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### News Clipping - Oh, If Only These Walls Could Talk

Crystal Casrson  
*The Web*

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It's amazing the ideas that will cross your mind when you have been studying for too long. It wasn't a real problem when I was a freshman. With three years left at Gardner-Webb, I could dream the big dreams. Now, as a senior, the big dreams are still inside me, but I'm faced with more realistic issues such as "How can I make my mark on GWU in the time I have left?" and "Where will I go when I leave HAPY dorm, room 137?" The senior year is a mixture of anticipation and fear, but it is a rite of passage. I know that I am not the first

and will not be the last to leave this little dorm room to pursue my dreams. In fact, just by opening my closet door, I am reminded of the people who have gone on before me. The former residents of HAPY 137 over the years have scrawled their names on my closet door that once belonged to them.

There was Sandie Brown back in 1965. She used a permanent black marker to write her name in huge print. I suppose she wanted to be certain that her legacy would live on at GWU. She probably loved the college. I wonder if

she has ever returned for Homecoming. Three names were written in a row, all with the years of '61 and '62 accompanying them. I assume that Janet Cagle, Helen Norman, and Sandy Davis were the best of friends back then. Maybe they have remained close after all this time. I understand that college friendships are the most meaningful that you'll ever form.

Beside Ms. Brown's bold writing is a simple penciled signature of Beth Abernathy. Instead of leaving behind the date, she chose to include her hometown of McAdenville. She might have been a

DORMITORIES  
RESIDENCE HALLS

# OH, IF ONLY THESE WALLS COULD TALK

BY CRYSTAL CARSON

new student a GWU or simply attending a summer camp. It seems she was experiencing the typical homesickness that all college students must face. I can't help but wonder if she stayed or moved on to another place.

As far back as 1948-49, Joan Minton stayed in HAPY 137. It's possible that Joan lived in HAPY during her entire stay at Gardner-Webb just like me. She probably wondered who would take her place in the room. I know I think about who will have my little space when I'm gone. She was followed by Helen Painter. Maybe Joan

knew Helen or maybe she didn't. Maybe she left a special note for the next resident hidden in one of the dressers or dropped by to visit after her graduation.

Maybe one of these women prayed for all the other women who would inhabit HAPY 137 in the years to come. That's how I want to leave my mark on the University – by preparing the way for those who will take my place.

*(Crystal Carson is a senior who proudly cherishes her memories of GWU and HAPY dorm, room 137.)*

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