

Students see talent at Greenleaf for No More Deaths

BY BRITTANY MURDOCK
STAFF WRITER

As I frantically scampered into the Greenleaf to escape the chilly night, I was overwhelmed with the mouthwatering aroma of coffee and the peaceful sound of fingers strumming an acoustic guitar.

On Feb. 28, students showed off a wide range of talent during an open mike session at the Greenleaf. Students not only showcased their abilities but were also able

to donate and support No Mas Muertes, also known as No More Deaths, a nonprofit organization.

Students sang songs, read poems and played instruments such as the saxophone, acoustic and bass guitar, a bongo drum and a ukulele.

Sophomore Isabel Ramirez and senior Heather Scott sang a cover song and an original piece during the event. They wrote their original song in just two weeks.

"Lately, Heather and I have been falling

in love with playing music together, and we wanted to work on performing in front of others," said Ramirez. "We had a lot of fun."

Junior C.J. Green showed off his writing skills by writing several emotional and personal poems.

First-year Ben Evans played the acoustic guitar and sang "Better Together" by Jack Johnson.

"I've been playing since the sixth grade, so it was a lot of fun," said Evans.

But talent wasn't the only thing on student minds.

"I thought it went great," said senior Hallie Dowling-Huppert. "It was really impressive. I attended No More Deaths two years ago, and it's important I came out to support the cause."

Several students will be traveling to the Arizona-Mexico border to volunteer for the organization No More Deaths for the duration of their spring break. This program aids migrants who are making the journey to cross the Mexican-American border in search of a better life and a promising future.

"The Greenleaf's core mission involves social justice and being involved in work that we think is necessary," said junior and Greenleaf member Lyes Benarbane. "Open mike was a great way to get the community together as well as raise money for No Mas Muertes."

Volunteers will provide water aid,

humanitarian aid and basic medical care to immigrants walking through the desert. Senior Allison Semmler traveled to Arizona last spring break and went back as a volunteer during the summer for two months. She is now organizing the trip this year.

"No More Deaths has a really good support system as far as making sure everyone was in a good place to do the work that was needed," said Semmler. "If things were too tiring or overwhelming, they let you take the time that you needed before you went back to work."

Students raised funds by reaching out to the local community and academic departments as well as clubs on campus such as Bonner and Study Abroad.

"The money we raise will go towards the \$200 volunteer fee, flight tickets and gas for the car we need when we get down there," said Semmler. "Being that this is a nonprofit organization, the volunteer fee will also go towards the daily cost of running the program as well as the volunteer's food."

Nearly \$7,000 was collected from various sources. The open mike raised \$40 but raised an ever greater sense of campus community.

"The turnout of people was better than what I expected," said sophomore and Greenleaf member Sam Metzner. "It wasn't all about the money but really bringing the community together."



POLY RITTENBERG/GUILFORDIAN

Sophomore **Justyn Melrose** strums his guitar in order to raise money for No Mas Muertes.

KevoBeats: wrapping by day, making beats by night

BY JOHN KLUEPFEL
STAFF WRITER

"In my free time, I'm at The Grill," said Kevin Otutuloro, better known as Kevin from The Grill, in an email interview. "My real job starts as soon as I leave campus."

Kevin is more than just your ordinary wrap maker. Students usually see Grill workers as robots whose lives revolve around making sandwiches and smoothies, but there's more to them and Kevin than meets the eye.

Kevin has worked at The Grill since September 2011 and credits his friend KP for his introduction to Guilford.

"I only knew about Guilford because my friend KP told me that there were job openings," said Kevin.

"Kevin is great at making wraps," said first-year Liliana Bernhardt. "He's really social, and I always have conversations with him when I order my food."

Kevin attributes his wrap-making skills to the competitive nature of The Grill's staff.

"If it wasn't for my co-workers, The Dutch and Mecah, I wouldn't be as good as I am," said Kevin. "It was a constant competition to be wrap-master last year. This year I'm just clearly unstoppable. Stop by The Grill for a box. They're great."

However, Kevin is not only known for making wraps.

Kevin often refers to himself by his stage name, KevoBeats, and has been making beats since 2002 when he was a freshman in high school.

"Kevo got the name KevoBeats because it is his music persona," said junior C.J. Green in an email interview.

Green met Kevin at the Grill and has worked with him on tracks.

"I remember he always talked about video games and tried to challenge me in 'Marvel vs. Capcom,'" said Green. "I usually go over to Grill Boy's house and play him or help with the beats."

"I've listened to his music occasionally after he told me that he was a music producer," said first-year Dina Rasul. "I follow him on Twitter, and I check out his new music whenever he tweets about it."

Kevin puts a lot of energy into his music career.



Kevin Otutuloro from The Grill cheeses for the camera. He is well known for his chicken wraps and his stage persona KevoBeats.

BIANNA GLENN/GUILFORDIAN

"I usually give Kevo a sample or a song and he chops it up, then we engineer some dopeness," said Green. "The song 'Warrior' we did was just a beat he made for me to use for myself."

"Linking up with Kevo really adds some creativity to my work. He provides some unique beats and forces me to think outside of the box in order to produce a song."

When Kevin is not making beats or wraps, he skateboards.

"Kevin is an outstanding skater," said first-year Sherod Johnson. "He's pretty much my idol when it comes to skating. I see him skating behind the Alumni Gym on the basketball court. He could be sponsored. He's that good."

We may seldom see him outside of The Grill, but it is

clear that Kevin is talented beyond the world of wrap-making.

"My plans for the future include making more dope beats," said Kevin. "Peep my sounds at www.soundcloud.com/kevobeats. Thanks for listening."



Check out Kevin's page on SoundCloud to hear some great original beats!

www.soundcloud.com/kevobeats