

News

War: students react to news

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Hester said those working out stopped everything to listen to the speech. After the speech was over, Bush's comments were the topic of many conversations. Hester said she talked to her parents and they were also talking about the attack on Iraq.

"You can't help but to talk about it," Hester said. "I think the biggest concern is how we can protect ourselves here because we don't know what could come here."

Chad Raymond, assistant professor of political science, feels that students are also concerned with the possibility of a terrorist attack and having relatives and friends fighting.

Freshman Courtney Nix has kept up with the talk of war for the last several months. During Bush's speech Monday night, her thoughts were on her friends and family in the military.

"I am really scared because I have friends and family already in Kuwait

"I am really scared because I have friends and family already in Kuwait and near the Red Sea."

— Courtney Nix

and near the Red Sea," Nix said. "We e-mail each other and each time I don't get an e-mail for a few days, I get scared."

Nix believes that the United States should try to find an alternative route for solving the problems other than war. But, the freshman said she does understand that war is sometimes necessary.

Some of the information was previously published in The Shelby Star.

Parker: would fight for country

Parker from page 1

disciplined in the military, and he divided his time into three major categories.

In the evenings and on weekends when he was "off work," Parker did many of the same things students here do on the weekends. When he was in garrison, or in the field, life was a lot different.

In garrison, Parker cleaned weapons, participated in inspections, prepared for possible missions and attended meetings.

"It was a love-hate thing," said Parker. "It was the hardest stuff I had done in my life, and I learned physically and mentally what my capabilities were."

But there is another side to Parker. He is also a student. His education is important to him.

"Nobody is more happy to be here," said Parker. "I am grateful for the opportunity [to be at Gardner-Webb], and I am making the most of it."

For Parker, and the other approximately 35 day, GOAL and graduate students who are using their VA benefits to attend school here, the realities of a possible war are all too clear.

As National Guard and reserve units are being called up and put on alert, they are being faced with the possibility of

being sent overseas far away from Gardner-Webb.

Even though many are in Inactive Ready Reserve, they are being activated. That does not mean that they will be sent to Iraq, said Parker.

"Probably 95 percent of those people won't actually be involved in fighting," said Parker.

If students are deployed, the GWU administration has a plan in place to help the soldiers' transition.

If students who are called up are unable to finish the semester, the registrar's office will cancel their registration, and the school will refund the money the students have paid for the semester.

"We don't want students [who are called up]

to have to withdraw from classes or be penalized," said Ginger Ford, transcript evaluator and VA certifying official for the university. "But, we will need a copy of their active duty orders."

For Parker, who left the military to go to college, his education is important. He was able to block IRR by joining the Army Reserves as a part of a drill sergeant unit. His mission will be to train soldiers, and in doing so, will not actually have to be deployed.

"I don't mind going," said Parker. "I just want to graduate."

"I don't mind going. I just want to graduate."

— Dave Parker

SIFE SPONSORS BONE MARROW DRIVE



Freshman Dan Walz waits patiently while Vickie Langford of the American Red Cross draws blood from his finger. Dan was just one of many GWU students who had their fingers pricked on March 19th for the bone marrow drive.

Photo by Angela Murtiff

Expectations exceeded

Erin Aldridge
Pilot staff

The SIFE club at Gardner-Webb sponsored a Bone Marrow Drive for Shelby's Police Chief, Charlie Vanhoy from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday in Ritch Banquet Hall.

Shelby's Fire Chief, Roland Hamrick, who has been involved for a long time in trying to find a donor for Vanhoy, feels that registering for the bone marrow donor registry is very easy. According to Hamrick, anyone from ages 18-60 can be a bone marrow donor.

"It is very simple. You just go in and get your finger pricked and that is it," said Hamrick. Hamrick also

explained that after a person's finger is pricked, the blood sample is put on a national bone marrow register between now and his or her 61st birthday. This register is constantly being searched for matches in bone marrow.

Two hundred and ninety-two Gardner-Webb students turned out for the drive. This surpassed SIFE's goal of 250 people.

"At dimensions, when they talked about the drive, I realized I could help save a life," said student Monica Lileton. "If I were in his situation, I know I would hope that someone could save my life."

SIFE said that it wanted to sponsor the drive because it was a great community service project for them to help with.

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