



The Pilot

Gardner-Webb University



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Derek Lane

*rises above challenges
with his musical talent*

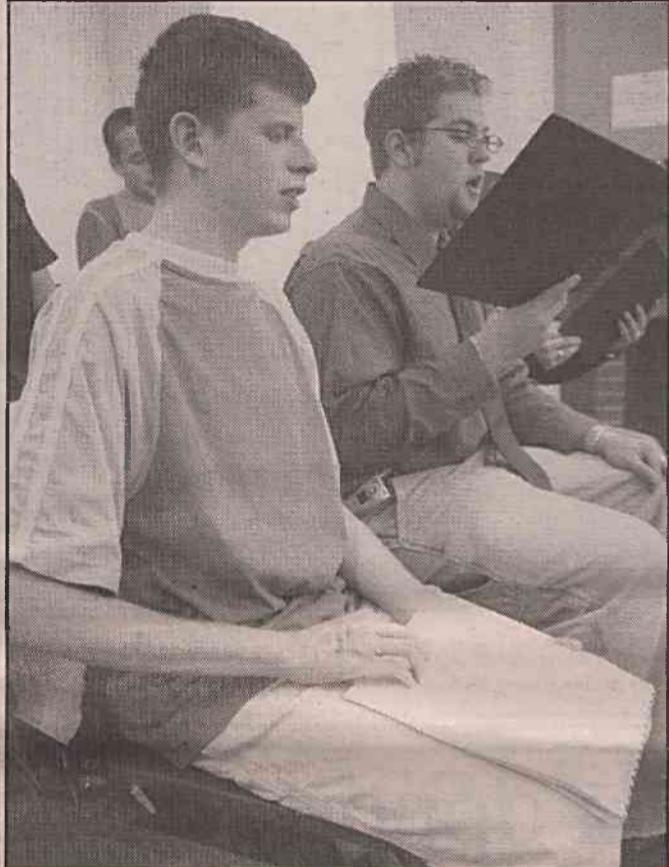


Photo by Kaylin Bowers

Derek Lane reads the words to his music in braille during rehearsal

Kaylin Bowers
Pilot Staff

Sophomore Derek Lane does not consider his blindness a handicap.

In fact, this communications major only considers it a "mere inconvenience."

"Ultimately, I would love to work with radio productions, doing sound effects and voiceovers," said Lane, who was born blind.

This past summer, Lane did audio work for his church during the services.

Music has been a large part of Lane's life since he was young. He began taking piano lessons at the age of five and now sings for the Gardner-Webb Concert Choir.

However, Lane learns the music somewhat differently from everyone else. Since he cannot see, he must have his music translated into Braille. There are Braille codes for music notes, said Lane,

but he does not know them very well. He has the words to the songs put in Braille and bound together for him by the Noel House.

During performances, the Concert Choir is allowed to have music available to them, but Lane typically memorizes the song, keeping the words handy as a back up.

Since he only has the words translated into Braille for him, he listens carefully to the parts around him in order to learn the song's tune. Also, Lane receives a tape of the music with just his part on it, which helps him to learn the song more quickly.

"Obviously, one hindering aspect of blindness is that I cannot sight-read," said Lane. "Some people are really good and can pick up music and start playing or singing just from sight-reading."

Lane either has to wait until the music is put into Braille or have someone read him the words. Even though this could be a major

hindrance to some people, Lane calls them "minor annoyances." These "minor annoyances" also including getting adjusted to a new performance place.

No matter how many annoyances life gives, music remains a part of Lane's life.

"He is so talented," said Maggie Koon, a junior who sings with Lane in the choir. "It's got to be difficult. He has such a passion for music and it is more than just singing. It is for music as a whole, even keyboards."

To Lane, his blindness is not a handicap.

"A handicap is something that you start out with and it gets worse," said Lane. "If you were born in a certain state, it has never existed, therefore not being a handicap."

Lane has overcome some of the difficulties blindness may cause and has learned to enjoy life — and music — the way it is.

President Campbell's contract extended

Jennifer Menster
Pilot copy editor

The Gardner-Webb board of trustees made it official last Thursday.

Well actually, they made him official.

Frank Campbell is no longer considered interim pres-

ident, but the real thing. The board extended his contract until June 30, 2005.

"I feel good about the decision," Campbell said. "I love Gardner-Webb. I love working with the students and am anxious to move on."

The "moving on" Campbell is talking about is from the

NCAA violations that Gardner-Webb is dealing with. Campbell said the board has asked him to bring the investigation to a close, which will take several more months, depending on the NCAA.

In December, Campbell will travel to Indiana to present a response to the NCAA. After

that, Campbell said the earliest the school will hear back from the association is eight weeks.

Campbell came to GWU about one year ago to help rebuild the school after former President Chris White resigned. Campbell said he is sorry for the reasons behind his coming to the GWU, but is glad he has the

opportunity to work at the college.

"I had always known about Gardner-Webb, but didn't know how good it really was," Campbell said. "We need to tell people that this school is really good."

He is closely watching the
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