



The Pilot

GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY



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Harassment Forces Student to Leave Gardner-Webb

by Greg Carpenter
Managing Editor

Living on a college campus forces people to encounter life-style other than ones they are familiar with. Sometimes, when students encounter alternate life-styles, the result is harassment.

Hate and hostility is how two young men, who were wrongly accused by one of their peers of participating in homosexual activity, say they were treated at Gardner-Webb.

In this incident, a resident advisor reported that he witnessed two male residents of G-W engaged in "illicit relations."

A formal meeting was held by E. Jerome Scott, Dean of Student Development, to discuss the validity of the report. No charges were brought against the two men because the RA had no evidence to support his case.

One of the young men says that he feels "insulted and shocked" at the allegations. He goes on to say that he feels he has been slandered and that his "character has been defamed."

As a result of the allegations made by the RA, which the two say are "ridiculous," one of the persons involved has moved off campus

"Our door was vandalized by someone writing 'fag' on it, and we were called 'queer.'"

and has dropped all of his classes.

Neither of the two are planning on returning to Gardner-Webb next semester.

Disciplinary action has taken place against the reporting RA. The two persons involved are not happy with the probation the RA received.

"He doesn't realize [how detrimental] the accusations he is making are," said one.

Andrew Hopper, the senior RA of the building in which the two men live, and not the reporting RA, informed them that charges may be brought against them prior to the meeting with Dean Scott.

"Our senior RA told us why everyone was looking at us funny," said one of the

persons involved. "Our door was vandalized by someone writing 'fag' on it and we were called 'queer.' I'm married for God's sake!"

Wayne Johnson, director of residence life, says that in his three years at Gardner-Webb, he has had experience with several cases of harassment due to sexual orientation.

When asked if there are any plans to educate residents about this issue, Johnson said that he has met with his RA staff to heighten awareness and to reinforce what is prohibited behavior.

He says, "As it seems with this case, students are sometimes quick to harass on the basis of rumor."

Gardner-Webb has a well-defined code of prohibited behavior. Any sexual activity is prohibited and is listed in the student handbook as "illicit relations."

Under this code, open house at G-W is allowed solely on weekends. This is the only time that members of the opposite sex are allowed to visit each other in the residence halls.

"It's not fair that a gay couple gets unlimited visitation and can live together, while I can visit my girlfriend, in the comfort of our see HARASSMENT, page 3 ...

Student Dies in Wreck

Special to The Pilot

A member of the Gardner-Webb family died in an automobile accident over spring break.

Araya "Jeek" Chit Keen's van ran off the road and hit a tree on the way home from Gastonia where she worked at Gaston Memorial Hospital as a registered nurse.

She had just eaten dinner with a fellow nurse who was going to stay in Gastonia rather than drive home to Rock Hill because of bad weather conditions.

The Highway Patrol reported that she was wearing her seatbelt.

The incident took place on snow-slick Philadelphia Church Road outside of Lincolnton at 10:34 p.m.

Jeek Chit Keen, the wife of Bunny Chit Keen and mother of two, was a student of the GOAL program at Gardner-Webb.

She resided in the Forest Hill section in Lincolnton with her family. She was a native of Bangkok, Thailand and moved to the U.S. with her husband in 1972.

Stormy Student Senate

by E.J. Dolce
Staff Writer

Due to the unique circumstances and sensitive nature of this story, only a brief overview of the March 23rd Student Senate meeting is available for this issue of The Pilot.

Last week's Student Senate meeting began with an invocation by Mark Dixon. Afterward, the first half of the two hour meeting was dealt with issues like Student Senate Bill #1 and visitation.

Jill Galloway, Chair of the Senate Visitation Committee, reports that 321 out of the 800 surveys (roughly 40%) were returned. Senator Galloway expressed enthusiasm over receiving such a large return.

The results of the survey shows that an overwhelming 84.7% of responding students favored visitation hours from Mon. thru Thurs. 3 p.m. to 10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. noon to midnight, and Sundays noon to 10 p.m.

Jason Crook, Residence Hall Association (RHA) President was also present at the meeting. The RHA, together with the visitation committee, used the survey results to

write a formal proposal to Residence Life Director Wayne Johnson. Mr. Johnson, in accord with Dean Scott, wrote a letter to RHA addressing some fears concerning the new proposal and also questioning the amount of support increased visitation will find among the students.

Many senators expressed dissatisfaction at Mr. Johnson's letter. Student Senate as a whole has however, decided to stand resolute in support of RHA's proposal and promises to continue work in spite of what many considered a "runaround response".

Student Senate Bill #1 also received similar treatment. Faculty members suggested a student forum to find out if students were in favor of the bill's methods of increasing academic standards.

A five minute recess served as the calm before the storm as the meeting's second half erupted into an issue with more angles than a geometry book. Members of the "Vote None of the Above" campaign including Jamie Gibbs, Dave Hawes, Scott Hawkins, Chris and Tammy Johnson were present to question present and past senatorial procedures including elections.

see SENATE, page 2 ...