

Underground benefit show raises consciousness, funds

Ben Kelly & Kristie Parmenter

Staff Writers

Students crowd the Underground. They sit on tables or lean on the bar next to the Grill. On the stage, four kids dressed like Mods assemble a drum kit and plug guitars into an amp painted with the Union Jack.

The lights dim. The audience stands up.

"We're Starlyn Garvy," the singer announces. "And we're glad to be here!" The band launches into a raucous cover of The Who's "A Quick One".

From 8 p.m. to midnight on Feb. 17, over 100 Guilford students came to the Underground to listen to music, dance, and raise money for the March 19 anti-war protest in Fayetteville, N.C.

Sophomore Adam Waxman, a regular in Guilford's activist community, organized the event. He explained that the show served several purposes.

"It raises money, of course," he said. "It gets people energized. And it brings activism back into the spotlight. It shows that Guilford is an anti-war campus."

Many of the performances

literally turned the spotlight on activism. The night's opening act, The Womyn's Circle, focused on singing anti-war songs. The a capella group was at its best when it juxtaposed simple lyrics with complex, layered harmonies.

Freshman William McKinley-Ward led the crowd in a sing-along rendition of Edwin Starr's "War", and the Jazz Ensemble (or Whittaker's Six Peace) played a relaxed, solo-filled set that drew copious applause from the crowd.

Other acts focused less on politics. CCE student Ziggy Johnson performed both original and cover songs on an acoustic guitar. The highlight of his set came when he played the song "Spend the Night with Me", a "feel-good song for the gay community", about the joys of one-night stands.

Sophomore Lisa Jaeggi played an unplugged set of songs she wrote. Her catchy melodies and blues-accented vocals prompted spontaneous whistles and hand claps from the audience.

By the time the night's last act, hard-rocking Guilford band St. Claire, took the stage, the crowd was psy-

ched.

"This song's called 'Lose 50 pounds in three seconds,'" the singer introduced the first song.

"How do you do that?" someone asked.

"Just listen to this song!" he responded, before erupting into a frenzy of screams.

The audience showed the same enthusiasm for raising money as it did for the music.

By 10 p.m., student volunteers had collected \$200 from the audience. By 12 a.m., they had more than \$350. Students donated whatever they could afford, and the performers volunteered to play.

"We're really happy to play something we support like this," John Kelly, the drummer for Starlyn Garvy, said. "We're happy to support bringing the troops home."

Jaeggi agreed: "Guilford usually doesn't have these types of things," she said. "It's good for the community."

Waxman is happy that the show helped raise money, and is excited for upcoming events.

"Thanks to all those who made last night's fund-raising concert a success!" he wrote in an e-mail Feb. 18. "If you

think last night was a blast, you haven't seen what we have planned for next week."

On Feb. 24, a panel of anti-war activists spoke to Guilford students about the costs of the war in Iraq. Entitled "Costs of War: Perspectives of Military Veterans and Their Families," the panel featured 5 speakers whose lives have been affected by the war in Iraq.

On Feb. 26, The Guilford Action Network (GAN), in conjunction with students from Greensboro's eight colleges, will sponsor a teach-in at UNCG to further promote the antiwar cause.☞

Buy a Date to help end the war in Iraq

At 7 p.m. on Feb. 17, nearly 20 Guilford students hung up their pride in order to stand on stage and be auctioned off to the highest bidder.

With junior Chris Wells humorously extolling the virtues of the brave volunteers, bidders excitedly raised their hands to 'purchase' the man or woman of their choice. Originally meant to be an auction with all-male goods, several women in the crowd -- not to be shown up

by the guys -- rushed on stage to earn money for charity.

Sophomore John Wilson, willing to "shake his booty and read poetry"; senior Cesar Weston, "a sculpted progressive piece of man;" and "house-trained" sophomore David Kosbob were just a few of the guys for sale with the "qualities" that made them quick to sell.

Some of the students auctioned off, such as sophomore Jesse Seitel, sold for as much as \$21.

The funds compiled at the end of the night totaled over \$300 in donations and proceeds from the auction, are to fund the March 19 Mobilization Committee. This committee is a group of Guilford activists organizing a trip to attend the large anti-war demonstration in Fayetteville, N.C., on March 19.

Sign-up sheets for the event were available throughout the auction along with a wide variety of informational flyers providing details about the casualties and cost of the Iraq war and other upcoming benefit activities.☞

Students plan largest youth march against AIDS in history

Marchers demand results, not just rhetoric, in Bush's second term

On Feb. 26, 2005, thousands of students and young people will march on Washington, D.C. to demand urgent action to halt a plague that infects 8,000 youth under 25 everyday.

Student March

Against AIDS

Feb. 26 - Washington, D.C.

11am at the White House

National Rally for Decisive Global Action

Feb. 27: Youth Summit to End AIDS

Feb. 28: HIV/AIDS Lobby Day

While the AIDS movement has won many crucial victories in recent years, the Bush administration and Congress are now undermining these achievements, for example, by opposing science based prevention programs and undermining the multilateral Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria.

Student civil rights pioneer Congressman John L. Lewis, the keynote speaker for the march, will join marchers from 30 states and over 150 schools. Student Global AIDS Campaign National Coordinator Healy Thompson explained, "HIV/AIDS is the defining moral challenge of our time. As in the tradition of the student civil rights movement, we must confront policymakers and the American public with the severity of this pandemic and its impact on our generation."

Students demand that the government must fund the fight, treat the people, drop the debt, and stop the spread. They will ask the Bush administration and Congress to:

- Pay for our fair share of the financial need to fight AIDS, which is \$6.7 billion overall in 2006
- Reauthorize and provide full funding for the domestic Ryan White CARE Act
- Support HIV prevention programs that are based on science, not politics
- Negotiate 100% multilateral debt cancellation for the world's poorest countries
- Remove all barriers to accessing affordable AIDS medicines and promote generic competition

Erin Burns is organizing a carpool to the march in Washington. Those interested in attending should contact her at eburns2@guilford.edu.

www.studentaidsmarch.org