

Greenleaf serving the community, not just coffee

BY KIP REYNOLDS | STAFF WRITER

Sometimes, late at night, you just get that craving to drink coffee, or play 16 games of Scrabble at once, but you don't want to risk your life

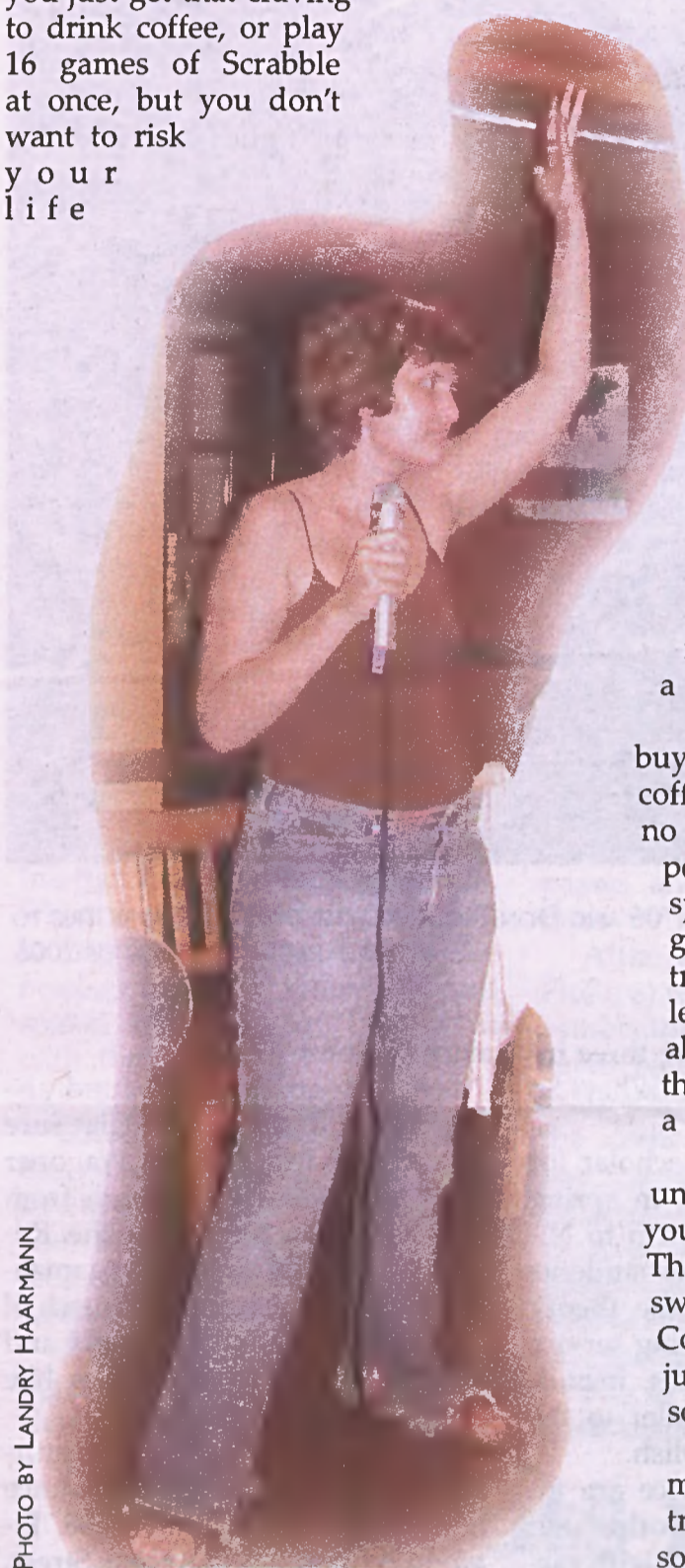


PHOTO BY LANDRY HAARMANN

DIESEL ROBERTSON PERFORMS A SONG DURING HER TURN ON THE KARAOKE MACHINE

dodging traffic on West Friendly Avenue to arrive at Starbucks' door. The Greenleaf will solve your problem.

The Greenleaf is a coffee shop located on campus in the basement of Mary Hobbs Hall. Its purpose is "to provide organic fair trade caffeine and community source to the socially-conscious, sleep-deprived Greensboro populace," according to junior Chelsea Simpson, a Greenleaf shift leader.

The Greenleaf only buys organic fair-trade coffee. Organic coffee has no man-made chemical pesticides or fertilizers sprayed on it while it is growing. By selling fair-trade coffee, the Greenleaf supports a sustainable global economy that pays coffee farmers a suitable living wage.

"Do you know that underlying bouquet that you taste at Starbucks? That could be the blood, sweat and tears of the Colombian people," said junior Diesel Robertson, also a shift-leader. Guilford community members feel that fair-trade coffee is ethically sound and connects with Guilford's core values. Assistant Professor of Philosophy Vance Ricks, who teaches a class on ethics, said he would buy

a cup of coffee at the Greenleaf because he would "feel better about the purchase."

The Greenleaf is fairly new on campus, and is just beginning to bloom. "It's always evolving," said Simpson and junior Mary-Nevin Hobgood at the same time.

Even though the Greenleaf has hit some speed bumps, it's still on a steady course to being a co-op.

The Greenleaf began when a group of students moved into Jazzman's Cafe, now the Underground, and sold fair-trade organic coffee. When Jazzman's closed in 2003, the students had nowhere to sell their coffee.

After a few tough years, part of the basement in Mary Hobbs was opened and refitted. In April 2005, the Greenleaf opened its current incarnation.

The Greenleaf is a co-op business powered by volunteers and work-study students. The Greenleaf holds meetings open to the public at 4 p.m. on Sundays in the Greenleaf. Decisions are made by consensus, so everyone's voice is heard. The Greenleaf co-

The Greenleaf
 Location: Basement of Mary Hobbs Hall
 Hours of Operation:
 Monday-Thursday 8am-11pm
 Friday 8am-9pm
 Saturday Noon-9pm
 Sunday Noon-11pm





PHOTO BY LANDRY HAARMANN
 GREENLEAF EMPLOYEE FAITH JOSEPHS PREPARES A BEVERAGE DURING THE GREENLEAF'S OPENING CELEBRATION ON MONDAY EVENING

open-mic nights, music festivals, art on the walls, club-sponsored events — anything. The Greenleaf wants a wide variety of events, and they want you to suggest them.

Volunteer benefits are plentiful this year. Volunteers will get a 25 percent discount on all drinks, free t-shirts, a catered dinner every month, and a 15 percent discount on all food.

The menu is expanding to include food like yummy cookies, spectacular baklava, crisp potato chips, delicious hummus and wonderful wraps.

Simpson said that there is also a "renewed passion for consistency."

The Greenleaf is a great place for community with the space to hold many people in a friendly atmosphere. If you have not checked out this wonderful shop, do so any time between 8 am and 11 pm from Monday to Thursday, 8 am and 9 pm on Fridays, noon and 9 pm on Saturdays, and noon and 11 pm on Sundays. You won't regret it.

Send an e-mail to the Greenleaf (greenleaf@guilford.edu) with your event ideas, suggestions, and comments.

op does not have a hierarchy.

The Greenleaf is open to the community. Student artwork hangs on the walls. Clubs use it as a meeting space. Open-mic nights abound. There are 16 Scrabble game sets, multiple chessboards, and, in one corner of the dining area, a small library. Some speakers, including Patch Adams, spoke there last year.

The Greenleaf has bold plans for the upcoming year. First, the staff want more events: more

Books for prisoners and freedom to question

BY LAURA MILOT | STAFF WRITER

"Prisons are land-locked slave ships," said James Robertson, a prison abolitionist from Chapel Hill, N.C.

"Generally speaking, prison book collectors like ourselves from around the country see themselves as a first step in prisoner support, which ultimately is a part of prison abolition. Anybody who believes that prisoners deserve to have books to read can and does participate."

On Aug. 30, Books for Prisoners came to Guilford College in the form of a punk rock concert. However, the show was not just about raising books for prisoners. It discussed radical issues ranging from suppression of Native Americans to veganism.

Prisons are a sensitive topic within society. They raise issues that have been discussed for generations amongst Americans.

"We feel like the prison system exists for more reasons than we're taught that it exists," said Dustan Drum, a 24-year-old grad-

uate of the University of California at Berkeley and lead drummer in Gather, one of the four punk rock bands featured. "Any one of us can turn into a so-called 'political prisoner' by standing for our beliefs at a protest and getting arrested or smashing the window of a company that we disagree with."

Gather is an active group of radical thinkers who support organizations such as Books for Prisoners. According to Drum, "prisoner support is the number-one benchmark of how supportive a radical community can be."

"It's a good cause, said Andrew Breunig, a sophomore. "Books are (a) highly underrated resource for whoever would use them in terms of what they can bring to a person as education, and I think that literature in books almost always serves as an agent to encourage people to broad-

en their world view and reexamine a lot of things which they take for granted or things that never occurred to them."

"The show wasn't just about Books for Prisoners," said junior Andy Freedman. "It was about creating a safe place to share new ideas that one might never have thought about before."

"It's putting a lot in front of me, and I've got a lot to process," Breunig said. "I sympathize, but at the same time ... I feel like this anger and these militants in many ways represent an equal but different enslavement which is really bothering me. ... They're seeking to brainwash."

"There's a lot of anger," according to sophomore Gabriela Spang. "I understand that feeling, and I choose not to go with it. You can't release anger by expressing an-

"It costs more per year to send a person to prison than to Harvard University."

-Eve Goldberg & Linda Evans
 "The Prison Industrial Complex and the Global Economy"

ger. I'm sort of overwhelmed; the passion and the anger and the sadness that goes into their songs is really touching, and it really comes out in the music as well."

For Freedman, who is concentrating in women's studies and gender issues, the issue of prison raises heaps of powerful emotion. "It seems like jails and police systems are more concerned with protecting private property than they are, for example, about protecting the lives of women."

This raises a conflicting question. On the one hand, the activists want to get rid of the prison system altogether; but on the other hand, how will criminals be punished?

"There are so many more effective ways to deal with criminals than to basically lock them in a jail cell for the rest of their life," Freedman said.

According to "The Prison Industrial Complex and the Global Economy", a pamphlet written by Eve Goldberg and Linda Evans, "it costs more per year to send a person to prison than to Harvard University."