



The Pilot

Gardner-Webb University



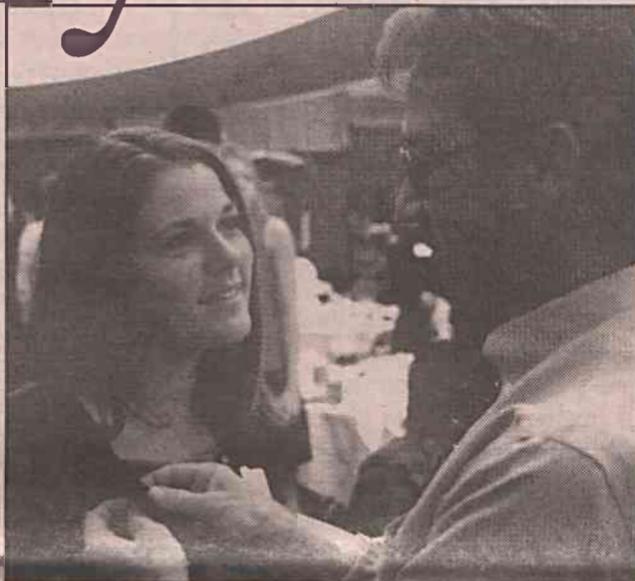
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Family invasion

Relatives come to Gardner-Webb for a weekend of festivities and to catch a glimpse of student life



Photos by Kaylin Bowers and Christina O'Grady

(Left) Senior Laurie Pinkert is pinned during the senior pinning ceremony on Friday night. (Right) President Frank Campbell reads to children during the faculty talent show on Friday night.

Administration plans for stadium renovations

Jennifer Menster
Pilot Copy Editor

In the movie, "Field of Dreams," Kevin Costner turns his corn harvest into a baseball field because a voice tells him, "If you build it, they will come."

Administrators and staff at Gardner-Webb University are saying the same thing: If they build a new press box at Spangler stadium, athletes, students and money will come.

After several years of planning, renovations to the football stadium are expected to become a reality at the start of next season.

Renovations include the

addition of about 3,500 seats on the current visitor's side and a new, three-story press box.

The plan to revamp Spangler Stadium developed as early as 1995, said Marc Rabb, director of sports information.

"This has been a long process because there are a number of factors included in building something like this," Rabb said.

Chuck Burch, vice president for athletics, said he is ready to put on his hard hat and get to work.

"We're all ready to get started," said Burch. "We're waiting on bids from contractors for the steel and brick before the work can begin."

Burch said they are optimistically looking at October for getting construction underway on the three-story building.

However, work will not interfere with any games, Burch said, because most of the construction will take place on the visitor's side - which will become the new home side once the press box and seating are complete.

Rabb said they decided to switch the home and visitors side for a number of factors including sun set, room and view.

The renovations to the stadium were not a requirement for IAA football. Rabb said the

improvements would enhance the appearance of the campus.

"When people drive into campus on Stadium Drive, the new press box will provide a nice look to the football stadium," Rabb said.

The new press box will be a three-story brick building, with lots of windows. The first floor will be the field house, equipped with a locker room, athletic training program rooms, and a new weight room.

The second floor will be offices, and the third floor will be the press box, along with a new president's box.

"If you've ever been to an away football game and then came here, you understand the

need for modernization," Burch said.

An architectural firm, FN Thompson Company of Charlotte, designed the building.

"The firm did a good job of tying the new press box in with the rest of the campus," Rabb said. "They've taken a lot of time to make sure it doesn't stick out like a sore thumb."

The new stadium will benefit not just the football team but also the rest of the athletic department, Burch said.

With a new field house, weight room and office space, the current field house will be open for other sports, such as

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