

FEATURES

The Outdoors Club answers nature's call with consensus

By KIP REYNOLDS
STAFF WRITER

A cacophony of voices create an intense sea of noise with a variety of topics ranging from rock climbing to contra dancing. The vibrant colors of the Greenleaf walls and the rapid accordion music add to the spirited atmosphere of the GCOC meeting.

Ahh, the thrill of the outdoors club.

Guilford College Outdoors Club mission is, "Getting kids outside," said club president and sophomore Bru Breunig. People might remember Breunig from this year's club fair: he was the man in the kayak. The club funds vigorous outdoor activities like the dynamic game of glow-stick capture the flag.

Access to the club is extremely informal. "I joined simply by showing up to a meeting one night," said club member and first-year Vahe Ender. The meetings are open to all and held in the Greenleaf every Wednesday night at 10 p.m. "There is no technical status," Breunig said.

GCOC gets people outdoors by funding

an assortment of activities. The club has sponsored brisk hiking treks, challenging camping expeditions, energizing bike rides and thrilling rock climbing trips. During all of these invigorating activities, club members appreciate the world around them without damaging it, practicing Leave No Trace.

"Leave No Trace is the mantra we say to ourselves whenever we are outdoors," Ender said. The principles of Leave No Trace focus on the idea that recreation in the natural world can degrade the land, such as people leaving trash or taking back rocks and flowers. Leave No Trace combats the degradation of the outdoors by urging people to take photos instead of taking an actual object.

The club promotes environmental awareness with the help of Leave No Trace. GCOC brings along cameras to catch all the action and sweeping beauty of the great outdoors. Leave No Trace allows club members to enjoy the wilderness and preserve it for future treks and the next generation.

During a recent camping trip in Lynville Gorge, outdoor enthusiasts took a handful of digital photos to remind them of their experience. They experienced the bittersweet joy of every camping trip and the bane of sunny days everywhere, persistent rain. "Being soaking wet and in the middle of the woods creates a unique bonding experience," said first-year Mo Grumbly.

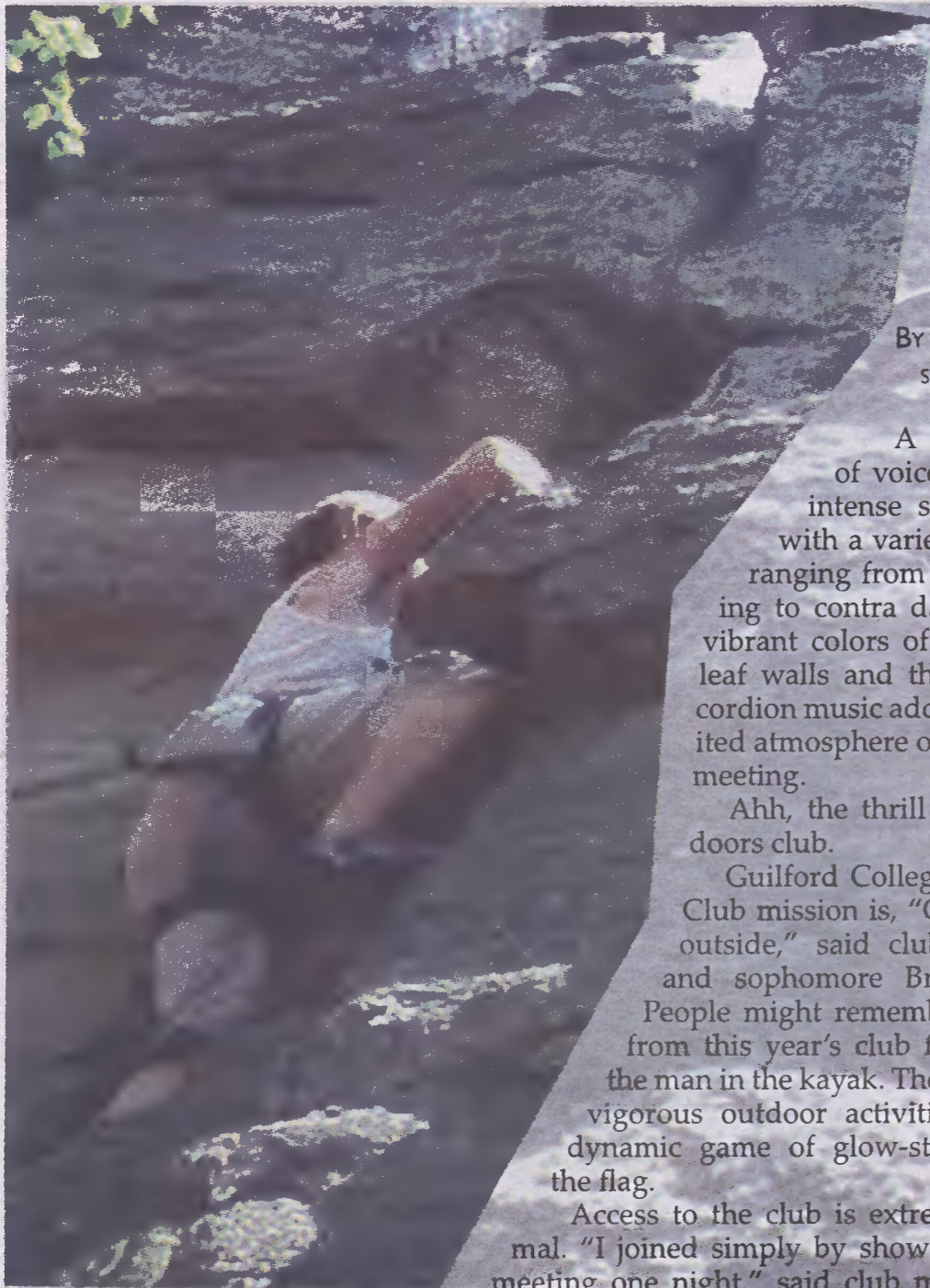
Trips and events are decided upon at meetings with the Quaker's secret weapon: consensus. Consensus at a GCOC meeting might seem like mob rule and look harder than herding a hoard of hamsters, but event proposals eventually form and pass when people agree that it is a good idea.

"We use consensus because we want everyone to have a voice. When voting, minorities have no input," Breunig said.

The club realizes that there are people who want to get outdoors but might not have the equipment. There is a long laundry list of supplies owned by the club that include water filters, cavernous backpacks, comfy tents, compact camp stoves and hardy cook sets that are available to any camper.

The activities of the club have attracted many friends and members, but also have earned them an enemy. "The Indoor Club is our arch rival," Grumbly said.

Go and help the Guilford College Outdoors Club struggle against their nemesis. You won't regret your decision for a second.



PHOTOS COURTESY MO GRUMBLY
ABOVE, MO GRUMBLY SCALES A ROCK
FACE. RIGHT, NATHAN ELLIS AND
BEN DOYLE WATCH WHILE LAUREN
NAGAO BELAYS.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAN ETTER

Night-life and designer boutiques call Elm Street home

*Forget all your troubles,
Buy all your wares
in Greensboro's thriving
downtown*

By ASHLEY HARDIMAN | STAFF WRITER
AND STEVEN TUTTEROW | STAFF WRITER
AND JULIANA JANISCH | STAFF WRITER

Ever get tired of being confined to Guilford's 340-acre campus? Well, look no further than downtown Greensboro. Elm Street is flourishing and developing with about three blocks of fun and entertaining ways Guilford student's can get off campus.

Cynthia Nearman, assistant professor of English, and frequent visitor of Elm Street, thinks Guilford students should take advantage of off-campus opportunities.

"Students should check out Elm Street now and then because it's easy to get too focused on the Guilford community and then forget that Greensboro does not equal Guilford," Nearman said. "So many interesting and different people live in this city, and occasional Elm Street strolls would help students see another side of Greensboro."

The shops on Elm Street may be a bit pricey for some college students, but if you have a unique style and love designer clothing, win-

dow shopping can be the next best thing. While walking on Elm Street, look into the windows of all of the downtown shops and admire the well-designed clothing, pillows, and handbags on display.

Make sure you go into Mack and Mack, which has hand-made designer apparel for women. The clothes are stylish, simple, and can be worn for just about any occasion. Brandy Boyce, a 2005 UNCG alumna, is one of the store's designers. "All of our sewers are professional," Boyce said. "It takes three months to learn how to stitch to our technique."

If you are looking for a nice gift for a family or a friend, walk across the street to Anna Marie's.

This store carries everything from hand-made cards by local artists to leather journals and linens.

Heather Burress, one of Anna Marie's employees, says that UNCG and Greensboro College students are frequent shoppers in their store.

"Students come to Elm Street, especially at

night," Burress said. "During the day students have class, but some will come in and even bring their parents to show them our store."

Burress thinks all college students would enjoy Elm Street because it is unique when compared to other shopping centers.

"I think everyone, to include college students, are hungry for something different," Burress said. "Elm Street has shopping and a night life, making it an appealing environment for everyone."

Elm Street is full of fun and exciting things to liven up your night including cool places to eat and dance.

Bar Fry is a fairly new restaurant and bar open for dinner. The restaurant offers a healthy alternative to traditional bar food, specializing in unprocessed shrimp and other types of seafood, free-range chicken and fresh-cut fries cooked in zero trans-fat peanut oil.

Featured is their bar chef smoothie, available with or without alcohol. One of the employees at Bar Fry said, "Anything you can name, we will have it, and make it into a smoothie for you."

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Cynthia Nearman
Assistant Professor of English

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