

## News

## Parties primed for N.C. primaries

By Christopher Shaver  
Pilot staff writer

The North Carolina primaries are about to start and Cleveland County's political parties are ready for the May 6 presidential primary contests.

"It's been kind of exciting because this is the first time in many years we've been able to affect the outcome in a primary," said Jennifer Helton, the Cleveland County Democrat's head chair.

She said the party has been trying to get the public to register to vote, as well as pushed for early voting these past few weeks. Helton said there has been an increase as to how many younger voters have registered under the Democratic ticket.

"The Democratic Party has always been the party of the people," Helton said. "I think younger voters see this, and they are tired of the eight years we've had with President Bush. They want change."

Republicans are still hoping others will vote as well,

although their candidate has already been decided.

"That doesn't mean we shouldn't vote for the governor and lieutenant governor," Wayne King, the Cleveland County Republican Chairman, said. "I hope Republicans and Democrats vote, because that will set the frame for the debates."

King said the party has been raising money to get ready for the general presidential election next month. He said he believes the Republicans have the upper hand since they have already voted for John McCain.

"This helps us start talking about issues that Americans are passionate about," King said. Although both parties disagree on a large spectrum of things politically, they both know the main issues to be covered through this next election will be based around the economy and war in Iraq. "Some say the debates between senators Clinton and Obama have hurt the party. I disagree," Helton said. "I believe this is just democracy at its purest."

## Bryan first to assume assistant provost post

By Rebecca Clark  
Pilot editor

Dr. Doug Bryan, professor of religious education and chair of religious studies and philosophy at Gardner-Webb University, is the inaugural assistant provost for academic services.

"I'm very excited and humbled by the opportunity," Bryan said of the new position.

Dr. James Dire, associate provost of arts and sciences, said that some of the academic services on campus formerly under his supervision will now revert to Bryan's office: the Noel Program, the Writing Center and the Learning Assistance Program.

Other responsibilities Bryan will assume include overseeing student advisement across all programs, training faculty advisors, and ongoing assessment of the advising program.

He will continue to carry a small teaching load, as well.

Dr. Ben Leslie, provost and senior vice-president, said one of the goals in creating the position was to maximize the effectiveness of faculty advisors and the advisement program, according to a press release from the Office of University and Media Relations.

"We are delighted to have the exceptional quality of creative leadership and experience that Dr. Bryan brings to this position," Leslie said.

Before coming to teach at GWU, Bryan spent 16 1/2 years teaching at Howard Payne University, where he also earned one of two bachelor's degrees.

Dr. Bryan received his master's, graduate specialist degree, and his doctorate from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Texas.

Bryan will begin in his new position July 1.



Photo by Tyler Kucifer

From left, Brianna Bleymaier, Ashley Burton, Tracy Beckett and Same Dowell bring the Martins and the Smiths to life in Eugene Ionesco's "The Bald Soprano" on stage at GWU.

## Cast, crew do great things with a play about nothing

Amy Elliott  
Special to the Pilot

The posters that were hung up all over campus tagged "The Bald Soprano" as "an outrageously funny one-act play about absolutely nothing!"

At first I was skeptical about how this 1950 play by Eugene Ionesco would appeal to the audience if it had no plot. However, we live in the age of "Seinfeld," a popular '90s television sitcom pitched as "a show about nothing." "Seinfeld" continues to be quoted and watched by many college students today, so I assumed that the audience would be able to appreciate the pro-

duction. The Gardner-Webb theater section presented the show, which was directed by Scot Lahaie, in the Mill April 15-19.

The play revolved around two British couples, the Smiths and the Martins. They are later joined by the maid, Mary, and a fireman, Mary's one-time lover. All of the action takes place in the Smiths' living room (a wonderfully detailed and quaint living room constructed by Chris Keene, technical director of theater) where the two couples make nonsensical banter.

At one point, the Martins believe they are strangers that have just met, but then realize they are actually mar-

ried. If this all sounds confusing, it was. It truly was a play about... nothing.

The shining point of the production was the actors. They did a phenomenal job acting with the material they were given. The lead characters, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, starred junior Tracy Beckett and freshmen Sam Dowell, who together really stole the show.

Beckett's body language and facial expressions really brought Mr. Smith's overtly sexual character to life in the most hilarious way.

Dowell, making his Gardner-Webb theater debut, played an excellent Mr. Smith, with a perfect voice pitch and accent, and a co-

medic timing that rivals the best I have seen on the Gardner-Webb stage.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin were played by Brianna Bleymaier and Ashley Burton. It should be noted that Bleymaier was the understudy and did a fantastic job with the part of Mr. Martin. Burton's dry humor was amusing and had me chuckling.

Mary Goforth and Chad Mann also had parts as the maid and fireman, respectively. They both complimented the rest of the hilarious cast.

So, while the script was not my cup of tea, I was very delighted by the performances of my fellow students. Ionesco would be proud.

## Join this group to get some real Chinese food

By Leanna Mobley  
Special to The Pilot

Gardner-Webb University is planning its first-ever trip to China, one of the largest and fastest growing economies in the world.

The trip, planned for July 18-24, 2009, will encompass business, science and culture. Participants will see a total solar eclipse, tour major manufacturing facilities and experience China's history and culture first-hand.

Any student, faculty, staff

member or friend of Gardner-Webb is qualified to join the tour group.

Dr. James Dire, associate provost for arts and sciences, and Dr. Anthony Negbendor, dean of the School of Business, discussed planning a trip to China for several years. They decided to time the trip during the solar eclipse July 22, Dire said.

The length of the total blackout period of this eclipse will be 5.5 minutes, he said, making it the longest one of the 20th and 21st cen-

tures. "No one living today has seen a longer total solar eclipse," said Dire, who is an astronomer, explaining the significance of such a spectacle. "No one alive during this one will witness a longer one before they die."

China is the most populated country in the world and is rich in culture and tradition.

"China has a fascinating history going back thousands of years...they have a unique culture that we want to exper-

ience first hand," said Dire.

Two major stops will be the cities of Shanghai and Hangzhou. The group will visit a museum, the beach and get its share of real Chinese food. An optional extended trip will be offered for those who want to go to Beijing and the Great Wall.

If you are interested, sign up with Dr. Helen Tichenor, director of International Programs. Her office is located in Suttle Hall.

A deposit for the trip will be due by Sept. 1.

## Earth-friendliness needs GWU students' support

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He is formally petitioning the top university administrators to make good on their talk of becoming more eco-friendly—even if it costs the university.

Recycling ventures often come at a loss, and it takes effort to make get them rolling, English said. But it's worth it because it's the right thing to do.

"It's not just about a for-profit venture...we're keeping landfills from filling up."

Yet most green ventures would actually save the university money. Painting the roofs white would cut down on cooling, and motion-sensing lights would slash the energy bill. The initial cost would pay off tenfold.

His proposal involves a comprehensive way to save the land and put more "green" in the bank as well. It can be summed up into a couple of main points: no net tree or green space loss (chop a tree down, put another in the ground); and any new buildings should have energy-saving sensitivities.

"It's getting to a point where the bare minimum isn't going to be enough," said English.

He said that things such as trading university vehicles in for bio-diesel-fueled transportation, and getting more faculty members to use paperless quizzes and assignments would be a great start.

Though a cooperative faculty would be beneficial, the students have to take a stand.

English characterizes our student population as lacking knowledge and initiative when it comes to the environment, regardless of the fact that this generation has had more "earth talk" than any of those before it.

Student Chris Baber agrees.

"There seems to be a universal apathy that has spread across campus," he says.

Even if a recycling bin was next to the garbage can, some students would still chuck a plastic bottle in the trash.

"Making the campus green and environmentally friendly is not only the right thing to do, it is almost guaranteed to bring students here and keep them here," Baber said. "It is our duty, not just as Christians, but as people to take care of the world created for us."

In a class that English teaches called "The Environment," ecology students research global warming and ways to stop it. Matt Jones is one of the students digging for earth-friendly answers. He has researched bio-diesel fuel options under the leadership of Dr. Stefka Eddins and is optimistic about the university's ability to change.

"I have spoken personally to Dr. Bonner about his commitment to sustainability and as far as I know, a whole lot more goes on behind the scenes, concerning environmental action than we are always aware of," Jones said.

"For instance, the physi-

cal plant replaces all the burned-out light bulbs with energy efficient ones. A lot of the carpet that is starting to be used on campus is produced in an environmentally sound fashion."

Jones does, however, see where there needs to be more initiative. Even still, there is a lot to be said about baby steps.

"I'm really hopeful for the prospects of Gardner-Webb's sustainability commitment."

Going tobacco-free was a bold step here in the Tobacco Road region, and the vast majority accepted it. There are even motion-sensitive lights in the new Noel building.

But there's room for more. Students can take a stand and choose greener pastures.

Williams College, in Williamstown, Mass., sponsored an Earth Day competition called "doing it in the dark" in April 2006. On-campus residents were challenged to turn off the lights, unplug their computers and phone chargers when not in use, and do their regular activities with the lights dimmed.

Students responded, slashing their consumption 44 percent from the competition the year before.

Things won't change at Gardner-Webb until students do. A strong enough commitment could trickle into the community causing a whole new perspective to spring into action.

It starts when students give the "green" light.

## Love: Can it last beyond graduation?

By Brittany Wasko  
Daily Kent Stater (Kent State U.)

(U-WIRE) KENT, Ohio - Although couples have seen each other through the stress of group projects, papers, internships and finals, there's still one more obstacle to tackle: What happens to the relationship after graduation?

Travis Schermer, teaching fellow at the Counseling and Human Development Center in White Hall, said it's important for people in relationships nearing graduation to talk to one another ahead of time.

"Talking about it beforehand is a way of exploring both partners' needs before the stress of those outside factors become so much that it impacts the relationship," he said.

"This is a scary time - it's a huge transition to go through."

Ending a relationship because of career differences, sacrificing a job opportunity to follow the other person or even compromising on a middle ground to maintain the relationship are just a few options for couples facing graduation.

Schermer said both people should know their own priorities, which will affect the final decisions.

"I think that everyone has that difference in terms of what's important," he said. "Some people are going to

be more willing to sacrifice that relationship in order to make their career work.

"It's how they identify what's important to them."

Schermer also said it's common for graduated students to move back home while searching for a job, causing a temporary geographical split for some couples.

"You see a lot of people going home for that support before they take that next step to find that job - to their career really," he said. "And if they're in two different places, it's that much harder."

If staying together is important to a couple, Schermer said both partners will take the steps to find a way to make it work.

"Hopefully they're talking to each other about their career plans," he said.

"And if they want to stay together - that they're making those career plans kind of coincide and kind of work together so they can take that next step together."

Barbara Hugenberg, assistant professor and basic course coordinator for the School of Communication Studies, said that students who are graduating should be honest while making decisions regarding the relationship and their separate careers.

"Be very honest with the self, even if it takes you down avenues that you don't like thinking about," she said.

"Go there, because these are big decisions."

Hugenberg also said it's important for couples who want to stay together after graduation to not get completely caught up in the idea of being in love.

"We have to be very careful that it isn't an infatuation or an extended version of an infatuation, which is kind of blinded by the light of the person's youth and beauty," she said.

"Or blinded by our own desire to be in a permanent commitment."

Having to choose a career over the relationship can be difficult for anyone, she said.

Hugenberg said a relationship is worth maintaining after graduation if it boosts one's self-esteem.

"You have someone in your life who is committed to you, who likes you regardless of the mistakes you make, loves you no matter what you have on that day," she said.

"Those kinds of relationships help us with our confidence."

Like Schermer, Hugenberg also said communication is necessary for all couples, especially when making life-changing decisions after graduation.

"Take your time," she said. "Think about it very carefully. Talk openly and honestly."

"Communication really is the key to this."