

GWU theatre begins season with Godspell

Elizabeth Allen
Pilot Assistant Editor

Gardner-Webb Theatre begins this semester with the production of *Godspell*, a musical that is a modern retelling of the gospel of

Matthew. The cast, led by "Jesus," acts out the parables told in St. Matthew. This musical is slightly different than most musicals because it is "improvisationally creative," director Chris Parsons said.

Parsons has produced this

show eight times; six of those times he was also the director. Even with this experience, Parsons still found it difficult when it came to casting the roles.

"I wanted to have a male/female balance. Also, the

actors have to blend well vocally," Parsons said.

Vocal blend is extremely important with a show such as *Godspell* because everyone in the cast sings in the chorus. On average, the actors sing 45 to 55 minutes during each show.

Godspell opens February 24 and runs through the 29th. The performances begin at 8 p.m., except on Sunday when the show starts at 2:30 p.m.

They came, they sang, they laughed, they drank coffee

Jessica Webb
Pilot staff

Coffee, cookies and college comprised the Student Entertainment Association's (SEA) first open mic coffee house.

SEA hosted the welcome back event in the Millennium Playhouse on January 12. About 70 college students mingled in a relaxed atmosphere, with many of the students braving the stage to share their tal-

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ents.

According to Scott Henson, SEA chair, SEA hosted the welcome back event so "everyone could come together to have fun and hang out."

Have fun is what these students did. Junior Hannah

Woody said the coffee house was "the bomb."

Woody opened the stage by telling a joke. Soon after, others filled the stage. Some of these were Brian Robertson, John Turner, Kyle Hasty, Lindsey Wyatt, and Leah

Nelson.

Most students played acoustic guitar and sang popular songs from performers such as Dave Matthews and Jennifer Knapp. Others got personal and shared songs they had written. Students also read confrontational poetry that dealt with social issues.

The coffee house seemed to be popular with students. Sophomore Mike McCauley said, "This school has needed something like this for a

while."

Brannon Reavis, Freshman, said he liked it because "you can come in, sit down and be mellow."

When asked about future coffee houses, Henson said, "I would love to have more poetry and artsy stuff, more of a Bohemian lifestyle. I'm sick of the superficiality of our society. There is no substance in this culture."

editorial

Love on Valentine's Day

Jill Lafferty
Special to the Pilot

The thought of Valentine's Day for many people brings a sadness because most stipulate that it's a holiday only for couples. To them Valentine's Day is just a reminder of their lonely status.

But Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love. There are many kinds of love and Valentine's Day doesn't specify that it is only for the love between couples. Love is love no matter who it is between. There is love between family and friends that deserves to be recognized. Valentine's Day is a time to remind everyone who is special to you just how much you love them. It's a day that should be spent giving friends homemade valentines or little treats to say thanks for the bonds you share. Or calling home to say, "I miss you and I'm thinking about you." Or praying to God to thank him for his love and to give him yours. And maybe to take a chance and reveal your love to someone who deserves it.

All love is special and should be handled with care.

On the campaign trail with John McCain

Katherine Burch
Special to the Pilot

Deemed by many Republicans as being a liberal Republican, Arizona Senator John McCain is different from any candidate in the 2000 election.

From the beginning of the presidential race, McCain was unafraid to look too conservative or too liberal.

I run because I believe deeply in the greatness of America's destiny

McCain told US News & World Report. "I have two theories, and sometimes they may even appear to conflict. One is a conservative view of the role of government - less government, less regulation, lower

taxes - but at the same time sometimes there is a role for government."

Liberal is not the adjective to describe this 2000 presidential candidate. According to the Christian Coalition, he received high ratings for his record in the Senate on gay rights, the Clinton administration and gun control. However, he backed missile defense, a balanced budget amendment and Clinton's impeachment, according to *The Washington Post*.

The issues selected by McCain are similar to those chosen by most presidential candidates. He has taken a firm stand for reforms to the educational system, to relieve the burden on the lower and middle classes, and to strengthen the military and social security plan. His less conservative stance on tobacco and campaign financing lends him the title of liberal, which Bush's cronies have labeled him.

According to McCain, the

reason behind his bid for the oval office is simple: the love for his country.

"I run because I believe deeply in the greatness of America's destiny and in the goodness of our cause," McCain stated in his announcement speech for the presidency.

His overall goal is to reform Washington, D.C. McCain stated, "Fixing a broken political system is the key to necessary reform in almost every area where the government touches your life."

Outside of Washington, McCain calls for continued American leadership. "We must confidently defend our interests and values wherever they are threatened," stated McCain in his presidential announcement. He further mentioned getting involved in the future of other nations.

McCain is up for quite a race against his opponent Bush who is already gaining a strong hold within the Republican Party and elite. McCain is a known fighter, whether in the Senate or in Vietnam where he was a Prisoner of War. And he is giving his opponents a race toward the oval office.

Why You should Vote

Katherine Burch
Special to the Pilot

Why vote? This question baffles many people, young and old. The answer to this frequent question should be why not vote?

Voting is a right, but a privileged right that too few countries in the world enjoy. The United States decided this was an important right all citizens should enjoy. Every American needs to vote, including college students and Microsoft executives.

Think of the right to vote as empowerment. Empowerment comes through American citizens voting for individuals who represent their views on education, violence, health and the environment, civil rights, taxes, and free expression. Voting is a simple and easy way to make a difference.

The Rock the Vote organization states, "It's the ability to use our voices, to make things happen. Imagine what would happen if we used our power. We could stop the violence, erase the hatred, and improve our schools. We could change our world. Change starts with one simple action. Change starts with you. You can cast your ballot on Election Day..."

You can register online or at the local library. It is easy and simple. Every person's vote can make a difference.