

## Hut builders on the rise in Guilford woods



By James Williamson  
STAFF WRITER

Back in Guilford College's small wooded acreage, there remain several abandoned huts, fortresses, lean-tos, and other odd constructions. Molding beer cans, broken glass, and soggy plastic bags accompany these hard-to-find wastelands. Students have neglected the woods just as much as they have decorated it. The time spent by "hut builders" becomes no more than student litter and abandonment.

Off trail, there exists the "Mosaic," a decorative bonfire pit of beer bottle caps displaying a funky flower design of blue and green. Three years ago the pit had a hut too. Now the hut's wood has splintered to the ground. On the outskirts of the "Mosaic," vestiges of good times, Old English bottles and PBR cans, melt into the damp leaves.

"If you build things in the

woods," said Sam Sklover '09, "maintain the spot."

For example, a lean-to, not trashed, lives on amid new structural ventures. Covered in cobwebs and next to the old lean-to, a board with four golden commandments scrawled in white tells of how to sustain a well-to-do woods edifice.

"1. Clean up after yourselves 2. Add one positive contribution 3. Don't burn the rules 4. Don't let Skipper out after 6pm (the neighbors get testy) Thank you, - Kent C."

"There have been things built back there that have been standing for years," said David Petree, director of environmental sustainability. "Though it's not my call whether things stay or get torn down. I only take away obvious trash."

However, these getaways like the "Mosaic," or the more recent "Bar Pit," can become overused and trashed. At one point the "Bar Pit" had an actual bar counter made from the wood of the old rock climbing wall.

"Places not covered in trash were always my favorite spots," said Sklover.

Some students spend full afternoons in the woods,

building and creating until dark.

"I'm here about every day," said sophomore Kyle Silber. "Maybe two hours or sometimes six hours."

The select students who work weeks as part-time architects do so in order to kick back their overbearing homework and daily stresses. As a result, a bond formulates between the builder and Guilford woods, making it cathartic resort.

"The woods are a gift," said junior Will Kimmell. "One reason I haven't transferred is because I have a calming and removed spot. It's unlike anything else."

Kimmell created what he calls "the Shire," and due to student negligence, he took the Shire apart and moved it to a new location. The new Shire is all the more comfortable. Students or unfamiliar locals cannot attract negative attention to its foregrounds.

"For a liberal art Quaker school, there's lot of talk about environmentalism, but (students) just don't clean up after themselves," said Sklover.

Campus Life notes the litter and safety of structures. As soon as students make

an area of the woods awry, Campus Life has no option but to have structures taken down.

"When we notice a safety issue, we will respond," said Sandy Bowles, director of student judicial affairs. "Adding a bonfire and substance also draws in our attention."

While the bonfire pits have been shunned and the woods' constructions have endured carelessness, discussions for a safe and monitored outdoor space on campus has evolved. Sophomores Kelsey Worthy and Rebeca Bonilla have begun to advocate for an area that can be kept clean, relaxing, and free.

"We are in need of a safe place to socialize," said Worthy. "A place where we can be relaxed or even rowdy and still monitor the space."

Failing to follow the golden rules found by the ghostly "Lean-to" gives reason for other hut locations to be torn down. Disrespecting the woods' grounds disables us from the privileges of assembling and customizing our backyard. Our backyard can only tolerate so much of Skipper.

## CAMPAIGN CHRONICLES

### Fashion sense should not affect voting sense in the upcoming election



Karen Turner  
STAFF WRITER

Michele Bachmann wore open-backed sandals. Who the bleep cares?

I adore clothing, and I am currently conducting a love affair with shoes, but my affair stops long before the voting booth.

So I pose the question again: who on earth actually cares? In a country with a failing economy, high unemployment rates, a poor education system, a crashing environment, and a rapidly approaching energy crisis, one would think that a person's choice in fashion would be entirely inconsequential.

I do not care what you wear or how you do your hair; just take the multitude of burdens off the back of this country.

Since when is high fashion a desirable quality during a time of poor economic growth and such high unemployment? It would make a world of sense for Bachmann to shop at the lower end, "ugly" department stores than to frivolously spend money that could else wise be put to better use.

In the extreme opposite of high-class society, why shouldn't she shop at stores such as Goodwill? Support the economy, help a charitable cause, and prove she is no better than those who are forced to shop second hand.

Bachmann is the mother of five and has brought 23 foster care children into her home. As if this is not enough of a reason to want to wear reasonable shoes, she has been touring non-stop, walking up and down stairs, across stages, and all throughout meet-and-greets.

Frankly, the criticism Bachmann has received from the 24/7 media empire we currently live in is nothing more than digging for anything to fill time slots.

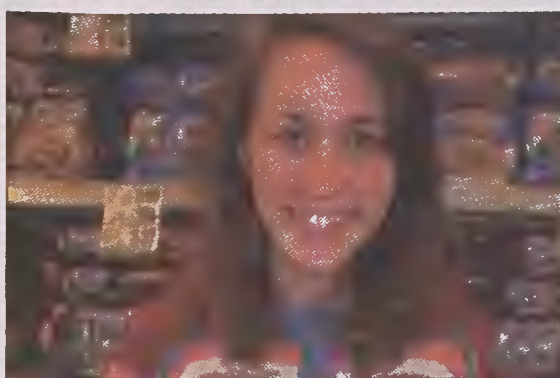
To be even more frank, demanding that all female public figures parade and dance around in four inch stiletto heels is absurd and overly ridiculous.

Walk a mile in Bachmann's shoes before you decide to criticize her choice of un-fancy footwear. Her male critics should just try on a pair of heels and their buck will stop there.

And do we even know who manufactured those hideous shoes? I would much prefer a presidential candidate to sport a low-fashion American pair of shoes, than to step foot into a gorgeous pair of imports.

Get real, America. There are more important things going on.

## 9/11: We are learning but first we are healing



By Renee Leach  
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This past Sunday marked a decade since Sept. 11, and almost all media allotted the event copious amounts of coverage. Some of the top magazines, newspapers, television, and radio networks have more than enough resources and talent to awaken any dormant, raw emotions that 9/11 can always stir.

However, in return, critics have cropped up accusing the media of using all its tricks for exploitation, more than commemoration or shedding a new light on the implications of the attack.

And this kind of coverage might be completely appropriate. Maybe it is America who is not ready to view 9/11 completely sober.

"It impacted all of us, including people here in Greensboro," said Al Bouldin, chairman of the Guilford County GOP, in a phone interview. "It

was an attack on our whole country and our whole way of life."

Although 9/11 is remembered as uniting the country in a time of need, this sense of attack on "our whole way of life" can also be attributed to how quickly and drastically America reacted.

"I think what happened at that point is that people wanted to tell us what it meant," said Phil Slaby, associate professor of history. "People and leadership came in and said 'This is what it all meant. Now we want you to do what we want you to do.' Decisions were made nationally in the wake of that war, the war in Afghanistan, and the war in Iraq. Those things are still going on."

So, does 10 years mark the time when 9/11 should be approached more objectively? For those that suffered personal tragedy on that day, the attack is still resonating.

"It's not about 'we need to go kill terrorists' and it's not about the national security," said Associate Professor of History Damon Akins. "It's about the kid whose dad or the kid whose grandfather died, and those stories really work at a human level."

"I know that one of the women who went down in the airplane in Pennsylvania was actually from Greensboro, so I think that ties us a little more closely to the tragedy of that day,"

said Bouldin.

All this commemoration can, in turn, undermine the event.

The wound of 9/11 might still be fresh, but rehashing atrocities ad nauseum can begin to downplay the extent of what happened.

"I'm the kind of person who would say, 'This is an image that I don't think should be shown ever again,' as I watch it over and over again on my own volition," said Akins of footage of the World Trade Towers. "I could just choose not to watch it, but it's hard not to, because it's a pretty phenomenally compelling image."

However, it is still important to note how much of a defining moment that attack was.

"In some ways, it's been long enough now that we don't remember that, that was the point at which it shifted," Slaby said. "Now this has kind of become, as they say now, 'the new normal.'"

Many atrocities have happened and, through the slow process of healing, they can now be reflected back on with objectivity.

However, 9/11 is still in the midsts of that process. Therefore, possibly the best way to commemorate is to acknowledging without judgment the personal meaning and emotions that this day evoked.