



The Pilot



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BOILING SPRINGS, NORTH CAROLINA

Observatory Dedication October 13

By Dawn E. Camp
Managing Editor

For centuries, man has stared at the stars searching for answers. Now, answers may become a little easier for Gardner-Webb with the opening of the Craven E. Williams Observatory. The official opening and dedication of the building will take place on Parents' Day, October 13, following the home football game.

According to Tom English, GWC Astronomy professor, both President Chris White and former President Williams will be speaking at the ceremony. English added, "We will try to show off the sun after the festivities, but we can't guarantee any observing."

Another short program will be held on November 10 when the observatory is expected to be completed and the telescope working. This ceremony will include an observing session and at least one speaker.

The opening, originally scheduled for April 28, had to be postponed due to weather and construction problems.

Progress was slow over the summer since many of the volunteer workers were out of town. English said, "People are welcome to help. We work on Saturdays, weather permitting, from 8:30 [a.m.] until lunch. Then we may work in the afternoons."

Although the observatory is not yet completed, the monthly public viewing nights are being held as scheduled. Members of the Cleveland County Astronomical Society often come on these nights bringing some of their free-standing telescopes. Approximately 30 people attended the August session.

Another astronomy-related thing to watch for here at GWC is the painting of a scale-model solar system on the sidewalk in front of the school. The model's sun will be located near the intersection at the traffic light. Pluto, the outermost planet in our solar system, will be painted some 1500 feet away--where the sidewalk ends at Hardee's. Earth, 36.8 feet from the intersection, will be a mere dot. According to English, "If you followed the same line [due south], the nearest star would be somewhere off the coast of South America."



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Kuwait Problem Affects Many at GWC

By Jane Richards Staff Writer

A huge sigh of relief was heard all over GWC last week as America's reserves were taken off alert. Before this announcement, many students and faculty members felt sure that they were soon headed for the vast Saudi Arabian deserts. Although the alert may be reinstated at any moment, reservists and their family members can rest a little easier.

Athletic director Woody Fish, who is in the Army Reserves, feels that he probably will not be sent to the Middle East. "[My infantry unit] is like basic training. If the instructors at boot camp were called to go, we would be called to take their place. Right now the government is mainly calling those involved with chemical or medical training."

One such person is Dr. Frank Bonner, whose knowledge of chemical warfare almost guarantees that he would be called should things escalate. Until last week, Dr. Bonner had assumed that he would be sent to Saudi Arabia, with some official military information to back that assumption. Now, he continues his leadership as newly-appointed Vice President for both academics and student affairs, temporarily relieved of at least the external pressure.

Having just joined the Naval Reserves in April, sophomore Marty White has been watching the situation in Iraq very carefully. "As long as we don't start fighting," he said, "I won't go anywhere. If we do, you never know what might happen."

Many students are concerned about relatives as well. Veronica Anders, at one point, feared that her father would be sent, and the Pritchard sisters' uncle was sent abroad to help with medical services.

Although many students seem most affected by rising gasoline prices, some have shown their support for the U.S. troops who are already in Saudi Arabia by tying yellow ribbons on their cars. Still others here at Gardner-Webb are anxiously awaiting the return of family members and friends.

