

IV, BSU retreats allow freshmen to further explore faith

By KATIE BROWN
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

The members of the Baptist Student Union and InterVarsity Campus Ministry are back with a fresh focus on university life after spending the first weekend of this month on retreats away from Winston-Salem.

Twenty-four students in BSU, along with Baptist Campus Minister David Fouché and BSU intern Mary Sue Brookshire, attended the opening convention of the North Carolina State Baptist Student Union at Ridgecrest Conference Center outside of Asheville Sept. 29 to Oct. 1.

BSU members from colleges and universities throughout the state gathered to worship and to discuss issues in the church, according

to senior Kyle Thompson, the president of BSU. Each student participated in three mini-sessions over the weekend, learning about topics such as race relations on campus, sexuality and spirituality, women in ministry, and conflicts among Christians.

"It was a retreat to get better acquainted with each other," Thompson said. "(To) focus on growing spiritually and getting stronger as a body."

The students' discussions were influenced by the guest speaker, James Dunn, the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee in Washington, D.C., a group lobbying for the separation of church and state.

Dunn conveyed the purpose of his committee in conjunction with other religious groups such as the American Jewish Committee and

the Anti-Defamation League: "A Shared Vision ... Religious Liberty in the 21st Century."

"To me, his message was that we don't want to force beliefs on others through the use of government," freshman Carey King said. "Instead, we want to use our right to vote and freedom of speech to share our faith with others."

The students returned with new ideas on the daily issues in the church, influenced also by musicians David and Colleen Burroughs who addressed these topics through stories and songs.

"The whole weekend was just great to get to know everyone," King said. "The freshmen got to meet the seniors, and everyone just hung out and talked about things."

Over the same weekend, 64 freshmen in InterVarsity went with 15 student leaders to Camp Sertoma about 20 miles from campus for their freshmen retreat.

The 4-H camp is surrounded by hiking trails and waterfalls, lending itself to group activities as well as private time for the students.

In a large group session, IV staff worker Brad Houff introduced the focus of the retreat by discussing the basis of the Gospel, said sophomore Jennifer Kay. The students then built on the message in their small groups.

"We talked about how we could live it (the Gospel) out and bring it back to campus," Kay said. "We also talked about the importance of quiet time with the Gospel."

The retreat enabled freshmen to deepen

existing friendships and to form new ones, and to learn more about the Christian faith, senior Laura Belcher said.

Some of the freshmen were not Christian; they simply desired to learn about the Christian faith.

"It was a time to not worry about homework, but to relax," freshman Bret Cunningham said. "Once we were settled into school, it gave us a chance to refocus."

Freshmen members of IV bonded together and formed leadership skills through discussions and games within groups.

"I think the freshmen were challenged in their knowledge of the Gospel," said sophomore Chad Peshak, a small group counselor. "The retreat encouraged us and exhorted us to live our lives according to the grace of God."

SLC

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Association and Student Government. Mike Ford, director of Student Development; Joanna Iwata, director of the Benson Center; and Connie Carson, director of Residence Life and Housing represented the administration on this committee. The committee's final recommendations received approval from the SLC to become policy.

Although Carson said many groups may view the process negatively, she stressed that it is intended to be helpful for student groups.

"The purpose of the review is not to go after groups. It helps identify early on if there's a group in trouble. The reality is that it could be a positive," Carson said.

Lounge and block housing allocation

has been discussed by the SLC frequently in recent years. Two years ago, the SLC began a project to make lounge allocation more equitable between men's and women's groups on campus.

By the end of this semester, ten lounges on campus will have been constructed, renovated or reallocated as part of this effort, Carson said.

The project will be completed before the end of the semester, when Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and Kappa Alpha Theta sorority will move into newly-constructed lounges in Luter Hall, and the Catholic Student Association will move into renovated space in Davis Hall, Carson said.

Despite this effort, inequities still exist in the allocation of lounge and block housing space, according to Carson.

"It's a philosophical question that always comes up. You've got Greeks which are fifty percent of the student body with 33,000 square feet of lounge

space and all other students on campus are sharing 20,000 square feet. I don't have an answer for that," she said.

The remaining inequalities may eventually be discussed by the SLC.

"When we get through with the Greek Life Study Committee's report, the SLC will turn our attention to broader campus life issues, and in doing that I think we will turn to the issue of inequality in lounge space allocation between Greek and non-Greek groups.

"Having said that, I don't want to send a scary message to the Greek organizations that we may be looking for ways to free up their space. That's not something we're trying to do," Wilkerson said.

The Greek Life Study Committee submitted a report evaluating Greek life on campus to the SLC two years ago. Some of its recommendations have already been voted upon by the SLC. One such suggestion was the shortened pledge period for Greek groups, which was implemented by the SLC two years ago.



Thomas Young

Louder, louder...

Cheerleaders help the crowd support the football team at last week's game against Maryland for Parent's Weekend. See coverage of the game in Sports, Page B1.

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SG

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The administration implemented this policy to bolster campus security, but many students said they feel that it is unnecessary.

The Campus Life Committee discussed ways in which the current key card system could be changed. Committee members suggested shutting the system

down during daylight hours.

Junior Tina Schippers, the secretary of SG, said that SG can continue to contest the key card system, but she she said she feels that Residence Life and Housing will not continue to make concessions.

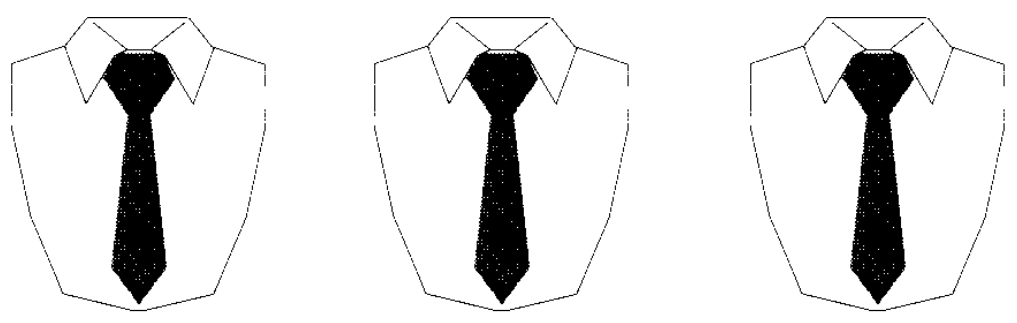
The Campus Life Committee also discussed the lack of confidentiality due to information published by the university on the Internet.

According to sophomore Ryan Soave, the committee chairman, students feel endangered because their home and campus addresses, home

and campus phone numbers, and their phone numbers, and their residence halls are made publicly known on the Internet.

In "Academic Computer can become a vehicle for harrasment" from the April 14, 1995 issue of the *Old Gold and Black*, it was reported that students can remove their names by calling the registrar's office and invoking their right to privacy as stated in the Buckley Amendment. This federal law states that students can forbid the university to release any information about them.

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