

On-campus skateboarding policy causing debate

by Justin Hutto
staff writer

This year our campus is home to a greater number of skateboarders than in the past, and from this increase, a number of policy changes have arisen.

During the summer, University Police had a very loose policy on skating. Skateboarders were allowed to perform anywhere on campus that was not trafficked with people or automobiles.

According to Chief of University Police Tracy Curry, on occasion some areas of campus were set off specifically for skating.

Unfortunately for skateboarders, Curry was forced to reverse the policy, banning the use of skateboards campus-wide until further notice. This ban does not apply to bicycling and rollerblading.

This ban was declared with the intention of honoring complaints from all over

campus, including two instances in which loose skateboards damaged parked cars and the steps to Bost Gymnasium.

However, both University Police and Residence Life are trying to work out a plan that will satisfy the skating population as well as the administration.

These plans will generally revolve around setting aside a certain time or place where skating will be permitted and will not interfere with other campus activities. The details are not yet known.

The reaction of the skaters on campus has been one of resentment.

"I think that the policy is unfair and that the administration is being irrational," said Ray McCleod, a freshman skater on campus.

Despite the general air of distress among skaters, most say that they will abide within the limits of the ban, as long as progress continues toward a plan of compromise between the skateboarding population and the administration.



KAREN BROWER/Staff

Skater Ray McCleod "ollies" over the steps between Withrow and Craig Halls. University Police recently banned skateboard use on campus.

Small campus, big changes

by Suzanna Saadi
staff writer

AT&T and Marriott are causing big changes this year at Gardner-Webb. The improvements being made are already noticeable, but there's more to it, and there's more to come.

GWU decided to work out a plan called ACUS with AT&T for two main reasons. First, because AT&T offers lower rates for the students than BTI. BTI charges 18 cents a minute from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m., and AT&T charges only 15 cents a minute anytime, anywhere.

The second reason for switching phone companies is because of AT&T's customer service. On the back of every ACUS card is a 1-800 number students can call to get an account balance.

For any other information, students can ask customer service personnel during business hours, which are given on the AT&T voice recording.

Also, each student will be receiving a "Student Advantage" card from AT&T, which should arrive by Sept. 15. If it has not arrived by that time, it should be reported to 1-800-333-2920.

Marriott has already made many changes in the cafeteria meals, but they are just getting started. When changes to the cafeteria are complete, it will include a pizza station, a pasta station, a theme cuisine area, a deli and a dessert bar.

Steak and shrimp speciality nights are another added idea - but it doesn't have to stop there. Marriott is willing to listen to students' suggestions, so go ahead and share your ideas with the staff.

The final and perhaps biggest change that Marriott will be making involves the snack bar.

The snack bar is currently going through a "face-lift," and it is receiving a pizza station and a Freshens yogurt station. Work on the floor plan is scheduled for December.

New staff join university

by Mary Gettys
staff writer

Three new people have joined the Gardner-Webb staff with big plans for the year: Dr. Carolyn Jackson, Dean of Extended Professional Studies; Beth Searcy, Assistant Dean of Academic Advising; and Doug Searcy, Director of Residence Life.

Upon leaving Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, after one year, Dr. Carolyn Jackson, Dean of Extended Professional Studies, thought of Gardner-Webb. "I found it a very pleasant place to be. The faculty and staff is very committed."

Dr. Jackson anticipates a busy year for the GOAL program. "This program is growing and changing. It has consumed all my thinking time," she said.

Jackson's husband works at Sanford, and they have a son in California and a daughter in law school at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Jackson enjoys reading, traveling and collecting dolls with her daughter. She hopes to be involved in cultural and athletic events on campus.

Beth Searcy, Assistant Dean of Academic Advising, came from Davidson College after just eighteen months of being assistant director of residence life there. "The college (GWU) is growing. It was a great time to be a

part of the change," she said.

"I think it is my job to make sure students are on the right track - that their major (and) curriculum will support their life goals," Mrs. Searcy explained.

Mrs. Searcy wants to be responsible for helping students. "We want to make sure that students are informed about all aspects of their college experience, to be a clearinghouse for all types of information," she said.

She enjoys the water, traveling, shopping, reading and working on her house.

Doug Searcy, Director of Residence Life, remembered why he came to Gardner-Webb: "I really love the school, Christian higher education and the opportunity to work in a collegiate environment."

Mr. Searcy served as area coordinator of supervising campus housing at Appalachian State University for three years before moving to Gardner-Webb.

While at Gardner-Webb, Mr. Searcy wants to promote "fairness and consistency for all students" in the many issues he encounters at the residence life office. Even more, he wants to use this idea as he seeks to enhance the University through the area of residence life.

Mr. Searcy enjoys spending time with his wife and family, going to church, and listening to James Taylor. He also likes basketball and movies.



courtesy of RHONDA BENFIELD

Presidential Scholars

The 1997-98 Presidential Scholars are (left to right) Michael Stone, Walter Miller, Jr., Jamie Anderson, Mark Shivers, Summer Jeffcoat, Johnathan Allen, Aniela Orza, Kenny Wince, Andrea Turlington, Scott Chenevey and Aubrey McBride. Presidential scholars will receive 80 percent of tuition costs over four years. Anderson, Miller and Turlington are Academic Fellows and will receive full tuition costs for four years.



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