

Forum

THE NEW AMERICAN DREAM IN G'BORO

By Honor McElroy
STAFF WRITER

It is all around me these days. New Urbanism. I look at the cityscapes, or cringe at the suburban zombified houses sagging, sleeping, and living under the eternal buzzing of neon lights. I feel more at ease knowing there is a movement sweeping America which attempts to counter-act the two-car garage, white picket fence, and the SUV.

New Urbanism is a new philosophy that emphasizes destroying what a car-oriented, consumer culture, and living in suburbia causes. In the *Geography of Nowhere*, James Kunstler, a supporter of this new trend of thought, states, "The living arrangement Americans now think of as normal is

bankrupting us economically, socially, ecologically, and spiritually. The physical setting itself—the cartoon landscape of car clogged highways, strip malls, tract houses, franchise fry pits, parking lots, junked cities, and ravaged countryside—is not merely a symptom of our troubled culture but in many ways a primary cause of our troubles."

I see New Urbanism in D.C., in the attempt to create NoMa, LoDo in Denver, and SoMa in San Francisco. These sections of big cities are sort of like New York's SoHo and the village combined. They are neighborhoods centered on art and a more intellectual culture. Finally, yesterday I found New Urbanism in, hold your breath, Greensboro. It set my chi to waltzing.

That's right, just below South Elm Street, a purist New Urbanist construction company, Bowman Development Group of Huntersville, will rehabilitate old houses, small shops, and sidewalks. They will also create more parks and a more aesthetically pleasing area to walk around in. Ten years ago this down-

town area was a place full of prostitutes and drugs. Now the city is waking up to the sleeping giant.

Right now at Guilford a lot of people are upset about the questions of the reality of Guilford College as a real community. We have committees drawing up compacts, forums on the future of the college, and endless complaints about the lack of a social scene on any Friday night. But it's not just our campus that doesn't understand how to exist as a community, it is our entire country. Look to the heart of most cities and what do you find? Your eyes will encounter a desolate, boarded up street. Where is the hub of activity? It is centered on the consumerism of Sam's Club and Wal-Mart.

This rehabilitation isn't just about more money. It's about actually getting out of the car and having a place to walk. People might actually begin to think of community in terms of something other than their fellow Wal-Mart shoppers. Perhaps in both the college culture and the country's culture we can begin to move more actualized satisfaction and past materialism, towards a standard of living.



New Urbanism art. Yes, it is a tree.



Example of "New Urbanism" billboard art.

ADJUSTERS SPRING 2000 MAGAZINE

ADJUSTERS SPRING 2000 MAGAZINE



Student Voice

Bush's snow versus Clinton's pot

"It speaks to the hypocrisy of the Republican party as well as the media. Both decided that draft-dodging hippie should be crucified, but apparantly coke hits to close to home for them to dredge it up."

"It's pretty hard to find someone in this day and age who has never experimented, and even harder to find someone from the baby-boom generation. Okay, so they did drugs. What's the big deal? It shouldn't be an issue."

"Let me telly'all a story, 'bout this chick I know. They call her Amphetamine Annie. She's always shovelin' snow."

THIS WEEK'S SUGGESTED TOPIC:

WHAT'S UP WITH THIS STUDENT AGAINST STUDENT THING, HUH? I THOUGHT WE WERE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.