

VOLUME 94, ISSUE 19 // MARCH 21, 2008

THE GUILFORDIAN

GUILFORD COLLEGE // WWW.GUILFORDIAN.COM // GREENSBORO, NC

NEIGHBORS REACT
TO HODGIN'S RETREATBy Jake Blumgart
SENIOR WRITER

On Jan. 15, the Greensboro City Council, with Guilford's support, rezoned the wooded area abutting the Armfield Athletic Field, allowing for the construction of controversial new high-density apartments. The council's decision, and the college's approval of the new development, highlight tensions generated by the expansion of both the city and the college.

Dubbed Hodgin's Retreat, the new apartments could potentially ease Guilford's housing shortage, guaranteeing the college's support while drastically altering the topography of the surrounding environment, prompting the enmity of many students, faculty and residents of surrounding neighborhoods.

"Everyone in these neighborhoods has basically been told 'making money is more important to us than your quality of life,'" said Jack Zerbe, professor of theater studies, and member of the small community of active and retired professors who live on George White Road, one of the neighborhoods directly affected by the new development. "Some people who live around here only found out about it in the paper. No one ever tried to contact me. I've lived here for 18 years. That isn't how it is supposed to work. The only people I see who like it are the developers, and the city, because they'll get more tax revenue."

The college benefits from the new development as well. Guilford's size has increased every year since 2004 and the college has struggled to find enough housing for the ever-increasing influx of new students. Hodgin's Retreat, which is closer to the library than the North Apartments, will provide housing for up to 150 students.

"The train has left the station on this issue," said Kent Chabotar, president of Guilford, who wrote a letter to the city council endorsing the development. "Now the challenge is to make it the best possible project with the least possible damage to the neighborhood and environment."

Construction of Hodgin's Retreat will begin in mid-March. The city council vote was the last possible impediment to the development. The apartments will be operational by the beginning of next fall semester.

"I think it's going to be a problem," said Paul Zopf, retired Dana professor of sociology and resident of George White Road. "We love this place and until recently we have enjoyed living here, but things are changing in ways that produce a lot of anxiety for me."

The nature of the George White community began to shift with the beginning of the fall semester, when the housing-starved college moved five students into the neighborhood. Zopf now regularly finds beer cans littering his yard, keeping company with the trash left by Kaiser House party-goers. He

SEE "HODGIN'S RETREAT" ON PAGE 5

Piedmont Biofuels recycles caf oils

By Lauren Newmyer
STAFF WRITER

"It's no secret anymore that for every nine barrels of oil we consume, we are only discovering one," stated the BP statistical Review of World Energy.

With gas prices skyrocketing and talk of the frightening and fast-approaching phenomenon known as "peak oil," demand for alternative energy sources has emerged.

On Feb. 27, Greg Austic from Piedmont Biofuels gave a presentation on biodiesel, a fuel derived from vegetable or animal fat that can be combined with or used independently from regular petroleum diesel fuel.

Piedmont Biofuels is a

co-op located in Pittsboro, NC that manufactures, markets and sells biodiesel. From their other location in Moncure, NC, they conduct workshops on making fuel to run a vehicle out of vegetable oil. Piedmont Biofuels also actively lobbies for renewable energy.

Waste Management takes care of most recycling and trash collection, but there is no state or federal designated service to recycle cooking oil despite the fact that businesses and institutions receive fines if they do not have their old oil picked up to be recycled. In recent months, Austic has come to Guilford every three weeks to pick up

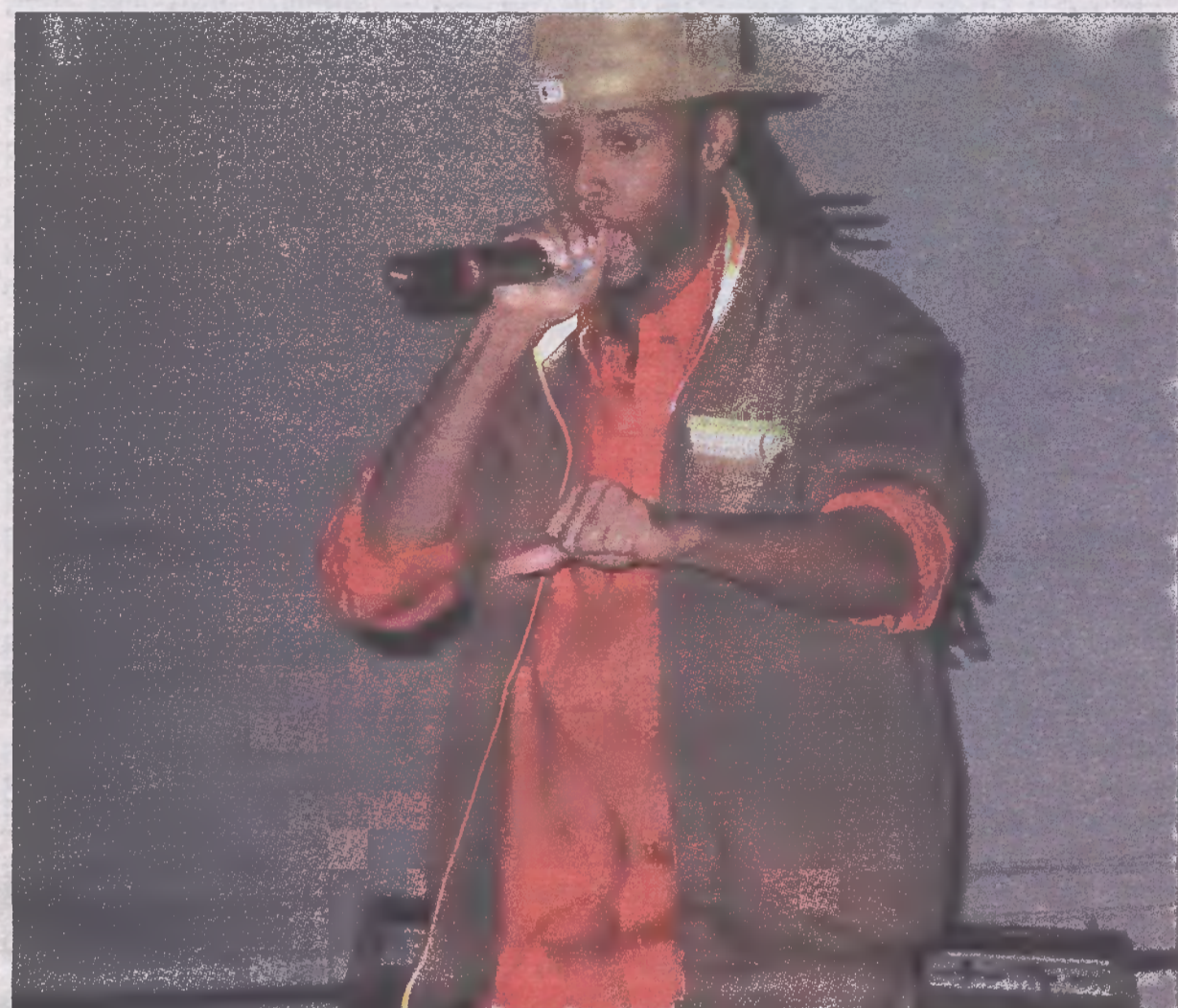
all the used cooking oil from the cafeteria to recycle it into biodiesel.

"The alternative to Piedmont Biofuels picking (used cooking oil) up and turning it into biodiesel is that nothing be done with it except let it pollute," said junior Gabriela Spang. "As long as we are frying foods and using cooking fats, it makes sense to recycle them into fuel for automobiles."

Spang, who has an internship with Sodexo coordinating events for sustainability, invited Austic to give a presentation on the advantages of switching to more sustainable fuel sources.

"Alternative energy is a

SEE "PEIDMONT BIOFUELS" ON PAGE 2



AMY DROLET/GUILFORDIAN

"Hip-Hop Now: The Series" educates campus
through discussion and performancesBy Deena Zaru
SENIOR WRITER

Guilford hosted its first ever "Hip-Hop Now: The Series" summit, an event thought up and planned by junior Cedric Essah, on Feb. 29 and March 1.

"I was interested in creating dialogue about hip-hop between students on campus and the Greensboro community" Essah said. "I wanted people to be able to create connections through the summit, which was set up to educate, engage, cultivate and celebrate hip-hop here at Guilford."

Visiting instructor of music Kami Rowan was the faculty advisor for the summit. It was co-sponsored by the Campus Activities Board, the Student Community Senate, WQFS, and the music and philosophy departments.

"Cedric was in my music and contemporary culture class last semester," Rowan said. "We connected and he told me about his dream of doing this, and I wanted to support him."

Rowan said the event allowed students to get educated about hip-hop.

"Hip-Hop is a very complex culture with many facets," Rowan said. "While it represents a facet of Black America, African American culture is more diverse, intricate and complex than a single genre of music."

The series began on Feb. 29 at 7 p.m. in the Bryan Jr. Auditorium with a panel discussion facilitated by Terence Muhammad,

a faculty member at A&T. The panelists included Delyte, a radio DJ for 102 Jams, regional hip-hop producer 9th Wonder, Bryon Turnam, a faculty member at A&T, as well as the owners of the urban clothing stores East to West and Hints.

Essah said that he was very impressed with the quality of the panel discussion and the diversity of the participants.

"The panel consisted of an ongoing discussion beginning with the history of hip-hop," Essah said. "Then we moved from there to talk about women in hip-hop, the fashion trends of hip-hop, and we ending with a discussion about how hip-hop can be a tool for social change."

First-year Christina Sommerville, who assisted with planning the summit, appreciated the panel discussion because it covered these various areas of hip-hop and brought them together.

"The panel discussion dissected the true meaning and purpose of hip-hop," Sommerville said. "With that information I was allowed to decipher the difference between true hip-hop and the less than tasteful music labeled as hip-hop today."

First-year Grady Gamble appreciated the historical context that the panel discussion provided.

"I liked that the speakers truly knew hip-hop and were not simply bashing today's artists," Gamble said. "My favorite information was given by 9th Wonder when he spoke on the influence of Africa

SEE "HIP-HOP" ON PAGE 8