

Opinions

Plans not work the way you want? Something better lies ahead

By Rebecca Clark
Pilot editor

As we near the end of the semester, I always find a time of introspection and reflection on the past year. This spring, I find myself thinking about my time at Gardner-Webb and how it is almost finished after nearly three years here. I have never

looked forward to something so much, though at the same time I feel sad at the things and people I will be leaving behind.

I have learned many things at GWU, and they didn't all come from books.

I will receive my degree with a sense of independence and self-sufficiency that I know will carry me through

whatever jobs and places I will arrive at. I am confident in my abilities and have many people to thank for help along the way.

One of the greatest lessons I have learned in the past couple of years is that life is rarely static, and always unpredictable. Plans might be made, but life can intervene and completely change your

course and what you had intended on doing. Flexibility in following a new path is a valuable skill to learn.

I also believe there is a reason behind everything, even if things do not turn out as you had originally hoped.

Many seniors are preparing for new jobs or setting up interviews, while others are applying to graduate school.

This spring I made plans to go on in my education and confidently applied to UNC Charlotte's Communications Studies program for the fall semester. I found out last week that I did not make it in.

It was a disappointment to learn I had not been accepted, and it completely changed my plans for the

coming year; but it also gives me a chance to pursue something new.

I plan on pursuing a new course and enjoying whatever else life brings my way.

I hope that everyone's plans for this summer - and beyond - go the way you want them to. But if they don't, I hope that something even better takes their place.

The Pilot

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Wisdom on Wheels

At last, a door finally opens automatically for me

By Jacob Conley
Sports editor

As I prepare to graduate and look back on my college career, I think about how many doors have opened for me.

I've had the chance to attend a Division I school and be a normal college student. I've seen great feats of athleticism on the gridiron, hardwood and diamond, and as a result I have shed tears of joy and disappointment.

I have been to many places I never would have expected, and fulfilled a dream that I have had since I first saw "Raiders of the Lost Ark": to go on expeditions with Dr. Jones.

I have even become a somewhat successful writer, as evidenced by the fact that you are reading this.

Yes Gardner-Webb has opened a lot of doors for me and now, just before graduation, GWU has allowed me to open some for myself.

As you may have noticed the Dover Library now has automatic doors. Let the celebration begin!

When I first realized this fact I had the same reaction as the guy on the Staples commercial when he pushes the big, red "easy" button and says, "Hey, that was easy."

I then proceeded to make the door open and close for five minutes. I honestly don't



Conley

know if it was because I was making up for lost time or if I just have a fascination with big, shiny, new buttons.

Speaking of doors being opened and closed, I still don't have a date for the formal and it is not for the lack of asking. I'm not mad, just a little disappointed. One of my good friends has invited me to eat with him and his fiancée before the dance and I don't want to be a third wheel - or in my case, a seventh wheel.

Oh well, if I don't go to the formal, I can always watch the NFL draft when I get back from the Big South Video Game Tournament, where I hope to bring a trophy back to Boiling Springs. Hopefully it will be the first of many championships GWU will capture as members of the new conference.

Speaking of championships, move over Kansas, GWU has its own national champion. Congratulations, Mac.

But I digress. Even though the door of the spring formal might be shut, I'm sure others will open and hopefully I can open them via a big, bright, shiny, new button.

Newton Knows

End of the year nears, but sports action continues

By Lanny Newton
Pilot sports writer

As finals approach and due dates come closer, several sports are still going strong.

This past weekend I witnessed something I'd never seen before: A pitcher threw 18 2/3 scoreless innings of softball against the Bulldog offense that had scored 11 runs the day before.

This made me wonder what the Atlanta Braves' situation would look like if they had a pitcher that could accomplish that feat. Of course, I've since been reminded multiple times that she is a softball pitcher and therefore will probably not be drafted

by the Braves anytime soon. This is probably for the best, as the New York Yankees would probably buy her contract as soon as possible for some extraordinary amount of money that no other team could muster.

Speaking of baseball, the weekend also offered up some excellent offensive performances around the Atlantic Sun.

Besides the 56 runs scored by the Bulldogs in their offensive explosion against East Tennessee State University which my esteemed colleague writes about, Kennesaw State managed to put up 32 runs on Saturday in a game against USC-Upstate. As I looked over the stats

from the Gardner-Webb games and the KSU-USC-Upstate game, my jaw continued to drop steadily to the floor.

Two of the numbers stood out in particular. KSU put up seven runs in three different innings in the game and failed to score only in the eighth inning. The Bulldogs took a different approach: In the second game of the series they scored 12 runs in the top of the sixth.

While for pitching purists this is probably a disgusting display of bad location, velocity and poor pitch selection, for the average fan these are the games that keep you on your feet and cheering to the thunder of the bats.

Track and field is also only reaching midseason, as the NCAA championships for the sport won't be held until just before the Olympic trials in late June. Several student on the team also have a good chance of qualifying for the NCAAAs and, in one or two cases, possibly qualifying in the Olympic trials and representing Gardner-Webb in Beijing.

Topping this list is junior Elliot Haynie, who tied yet another meet record at Tennessee last weekend. Haynie, along with former GWU standout swimmer Terra Wilson, both look to be on the inside track for the Summer Games based on their number so far.

Shopping for people online is not a foolproof process

By Ali Adler
The Diamondback (U. Maryland)

(U-WIRE) COLLEGE PARK, Md. - As a culture, we love to shop. According to a September 2007 survey by the Pew Internet & American Life Project, 66 percent of Internet users reported buying products online. With the proliferation of the Internet, we can shop anytime, anywhere, for anything. We e-shop for clothes, food, houses, cars and ... people.

Yes, people. The Internet has redefined the basic human necessity of social interaction and has allowed us to conceptualize self-promotion. AmericanSingles and eHarmony, MySpace and, of course, Facebook are registers of human advertisements.

Meeting people has become analogous to, say, shopping for a car. You see a car, and you think it's cool, so you go online to read about it, look at pictures of it and compare it to other cars. Similarly, if you meet someone who seems interesting to you, you can go online and read about her interests, learn her favorite books and movies, see who her friends are and judge her sense of style - and there's even a Facebook application called "Compare People."

The problem with both of these scenarios is that by sifting through images and information about cars and people, you may learn a lot about them, but you won't really know them. The idiosyncrasies of a car - the hum of its engine, the speed of the windshield wipers, the comfort of the seats - are all things we can't learn until we've test driven it at least once.

The same goes for people shopping; you can't really get to know someone - his personality, mannerisms or quirky habits - by scanning his Facebook page.

What you can learn on the Internet, whether on Facebook or Cars.com, is

information limited by the venue in which it is being marketed. Just as car companies can project a select image through their advertising, we can hide a lot on our Facebook profiles by only allowing others to see what we choose to advertise about ourselves.

Take a look at the applications, photos and information on your page or that of a friend; does this image define the entirety of your identity?

Facebook can serve as a social aid, easing the difficulty of face-to-face interaction by allowing us to know at least a little more about a person (for example, relationship status) before we approach. But because of this, the Internet has created new social taboos.

In our busy lives, Facebook saves us socializing time - why call a friend when you can post on her wall? But does this kind of socialization fulfill our basic need for interaction? If it is a temporary substitute, maybe that's why it's so addicting.

In a 2003 poll conducted for the Center for a New American Dream, 83 percent of Americans said they wished they had more time to spend with family. The average Facebook user - there are more than 70 million active ones - spends 25 minutes on the Web site daily.

If we can take that time out of our day to stare at two-dimensional photos of insignificant people, why not devote it to those we know and love or to getting to know people who intrigue us?

Just as we cannot find real happiness through drugs and alcohol, the void of social interaction our fast-paced lives have opened up cannot be filled through the infinite stream of virtual socialization.

It's time we reclaim our basic interpersonal human needs and discover a balance between the book and the face by spending more of it with our friends and family.

Letter to the Editor

GWU students present an art show that stirs

Dear Editor:

After exploring the Communication Studies Hall, I, like many students and faculty, can understand how the 2008 Gardner-Webb juried student art show is an experience full of variety, talent and controversy.

As you enter through the front doors you are greeted by the comical and light-hearted faces of Brad Lail's pottery on the right. When you turn, you can observe abstracted sculptures of the human form to your left.

Finally, you look forward, captured by a powerful texture piece created by Stephen Calabrese, the Best in Show winner.

The viewers have an opportunity to experience Stephen's creation called "Trumpet One" as they work through his use of unique materials like cigarette butts and animal's teeth.

Many viewers stretch their necks to get a better view of the Bible references written on the top, hoping the connection will explain the somewhat unsettled and

mysterious emotion that it makes you feel.

This unique piece exemplifies how Gardner-Webb's art department has freed its students to truly express themselves and, in doing so, has presented us with an impressive and strong collection of works. This includes multiple pieces of responsive drawing, along with design pieces and paintings.

However, this show is not without controversy. Two pieces, both by Stephen Calabrese, were censored from this show and placed in a private office for limited viewing. The two specific works, both containing frontal nudity, were approved by a panel of faculty members, but still placed outside of the show.

The question raised by many viewers and students because of this situation is, "Is this censorship acceptable within an artistic and scholarly university setting?"

I spoke with two viewers about how they felt about the art show, and specifically what their reactions were to the censored pieces.

Mathilde Peaud, a na-

tive of Europe, expressed shock at the idea of censoring pieces. She did not realize that the reason they were placed separately from the show was because they were deemed inappropriate. She spoke of how she felt that the human body is beautiful, and even described one of the pieces as "angelic."

Bryan Cooper, a freshman, said that the works didn't bother him, that he looked at them as art, not something vulgar.

It is obvious that the frame of mind that one approaches a piece of art with makes a difference in how one views it.

When I spoke with Stephen Calabrese about how he felt, he said, "You know, I'm happy that I was able to cause a reaction. Being able to produce a work that the viewer reacts to is art to me. I don't think it's right to remove it, but it is OK to react."

The censorship that has taken place in this year's art show is a great opportunity for each of us to question and reflect. Is it right to limit what we consider viewable

because we may react negatively to a piece of work? When expressing ourselves in healthy outlets such as art, do we always have to be "appropriate"?

As students and faculty of Gardner-Webb, how do we want to be a part in the setting of standards?

Just by walking through the show, it's obvious that Gardner-Webb harbors people with great capabilities to portray this world and themselves through art. The issue of censorship may not be able to be fixed overnight or agreed upon by all; but it should be considered and talked about for the sake of these great artists who are full of potential to make a difference.

The 2008 juried student art show not only displayed a large body of strong works, but it raised an important issue for each of us to internalize and reflect on.

- Nikki Rice

Rice is a GWU student majoring in English and minoring in studio art.

Students, don't forget to vote in the SGA elections today and Thursday!