



By Keyla Beebe  
STAFF WRITER

While the coffee and couches stay the same, the Greenleaf Coffee Co-Op is constantly changing.

Located in the basement of Mary Hobbs Hall, the Greenleaf is a cooperative, volunteer-run coffee shop serving fair-trade coffee and local baked goods. As a non-hierarchical organization, Greenleaf members promote consensus and transparency within the co-op.

The Greenleaf started in 2005, almost a year after the original student run co-op, The Underground, was shut down.

"The Greenleaf was only rarely about the coffee," said former co-op member Diesel Robertson '08 in an e-mail interview. "In the early days, only a few of us were very good at that part ... what kept people coming were the community and the atmosphere."

Original members had many ideas, such as a cooperative building, that never made it off the ground.

"In the beginning, some of the staff wanted the Greenleaf to serve alcohol," said former co-op member Steve Watkins '06.

Watkins said while not part of the Quaker values, some hoped it would reduce driving accidents, as students would not have to drive to a bar off-campus. This proposal was never passed.

"The Greenleaf was also a hub of activism on campus," said Robertson. "You could count on socially conscious conversation, literature, and people hanging around anytime you were down there."

Watkins said that when the Greenleaf was first formed, there was tension as members tried to find a balance between a welcoming space and a politically active space.

"One year we would be political, but not that bad," said Robertson. "The next year we were all declaring ourselves Marxist."

While the Greenleaf is still an area for free speech, the staff has begun efforts to combat the exclusive stigma it developed.

"(The Greenleaf) originated from organizing a point of solidarity for political campaigns outside Guilford," said senior and Greenleaf member Zak Wear. "A big change is we've moved away from that. It's been a passive movement."

In its mission statement, the Greenleaf establishes its values of anti-oppression, social and economic justice, and sustainability. One of the ways they attempt to support these values is through community-building, reads the mission statement.

"There is a strong sense we have been unsuccessful in creating a positive, well-known space on campus," said senior and Greenleaf member Alex Knox. "A lot of people are taking initiative to address the issues of lack of integration."

The history, provided in the Greenleaf manual, records the co-op being "seen by non-members as semi-controversial and standoffish," as early as the fall of 2005.

Currently, members are aware that outside opinion is one of the challenges of the co-op's politically active history.

"It's important for people to understand we are very accepting of everyone's viewpoints," said first-year and co-op member Billy Millman.

Knox notes the positive changes he's seen over the last four years, such as more sustainable practices (seen in com-

postable cups), higher training standards, and better quality coffee.

While members hope customer satisfaction will continue to attract students, some are considering plans such as reorganizing the internal structure and adding new non-coffee based drinks.

A new approach to reach the digital generation includes the Greenleaf's new Wikia page and Twitter feed.

"At first, I was kind of against them," said senior and member Meredith Luby. "But it's fun to look and see who's on shift."

From posting upcoming events and general information to random pictures and inside jokes, members hope to use the sites to reach parts of Guilford that would otherwise not know about the co-op.

Robertson, present at the Greenleaf's founding, says she supports the web pages if they get more people into buying the Greenleaf's coffee.

While many senior members leave at the end of this semester, many feel optimistic that the Greenleaf will continue strong.

"In the past, a group of people knew how to do things, and when they left, others had to learn," said Luby. "Now we are focused on skill sharing, to carry knowledge through."

This transferred knowledge will help to uphold the levels of professionalism members strive to keep.

"The Greenleaf never fails to achieve customer satisfaction," said Knox. "That is the bottom line to achieving good relations with the community."

Many co-op members are hopeful that the Greenleaf will continue to reach out in the Guilford community and attract a greater variety of people.

"I feel the perception from outside the Greenleaf has changed for the better," said Luby.

If it continues with its current motion, Knox believes the Greenleaf will become a more diverse, representative space.

The co-op is constantly evolving as people join and leave each year. The future and success of the Greenleaf depends on student involvement, both inside and outside the organization.

## New club encourages art, activism

By Chassidy Crump  
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It's a typical Thursday dinner in the cafeteria when a group of students dressed all in black suddenly begin congregating between the cereal and the silverware. Some are banging on plates with silverware, while others seem to be performing interpretive dance.

This is Political Activism through Art, Guilford's newest approved club. They called their performance in the cafeteria, "The Happening." The demonstration was designed to bring awareness to the revolution in Egypt.

"It was an innovative way to bring our attention to the situation in Egypt," said first-year Chloe Weiner, spectator of the event that occurred on Feb 3.

"I think that our first 'Happening' went off well," said first-year and PAA member Lyes Bernarbane. "We got the response that we wanted, but we are still very open to criticism and are very open to people in the community approaching us and telling us about the various problems or improvements that they think we could make."

Sophomore Tim Leisman said that the concept for the group was born at 1 a.m. when he and his roommate, sophomore Beau Young, were thinking of ways to address apathy towards social justice in the Millennium generation. The idea was influenced by Young's musical involvement with Superteam (a local rap group) and their mutual interest in art.

"One of our principles is in-your-face place-

ment of art, and there is nothing more in-your-face than going into the cafeteria and banging on plates in front of people," said Leisman, co-creator of the group.

"One thing we're really trying to do is reach out to those artists and see how can we expand our message of community service, how can we expand our message of being involved and being politically and socially active, and work towards social justice through the means of artwork," said Leisman.

It seems the artists on campus are responding: 25 people were present for the first meeting, before the group was officially a club, according to Leisman.

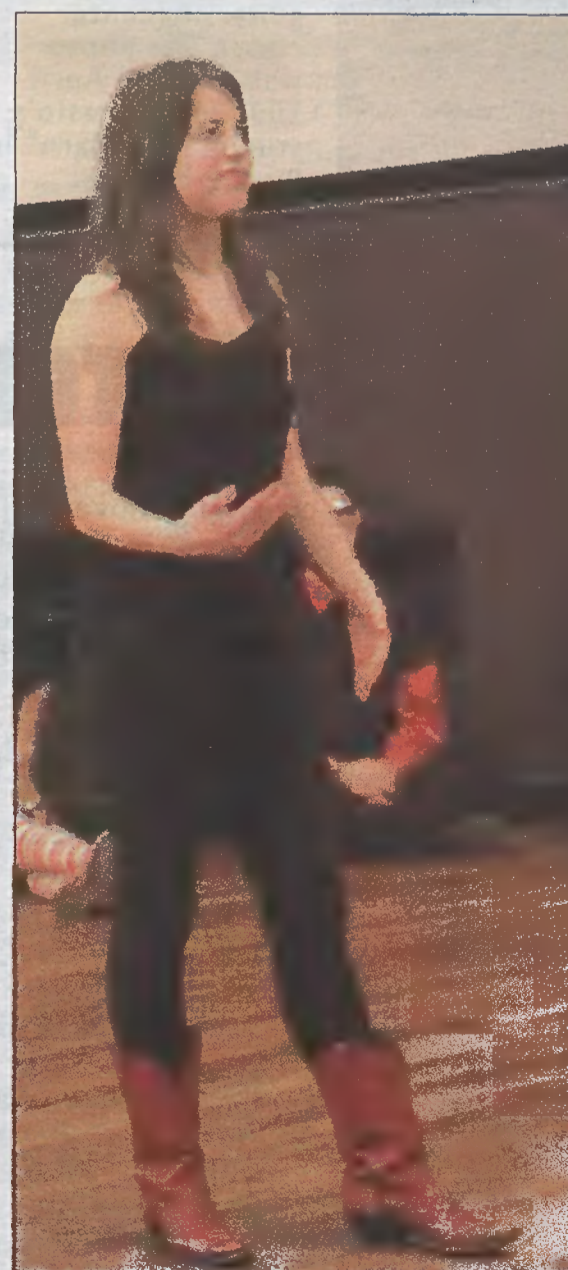
PAA aims to expand to more of the Guilford campus and beyond Guilford. According to Leisman, a student from Bennett College and a student from A&T University have expressed interest, as well as a contact in Florida who started his own chapter of PAA.

The club's next event will be centered on the alleged racial profiling of two A&T students. On Thursday Feb. 24, the students will have their court date. Leisman and others involved hope to fill the courthouse with students in protest of the possible racial profiling.

This event is an example of the group and idea spreading beyond Guilford. According to Leisman, there is potential to work with A&T, Bennett College, UNC-Greensboro, and socially active drum corps, Cakalak Thunder.

When asked about collaborating with different groups and people in the community, Leisman replied, "I want to do everything."

## 'V-day' victory for vaginas



(Left) Senior **Molly Gibbs** performs in "A Memory, a Monologue, a Rant and a Prayer."

(Above) **Hanna Christianson**, sophomore, acts in Guilford's rendition of "The Vagina Monologues."

The performances took place in Bryan Jr. Auditorium on the weekend of Feb. 10-13.

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