

News

Mixed voting plans, feelings for GWU students

By Matt Tessner
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'Some people brag that they only vote once every four years, as if that's a big accomplishment.'

Debra Blanton

Director of Elections for Cleveland County

the negative advertisements that run on television. He also said a large part of his decision not to vote is that he would not be voting on a presidential candidate.

Ashley Koen, a junior, agrees with Huber.

"I will not vote for the local government, because I am not well enough informed of the candidates and their platform," said Koen.

Ashley Jolley's voting plans have nothing to do with voting for a president and everything to do with a first chance.

"I plan on voting," said Jolley, a freshman music education major from Mooresboro. "I am voting because it is the first year that I am allowed to vote."

M'liisa Lawrence, a senior English and political science major from Atlanta, Ga., said she not only plans to vote in this election, she will also be at the polls for most of the day Tuesday to hand out information. That will allow people to make informed decisions, she said.

"The fact that this is not a presidential election is what makes it so important," said Lawrence, who is

vote when the time comes to elect a new president."

According to Debra Blanton, director of elections for the Cleveland County Board of Elections, only voting in presidential elections is not a smart approach to the process.

"Some people brag that they only vote once every four years, as if that's a big accomplishment," said Blanton. "This type of election, I've been told, with the type of local candidates has not been seen in 12 years. That means that folks with several of the high-profile offices are not running again."

"For people here in Cleveland County, there is a chance to change things in several of the local offices and I think folks are finding that exciting."

"Any time a citizen votes, that is reinforcing that we are a democracy and this is how we choose to govern ourselves."

It is too late to register to vote in this election. Students who are registered in Cleveland County can vote Saturday via one-stop absentee voting at the Cleveland County Board of Elections office, 215 Patton Drive in Shelby, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The other option is to vote Tuesday. Polls in Cleveland County are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

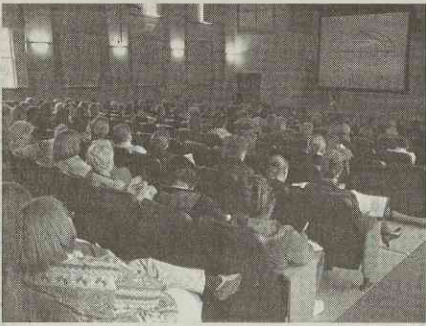


Photo by Haley Black

Blanton auditorium on the Gardner-Webb University campus held the Teepa Snow Alzheimer's Workshop on Thursday, October 26.

Caregivers attend conference

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"They do the best they can," she said. "They can't control what's happening."

She also talks about responding and interacting, knowing your limits as a caregiver, and even if you are capable of being one.

Snow spends time not only doing workshops, but also providing help to people in the early stages of dementia, as well as to physicians, nurses and pharmacists.

Snow also talks about the latest developments that are occurring and what people

can do now to prevent the disease. She advises people, especially the younger generation, to take responsibility for their behaviors.

"A big part is lifestyle choices," she said.

Things such as diet and exercise for the brain and body are beneficial in delaying or preventing the disease. With the nation's climbing rates of obesity and high blood pressure, Snow is concerned about younger people.

"I encourage them to make wise choices," she said.

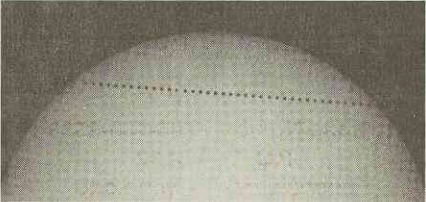


Photo by NASA Solar and Heliospheric Observatory

The dotted line shows the path where Mercury will cross the Sun on Wednesday.

Miss this and you'll wait until 2016 for the next one

By Dr. Don Olive

Gardner-Webb University

Most people have heard of celestial events like Halley's Comet passing by, an eclipse of the Sun or a meteor shower. Because these things don't happen often, folks should take advantage of the opportunity to see them. Here's your chance — come to the Williams Observatory at Gardner-Webb University Wednesday afternoon to view a transit of Mercury.

You may be asking yourself, "What is a transit?" It's when a planet's orbit takes it across the face of the Sun. Mercury, the inner-most planet in our solar system, lies between us and the Sun, it will pass in front of the Sun from our perspective.

Because of the differing tilts of our orbits and orbital speeds, this occurs rather infrequently. Pierre Gassendi, a French philosopher and mathematician, is credited with viewing first observed transit in 1631. The next transit will be May 9, 2016.

Edmund Halley realized that transits could be used to determine the distance to the Sun. A transit of Venus in 1761 gave astronomers their first good value for the absolute scale of the solar system. If it wasn't for

measurements like those, modern astronomy with interplanetary probes, space flight and lunar landings would never have been possible.

Since Mercury is only 1/194 of the Sun's apparent diameter, the transit cannot be viewed with the naked eye. Also, the Sun's blinding glare is very dangerous to the eyes and the Sun should never be viewed directly, especially through binoculars or a telescope.

To view this transit, a telescope with appropriate filters is required, much like welding goggles are required to view an electrical arc.

During this transit astronomers from the Cleveland County Astronomical Society and scientists from Gardner-Webb University will gather at the Williams Observatory to view this rare event. The Gardner-Webb community and the public are invited to attend. Several solar telescopes will be set up and available for viewing.

Please contact Dr. Don Olive with questions. (dolive@gardner-webb.edu)

Dr. Olive is an associate professor of Physics and director of the Williams Observatory

RHA reps return from conference with new ideas

By Ali Cunningham

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Four officers from Gardner-Webb University's Residence Hall Association traveled to Kingsport, Tenn., Oct. 27-28 for the 39th annual South Atlantic Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls Conference.

Jessica Jones, Jonathon Winning, Trevor Anderson and Ali Cunningham, as well as Sherry Ingram, assistant resident director of GWU RHA, made the trip to Kingsport.

"(The purpose) is to use the ideas we each learned at the conference to better RHA and the programs we present to our campus," said Jessica Jones, GWU RHA president.

"The conference was a blast," said Jones. "I am so excited to implement the new strategies we learned over the weekend. We hope to get more people involved in RHA but to also help students better understand what it is that we are for and what we can do for them."

There were 61 schools from nine states at the conference. Sessions included how to make meetings more entertaining; managing big projects on small budgets; and getting SGA and RHA working together to make things better for students.

Having seen new projects and how other RHAs planned, organized, and carried out events, GWU's RHA officers brought back new ideas on how get students more involved on campus and with the other residence halls.

One idea is a "Battle of the Buildings," with residence halls competing against each other for the title "Best Residence Hall." Bragging rights and a plaque for the lobby are among possible prizes.

Meetings take place every other Monday at 5 p.m. in Decker Hall lobby. The next meeting is Nov. 13.

Vote early or bring a book while you wait

Staff Editorial

Daily Lobo (U. New Mexico)

(U-WIRE) ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - I'm not paddling into the rivers of the election debate to tell you that you have a civic duty to fulfill by voting in this year's election.

If you want to abstain because you think the 1st Congressional District candidates are better suited for a no-holds-barred, queen-of-the-cage match, I'm not wagging my finger at you. That's your choice. If you think one vote of the more than 400,000 that will be cast in this election is going to show Patricia Madrid and Heather Wilson you're not putting up with them running such an in-the-muck campaign, more power to you. That one vote is going to grab them by the ears, I'm sure.

For those of you who

are voting, here's advice from someone who's been through the odyssey that is the new paper ballot: Vote early.

That paper ballot is about as cumbersome as tying your shoes with your toes. The best part, though, is if you fill it out wrong, which, because you're only allowed to use a pen, is absurdly possible, little R2D2 (also known as the voting machine) will vomit it out at you as the words "Spoiled Ballot" flash across the electronic tabulator's tiny screen.

To be sure, the paper trail that the ballots will leave is much more important than wanting to kneel little R2 in the electronic groin if it spits it back, but if you wait until Tuesday to go vote, bring some dense reading: maybe Franz Kafka's *The Trial*, Fyodor Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*,

the phone book, etc.

There are two sides to the 11 by 17 inch ballot, and people will make mistakes by answering something twice or filling out a bubble wrong, said several of the clerks when I voted. And when they make mistakes, they have to fill out their two-sided ballots all over again. And when people haven't figured out who or what they're voting for before they get to the polls, you can see how long this could take.

I voted Friday night and timed how long it took from filling out the identification card to stuffing my ballot into R2's mouth: 12 minutes and 37 seconds. And I knew that ballot up and down before I went in there.

So, get to an early voting site before Saturday at 6 p.m. That's it. All the work's done for you. Tell R2 I said hello.

Malawi missions helps div student be a teacher

By Sheyahshe Littledave

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Bryan Evans, a student in the Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity, touched the lives of 300 people per day on a recent mission trip to the African country of Malawi.

Evans has made four trips to Malawi since 2003 with Hands on Missions, an organization based in Shelby — but he once had no interest in ministry.

Even though Evans has found his calling in doing missionary trips, he says that when he was younger he ran from ministry because it seemed limited to him.

"When I was introduced to missions, the idea of it blew my mind," he said. "The idea that someone could travel the world, to the nooks and crannies, and teach the gospel to those who never heard it. I knew it was for me."

Evans worked with the Yao people, who were drawn to him because he was the first African American missionary to the coun-

try. He said he was faced with difficult questions from people whose image of African Americans were shaped by Michael Jordan and Michael Jackson.

"On my first trip, they pulled me aside and asked me questions about Bin Laden and 9/11," Evans said. "I was asked if I was a real Christian or paid to act like one to convert them."

Evans' task to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ to a mostly Islamic nation is not an easy one. He shared with the Yao his story of being in an accident and breaking his neck in three places.

"God healed me," said Evans. "In my head I kept hearing 'Even though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil.' It was then I knew my calling."

Evans did his ministry at Grace Farm, a place in Malawi financed by anonymous donors in Cleveland County, which provides opportunities for natives and food for orphanages.

Although Evans had been to Malawi three times, this last trip proved to be the most difficult and the most



Photo courtesy of Bryan Evans
Divinity school student Bryan Evans works with a child during his recent trip to Malawi.

successful.

"This was the first time that many of the village children heard the gospel of Jesus Christ," said Evans. "In God, we accomplished everything we set out to do, and more." Evans and the rest of the mission team provided many field day activities and Bible studies for the children.

Evans is a graduate of Crest High School in Boiling Springs and is a member of Ramseur Baptist Church of Shelby.

"I am an example to the youth who never imagined the concept of a missionary," Evans said.

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