



COUGAR CRY

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WCC Takes Over Washington, again!

By Nolan Belk

In the Spring of 2003, just before Easter, the Yoshino Cherry trees lining the tidal basin in Washington, DC, reach full bloom, and Wilkes Community College was there to see the beautiful pink blossoms reflecting in the waters and framing the famous Jefferson Monument. We weren't visiting just to see the stunning scenery, however, we were there to learn and grow by putting faces and stories on the Holocaust; by seeing the evolution of women's history, civil rights, and the unfolding horrors of 9-11 shown in the National Museum of American History; by standing shoulder-to-shoulder with North Carolina's newest Senator, Ms. Elizabeth Dole; and by experiencing the multiculturalism present in a city that is not only the heart of America, but also the center of power and influence for much of the world.

The WCC group, led by Belinda Smithey, Jeff Hatley, and Nolan Belk, traveled to Washington by bus, arriving at our hotel, a well-appointed Marriot not far from the Pentagon, in time to relax only a short time before heading to bed. On our first day in the city, we had big plans: we were to ride the subway -- a first for many of us -- to meet Senator Dole at her offices for a group photo before touring the Capitol Building. Senator Dole was a bit delayed due to an important meeting concerning the War in Iraq, but we learned a great deal from her staff about how the U.S. Congress operates and about what Senator Dole does for North Carolina and for America. We did get our picture with Senator Dole, about whom Valerie Harris said, "It was such an

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Myths, Lies, and Legends: The 15-Minute Rule

By Michael Triplett

We've all done it before. We get to class, sit down, and notice there's no teacher. A few minutes later the "talk" starts: "Where is he?," "Did you see him come in this morning?," and then the BIG one inevitably follows: "How long do we have to wait until we can go home?" Then all of us who are in our seats wonder to ourselves, "Will she/he count us absent if we leave?," and "is there really a 15-minute rule?" However, the teacher usually comes in only five minutes late, crushing whatever hopes there were of leaving early.

I asked some WCC teachers what they thought about the fifteen-minute rule, and some do have a rule; although, I learned some instructors were resolved to be on time regardless of circumstances. But if they are going to be absent or late, they said they'd send an e-mail, post a note in the classroom, or let the class know in some way that they would be tardy or absent. Two instructors mentioned the degree system myth: for every degree the teacher has they get to be five minutes late. Another was that for every fifty minutes of class the instructor could be ten minutes late.

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"How long do we have to wait until we can go home?"



Hitch A Ride With P.A.R.T.

By Michael Triplett

On August 24, 2006, the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transport, PART, did something that made commuting along 421 cheap and easy. PART, working locally with Wilkes Transportation Authority, started the new Mountaineer Express with service from Greensboro to Boone, and runs twice daily, seven days a week, stopping locally near the WCC tennis courts.

The bus fares are—assuming you are departing from Wilkes Community College—from \$3 to Boone, \$3 to Yadkinville, \$5 to Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, \$5 to

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