertainment for our last hour in Stone Mountain State Park.



Shakespeare comes to Carolina

by Sara Bohn

Within a twenty minute drive Guilford College is one of the nest professional regional theatres: the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival. Mike Spanel, a former Guilford student and a Duke University graduate, is the Director of Audience Development at the Shakespeare Festival. In a recent conversation with Mike Spanel, **The Guilfordian** learned of the background and development of this remarkable theatre.

The North Carolina Shakespeare Festival was founded in 1977 by two actors from New York City, Mark Woods and Stuart Brooks. Disillusioned with Broadway and concerned that the quality of theatre in New York City was incommensurate with ticket prices, Woods and Brooks sought to establish a professional regional theatre. After investigating several large cities across the country, Woods and Brooks settled on High Point, North Carolina, a seemingly unlikely site. There were attractions to High Point, however, that seemed advantageous to the development of a theatre. There was an ultra modern theatre empty in the summer and a central location in a growing cultural and economic area.

There were problems, however, with starting a professional theatre in this region. Although North Carolina boasts the first state-supported School for the Arts in the country, traditionally there had been little support for theatre. Lack of professional quality and fiscal mismanagement had doomed previous theatre companies. Audiences were unsophisticated and their experience with theatre was limited to travelling Broadway shows, dinner theatres, and local high school and college drama.

The North Carolina Shakespeare Festival has broken the trend and set an example for regional theatre. "The theatre was a phenomenal success and defied marketing predictions" says Mike Spanel. "The theatre was critically acclaimed, financially sound, and an audience success."

The unique fund-raising approach, the quality of actors and directors, and the type of dramatic works selected were contributing factors to the theatre's success. The initial monies had been secured **without** a guarantee of box office success, allowing the theatre to return any profits made back into the budget. Actors and actresses came from New York, Chicago, and the School for the Arts,

attracted by the promise of more challenging roles and an opportunity to work in an earnest and sincere company guided not by avarice, but a desire to perfect their craft. North Carolina audiences were ready for quality theatre.



"The theatre has increased in scope, quality, and size and is gaining a national reputation" claims Mike Spanel. "People literally plan their vacations around the summer festival, which is composed of entirely classical works from Shakespeare to Moliere." Mike is quick to say, however, that the theatre does not close in the fall. "Our season runs through December, offering a selection of contemporary drama and our traditional finale of **A Christmas Carol**."

As a former Guilfordian student, Mike enthusiastically invites students and faculty to enjoy the theatre. "The aca-

democratic perspective is invaluable and the theatre lends itself to different levels of people's intellectual perception." "Besides," he adds, "it's great entertainment and a change of pace from television, the stereo, and your dorm room."

The fall season this year includes contemporary works by American playwrights: **Born Yesterday** (September 16-21), **The Last Meeting of the Knights of the White Magnolia** (October 14-18), and **The Heiress**. (November 11-16). It is an outstanding fall line-up of comedy, a Pulitzer award winning play, and a play with an unexpected ending.

The North Carolina Shakespeare Festival is easy to find. Take I-40 West and exit on Highway 68. Take a left towards High Point and follow this road for about 8 miles. Turn left on Main Street and go 3-4 miles. Turn left on Commerce Street. The theatre is on the right-hand side of Commerce Street and is a huge building, taking up an entire city block. Parking is available across the street in the Sears parking lot. The number for reservations is 887-3001. Be sure you tell them you are a Guilford student or faculty member in order to get your discount prices on tickets for **Born Yesterday**.



If you missed out in being a dorm representative but still would like to become involved in the Community Senate, you could be in luck. This week four Academic Senators will be selected to represent the entire student body.

Academic senators have the same responsibilities as dorm representatives. They differ in that they are not elected, but are selected by a Senate committee, and in the fact they represent the whole student body and not one particular dormitory. They also are intended to be especially concerned with the academic welfare of the college.

To become an academic senator, petition the senate, in writing, by noon, Wednesday the 17th. Include in the petition the reasons why you would like to become an academic senator. A senate committee will then select four academic senators from the petitions.