



Serving students at Gardner-Webb University for more than 60 years

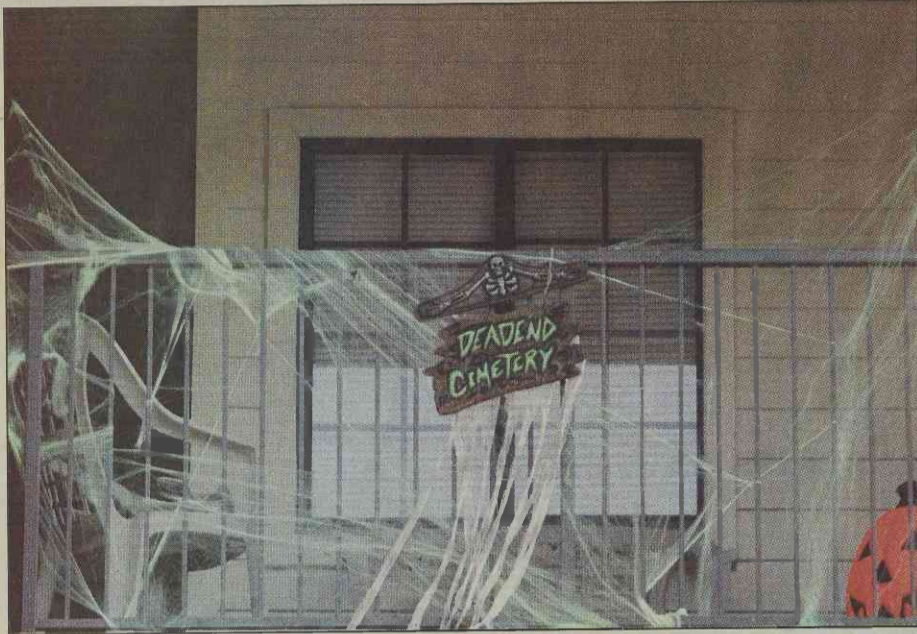


photo by Emily Slaughter

Residents of apartment building D near Stadium Drive show their spirit by decorating for Halloween.

Pagan past no hindrance to Halloween fun

Christie Barlow
Pilot copy editor

Witches, vampires, and werewolves are making their comeback this Oct. 31. But will they be welcome at Gardner-Webb University?

Because of its association with the occult and satanic worship, is Halloween a happy celebration for GWU students?

"I'm a Christian, and Halloween does not bother me," said Adam Joseph, a senior communications major from Hickory. "Plus, it's an excuse to dress up like an idiot and break your diet."

Many students seem to agree with Joseph.

"I think Halloween is a day for people to pretend that they're something or someone that they're not and get candy for it," said Adrienne Smith a freshman elementary education major from Athens, Ga. "I think people should celebrate it because it's just a way for people to find a reason to have another fun and exciting holiday. I don't think of it as a satanic holiday because I was brought up believing it was just plain fun."

Negative feelings from the church about Halloween stem from the origins of the holiday.

According to the History Channel, Halloween originated as a fifth century B.C. Celtic Festival called Samhain.

This festival was held to mark the New Year in the Celtic religion. They used the festival as a method of saying goodbye to the summer and marking the beginning of a cold, dark season they associated with human death.

The Celts believed that on October 31 the boundary between the living and dead became blurred and the spirits of the deceased could cross over and search for bodies to possess for the following year.

To protect themselves from possession, the living extinguished all the fires in their homes so they would appear cold and unwelcoming. They also dressed up in costumes and rampaged around the neighborhood, causing as much damage and destruction as possible in order to scare off the dead spirits.

According to Andy Sullivan, a senior business major from Charlotte, the holiday is "all in good fun."

"People shouldn't take these things so seriously," said Sullivan. "There's a fun story behind all the traditions that go along with Halloween. It just adds to the spirit of the whole day."

The origins of Halloween don't seem to be an issue for too many students at GWU. They find themselves looking forward to Halloween and a chance to dress up.

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Haunted trails a Halloween fright fest

Christie Barlow
Copy Editor

Looking for a fright this Oct. 31?

Creepy dark trails with hidden scares around every corner are just a few of the surprises that come with the Halloween season.

"I love being scared," said Lindsay Cox, a sophomore health and wellness major from Virginia Beach, Va. "Haunted houses and trails are great things for a date or just to have fun with your friends."

For those daring enough to venture into a haunted house, and are looking for a little fun, there are quite a few places creating a buzz.

Scarowinds remains one of the most popular venues in Charlotte, offering 12 different attractions.

"Scarowinds is always pretty well done," said junior Abbie Looper, an elementary education major from Charlotte.

New attractions at Scarowinds this year are the 'Headless Hollow,' where

you can match your wits against the headless horseman, and 'Massacre Manor,' where you wander through a creepy farmhouse infested by the undead.

"The only bad thing about Scarowinds is that it's so expensive. It's definitely worth it; everything is really scary," said Looper. "It's just a lot of money if you're on a budget."

A haunted trail a little closer to GWU, and a little less expensive than Scarowinds, that gives students quite a scare is Wompus Woods in Cowpens, S.C.

"I love Wompus Woods," said Lindsey Whitfield, a freshman from Easley, S.C. "It scares me a lot, but it's still so much fun."

So what's Wompus Woods all about? It features the "Wompus," a large one-eyed beast that came from England in the 1600s. People are lead on a trail through the woods to the site of the Wompus' home and feeding grounds.

With screams and scares all around, it is sure to get your adrenaline pumping. "There is something so scary about

being in the woods anytime," said Whitfield.

"It's even scarier at night, when things can come at you from anywhere, and anytime. It is honestly one of the scariest places that I have ever been to, but I still love it."

What makes the hair on the back of your neck stand on end and sends shivers up and down your spine?

"Just about anything scares me," said sophomore Haley Scism from Charlotte. "What really gets me is the chainsaw at the end. Whenever people chase me, I just take off running."

Scism isn't the only one running scared in haunted houses.

"I always freak out whenever people reach out and grab me or hit me with things," said Andy Sullivan, a senior business major from Charlotte. "That is one thing that just makes me want to take a swing at whoever it is grabbing at me."

This Halloween, see how brave you are: Face your fears at a haunted house or trail.

Seniors: No application, no graduation

Ronda Carpenter
Pilot Staff

Seniors who plan to graduate in May, be warned that the deadline for filing the necessary paperwork is near.

Graduation applications are available online and need to be turned in to the Office of the Registrar by Nov. 22.

"It is the student's responsibility to submit their graduation application," said Registrar Louann Scates.

Students must pay \$100 to the registrar's office when they turn in the application.

If an application is received after the deadline, students must pay a \$50 late fee.

"The \$100 fee is required for students to graduate," said Sonda Hamrick, administrative assistant for the registrar. "That fee covers the cap and gown and the diploma."

"We are encouraging students to turn in graduation applications

Deadlines

Completing all course work by May 2006

Application for graduation due Nov. 22, 2005.
\$50 late fee applies from Nov. 23, 2005 to Jan. 13, 2006.

Completing all course work by Aug. 2006

Application for graduation due: Mar. 29, 2006 (Day and Divinity); April 21, 2006 (Graduate, MBA, GOAL)
\$50 late fee applies from Mar. 30 (Day and Divinity) or April 22 (Graduate, MBA, GOAL) through May 15, 2006 (all programs).

in a timely manner to avoid the \$50 late fee," said Scates.

Kaddra Greene, senior psychology major from Shelby, was uncertain about the process.

"I'm really not sure how to go about filling out the application or where I am supposed to get it at," said Greene.

Hamrick highlighted the ease of the process.

"Students go online and into My Webb, and then go into student records," she said.

"They print out their degree evaluation and degree coversheet. They must get the signatures required and attach it to the front of their evaluation and turn it in to the registrar's office."

The registrar's office attempts to keep the most up-to-date information available to seniors, who can check to see if their applications have been processed.

"The Web site is updated every Friday, so students can see if

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Students offer helping hand to Hurricane Katrina victims

Sarah James
Pilot Web Editor

Gardner-Webb University students and staff traveled to Gulf Port, Miss. during fall break to assist in the clean up after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The group helped in Forest Heights, a neighborhood in Gulf Port, gutting six to eight houses.

The group also gave out supplies gathered on campus before the trip.

"It was hard to know what to expect," said Julie Lineberger a senior from Shelby majoring in Religious Studies. "The thing that struck me the most is how powerful God is," Lineberger said.

The students had a wonderful time and bonded well together, said Dawn Anthony, assistant director of alumni relations at GWU

and a co-team leader on the trip.

She hopes that the students will be able to share their experiences with GWU and the community.

"The families they worked with were very appreciative," said Anthony.

The people worked along side of us and were very grateful and went on and on about how people had come to help them. Their faith was strong, Lineberger said.

The students were able to interact with both children and adults.

We had devotionals each night that were very moving for everyone, Anthony said.

The students were divided into two groups during the day and came together to share their work experiences.

It was encouraging what the other team had done that day, said Lineberger.

For an in-depth look at GWU student relief efforts in the Gulf, see The Pilot's special photo section on pages 5 through 8.

On the Inside

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