

## Students address issues of genocide, encourage community involvement

BY EMILY HARDEN  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Since July 2003, war and genocide have ravaged Darfur, a small region in the landlocked country of Sudan. A country with 40% of the population below the poverty line, Sudan, and specifically the region of Darfur, has been affected immensely by the war. Most apparent is the blatant genocide that began early in 2004. Janjaweed, a group of people attacking innocent civilians, as well as many other groups, are raping, killing, and pillaging in the towns and villages of Darfur. Members of the United Nations have declared the war in Darfur a genocide, but the United Nations as a whole has yet to define the killings as genocide; rather, they refer to them as "crimes against humanity with ethnic dimensions."

While numerous countries have stepped up to help protect the people of Darfur from the groups terrorizing civilians, many people believe that there is not enough being done to end the genocide.

Four Grimsley students, senior Spencer Foster and sophomores Audrey Smith, Jonathan Storch, and Maggie Clark, have collaborated to organize a benefit concert, similar to the rally held last May. The benefit will take place April 26, in the Chance-Cousins

Auditorium from 6:30 to 10:00 pm and will feature the bands Stretch and the Funk, Jonas Sees in Color, and The War.

"After the Holocaust, the world said 'Never Again,' yet genocide is taking place again in Darfur," said Smith. Both Smith and Clark organized a Save Darfur rally last May on the front lawn, where Joey Cheek spoke.

Also featured at this year's concert will be Al-banah, a Darfurian who has come to the United States to attend Greensboro College. Al-banah was unable to see the terror and destruction in his country until he took a job as an interpreter, first with CARE International, then Samaritan's Purse, and later with African Union peacekeeping forces. He now hopes to return to his homeland and help stop the killings. Al-banah will tell the stories of what he witnessed in Darfur and express his ideas for change in the future.

Organizers hope to draw crowds that surpass the 300 plus people who attended the rally last year by involving other clubs, such as CAS, TAGS, and STAND.

"The UN has said the Darfur genocide is the biggest humanitarian crisis in the world today," said Storch. Students hope that bringing other clubs into the picture will aid in bringing attention not only to students, but the entire Greensboro community as well.



Malekoti Harden Photo

Students crowd into the main hall on first floor during lunch. When the weather prevents students from enjoying their mealtime in the Grove, the surplus that does not fit into the small cafeteria must find a corner of the main hall to eat lunch. Without chairs or tables, let alone more than one trash can, this situation is problematic and stressful not only for students and teachers who supervise lunch, but also for custodians who must clean up before, between, and after lunches. The upcoming election includes a Guilford County Schools bond referendum, which is asking for \$412.3 million. Money would be used for renovations at many high schools that include a renovation for the cafeteria at Grimsley. Guilford County's second bond is for the proposed construction of the new Eastern Guilford High School, which fire destroyed last fall. Citizens can vote on November 4.

### Retraction

In our February 29 issue (Volume 83 No.6), we reported in "Male hoopsers swoop 4A Conference title, women do the same" that the women's basketball team only lost one game in the regular season. The women's basketball team actually went undefeated in the regular season. We apologize for this error.

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