

# Opinion

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Actions reflect poor view

To the Editor:

With the recent events, I feel it necessary to write this letter. I am a concerned student of Gardner-Webb, who came to this university because of its Christian environment, as well as its wonderful faculty.

When I found out about Dr. White, as well as the former women's basketball coach's actions, I was appalled. In any university, people look to the president as the leader and spokesperson. By his actions, Dr. White, the Gardner-Webb University's president (assumed leader/spokesperson), has given the public a poor view of Gardner-Webb University. I pray that the trustees will remember that this school is Christian and stands for something better than academics and athletics. Gardner-Webb University is a character-building school. Without integrity, such character building is useless.

Dr. White did break policy, and he should be punished accordingly. Yes, I do believe he should be forgiven for his mistake; however, forgiveness does not mean that one also escapes punishment. I support the faculty's decision to vote "no confidence" in Dr. White, and I especially commend the courage of the faculty who stood, and continue to stand, for what they thought to be right.

I ask fellow students to not lose faith in Gardner-Webb University and its staff. The faculty's decision is just one example of the overall integrity of Gardner-Webb. Please do not allow the actions of one to destroy your view of all. Whether we are student or faculty, athlete or non-athlete, we must stand together. Dr. Christopher White may represent Gardner-Webb University; however, he is NOT Gardner-Webb University. The students and faculty together as a whole create this Christian-based establishment, not one person alone.

Thank you,  
An Observer

### Troubled times upon university

To the Editor:

In times such as these, it is easy to second guess and opinionate. There are many who are troubled and hurting—not the least of which are our students—athletes and non-athletes alike.

Please also remember the families of the principles involved with prayer and compassion. II Chronicles 7:14 is not only a cry for our nation but also for us as a community of faith and learning. "If my people who are called by my Name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land."

To paraphrase the hymn: May the Lord grant wisdom and courage to our administration, faculty, students and board of trustees for the living of these days.

—Susan Carlisle Bell

### Healing begins with Dr. White

To the Editor:

First, I would like to applaud Coach Burch for having the courage to *voluntarily* address a crowd of confused, hurting GWU students at the Sept. 12 SGA forum. He attempted to answer our questions as straightforwardly as possible.

In the presence of perhaps 300 often angry students, Burch admitted that he was wrong in asking Dr. White to assist in adjusting Carlos Webb's gpa. He may not be perfect and you may think of him what you will, but you must agree, that took guts.

Secondly, I wish to thank Patrick Woody and the entire SGA for attempting to foster a better relationship between "Academics and Athletics." This informational meeting was planned weeks ago in an effort to address the sometimes strained relationship between those who are in athletics and those who are not.

Lastly, like many at GWU,

I have spent several sleepless nights and anxious days since Sept. 10. I have run a gamut of emotions from concern to worry to anger to sadness. Now I am not sure what I am feeling, not how I should be feeling. As I lay in bed with thoughts running a continuous litany in my head, I tried to pray. God, what is going on? What's happening? What should I think or feel or do? Am I wrong to be angry? Or sad? What will be the result of all this? Will Gardner-Webb be able to weather this storm with her honor, her reputation intact? Will I?

No peace would come, so I went for a walk—at 11 p.m.—in the rain. Thought continued to bombard me as I kept praying for peace of mind. As I walked and prayed, I thought of something I said to a friend the other day about this situation. For my own peace of mind and in spirit of love, I am impelled to share this true story here in this forum.

I once did something very wrong at work. I knew that it was wrong when I did it. I knew that it would hurt someone very badly, but in the heat of the moment I didn't care. I did it anyway. When I had calmed down, I regretted what I had done. I knew that I had made a big mistake. As soon as I saw my supervisor, I told her exactly what I had done. I apologized to her and indicated my intention to apologize to the one I had hurt, which intention I later carried out. An investigation was conducted. As a result of the investigation, I was rightfully punished for what I did.

Do I think that telling my supervisor what I did makes me some sort of saint? Absolutely not. What I did was wrong. Period. Even now I screw up at least, oh, 20, 30 times a day, and that's on a good day. Do I think this incident at work gives me a right to judge Dr. White and the others who are involved in this situation? Absolutely not. I am not God that I may judge the heart of man. I am a sinner who has been forgiven, just like every other Christian. So why do I tell this story? Simply this: The test of integrity and honor lies not in never making a mistake, but in knowing the right thing to do when you do make a mistake

and doing that right thing. The man of honor who has never made a mistake cannot be sure he is a man of honor. Until your sense of honor is truly tested, how can you be absolutely sure what you will do?

Why has Dr. White refused to address the student body? At this time, perhaps more than ever before, we need him to talk to us. This is an educational institution. Surely, it is the philosophy and purpose of any institution of higher education to increase student knowledge. The more information we as students have made available to us, the better able we are to form our own opinions.

Dr. White, I ask you, I beg you, for your own sake as well as the sake of this university, call a meeting of the faculty, staff and students. Talk to us about what happened in the "Carlos Webb incident." Come before all of those who are affected by this and talk to us.

Yes, you will still face punishment. You still must realize the repercussions of making a mistake. God has promised us forgiveness, not an escape from consequences. This university is hurting. We need healing, and that healing can only begin with you, Dr. White.

—Vera Hockaday  
senior elementary  
education major

### Student: Ignorance vs. Truth

I think. I heard. He said. These are all examples of ignorance-laced statements that our campus has been littered with over the past two weeks. Where are all the truth-seekers?

Gardner-Webb University has more than its fair share of problems, especially as of late. Without much brain-wracking, I'm sure each of us could come up with a list of "problems" we would like to see solved, from our lack of parking to the lengthy cafeteria lines. Unlike these problems however, we are facing a problem that is much less quantifiable but much more devastating, and Ignorance is its name. Ignorance is a warm blan-

ket we wrap ourselves in when we feel complacent and comfortable. Look around you. Listen. Whether we choose to admit it or not, ignorance is, in fact, pure and unadulterated bliss. To prove this point, one simply has to address a controversial subject of discussion and listen as people work themselves into a frenzy full of "I think" arguments.

It's time to begin KNOWING what we believe. KNOWING truth, KNOWING facts, KNOWING the Word of God. When will we as a corporate body begin to sift through the sediment layers of facts, lies and half-truths that are surfacing day after day, regarding our latest controversy? It is impossible to go anywhere on campus without hearing phrases dripping with the latest "buzz" words: **guilty, resign, liar, cheater, manipulator, athlete, preferential treatment, Honor Code, etc.**

Have we begun to separate fact from fiction? Are we content with the daily revelations of the *Shelby Star*? Are we content with "no comments" and vague answers to black and white questions? The idealist in me says that we are not.

God has given each of us the ability to reason. Let's begin to make a conscious effort to use this gift. Each time we accept answers that are not grounded in the truth we are selling ourselves short. Unity as a body will bring us to the truth. Prayer will bring us to the truth. Ignorance will not, and now is the time to be as proactive as we can. What separates this letter from a general harangue is my charge to you: do your homework regarding these issues. Ask questions, honest ones. Learn all you can and discern the truth for yourselves. Don't spread gossip. Pray for our school and for our president. Pray for unity as the body of Christ. Above all else, seek God in this, and seek out the advice of those wiser than you.

I leave you with the words of a man much wiser than myself. King Solomon says in Ecclesiastes 1:18, "For in much wisdom there is much grief, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow" The road ahead is bound to be painful at times, but stay the course in your pursuit of truth.

—Josh Benedict