

Dear Eddie...

Hello, dear friends. This is the last meeting we shall have this semester. It's unfortunate, isn't it? What will you do all summer without my glorious advice? I suppose your letters in the fall will answer that one.

Speaking of letters, someone felt sorry for me and sent me a real one. I guess she didn't like the ones I made up. Oh well.

Dear Eddie,

Thanks a million for not wimping out to these cry baby students who have it in for you. Keep it up! I love to read your responses and usually crack up laughing. I salute you!

Now, bottle that energy for a while then let it explode against those individuals who don't give commuter students the respect they deserve. I'm sure they will be eternally grateful for your support.

Your Pal,
Edwina

Oh, boy. I appreciate the letter -- but, again, it violates a couple of those rules of mine. First, if you have a letter, please use the box number provided. I hate to think that I write that dumb sentence in every issue just for people to ignore.

Second, TYPE your letter. It will convince me you're serious.

Third, be sparing with those exclamation marks! Our paper's official AP Style requires that exclamation points be used only to "express a high degree of surprise, incredulity or other strong emotion"!!!!

That said, I'll move on to the contents of the letter.

As a future commuter, I am disheartened to hear of the battles you say I must face with resident students next year.

If there is such a division between commuter and resident students, why have I never heard of it before your letter?

And why do you seemingly encourage this division by demanding that resident students respect commuters? Why not just say, "Students, respect other students."?

I would say that there is a lack of respect among students in general here at Gardner-Webb, and it will not be resolved by furthering the divisions between these students.

I understand that there are differences between commuters and residents. But those differences don't give either group the right to receive special treatment.

Rather, we should celebrate our differences and use them to foster an enlightened spirit of "oneness" among students at Gardner-Webb. In English, that means share your toys and play nicely.

And as for me having to "bottle that energy," I can't; my therapist says I should be free with my emotions. If I were in the habit of bottling my emotions, do you really think I would write this column?

I know you're going to miss me dearly, so if you would like to write to me over the summer, please do: Campus Box 265.

Have a warm and fuzzy summer. Until the fall, adieu!

A letter to the editor...

Is Gardner-Webb religious or Christian?

As I reach the end of my senior year, I can look back at my four years at Gardner-Webb University with thankfulness for the excellent education I've received, the friendships I've made and the opportunities for growth I've experienced.

However, I would like to leave a challenge for the Gardner-Webb family: Let's make our campus home less religious and more Christian!

Now that may seem a strange statement to make, so allow me to explain. One of the supposed "outstanding" qualities of GWU is the reputation it has as a Christian school; yet it has been my personal experience that many students are so busy being religious that they forget to be Christian.

This is not a new problem. Indeed, Jesus himself faced it. A Christian is devoted to being "Christ-like." Jesus was focused on the needs and hurts of each person -- not the legalistic (devoted to being religious) views of the Pharisees, who emphasized minor details and ignored the "weightier matters of the law," such as "justice and mercy and faith" (Matthew 23:23).

In fact, that whole chapter of Matthew is Jesus characterizing the Pharisees as being far too concerned about "outward appearances."

It is these outward appearances of some of my fellow Christian students that have made me concerned about the mistake of being religious instead of Christian.

In some of my history and science classes, there have been such heated discussions about religion that I could see the frustration of my professors as they tried not to lose valuable class time.

The emphasis some students put on types of clothing, the ability to out-talk everyone else and the tendency to form cliques are major turnoffs to classmates.

Instead of "putting on a big show" about how religious one might be, the challenge I mentioned at the beginning of my letter really has two parts.

First, I would ask that each of us remember 1 Samuel 16:7 which says, "...for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart." Are our hearts tuned in to being Christ-like?

The second part of my challenge comes from John 13:34-35 when Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

That amazing love of Christ reached out to everyone he met -- no matter what sins they had committed! And Jesus loved each human (yes, you and me) so much that he gave his life for ransom.

So, can we unite this campus in love to get away from individual religious zeal about minor differences in our beliefs? Can we follow Christ's example of love toward our fellow students to the extent that we will be known as a Christ-like student body?

Let's not just make speeches about how religious we are -- let's live Christ-like lives!

John Wall
Class of 1997



OOPS! In the April 18 edition of *The Pilot*, we printed a letter from newly-elected SGA President Brian Burgess. It contained a typographical error in the second sentence of the fourth paragraph. Here's how the sentence should read:

"Consequently, each student's participation must not stop at elections."