

News

Going for his dream

Chris Armstrong
Pilot staff

Gardner-Webb student Jerry Wease and hit television show American Idol have literally crossed sidewalks.

The night prior to Wease's first audition for American Idol in Atlanta, he slept on the sidewalk to keep

his place in line for the next day's auditions.

Wease was one of nearly 3,000 people who lined up on an Atlanta sidewalk last month to try out for the show.

"I could barely talk before the first audition," said Wease.

To protect his voice from the cold, he drank tea, honey and lemon before his performance. His voice survived the cold night out on the street.

During his time in line, Wease was encouraged by others and made new friends.

"It was a blast," said

Wease. "I met so many talented people. Being around others who share my dream was

wonderful!"

For his performance, Wease sang "God Must Have Spent a Little More Time" by

N * S Y N C .

Judges stopped him as he sang and asked him to sing again in front of Paula Abdul, Randy Jackson and Simon Cowell.

"At that point, I was nervous," Wease said.

Judges narrowed the contestants down to 500, then 50, then 20.

Wease made it through all three rounds and

was a part of the top 20 contestants that performed in the final round at a private mansion.



"They [the judges] were really supportive," said Wease. "Simon was very complimentary of my performance."

Wease was selected as the second alternate from the group that auditioned in Atlanta.

Even though he may not become the next American Idol, Wease is content with how far he's gone. "Who could be disappointed with a 12 place out of 3,000?" Wease said.

He will, however, be featured on the DVD to be released after the show airs.

The new season's theme is "Dare to Dream"—Wease did exactly that.

"As a child most people want to be singers and actors," said Wease. "With age, reality says go to college. I have not forgotten my childhood dream. I will make it!"

Gardner: files suit

Gardner from page 1

ethical duty to report the infraction and said that other area lawyers are also concerned. However, no others have filed a similar document with either the district attorney or the N.C. State Bar.

Out-of-state law firms usually work through a local attorney, who signs off on any legal advice given to clients. However, it usually happens during the preparation of wills and minor legal services.

The services provided by Hallman were different because the legal decisions based on his firm's report caused difficulty for Gardner-Webb, said Gardner.

"This was a pretty pervasive intrusion," said Gardner. "It was a substantial infraction in an unusual situation."

The investigation of Gardner's complaint will start with the Cleveland County district attorney and the N.C. State Bar; however, the Georgia State Bar may also investigate.

Young began looking into the accusations filed by Gardner. Young will meet with representatives from the N.C. State Bar as part of his investigation. It will be approximately January before Young finishes and decides whether or not to secure a criminal indictment.

If Hallman and his associates are found guilty, the criminal punishment could include repayment of any legal fees obtained from Gardner-Webb, said Young.

N.C. State Bar will also review the complaint and make an initial determination, said Doug Brocker of the N.C. State Bar. A letter will then be sent to Hallman's firm for a response to the allegations. The bar may continue investigating and send the complaint to the Authorized Practice Committee, which will make a determination as part of a public meeting.

Possible punishments from the State Bar range from cautionary letters to a civil injunction against Hallman's firm.

The investigation for the Ga. Bar starts with a written complaint that can be forwarded from the N.C. State Bar. "The investigation would be confidential until a disciplinary hearing," said Paula Frederick, deputy general council for the Ga. State Bar.

Possible punishment in Ga. varies, depending on state law and if someone was harmed, said Frederick.

Hallman was not available for comment.

Help The Pilot from crashing

Want to advertise in the Pilot?

Or donate money?

Call ext. 3533

Help us get the news to you!

FOR SALE

A Gateway Solo 5300 CX bought last Christmas. Basically new, did not suit our needs. Includes 14.1" screen, Pentium III processor 1000MHz, Memory 256MB SDRAM with 128 MB extra, 20GB Ultra Suite 2001. Comes with carrying case. Dimensions are 12.25" x 9.98" x 1.38" and weighs 5.5 lbs. Will sell for \$500. Phone 704.434.9361.

Please no calls after 9:30 p.m.

Want a professional looking resume?

JW Professional Service

214 St. John's Church Road

Conover, NC 28613

Contact **Jill Willers** at (828) 464-1979

Resumes are our specialty and start at \$30

Other services include interview counseling, job services and online resume posting.

www.professionalresumes.org