

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

GWU on a quest to field a marching band

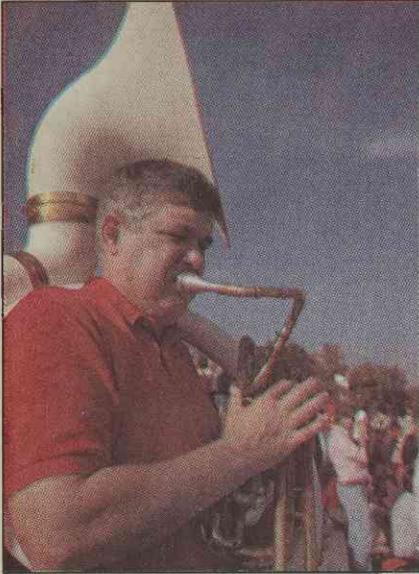


Photo by Kaylin Bowers

Matt Whitfield plays the tuba in the Pep Band during the Homecoming game Nov 5. Within the next three years, GWU hopes to transform the Pep Band into a marching band.

Matt Tessner
Pilot Managing Editor

Shine up the trumpets and dust off the uniforms. The Gardner-Webb University Music Department wants to form a marching band, something the university has not had since the late '80s.

For 10 to 12 years, GWU fielded a marching band. However, a lack of funding and lack of equipment led to the end of the program.

"We want to do it right if we're going to have one," said Matt Whitfield, associate professor of fine arts, who is working on the project. "What we're planning to do is hire the director for next year, get established and build the program. The band would then be put on the field the next year."

The department is currently in the process of interviewing possible directors. According to Whitfield, they want to hire an outgoing and charismatic person.

"We're trying to take our time and get the right guy," said Whitfield. "Just getting the program off the ground would be a major accomplishment."

Currently, the support for the program is in good shape. Whitfield said the university has already approved a marching band program, and they

have set aside a piece of the budget for equipment, uniforms and expenses.

New instruments will be needed because the department currently possesses only concert instruments.

"We drew up a plan and submitted it to the senior staff last spring," said Whitfield. "The purchase of uniforms is already built into the budget to come out of university funds. The whole drum line would require new instruments, as well as marching baritones and sousaphones. That too has been budgeted as a need."

Marching bands need outdoor practice facilities, and the GWU band would be no different. The department has discussed a storage building for equipment. According to Whitfield, the athletic department is willing to share their space with the program.

"The athletic department has offered their fields to practice on," said Whitfield. "We are trying to make due with what we've got, but a new fine arts center would help."

Currently, there are students on campus who would like to participate in marching band. Whitfield said the department has a plan to get those students involved.

"One of the things we want to do would be to give the students a check for \$1,000 at the end of the semester to

be in it," he said. "The more years you stay in it, the more money you'd get."

Robin Taylor, a sophomore music and communications major from New Jersey, is one of the current students interested in the marching program. She said a lot of students on campus were in high school marching programs, and would like to see one here.

"I think it would help expand the department," Taylor said. "People who want to continue doing it would be more interested if they can actually be out on the field during games."

According to Whitfield, a large part of the director's job during the first year, will be spent in recruiting. Local high schools and marching contests are places to find individuals who want to participate.

"We're hoping to put 70 to 80 students on the field the first year, at a bare minimum," said Whitfield.

Currently, the university loses potential students who want to march in college. With a marching band, more students could be brought to GWU through the music department.

"I get people each year who call about marching band," said Whitfield. "We don't have it, so they don't come to Gardner-Webb. The marching band can pay for itself with increased enrollment."

Students make poetry matter outside the classroom

Eric Proctor
Pilot Entertainment Editor

Let's face it...many readers will probably read the title and skip this article altogether. They'll check the sports scores. They'll look at the pictures. Then, they'll crumple up the paper and throw it away. To them, poetry doesn't matter.

But it can.

After reading "Can Poetry Matter?," an article originally published in The Atlantic Month-

ly, English professor Chris Davis decided to try what was done in the article on a smaller, local scale. He gave his Poetry Writing class an assignment to choose a way to show others the value of poetry.

"Poetry is so much an isolated, solitary thing," said Davis. "Writing is in general. I wanted to do something that forced people to step out of that isolation."

He also said he thinks it will be a good change of pace for the class.

"In a poetry class, you write

and read poetry, and you workshop it, but I wanted to do something where you get to go out into the world," said Davis.

Davis' students have come up with a wide variety of ideas.

"For my project, I'm going to try to put poetry on bulletin board paper and hang it off of people's balconies in the apartments, and then try to get people's reaction to it," said Kyle Loughran. "I think this project is important because hopefully it will make people more aware and appreciative of poetry."

Daniel Abraham has teamed with Jess Snyder to take advantage of the popularity of Facebook and create a group called "GWU Poetry." This is a forum for students to submit and receive feedback on their work, or share some of their favorite poems.

Danette Holmes is organizing a poetry slam, while Matt Dimick is planning to go into a school and teach a poetry lesson.

Trudy Roth, a basic skills instructor, is planning to share poetry with the mentally retarded

adults with whom she works. She is going to select pictures that correspond with the poems she will read, and will instruct her students to color them according to how the poem has made them feel. A blue colored pencil will be used to denote sadness, while red will be used to denote happiness.

This is the first year that Davis has incorporated this project into his teaching.

If it goes well, he plans to use it in future installments of the poetry writing course.

The Pilot picks the Top 10 flicks of the holiday season

Jessica Thompson
Pilot Staff

1. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, and Emma Watson

The fourth installment of the Harry Potter series is by far the darkest book brought to screen, and it hints toward being the best yet. It is Harry's fourth year at the wizarding school of Hogwarts, and it begins with an aching scar, the Quidditch World Cup, and another new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher. Mad-Eye Moody is a repugnant former dark wizard catcher who is teaching as a favor to the school's headmaster, Professor Dumbledore. Professor Moody is not the only new addition to Hogwarts, as Dumbledore announces that the school will be hosting the Tri-Wizard Tournament. Harry is mistakenly chosen to be a fourth competitor. As Harry focuses on juggling schoolwork, friends and enemies, and the tournament, he is scarcely unaware of Lord Voldemort's plans to return to power.

This movie has been anxiously awaited by children and adults alike for the entirety of the year. It is sure to please an moviegoer who craves action and adventure intertwined with a world of fantasy. This movie is rated PG-13 for sequences of fantasy violence and frightening images. The wait is over Nov. 18...

2. The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Starring: Tilda Swinton, James McAvoy, Georgie Henley, Skandar Keynes, and Anna Popplewell

C.S. Lewis's classic tale is brought to life in this highly anticipated fantasy. The four Pevensie children - Edmond, Lucy, Susan, and Peter - while playing 'hide and seek,' find themselves able to enter the magical world of Narnia. This world intrigues them with talking beasts, dwarves, fauns, giants and centaurs, along with the powerful and majestic lion Aslan. They soon come to discover, however, that Narnia is not a perfect as it first appears. The country is being dictated by the evil White Witch, who has placed the country under a spell of eternal winter. The four children ban together under the leadership of Aslan to fight in an epic battle in attempts to release Narnia from the queen and her icy spell, forever.

"The Chronicles of Narnia" will be an excellent movie for families. Producers say the story follows Lewis's original writings and does not lose in its journey from book

to screen its Christian alliterations. This movie is rated PG for battle sequences and frightening moments. You can enter the wardrobe on Dec. 9.

3. King Kong

Starring: Naomi Watts, Jack Black, Adrien Brody, Andy Serkis, and Jamie Bell

Director Peter Jackson tackles his next project with full force. His newest movie, "King Kong" is set for release on Dec. 14.

Documentary filmmaker Carl Denham sets off to Skull Island in order to film his latest project with star Ann Darrow. When the project gets out of control and Darrow is offered as a sacrifice by the local natives. She fears the worst as the witch doctor chants, but is in fact rescued by the massive monster King Kong. Darrow is able to return to New York safely, but when Kong is brought back to the states as well, she becomes the object of his longing. He hears the city apart searching for her, eventually making it to the peak of the Empire State Building, where he meets his fate, going head to head with a fleet of World War I fighter planes.

"King Kong" will be the second remake of this tale, but Jackson's directorial history promises this movie will be creative and awe-inspiring. This film is not yet rated.

4. Chicken Little

Starring: Zach Braff, Joan Cusack, Steve Zahn, Amy Sedaris, and Don Knotts

Disney Studios proudly presents the animated rendition of Chicken Little. A year has passed since Chicken Little caused mass mayhem in his home town of Oakey Oaks by claiming that the sky was falling. He is just now recovering from his embarrassment and is beginning to branch out into society. He joins the local baseball team in hopes of regaining the respect of his father, Buck Cluck. After leading his team to an upset victory, Chicken Little is the town hero, so when he discovers the sky really is falling, he is reluctant to tell a soul. Chicken Little eventually recruits his odd-ball friends, Abby Mallard, Runt of the Litter, and Fish Out of Water to help him secretly save the world.

Time Magazine exclaims this movie is "One of the funniest and most exhilarating movies in years!" (Richard Coruss). It is sure to entertain the masses. Chicken Little is rated G. "The end is near," on Nov. 4.

5. Walk the Line

Starring: Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon

"Walk the Line" is the early story of Johnny Cash, following his life from a struggling musician to his rise to fame. This

movie captures the emotions felt during the most trying times of the singer's life, including the death of his brother, his drug abuse, and the failure of his first marriage. June Carter is the one who pulled Cash out of his slump and helped him become a legendary man. The love they had saved him, allowing him to become the 'Man in Black.'

This powerful love story is appropriate for all ages. It is not a movie to be missed. The movie is rated PG-13 for some language, thematic material and depiction of drug dependency. Experience the life of a legend Nov. 18.

6. Jarhead

Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Jamie Foxx, and Peter Sarsgaard

"Jarhead" follows the Marine Anthony Swofford (a.k.a. Swoff) from his mind-numbing experience at boot camp to active duty during the Gulf War. He sports a 100-pound pack on his back and a sniper's rifle as he and his fellow company make their way through the Middle Eastern deserts. While they suffer from the intolerable sun and lack of protection from the Iraqi soldiers, Swofford and his fellow Marines intertwine comedy and camaraderie in order to keep their heads. The foreign desert, along with unseen enemies and a war they don't understand, makes for a collaboration of emotions experienced in the movie.

This film was based on real life Marine Swofford's memoir, which provided readers with an unsettling look at the reality of the Gulf War. This movie is rate R for pervasive language, some violent images and strong sexual content. Jarhead will be in theaters Nov. 4.

7. Derailed

Starring: Clive Owen, Jennifer Aniston, Melissa George, and Vincent Cassel

In this mystery drama, married ad exec Charles Schine meets a sexy young business woman on a commuter train to Chicago. Schine acts upon his lust and meets her at a hotel, where everything begins to go horribly wrong. The two are busted in on by an armed robber named LaRoche, who blackmails them into paying him an extravagant amount of money. With their lives in terrible danger, both Schine and the woman strive to figure out how to turn the tables on their blackmailer before it is too late.

"Derailed" is sure to be an intriguing choice for teens and adults. This movie is rated R for strong disturbing violence, language and some sexuality and is set to hit theaters today.

8. Rent

Starring: Rosario Dawson, Taye Diggs, Wil-

son Jermaine Heredia, Jesse L. Martin, and Idina Menzel

It is 525,600 minutes. That is the span of time this Tony Award winning musical-transfigured-to-the-big-screen-covers. This rock opera, originally based on Puccini's classic opera La Boheme, tells the story of a one-year period in the lives of a group of struggling Bohemians who can't afford their New York East Village apartments. Believing in love as their only constant, these starving artists deal with the issues of poverty, drugs, AIDS and death.

"Rent" will be a beautiful interpretation of overcoming hardship with the power of love, allowing one to take each day as it comes. This film is rated PG-13 for mature thematic material involving drugs and sexuality and for some strong language. The music begins Nov. 23.

9. Aeon Flux

Starring: Charlize Theron, Frances McDormand, and Marton Csokas

It is the 25th century and the human race has all but been destroyed by a killer virus. The last remaining city, Bregna, is encased by a protective bubble and run by an extensive team of scientists. At first glance the city's utopian state seems to be one of complete perfection, but there are regular disappearances of citizens, with no indication to where they go. A band of rebels has formulated and established a resistance against the government. Aeon Flux is one of the rebellion's best assassins. Her latest assignment: kill the leader of the government.

"Aeon Flux" is based on animated television series aired on MTV during the '90s. Charlize Theron in spandex, along with the fast paced action and adventure plot, will most likely draw an audience. This movie is rated PG-13 for sequences of violence and sexual content. The mission begins Dec. 2.

10. The Ringer

Starring: Johnny Knoxville, W. Earl Brown, Brian Cox, and Katherine Heigl

When Steven Barker realizes he is in desperate need of money, he sinks to an all time low and attempts to rig the Special Olympics.

While pretending to be intellectually challenged in order to qualify for competition, he soon realizes his fellow Olympians are better athletes than he is and better people.

This comedy combines coarse humor with morality to please moviegoers. This movie is rated PG-13 for crude and sexual humor, language and some drug references. "The Ringer" hits theaters Dec. 23.