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Special edition in memory of Patty Bennett



Gardner-Webb University THE PILOT

Memories
of Patty
see page 3

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The Official Campus Newspaper

Boiling Springs, NC

Tragic accident takes student's life

by Jason Farr
editor

On Saturday, September 24, five students from Gardner-Webb were involved in a tragic accident that included one fatality.

Patricia (Patty) Bennett, a sophomore from Westchester, Pennsylvania died as a result of injuries suffered in the automobile accident. Others injured in the accident included James Nickell, Gakunga Mburu, Dana Jones and Heather Love.

James is still in Carolina's Medical Center in Charlotte. Gakunga is back on campus and Heather and Dana were both treated and released.

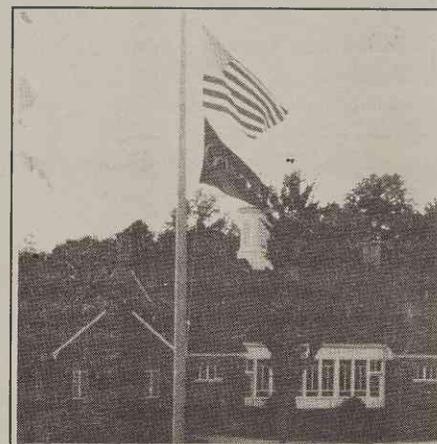
A memorial service for Patty was held in the Dover Chapel on Tuesday, September

27. Many of Patty's friends spoke out about her life, Clayton King had written a song in her honor and Dr. White delivered inspirational words of encouragement for others to remember.

The University provided a means for students to travel to Patty's funeral in Pennsylvania. A chartered bus departed on Wednesday, September 28 at 5:00 am. All who attended were excused from classes and were provided with meals on the trip.

Patty's parents have asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to a scholarship fund that they have established.

Donations should be sent to:
Patty Bennett Memorial Scholarship
% Downington National Bank Trust
701 East Lancaster Avenue
Downington, Pennsylvania 19335.



As a constant reminder to all who walked this campus, the flags representing our nation and our university flew at half-mast from Monday through Thursday. In the light of this tragedy the faculty, staff, and administrative personnel have reached out to all who felt the effects of losing a dear friend.

University response defines motto

by Michael Owens
staff writer

As its motto, the university has coined the phrase, "People Who Care." After the tragic accident which took the life of one of our own, the administration sought to live up to this often quoted expression.

When the accident happened, both Dean Scott and Wayne Johnson were out of town. Left to handle the situation was Vice President of University Relations, Scoot Dixon. After checking on the students involved, it was his responsibility to inform the parents.

Mr. Dixon was the first University administrator to speak with Patty's parents. Dixon said making the call was very difficult, but, "I had the easy call. Those receiving the news had the tough call."

Dean Scott arrived back into town around 11 pm that night. He and Wayne Johnson then began to coordinate the effort to keep both students and parents informed of the injuries suf-

fered by the other students involved.

Sunday was an emotionally draining day for the campus as a whole. To help students and faculty deal with their feelings and emotions, counselors were on hand.

In an attempt to provide students with safe transportation to Patty's funeral service in Pennsylvania, the administration provided a chartered bus, at no charge, for any who decided to go. Dean Scott had the cafeteria open at 5 am on Wednesday morning to make breakfast and lunch for those traveling to Pennsylvania. Then he met with those going and had a word of prayer.

The whole incident was described by Scott as "very tragic, very unfortunate." But even out of a sad and difficult situation can good evolve. Already one person in Patty's hometown has accepted Christ.

This truly has been a very difficult time for everyone at GWU. But fortunately when dealing with this, there have been no solo heroes, for it has truly been a team effort of "People Who Care."

To a Special Friend

*Patty you were a tennis star
but now you are an evening star.
I think of you still being here
your life to all was so very dear.
Even though I greatly miss you
I hope you'll watch over us all
from up in the endless sky so blue
and dust us off when we fall.
I don't view your death as a loss
and in eternity I can only hope
again our paths will cross.
Until then I pray we all can cope
because not to know you at all
would've been a greater loss to recall
than knowing your happy smile
that now in Heaven paints every mile!*
Author Unknown

In Memory of
Patricia (Patty) Bennett
June 6, 1975 - September 24, 1994
"Out of our hands and into the hands
of God."