

Campus Life At Gardner-Webb

All the essential elements which help to make a college and to give it well balanced proportions may be found on the campus of Gardner-Webb. We believe that even a small and unpretentious college as ours cannot be overlooked when the students and faculty alike have assumed a role of cooperative enterprise under the leadership of the spirit and love of Jesus. And today at Gardner-Webb this is giving meaning and purposefulness to the total campus life. The elements which characterize life here for us are honorable industry, healthful recreation, and wholesome worship. Everyone on our campus is always busily engaged in some activity worthy of pursuit.

The types or forms of activity vary, but their helpfulness to the students is unquestioned. They range all the way from the athletic program to the literary society. And even though all these groups and forms of activity are headed up together under a Student Activities Committee, each organization on the campus maintains its own work and remains vital and functional. There are two primary reasons for maintaining our clubs and organizations. One is for the cultural benefits which the student gains from membership and activity in the organizations. The other is for the vocational interest of the student. The student, for example, who becomes a member of the Science Club, will not only learn more about the factual knowledge of his field of study, but he will find out some of the practical aspects of his work, the relationship of his work to other subjects, as well as to make associations with other students of common interest. This is of great help to the student while he is in school and still greater when he is graduated and begins to earn his way in the world.

Before going further it should be pointed out that all the extracurricula activities of the student body are coordinated through a committee especially named for this purpose. This committee is headed by one of the faculty members. Other faculty members serve as advisors and the presidents of all the student organizations are also members of this committee. This committee has two primary functions: to promote student participation in these campus groups, and to coordinate the programs of each. Through this committee, then, the largest possible number of students get the benefit of the students' activities, and at the same time these activities are kept well balanced. Such an arrangement

as this serves to make all student life on the campus directed, helpful, and wholesome. Thus the greatest possible freedom is given to the students through which personal initiative can be expressed in governing their own lives.

A wide range of activities is sponsored by the Student Government Association and the Baptist Student Union. Through the Student Government students learn to govern and discipline their own lives in a way which is conducive to good citizenship. Rules and regulations carried out by this organization are not hard and fast rules, but those which the students themselves recognize to be to their best interests.

While the Student Government fulfils its judicial and practical sponsorship of student life, the B. S. U. seeks to render a different yet supplemental service to college life. Through its program the students receive vital Christian nurture to deepen their spiritual lives. This group is of great importance in keeping the general tone of campus life always at its peak. This year through the B. S. U.'s sincere efforts the whole student body has been spiritually blessed and empowered. The B. S. U. also helps to enrich students' lives by sponsoring wholesome and entertaining recreational programs.

Apart from the two "over-all" organizations we have the smaller clubs which are doing their part to make Gardner-Webb rich in cultural and vocational benefits. They are the Marshal, Monogram, Science, Home Economics, and International Relations clubs, the Mental Hygiene Society, the Choir, the Band, and the Christian Volunteer Band.

Thus one could certainly say that the whole college program is planned and administered with one purpose in mind, and that is to give the student such a well balanced life on the campus that he leaves a well balanced person. To round out the program which the students themselves sponsor the college offers additional cultural advantages through the Chapel services, the Lyceum, and other public functions. Many departments of the college cooperate in adding to the students' enjoyment of college life. The Music Department and the dramatic class have been particularly helpful with their splendid performances this year. The part athletics has in campus life is mentioned elsewhere.

—Thomas L. Reece