



The Pilot

GARDNER-WEBB COLLEGE



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Gardner-Webb University!

by Greg Carpenter

Staff Writer

On Tuesday, November 10, the Baptist State Convention voted to approve of the change of Gardner-Webb to university status. Beginning January 1, all documents from the school will identify us as Gardner-Webb University.

The proposal to change to university status was made known last January. The General Board of the Convention, consisting of 150 pastors and lay people, approved last June that the Board of Trustees of Gardner-Webb had the authority to make the decision to move towards university status. The vote by the entire Convention Tuesday, November 10, was important because it shows that Gardner-Webb has the support of the Convention in this matter.

GW President, Dr. Chris White, in an interview following the Convention, was ecstatic over the reception of the proposed change. Dr. White commented on the atmosphere of the Convention and said the vote was unanimous and "with enthusiasm."

When asked about any immediate changes which may occur, Dr. White cautioned against expecting too much too quickly. What we will see are subtle changes over a period of years.

Dr. White went on to say that one of, and probably the most significant, goals of the

change is to "heighten respect for the school as an academic institution." White assured *The Pilot* that there will be a focus on academics.

He was quick to cite recent additions in the last year which are related to building a good academic structure for Gardner-Webb University. The revision of the core, which

With the change to a university we hope to heighten respect for the school as an academic institution.

-Dr. Christopher White

was instated this year, is one of the elements. Another element is the new Divinity School which will offer graduate studies in religion. Also, there are plans for an MBA program which will be voted on this winter by the Board of Trustees. This means that Gardner-Webb University will offer two, and possibly three, graduate programs, including the already existing program, along with improved undergraduate studies.

Another motivation for the change, according to White, is seeking prestige for the school, and he explained that in a meeting with the faculty last January. "People get

confused over what is a college and what is not," he said. One way to distinguish Gardner-Webb in the present market is to adopt the title of University.

Melissa Lee, a senior, agrees. She states, "It [the name change] will give the school more prominence and should help me find a job once I graduate." While she was encouraged by the new graduate program and a focus on academics, she goes on to say, "Some departments have been overlooked." She cites the fact that the science and math departments share a building which "is falling apart and has limited classroom space." She hopes that becoming a university will help get further grants for areas in need. Overall, she feels good about the change.

When asked about her views on the subject, Dina Helderman, a freshman, also agrees that the word university "sounds more esteemed." She expressed some concerns and asks, "Does this [transition to university] mean that my tuition will go up? Will I have to take more hours to graduate, and will the atmosphere change?"

When asked if the atmosphere will change, Dr. White replied that there will be no change in the "people who care" attitude of the school.

White maintains that "the best defense is a good offense" when it comes to insuring

See UNIVERSITY, page 2...

Where's the Lake

by Kevin Walter
Staff Writer

If you've been near THE boiling springs recently, you have probably noticed the lack of trees. As many of you know, this is where the new lake is going to be.

Even though there is still a long way to go, the lake has come far. The school has applied for three different governmental permits.

The first allows the school and city to move the Boiling Springs septic line which runs directly through the middle of the proposed lake.

The second permit is for erosion control. When wooded areas are disturbed, provision must be made to control the erosion; remaining vegetation will no longer hold the soil.

The third permit is for construction of the dam, which will allow the lake itself to be created.

David Webb, Assistant to the President, mentioned that the only obstacle keeping the lake from final construction is that "...bureaucracy is really slow." He feels Gardner-Webb should have no problems getting the

permits for construction but that staffing cuts have slowed the process.

No date has been set for construction to begin, but the school is currently accepting bids from companies and will deliberate over the bids until the permits are approved.

Safety has become a concern of many students/staff since the origin of the lake discussions. Some steps have already been taken. Safety and Security will include the lake in its routine inspection.

Present school insurance coverage will be expanded to include the lake area, with no additional costs. Warnings and restrictions will be posted to reduce the possibility of accidents.

Upkeep and landscaping of the new lake will be handled by the GW Physical Plant. To offset the costs of landscaping, the school will eventually reduce the use of city water. Instead, water will be pumped directly from the lake.

Lake Hollifield, named for the family responsible for its construction, will not only add to the beauty of the campus, but will attract people to college with its bell tower, walking trails and open water.

Academic Reform?

by Abdul Asghar
Staff Writer

On the 27th of October the Student Government Senate passed its first bill. Student Senate Bill #1 has received reaction ranging from absolute awe to deep disgust; from heads of departments to freshman. The bill relates to the academic standards of the college. It outlines a new and higher GPA for graduation (2.5 rather the current 2.0), and also requires that students make a 2.5 or better if their GPA falls below a 2.0 in their first semester. Should they fail to do this, they would be dismissed from school. Furthermore, students once put on academic probation would automatically be dismissed if their GPA ever fell below a 2.0. The bill also calls for a change in testing methods to only essay type and identification formats in order to comprehensively test the students knowledge of the material.

The Pilot talked to four students about the whole affair. Two were junior senators, one who voted for and one against the bill.

see REFORM, page 2...