

Mountain climber shares tale of surviving Everest

Weathers speaks on death-defying experiences that caused spiritual awakening

By Suzanne DeBose
Contributing Reporter

Beck Weathers spoke to a packed Pugh Auditorium in the Benson University Center Oct. 23 with his true life story of survival on Mount Everest.

Weathers was one of thirty climbers who attempted to reach the peak of Mount Everest on May 10, 1996. "Nine climbers perished, but one was given a second chance at life," Weathers said.

Weathers had set off for the summit in a party of 30 climbers.

The high altitude caused side effects on his recent optomological surgery, forcing him to abandon his ascent. "Fear breeds caution and we were a very cautious bunch," Weathers said.

Unable to see himself back to camp, he waited on the mountain for his party to return. As evening approached with no sign of his guide or party, Weathers followed members from another group that was descending.

The descending group was only a few hundred feet from camp when a spring storm set upon them. The

storm brought subzero temperatures in excess of minus 60 degrees, 70 mph winds and a loss of visibility.

Still suffering from vision problems and fatigue, Weathers fell behind with a few other climbers who could not battle their way through the storm. "We knew if we stayed out there we would die," Weathers said.

The next morning Base Camp was informed that the "dead" body of Weathers had been found. His wife was told that there was no hope; her husband was dead. "She told our two children that Daddy was never coming home," Weathers said.

Weathers spent 16 hours lying unconscious on the ice. "Then the real miracle happened: I woke up," said Weathers. After seeing visions of his family, Weathers was inspired to live.

"All I knew was, as long as my legs would run and I could stand up, I was going to move toward that camp, and if I fell down I was going to get up. And if I fell down again I was going to get up, and I was going to keep moving until I either hit that camp, I couldn't get up at all, or I

"This experience made me realize I was doing it for pretty selfish reasons."

Beck Weathers
Speaker

walked off the face of that mountain," he said.

Weathers' Lazarus-like return from the dead startled many of the remaining climbers who saw an unrecognizable figure stumble into camp. Weathers' face was burnt almost black by the sun, his eyes were merely slits and both arms were frozen to the elbow, but he was determined to live. "The thought that I could never say good-bye, never say 'I love you' to my wife, or that I would never hold my children again was simply unacceptable."

After another stormy night in camp, a daring helicopter rescue took Weathers to safety.

Weathers said he realizes that he awakened May 11 not only physically, but also spiritually. He has focused his second chance at life on

his family and friends.

"Success and the seeking of goals can take over your existence. I hope my story helps put into perspective what really is success," he said.

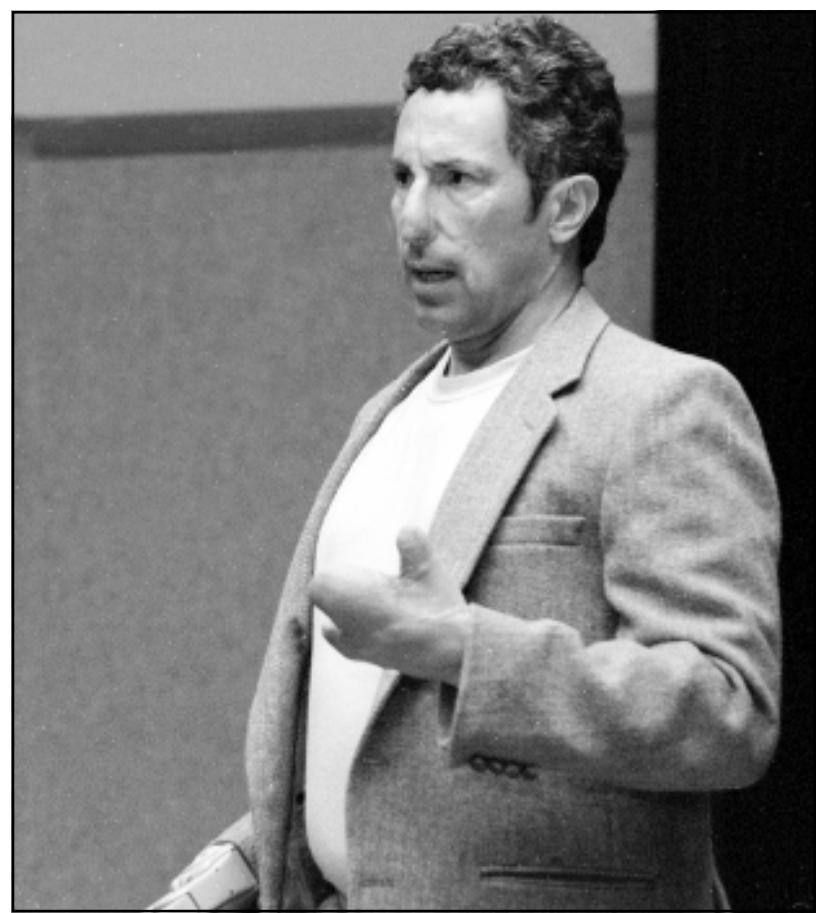
He hopes that those who hear him speak will come away with a new perspective on life as well. "If I can make something good come out of this tragedy it will be marvelously healing," Weathers said. Weathers has been climbing seriously for most of his life.

Everest has killed one out of every six climbers. "A convicted criminal with a death sentence has a better chance of survival," Weathers said.

Even though his wife, Peach, and their two children were at home awaiting his return, he believed the chance to reach the summit worth the risk of possibly dying. "When I went, I was fully prepared to be killed, but not maimed," Weathers said.

His face still bears scars from the frostbite that took his right arm and left hand.

"This experience made me realize I was doing it for pretty selfish reasons."



Noel Fox/Old Gold and Black

Dr. Weathers describes his near-death adventure on Mt. Everest. He survived 16 hours unconscious in sub-zero temperatures, before regaining consciousness.

Career Services works to help seniors find job opportunities

By Matt Porio
Contributing Reporter

Though many seniors participate in on-campus recruiting and interviewing, there are also many opportunities for job seekers who are interested in careers they must seek out. Career Services aims to help both types of students, according to Bill Currin, the director of Career Services.

Though he stressed the importance of on-campus recruiting and interviewing, Currin said, "Students need to understand that there is a lot more than just typical on-campus recruiting and interviewing."

Currin said that exploring job opportunities in companies which are not likely to advertise themselves at the university is also beneficial. He said, "(This process) may be more difficult, but it can also be more rewarding."

Currin said that students' misconception that Career Services can help only with on-campus recruiting is "a perennial problem, because all the activity students see is on-campus. ... This is not the whole process, especially for those not interested in the formal job market and job search." Currin added that Career Services is very interested in helping students who do not want to go through the formal recruitment process, but are pursuing off-campus opportunities. He said, "(These students) need to get involved with career services early and stay with it."

However, Currin also discussed the importance of on-campus recruitment, noting that 40 percent of students' jobs are a result of this process. He said that Career Services has been extremely busy arranging on-campus recruiting by 80 organizations before Thanksgiving. Currin said that there have been more interviews at this time than in past years, since the

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Bill Currin
Director of Career Services

trend has been moving from spring recruitment to fall recruitment and companies are hiring earlier. He predicted "a number of job offers before Christmas." However, he added that the spring recruiters will also be very active.

Currin noted that recruiters are looking for academic achievement, leadership and organizational skills, extracurricular activities and work experiences which incorporate these skills.

He also said that Career Services is preparing students for new types of "behavioral" interviews which test skills and competency.

According to Currin, technology has also changed the job search process. He said that employers need students to be competent with technology, while students also need to be comfortable enough to use Career Service's resources, including a home page and a virtual job fair in November. Currin said that Career Services will have workshops on networking, alumni networks and what to do with certain majors.

The Class of 1996 had 92 percent of its students either enrolled in graduate or professional schools or employed in career-oriented fields, according to Currin. The results from the class of 1997 will be finalized within a month and he expects the same or better results. Currin also believes this positive trend will continue with the class of 1998.

Safety week promotes care

Student Life sponsors week to raise awareness of crime on campus

By Dan Durand
Contributing Reporter

In order to highlight personal and property safety issues on campus, the Division of Student Life sponsored the university's annual Safety Awareness Week.

The week featured two contests designed to draw attention to anti-theft measures that students can take for themselves.

The Safe Hall Contest, based on the highest percentage of locked doors per unoccupied rooms at the time of inspection, was won by Johnson Residence Hall with a record zero violations. Babcock, Collins, Palmer and Piccolo residence halls came in close behind Johnson with fewer than 10 violations each.

The worst performers were Davis and Kitchen Houses and North, Taylor and Efrid residence halls, where violation counts were as high as 22.

Generally, the farther a dorm was located from the Quad, the more safety conscious its residents.

Recent reports of Winston-Salem residents entering the campus on foot and leaving on stolen bikes or with students' laptops have had an impact on the precautions taken in dorms off the Quad.

Sorority and fraternity housing were the least secure. Donna

Horosko, a prevention specialist, attributed this to a false sense of security within the Greek community.

"Most students within the Greek system are not as worried about their property being stolen," Horosko said. "They figure that they know all the people that live with them pretty well and don't think for a second that a brother or sister would rip them off."

Though she conceded that campus awareness is improving in many ways, Horosko insisted that students are blind to the many openings for theft in their lives each day.

She cited unattended bags outside the Magnolia Room, unlocked bikes outside of academic buildings during classes and suites in which she has found every room unlocked as examples of student naiveté. "Sometimes I feel as if it would be easier for all involved if students would simply ask for their property to be stolen," Horosko said.

In order to draw attention to the most common form of larceny on campus, a Safe Bike contest has been scheduled for Oct. 30.

University Police will record the names of the owners of registered bicycles that have been secured with a lock outside each residence hall. At the end of the contest, winners from each hall will receive prizes

from Ken's Bike Shop.

The Safe Bike contest was conceived as an effort to get as many people to register their bikes with University Police as possible.

Currently, approximately 300 bikes are registered on campus, with a record 80 registered during orientation this semester. As of Oct. 23, however, not a single bike had been registered during Safety Awareness Week.

The lack of registration is troublesome to Horosko. "It takes five minutes and costs nothing to register bikes that cost up to \$600. While registration cannot guarantee the recovery of a bike in the event it is stolen, a failure to register basically guarantees that the bike will never be in the possession of its true owner again. Even if it were found, how would you go about proving it was yours?" she said.

Another problem Horosko noted was the preference some bike students still have for chain locks, which may be easily cut with hand-held devices.

She recommended that all students owning bikes secure them with U-bolt lock. A survey of bikes on campus indicated that students are heeding Horosko's advice. Thirty-one of 40 bikes surveyed, 77.5 percent were secured with U-bolts, and none were found unlocked.

Students, relatives gather to celebrate, share remembrances of friend

Continued from Page A1

university Oct. 20. "Dear friend, help me remember/ Dear friend, help me forget/ Dear friend, I don't know when I'll see you again/ But I am okay, dear friend," she read.

Chaplain Ed Christman read remembrances from the students who had studied in Venice, Italy, with Edwards in 1996. One person had said, "She never put herself

above anyone else."

"She knew how to live for others, and now we will live for her," another student had said. Christman also related an anecdote a student had recalled involving Edwards. The student had tripped down a flight of stairs as Edwards had been climbing them and expected her to laugh. Instead she had said, "I learned a long time ago ... that we don't laugh at people's pain."

He read a line she had written in the Venice memory book that the students had compiled: "Every day here has been a gift."

Christman then offered his own reflection about Edwards. "We are test takers," he said. "But today we gather for a test we are not prepared to take."

The questions posed by the loss of a friend are not ones to which we can find answers, he said.

As a tribute to Edwards, senior Laura Edwards and Kristen Grasse ('97) read passages from the Bible and several people shared musical offerings.

Senior Steve Curren, who helped organize the service, also read a prayer, seeking comfort for the group as they tried to understand the loss.

Those who attended the service said they were glad to be able to share their memories

together. "It was especially good that the students were so active, because it made it much more personal," Curren said.

"Everyone felt how truly close we were to her," said senior Elizabeth Parker, who also helped organize the service. "It went from people laughing to really touching moments."

"Overall it was really the way Amanda would have wanted it," Parker said.



Noel Fox/Old Gold and Black

Talking heads

Mary Ann Schubert from the campus Counseling Center talks to a student. Delta Sigma Theta sorority invited Schubert to address issues in depression for National Depression Month.

Lifestyles recalls poor-quality condoms

Continued from Page A1

Health Service office. Condoms are distributed in residence halls only if the resident adviser decides he wants to distribute condoms in his area of responsibility.

Condoms have been given out by Health Services for several years. Dr. Price said he believes the condoms have helped keep occurrences of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases down on campus.

"It was so that they would be accessible that it wouldn't be a hindrance to

getting condoms. ... Any time you talk about this, it sounds like we're condom pushers. We're health educators."

"Usage has not been overwhelming. It has been appropriate," Dr. Price said. Some high school students and staff members also stop by to pick up condoms, he said.

To ensure that the condoms that are possibly defective are not used by students, Dr. Price sent letters to Residence Life and Housing so that resident advisers could get information to their residents about the situation.

"I think they were concerned, but I hope they won't avoid (using condoms)," junior Elizabeth Miller, an RA in Kitchin, said.

"I'm going to go ahead and post the flyers and also make sure I speak to them on a one-by-one basis," Miller said.

If condoms do break during sex, Dr. Price recommends that both partners go to Health Services, where the morning-after emergency contraceptive pill is available for women, and both people can be tested for sexually transmitted diseases if necessary.

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