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This Edition

— In campus news —

The GWU School of Business has received multiple donations recently. Read the Page 1 story to find out how they will be used.

The Front Porch Club, an unofficial GWU organization, will have to learn to deal with the new tobacco-free policy. See the Front Page story for more details.

— In community news —

Shelby Mayor Ted Alexander will run for re-election this fall. See more on Page 2.

GWU professors get together to play music at The BRCC. Find out more on Page 2.

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A Web site has made Matt a frightened nerd. Find out what perplexes him these days on Page 3.

— In sports —

The women's swimming team shot for their fourth straight NEC championship. Find out how they did on Page 4.

GWU women's tennis player Monica Walsler fought off an illness to help her team win. See more on Page 4.

Weekend Weather

Saturday
Feb. 24

56/45
Chance of showers

Sunday
Feb. 25

58/41
Chance of showers

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photo by Rachel Lloyd
Several regular attenders, Andrew Zawierucha (left), Mark Winning (middle) and Nate Aymond (front right), of the Front Porch Club smoke pipes and blow off steam on Feb. 15.

Moving off the front porch?

Unofficial GWU club affected by new tobacco-free policy

By Matt Tessnear
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Andrew Zawierucha and his friends might have to move off campus due to a new university policy that will ban tobacco use at Gardner-Webb as of Aug. 6. Zawierucha and others who participate in the weekly gathering of the Front Porch Club may have to get together elsewhere.

According to Zawierucha, eight to 10 students get together each week to smoke and talk about a wide variety of things. Some of the students smoke pipes, which have been a staple of the club since it began.

The Front Porch Club is an unofficial organization that isn't sanctioned by the university. There are no membership rites and attendees change each week. The group welcomes anyone.

"The heart of it had always been community," said Zawierucha. "It seems like, when you're sitting down with a bunch of friends, smoking a pipe, your barriers go down and your defenses go down."

"You're able to build a strong community with your peers. The Front Porch Club has brought together a group of people that probably would have never associated with each other otherwise."

Wes Rice, who has long attended Front Porch meetings, said the Front Porch Club is just a title for the group. The club might sound somewhat elitist, but it's mostly

about hanging out, he said. "It has a lot of different meanings to different individuals," said Rice. "It's a good time once a week to put everything aside and forget about our classes. It's kinda of like preparing for the weekend."

The university's announcement Jan. 29 of the tobacco-free policy caused concerns about the club's future. The new policy bans cigarettes, cigars and smokeless tobacco on campus.

"I don't think you could have Front Porch Club without having someone smoking a pipe," said Zawierucha, who says the group will survive, regardless of the policy.

"If we have to find a place off campus to do it, we will. Unfortunately, that could hurt attendance. It will keep people from coming that might not have the means. (The policy) will be damaging a good thing."

None of the Front Porch Club attendees are planning to get a house off campus next year.

The club started about three years ago on the back porch of a house behind Nanney Hall. Last year, it moved to a side porch of Royster Hall, where Rice and Brandon Russell lived. Students currently meet on the porch outside the room occupied by Rice and Nate Aymond.

The current location has a roof and three couches. Rice and Aymond even bought Christmas lights and have an old lighthouse that they turn on to light the

porch.

"Brandon and I weren't originally supposed to live together," said Rice, a senior. "I was supposed to room with John Clay. (Clay, a former GWU student) was the person who wanted to first smoke a pipe. He wanted to form a theology club, but it just didn't pan out."

Students of the front porch club do discuss theology, but topics also range from philosophy to recent events, said Zawierucha.

"For me, it's always great, once I've gotten done with all my homework for the night. It's a great relief to hang out with friends and blow off steam and enjoy company," he said.

The club has even been around long enough to welcome alumni back for visits. One former Front Porch Club attendee lives in Boston, but still checks in on the club, said Zawierucha.

"It's kind of a link or connection to Gardner-Webb," he said. "Part of my whole college life has been Front Porch Club every Thursday night. It's something I've always looked forward to."

Rice says he's sure people will hang out on the porch in the future, but things won't be the same with the policy.

"We might try to have one last hoorah sometime, make it pretty grand and probably smoke a whole lot," said Rice. "If some people who have gone here do get to come back, hopefully we'll be able to have one more time

Taking care of business

Money to be used for technology, scholarships for business students

By Matt Tessnear
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Recent donations to the Gardner-Webb University School of Business, totaling more than \$185,000, are a sign of the school's recent success and goals for growth, according to Dean Dr. Anthony Negbenebor.

"The recipients of all this money will be the students, bottom line," said Negbenebor, adding that the business school needs to update its technological offerings and add scholarships. "Businesses are very dynamic. You have to keep up with the latest business models. Making sure (our students) are ahead of others is what this is about."

The Charlotte Business Journal has ranked the GWU School of Business as one of the best in North and South Carolina for seven consecutive years. Many of the school's graduates work for Fortune 500 companies, including BMW, Wachovia and Bank of America.

"Things are beginning to happen here," said Negbenebor. "I feel it's because of the ranking and our Christian environment. I have been here 17 years and none of this has happened before. This happened because of Dr. Bonner and Steve Varley. They are the two catalysts."

The Broyhill Family Foundation donated a general program endowment of \$100,000. John Gobold, a former Cleveland County businessman and GWU School of Business Board of Advisor member, gave a gift of \$25,000. The Stonecutter Foundation and Chairman Jim Cowan, of Spindale, donated \$10,000.

Dr. Charles Tichenor, a GWU professor of business administration and Distinguished Executive in Residence, donated a \$50,000 estate gift. Tichenor wishes for his donation to be used to create a doctorate in business administration program at GWU, according to Negbenebor.

As more donations continue to come in, the business school is currently making plans for a fund raising event that would provide additional money for advanced technology. The board of advisors

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'Radio' and Coach Jones bring inspiring story to Dimensions

By Jared Graf
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James "Radio" Kennedy, the inspiration for the movie "Radio," spoke at Dimensions Tuesday. His friend and coach, Harold Jones, accompanied Radio to share their story together.

Radio and Jones were at Gardner-Webb as part of the university's annual observance of National Disabilities Week.

With Radio and Coach Jones talking about people with special needs, they are trying to "break down the barriers" between those who have special needs and those who do not.

Jones met Radio in 1964 at T.L. Hanna High School in Anderson, S.C. At first, Radio was a little scared to approach he team, but before long he was out on the

field running sprints. Radio soon came to be a part of the team, and has made a tremendous impact on the players over the years.

Radio received his nickname because he always carried a transistor radio around with him where ever he would go.

Radio was left at home for one football game, and only one game. That night the players lost the game, and even though the head coach was not superstitious, Radio never missed another game.

In 1970, Radio was enrolled at T.L. Hanna High School. He ran track in the 100, 200 and 400 yard heats. He lived right up the hill from the practice field, so it was easy for him to get to and from the games and practices of many sporting teams.

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photo by Katie Bryant
James "Radio" Kennedy and Coach Harold Jones greet people and sign autographs after they spoke at Tuesday's Dimensions program in Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center.