

News

# Speaker opens eyes to Darfur genocide

By Christopher Shaver  
Pilot staff writer

Students gathered in the Millennium Playhouse Nov. 26 to hear David Johnson, a former teacher who started a non-profit ministry called Silent Images, discussed the genocide in Darfur.

Darfur is a region in western Sudan, a nation located in eastern Africa. A militia called the Janjaweed – Devils on Horseback – has invaded the region, slaughtering more than 400,000 people because of their ethnicity. Thousands of residents have become refugees because the Janjaweed destroys villages, rapes and maims.

Some human rights groups maintain that the Sudanese government sponsors the militia.

Johnson said he hoped that he could inspire students to become active in raising awareness about the topic.

"For the first time in history we know that genocide is going on, and we're doing nothing about it," Johnson said. "When your children hear about this in history class and ask what you

*"When your children hear about this in history class and ask what you did to help, what will you say?"*

David Johnson  
Founder of Silent Images

did to help, what will you say?"

Johnson was smuggled into a refugee camp in Darfur that was 20 miles south of the most recent Janjaweed activity. He was there to help the Persecution Project, a Christian organization, build wells. Johnson said he experienced a small portion of what the people of Darfur experience, because he lived in fear of his life with them.

"The nights were very difficult. My mind would play tricks on me, thinking I heard horses. If the government found us, they would have killed us," Johnson said.

He explained the Sudanese government would have killed him because it has been trying to keep the genocide quiet on a global level.

He also wrote an account of his activities, and took photographs. He showed photographs from his book, "The Voices of Sudan."

He showed a woman digging in a large hole, to scoop up mud, so her family could have water. He shared the story of a man named Amet, who lost his wife and children due to the genocide. These stories gave students insight as to what was going on in the world.

"It raised awareness for me, although I knew some of what was going on. I think people just need to be informed. Information is a powerful thing," junior Limmy Elrod said.

If you are interested in David Johnson's book, visit: [www.silentimages.org](http://www.silentimages.org).

# Home and family time top students' Christmas plans

By Kory McNair  
Pilot staff writer

Final exams just around the corner signal the end of the fall semester, and that means that Christmas is just around the corner, too.

Many Gardner-Webb University students have Christmas plans that, fittingly, involve going home and spending time with family.

Felicia Belk, a freshman nursing majoring, said that she is going to the mountains with her family.

Wesley Poynor, a freshman majoring in health and wellness, has the upcoming baseball season on his mind this holiday season. He is an outfielder for the team.

"Going back home, getting rest for the baseball season, as well with spending time with family and

friends," said Poynor. Chip Zeider, a sophomore majoring in international business, has a simple plan for Christmas break.

"Hang with the family," said Zeider.

Alex McKay, a sophomore, said that he'll not only be spending time with family, but also will "hopefully get a chance to go up to northern California."

Freshman Aaron Tommie, a political science major, has multiple goals for his time off.

"Hopefully I'll go to Florida over the break. I'm also hoping to get my license."

No matter what your plans are on Christmas, do not forget to tell the ones you love that you care about them.

Enjoy the time off from school.

# Stroup residents sent out into cold 19 times due to sensitive fire sensor

By Christopher Shaver  
Pilot staff writer

Bells were ringing in Stroup Hall, but they had nothing to do with Christmas. They had everything to do with an oversensitive fire sensor.

Residence Life Director Sherry Ingram was informed Nov. 27 that Stroup Hall had had a total of 13 fire alarms for the month of November. As of Monday, that total was 19. Ingram said the fire alarm is set off from a first-floor sensor that sits next to a bathroom.

That theory is one of several the residents have heard.

"I've heard that it was because of the showers," Resident Advisor Meredith Marlin said. "When everyone goes to shower at a similar

time, the steam builds up and sets off the fire alarm. I've also heard it was because of dust on the sensors. I've heard about everything."

Marlin said that she and the residents are frustrated. She felt that school officials don't understand what they've had to go through almost daily. Marlin said many of the girls have had to go outdoors wet, because they had to jump out of the shower to leave.

"A few girls have stopped leaving the building during the fire alarm. Obviously, this is a safety hazard," said resident Megan Looper.

David Wacaster, Environmental and Occupational Safety director, said he has been trying to resolve the issue since he was informed about it on Nov. 27.

Wacaster went to Simplex, the company that made the alarms. He said they advised him to clean the sensors, put up a new device and to adjust the sensitivity.

When those measures failed, Simplex came to Gardner-Webb to assess the problem Monday.

"I don't have a good reason as to why this particular detector is going off, as opposed to other detectors in similar locations," Wacaster said.

He said Simplex moved the alarm from over the bathroom door to a spot near it, so the steam would have a chance to dissipate before the sensor caught it. Wacaster said the detector wasn't broken, but just in a bad spot.

"We'll continue to monitor the situation to make sure the problem is resolved," he said.

# Art for sale



Photo by Ashley Carter

It's not too late to buy Christmas gifts. The student and faculty Fine Arts Christmas Sale continues in the Communications Studies Hall through the end of the week. Some proceeds benefit the activities of the Gardner-Webb Art Club.

Sports

# Paucity of foul-shot points hands Bulldogs first home loss

By Jacob Conley  
Pilot sports editor

The Gardner-Webb men's basketball team learned a lesson Monday that it has taught bigger schools this year: Don't underestimate your opponent.

The teachers of that lesson turned out to be the Highlanders of Radford University. They were defeated by 10 points when they met Gardner-Webb a few weeks ago, but handed the Bulldogs their first home loss of the season, 100-97, in double overtime.

"We did not come out with much enthusiasm tonight," said Head Coach Rick Scruggs. "The team did not play with a sense of urgency until we got behind."

*"If we could have just hit four more free throws we would have won. We are defiantly going to work on foul-shooting in practice."*

Rick Scruggs  
Men's basketball head coach

GWU got behind early, falling behind by double digits at 12-2 in the game's opening minutes. The team fought back, closing the deficit to 32-28 at halftime despite hitting just 33 percent of their field goals in the opening frame.

"We like to play the game at a fast pace," said Scruggs. "But we could not find a rhythm in the first half because of the number of fouls

called. In fact, in my 30 years of coaching, I've never seen a game like that."

Scruggs' words are borne out by the statistics. GWU had 52 opportunities from the charity stripe, but the team only converted 29.

"If we could have just hit four more free throws we would have won," said Scruggs. "We are defiantly going to work on foul-shooting in practice."

The second half mirrored the first. Radford went on a large scoring run, only to see GWU fight back to stay close. In fact, the game was tied at different nine times by the end of regulation and in both overtime periods.

The Bulldogs tied the game for the first time at 78 on a Thomas Sanders steal and lay-up, sending the crowd of 2,100 into a frenzy.

"Our crowd has been great all year," said Scruggs. "It is our turn to return the favor."

GWU had chances to win the game in the overtime periods but only converted 7 of 14 foul shots in the extra periods.

As a result, Radford had a chance to win the game in the final half-minute of the contest. It converted a circus

shot that bounced off the shot clock and through the hoop for the final margin. GWU had a chance to tie at the end of the second overtime but Takayo Siddle's shot glanced off the rim.

GWU can't dwell on the loss for long as it takes to the hardwood again Saturday against Tulane in New Orleans. Tipoff is scheduled for 3 p.m.

# New coach believes wrestling team ready to have outstanding season

By Jacob Conley  
Pilot sports editor

Charles Dickens wrote a novel called "Great Expectations," and that describes the attitude of Coach Scott Shipman and the Gardner-Webb wrestling team as it moves into the dual-meet portion of its schedule.

"We have had a couple of wrestlers have really good showings at the open tournaments," said Shipman, who is in his first year as head coach.

"Rob Tate has the potential of being a Top Eight wrestler in the nation, and Dustin Porter started slowly but has come on strong of late."

Another wrestler Shipman gives praise to is senior

Chad Davis.

Even with these experienced wrestlers, GWU will have to rely on some young talent, he said.

"Sometimes in college young wrestlers struggle to score points, but we have a very hard-working young group," said Shipman.

This young group will face a challenge in the first dual meet when it faces Virginia Military Institute Friday.

"VMI is a great environment for wrestling. You have 1,000 cadets down close to the matsyelling," said Shipman.

The match is the first of what Shipman promises to be an exciting season of wrestling.

"I told the guys that we

are going to be aggressive, take chances, go for take-downs, make mistakes and entertain fans."

It will also be the first dual match for the new coach.

"I'm excited and nervous," said Shipman. "But at least I'm undefeated until Friday."

Shipman is quick to point out that coaching achievements and team achievements in college wrestling are not as important as the individual wrestlers.

"It is all about the guys," said Shipman. "I would gladly not win a single match and have all of our guys in the NCAA tournament."

But of course Shipman fully expects to perform in these matches and make this season a great one.

**Holiday Gift Fair @ The Grapevine**  
You are invited to celebrate the season with us at a showcase of unique gift ideas! All designed to help you get your holiday shopping done quickly and simply! Sound good? Well, as a "mail buddy" you get a sneak preview of the gorgeous gift collection we've put together!

**Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 5 - 8 pm**  
You'll find fabulous handcrafted beaded and silver jewelry, beautiful pottery, handpoured candles, handknitted scarves and felted handbags, personalized graphic image gifts, wonderful mineral cosmetics (locally made), and The Grapevine's own distinctive re-purposed vintage home and garden décor! Enjoy free refreshments, register for our give-aways, and browse our great gift selection, many priced below \$5!

Bring a friend with you and receive a free gift! So start your holiday @ The Grapevine! Addtl. Show hours: Friday 12/7, 5-8pm and Saturday 12/8, 10am-4pm

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