



THE PILOT

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This Edition

In campus news

Samba Fall used to hang out with Pamela Anderson's kids. Now, he's playing basketball and studying communications at GWU. See the Fall feature on Page 2.

Spring Formal is coming up on April 28. See more on Page 2.

In community news

The brothers who own the Snack Shop are bringing a Georigo's to Boiling Springs. See more about the venture on Page 2.

Opinion/editorial

Matt lists his top 10 moments from the past four years in Gardner-Webb sports in his editor's column on Page 3.

Jacob Conley chronicles a trip to Washington D.C. with Dr. Thomas Jones in his Wisdom on Wheels column on Page 3.

In sports

GWU assistant wrestling coach Daniel Elliott competes in the University National Championships this weekend. For information on that, and Coach Scott Shipman's recent wrestling success, see Page 4.

The Diamond 'Dogs ended a recent slide this week against the Jacksonville Dolphins. See more about their recent play on Page 4.

Weekend Weather

Saturday	Sunday
April 21	April 22
71/47	76/51

Source: NOAA

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Online



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Students tops at beep ball

Annual score 16-0; faculty just can't win

By Matt Tessnear

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Dr. Chris Davis and Dr. David Carscadden know how to use a bat, but the students rallied to defeat the faculty, 17-16, in the 16th annual Gardner-Webb University beep baseball game April 13.

About 50 GWU students and faculty members, as well as members of the community, were on hand under sunny skies at the GWU Softball Complex to take in the game.

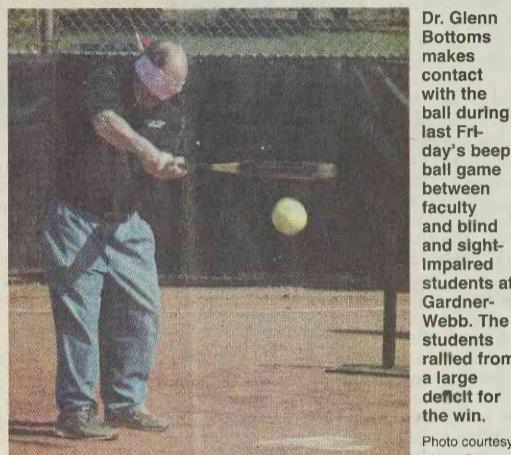
The students trailed by as many as seven runs, but made two comebacks in consecutive innings to defeat the faculty in four innings.

"This is our sixteenth year and the students have won every year," said Parrish Calloway, disabilities specialist with the GWU Noel Program for the Disabled.

"We have opened the game up this year to allow our blind students to invite a friend to play against the faculty/staff members," said Calloway. "Any sighted person participating in the game is required to wear a blindfold."

Some students might not think beep baseball is as much fun as regular baseball, but that's not the case, said Calloway.

"They should come and watch the game," said Calloway. "Who would not want to see Dr. Carscadden



don blindfolded, trying to find a beeping base?"

Trailing by four runs heading into the last inning, the students had one last rally. Following runs by Nicole Campbell and Ruthie McCall, Pam Johnson, who went 4-for-4, completed the rally with a walk-off hit for the win.

Campbell also went 4-for-4 for the student team. Carscadden and Davis each went 4-for-4 at the plate for the faculty team.

"I'm making up for last year," said Davis, adding that he wiped out on the metal tee last year, cutting his leg.

Beep baseball was invented to

allow sightless players a chance to play baseball. Charley Fairbanks, an engineer for Mountain Bell Telephone Co., created the first beep baseball in 1964.

There are several differences between beep and regular baseball. Pitchers throw a ball that is about twice the size of a regular softball and has a pin in it, said Calloway. The pin is removed and the ball starts beeping as it is thrown.

Hitters get three swings in each at-bat. If the batter does not hit the ball, he/she gets two swings from a tee.

See Faculty, page 2

Escape from prison

Self-taught artist used painting to cope during time behind bars

By Matt Tessnear

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Allen "Skip" Roth became very creative during a three-year stint in North Carolina prisons in the mid-to-late 1990s. That creativity has been on display, in the form of about 50 pieces of art, in Gardner-Webb University's Communication Studies Hall since March 29.

The show is called "Autodidactic," which means self taught, according to Roth. His wife, Trudy, is an art student at GWU and her connection brought Skip's artwork to the campus.

Skip and Trudy told the story behind the work to The Pilot on March 29.

On Father's Day in 1995, Roth shot a neighbor named Max, who Skip said had been molesting the Roth's son, Timothy.

The man had proclaimed to his friends that he was going to kill Roth and headed through the woods and onto the Roths' property in McDowell County. He pointed a gun in Skip Roth's face; Roth's painting of his view of the gun is depicted in a painting called "Max's Last Stand."

Looking at that painting, it is easy to see why Roth believed his life was in danger.

Roth, armed with a pistol, fired one shot into the man's abdomen, killing him.

"We had a gunfight and he came in second," said Roth, who was sentenced to 11-14 years in prison. He was granted unanimous appeal after 24 months and left prison in 1999, after spending time at Central Prison and prisons in Pasquotank County, Marion and Salisbury.

Skip says he didn't fit in with the prison culture. When the Roths moved to North Carolina from Florida in 1979, Roth had a

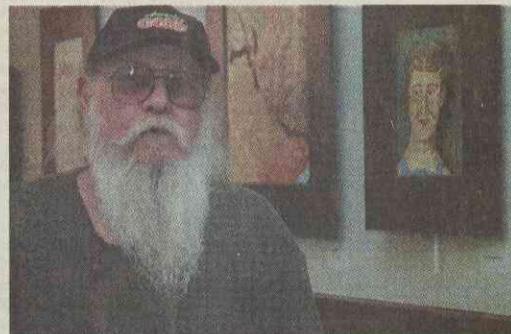


Photo by: Rachel Tucker

Allen "Skip" Roth stands in front of some of the paintings he created during his time in prison. The gallery showings in the communications hall of his works ends April 27.

clean record without even a parking ticket, he said.

To survive in the brutal prison atmosphere, Roth taught himself to paint. He painted with soot and modified barber's brushes on sheets and mattress covers. The prisons were picky about supplies, so he used whatever he could find to paint about 300 pieces during his prison time, said Trudy Roth.

"Autodidactic" tells the story of the shooting and the prison time.

"It's an emotional thing, a window into the dark part of my life," said Roth.

Nobody would want these pieces hanging in their living room. The pieces work together to tell a story. The pieces are just like one piece. I would never want to do that again, but when you're an artist, experiences are important for your art."

The self-taught pieces were displayed at Zone One in Asheville while Roth was still in prison. His work has also been displayed in Australia, England and South Africa.

Trudy and Skip have now been married for almost 40 years.

"It was a hard time for all of us," said Trudy, who visited her husband every week he was in prison. "But it would've never occurred to me to do anything differently or separate my family. We've always been a family."

Roth says his life would have been much different had he not married Trudy because of the support and love she has provided him.

Susan Bell, a GWU art professor, helped hang the show. Bell said the pieces tell a love story.

"What has amazed me is how candid they are about it, how nice they are," said Bell. "But it's the past and they treat it like the past."

Roth also published a book called "Chainsaw's Justice," which is a full account of the story. Additionally, John Handon of WYFF Channel 4 in Greenville, S.C., did a story on his work.

The Roths now make a living in Old Fort by doing chainsaw sculptures. That art form started when Skip pulled out a chainsaw to build the family's cabin in Mc-

'I am sure she is in a better place.'

Patsy Dickens 1948-2007

By Grace Whiteside
Special to the Pilot

Many students knew Patsy Dickens, not only as a teacher, but as a role model and friend. The professor of speech, debate and acting at Gardner-Webb University died in her home in Rutherfordton on March 30 following a long fight against ovarian cancer. She was 58.

"Patsy was just an incredible person and for me personally to watch her and her will to teach and minister to students was just incredible," said Dr. Bob Carey, chair of the Communication Studies department.

Terra Wilson, a senior and former speech student, said that Dickens had a big influence on her.

"Mrs. Dickens was a shining example of God's love," Wilson said. "She reached out to her students by praying for them and asking us to do the same for her. She truly impacted my life by how she genuinely cared for me and my well-being."

Dickens' character had a memorable effect on students who are no longer on campus.

Walter Wong, a graduate of Gardner-Webb and now in pharmacy school at Loma Linda University, in California, said, "Mrs. Dickens was a great teacher. I am sad that she has to leave us so soon. I know she is a brave woman and I am sure she is in a better place."

Lance Lucas, a GWU graduate who works in New York City, said, "One memorable quality I remember about Mrs. Dickens is that she had a genuine interest in learning about each one of her students."

"She would inquire about our family, hobbies, career plans, weekend activities, and other interests as a way of developing a personal relationship with each of us. Mrs. Dickens would go on to encourage us to pursue our own personal goals, and, when one of us would succeed, it was duly noted as she would proudly and publicly announce her students' accomplishments in class."

"I was thankful to have a professor like Mrs. Dickens who genuinely cared about me and my future," said Lucas. "Mrs. Dickens truly cared about each one of her students and epitomized the former Gardner-Webb motto of 'People who care.'"

Her husband, Dr. Doug Dickens of the Christopher White School of Divinity, said the students were right.

"She loved students and was very good at what she did, both here and at Texas Christian University," he said.

Dickens seemed to make a positive impact wherever she was. She grew up in Sterling, Okla., and was a member of the Oklahoma All-State basketball team in 1966. She was named twice an "All-American" player, and was captain of the Pan American women's basketball team in 1970.

She went on to graduate summa cum laude from Ouachita Baptist University where she was named the Outstanding Senior Woman of her class. She attended Southern

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