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Anderson and Sarvis Found After 52 Hour Search

by Jeff Reardon

The mountains of Western North Carolina were set ablaze with activity this past weekend as fireman, students, and community volunteers searched for missing students Sean Anderson and Moffitte Sarvis.

The search, which began with a modest 6 hikers, escalated to a 300 man rescue mission. Emergency crews from over five counties were called in to aid in the three day search.

The nightmare began early Saturday afternoon. Equipped with nothing more than a day pack and the coats they had on their backs, Anderson and Sarvis embarked on their three day journey by making a preliminary visit to the General Store at the foot of Lake Susan.

Tracy Munn, the store's clerk, recognized the two as hikers that she had encountered and they remembered them and they remembered me. I asked them why they had all of these groceries. I can't remember all that they had... I remember Beanee Weanes."

With a significant supply of food, both hikers started off down Greybeard Trail. Upon reaching the shelter which is half-way up Greybeard, they discovered Jay Guffey's backpacking class.

The backpackers, who were returning from their own three day jaunt to Mt. Mitchell, were surprised to see the poorly equipped students.

According to backpacker Lisa McMurry, both students had been caught in an afternoon rain shower. "Sean and Moffitte were soaked to the bone. They

didn't have anything with them except for a daypack. Guffey gave them a flashlight." Later she added, "It took them three and a half hours to get up here. It only took us two hours. They got lost coming up this far."

Twenty hours later in M-A Hall lobby, Guffey and his class began the three day search.

On the heels of last weekend's Sundance trip, as well as the most recent backpacking expedition, many students were well prepared and physically primed for the events that would later ensue.

Several groups of students, as well as environmental science and out-door recreation professors Brad Daniel, Jay Guffey, Ben Fortson, and Mark Lassiter went hiking and camping Sunday evening in hope that they would be able to locate Sean and Moffitte.

Fairly warm temperatures blessed the crews who returned home empty handed Monday morning.

John Abel, who camped at the foot of the Toll road, commented, "We wanted to do more but couldn't. We just built a fire and watched it burn. We had to make a lot of noise so I played my guitar most of the night."

News of the missing student spread like wildfire. By 10 a.m. Monday morning, the operation had outgrown M-A Hall lobby and was relocated to Anderson Auditorium parking lot.

Student coordinator Misty Viruolo compiled lists of hiker and continuously sent out parties of four and five as the day wore on.

Viruolo shared, "I have 87 people signed up. That includes four EMT's (Emergency Medical Technicians) and several able-bodied professors. However, it doesn't include all of the staff and students who are helping out around here."

Chaplain Ed Bonner began a twenty-four hour prayer vigil that involved 144 students praying for 10 minutes at a time.

Students who could not hike periodically patrolled the campus looking through dormrooms and unoccupied classrooms for the unnoticed early arrival of Anderson and Sarvis.

Others prepared sack lunches, while some directed the constant influx of traffic.

John Anderson, Sean's father, emerged on campus Monday afternoon. He noted coolly, "I have confidence in Sean. He's hiked before with his church and this summer he went on Discovery. He knows how to keep warm and how to build a shelter."

By 5:30 p.m., the cafeteria was dubbed Staging Area for a debriefing of the past day's events.

As the military copters equipped with an infrared scanning system arrived from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsborough County, Viruolo launched several more groups that would camp on the mountain throughout the night.

Four hours later, hikers were discontinued from the search to enable the helicopter with the infrared system to be more effective in finding the missing students.

Detouring commercial air traffic for a fifty mile radius, the chopper searched late into the night.

Temperatures dipped into the thirties on the mountains early Tuesday, catapulting the situation into one of life and death.

The next morning students were chilled to learn that Anderson and Sarvis were still missing.

By noon Tuesday, the search pulled in volunteers and professionals from Hendersonville, Anderson, Buncombe, McDowell, Burke, and Winstom-Salem counties.

In addition, were the manhunters from SART (Search and Rescue Technicians).

Volunteer for the Black Mountain Fire Department Kent Barnes commented, "We have 3 of the 4 SART divisions in the whole state of North Carolina combing

these hills."

Swayed by differing reports from the dogteams, former M-AC student Bill Barrett led a troop of military police through a trail up the western face of Greybeard.

Finally at 6:15 p.m., after a gruelling 52 hour search that cost more than \$30,000, Brand Daniel confirmed reports that Anderson and Sarvis were found alive.

Superintendent of the North Fork Reservoir Charlie Casey was patrolling the watershed when he heard a noise.

"At first I thought they were trespassers, then I realized that they might be who we were looking for", explained Casey.

After calling the helicopters for transport, Casey greeted the students as they made their way through the thick foliage and into the clearing.

Anderson and Sarvis were reconciled with friends and family members moments later at the Incident Command Center stationed in the gravel parking lot behind the library.

Both were diagnosed as being in good condition, although dehydrated.

The missing students had been hiking up Greybeard when they took a wrong turn at Seven Sisters.

Deciding to camp out Saturday night, they resumed their trek home the next morning.

Reasoning that Montreat was to their left, Anderson and Sarvis walked northwest to the reservoir.

Not realizing that the trails in that area were circular, the two continued to walk away from Montreat.

Anderson revealed their survival secrets by saying that they drank from streams and ate berries when their provisions expired.

At night they slept on textbooks that they had in their day-pack. "We cuddled up and used body heat to keep warm. One night we slept under a hollow log," replied Anderson.

After being released from the hospital Tuesday night, Sarvis commented on her exhaustion, "I'm going home to crash."

Cries of relief fell from the lips of Moffitte's, Carson and Gilbert Sarvis, who had been in Montreat since they arrived late Sunday.

"It was an incredible outpouring of support," said Mrs. Sarvis with tears, "We just want to thank everybody for an incredible job. Praise God."

Willcox Expresses Thanks for Second Chance

by Sherrle Willcox

I made a trip this week to UNCA to meet with some new M-AC students. You will probably never see their faces here on campus, but they are out there!

I am now attending the School of Professional and Adult Studies with 17 other students. We range anywhere from 26 to 47 years of age and come together every Monday night at the Radisson Hotel for four hours.

We are all striving to receive our Bachelor in Business Administration and will graduate in the spring of 1996. It's not going to be easy, but we all have one thing in common...to further our education without putting out lives on hold.

I made a mistake 16 years ago when I arrived on campus here. My goal was to leave home and have fun. Education was not important. I was one of those students who wanted to be accepted by others, to be

good and bad at the same time (of course Dad calling me every week kept me straight).

Sure, it's okay in my book to have a great time and enjoy life around you. But take one minute and think about your future. Will you find yourself in a school like this in 10 years or so?

I hope not. I desire for each one of you to accomplish the dreams you are striving for.

Cary and I have had to start over again because we did not complete our studies. But I wish that I had done things different. Now I have to face the challenge of balancing a full-time job with classes, four children and a husband, who is the biggest challenge of all!

S.P.A.S. is a second chance for me. Thank you M-AC for allowing me the opportunity to complete something that I should have finished years ago.

Cops Crack Down on Parking

By J.R. Cunningham

The Black Mountain Police Department issued new parking regulations.

Chief Halford of the Police Department stated, "Park in the 'No Parking' zones, you get towed. It's that simple." Halford further commented, "In the past, people would just take the \$5 fine and continue parking there so we had to take more drastic measures to control the situation."

These are the specific areas that parking is forbidden: Gaither Circle (except in specific areas), Assembly Circle (except some areas in front of Howerton), Appalachian Way, from Lookout Road to Missouri Road, Geneva Place from Appalachian Way to Gaither driveway on west side, and from Appalachian Way back 50 feet on the East side.

Vehicle owner Chris Robertson stated, "I think that any student should be able to park anywhere on campus since they pay to go here, except for faculty parking spaces."

Some of the students may have a misconception about the new regulations and find them unfair. Halford clarified this by concluding, "It's all for their [students] own good, the ambulance, fire department, and police need access to certain areas and we can't help the college adequately if we don't have access to these spots."

Cruise Away the Winter Blahs

by Stephanie Young

The Office of Advancement and Strategic Planning along with Regency Cruises will be offering a cruise to the Caribbean and the Panama Canal, January 1-8, 1995.

The cost of the tour is \$999 per person for an inside cabin and \$1100 per person for an outside cabin.

Betty Ferrel will be this year's director.

The Ferrell's have hosted tours for several years and are happy to now host them under the sponsorship of M-AC.

The tour participants will depart from the Asheville Airport and fly to Montego Bay.

The ship will travel from Montego Bay to Puerto Moin, Costa Rica.

From there it will sail part way down the Panama Canal. The ship will traverse the Gatun locks and reach the Gatun Lake

where the cruise turns around and then head to Cartagena, Colombia. From there the ship will travel to Aruba. After Aruba, the cruise will return to Montego Bay.

According to Ferrell, 34 people are signed up to travel on the cruise.

One staff member who is taking the cruise is the Director of Alumni Affairs, Peggy Leis. She exclaimed, "I want to go because it is the most inexpensive way to see five countries. I hate cold weather and this will be a nice break from it. You need to take advantage of opportunities that are presented to you."

There are cabins still available on the cruise.

Another major tour being sponsored by the college will be a trip to Israel, March 10-19, 1995. The cost is \$1899.

President and Mrs. Hurt will be the host and hostess.