

Shaving cream covers West Beam



Trey Bryan, Mac Swan, and Joe Nelson pose after their shaving cream fight in Beam Hall Saturday night.

Photo by R. Frederick

The Lowdown on the internet slowdown

Continued from Page 1

Another potential source of problems is that fact that IT has loosened their controls over what devices students plug into the network. Starting last fall, IT stopped requiring that anyone with a computer on campus bring the machine to IT to be inspected. Now any computer or gaming device can be connected to the network.

The above problems have been the primary cause of internet slowdowns, and can contribute to network outages; however the outages are primarily related to other causes.

A brief network outage on Wednesday morning was, according to Network Manager Rob Rodier,

because the system “just decided to crash.” There has been some misinformation, but Rodier and Fuiks confirm that IT “always tries to avoid doing [maintenance that would shut down the network] during the day.” Still, maintenance has become necessary on a few occasions.

According to Fuiks, “Routine maintenance does not mean ‘scheduled’ maintenance.” Right now IT is experiencing these problems “Almost once a week.”

Why are these outages continuing to occur? “I hate to say it,” Fuiks states “But we don’t know the answer, and neither does Microsoft or Dell.” IT has been in contact with these companies and affirms that they are trying hard to locate the problems and fix

them.

Fuiks stated that “You can’t fix a car while you are driving it,” and it is difficult to find a time to shut down the network for maintenance that doesn’t cause problems for someone. The best time for IT is over Christmas break, when they plan to upgrade the design of the network. IT cannot say for sure how much of the problems that the upgrades will fix, but they are optimistic that it will improve network performance.

The email problems are much easier to diagnose. Recently it was necessary to shut down the Proof Point device that protects email from viruses and spam. While the device was shut down all emails from off campus were temporarily held.

Once the scheduled updates to the filter were complete the system was restored and all back logged emails were delivered. The repairs that were anticipated to take roughly an hour took over a day to complete.

Unrelated to the recent email problems, the Academic and Information Technology Committee has developed a new mass email policy that has been submitted for final approval from the college administration before being put into effect.

According to committee chair Dr. John Padgett, the intent of the policy “is to limit the size of emails and the number you receive.” While many professors see this as a step backwards, according to Padgett it has become necessary to prevent possible problems.