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Naturally FSU presents film reenactment of Greek pentathlon

Naturist groups present classic athleticism with less clothing

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Naturally FSU is a Registered Student Organization for students involved in the naturist lifestyle. / Photo courtesy of Paul LeValley

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On Friday, Sept. 21, in the Student Union, Tallahassee Naturally and Naturally FSU will premiere their film, *College Greek Athletic Meet*, a collection of home videos of the past 17 years of the organizations' re-enactment of the ancient Greek pentathlon.

Tallahassee Naturally and Naturally FSU are both naturist organizations in Tallahassee, with aims of creating awareness of the naturist lifestyle.

"The way the Olympics were held in ancient Greece were nude," Naturally FSU President Ron Georgalis said. "The original athletes competed completely nude."

FSU is the only university in the country with a naturist club. Naturism is not simply nudism, but rather the act of being in nature in the body's most organic state.

"Nudism is just the pursuit of being naked," said Georgalis. "That's not what we're about.

Being a naturist is more about nature. It's a communion with nature, a oneness with the natural world. It's a liberating experience. It's also about body acceptance. Everyone should be comfortable in their own skin."

The pentathlon occurs in the spring, usually in April, near Monticello, Fla., about 30 miles away from Tallahassee.

"Anyone of any age can compete," Tallahassee Naturally President Paul LeValley said. "But the winners are the top college students in each category."

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When:
Friday, Sept. 21
7:30 p.m.

Where:
Room 3116, FSU's Student Union

Admission: Free

Participants compete in the long jump, discus, 200-yard dash, javelin and in the case of a tie, light wrestling. Categories are broken down into male athletes, male non-athletes, female athletes and female non-athletes.

"We have a lot of diversity," said Georgalis. "People of different races, different regional

backgrounds, different sexual orientations, different native languages. It's a celebration of the human body in all of its form. We have obese people, skinny people, people with surgical scars and people in great physical shape who could be underwear models."

The film's aim is to promote the competition and the organizations on FSU's campus.

"We want to further our mission to promote awareness of local naturist opportunities," said Georgalis. "And to promote interest. In most cases, they're already interested, but didn't know about it."

College Greek Athletic Meet is a compilation of years of footage from past competitions, but was produced to appear as if it happened in one day. The film focuses on the younger athletes, students and non-students alike.

For a first time naturist, it may be a little nerve-racking to go nude.

"Some of the women are a little bit nervous, so they have to be reassured it's not a sexual environment," said Georgalis. "It's a safe place, and they don't have to worry about that."

Georgalis describes naturism as being a social experience, while giving people an escape from the toils of daily life. Along with the athletic aspect of the pentathlon, *College Greek Athletic Meet* incorporates good sportsmanship, health and physical achievement.

"It's the beauty of athleticism, and beauty of nudism," said Georgalis. "What could be more beautiful?"

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