

OVER THE PRESIDENT'S DESK Why I Came To College

P. L. Elliott

Recently Dean Eugene S. Wilson of Amherst College listed nine reasons why students go to college, and gave his evaluation of each. They are as follows: (The parentheses are mine)

1. My parents came to this college (good, but not sufficient).
2. I am a body in a crowd planned to come, so I came too (not bad within itself).
3. I'm not sure why I came (far better than not).
4. A college education will guarantee me a more secure future, economically and socially (at least make it possible).
5. It will make me a well rounded person (condemned, but the author failed to note that well rounded means also completion! full maturity).
6. I want to learn how to work with people (most people lose their jobs because they don't have this ability).
7. To get a nice husband (wife).
8. I came to get training for the profession I hope to enter.
9. There is so much to know I'm excited at the possibility of digging into many areas of knowledge.

Browning in his "Death in the Desert" portrays three characters:

one decided to know, not do or be; one decided to do, not know or be; one decided to be, not know or do. Browning seems to be pointing out an ideal system of being some-thing through Knowing and Doing.

If Browning is right the real value of life, or college, is a by-product. It is creative, elusive, and may be missed because it comes largely through attitude. Are we in college to learn a little math, chemistry, history, music, or literature? Or is it to associate with greater minds than ours in books as well as with people in our quest for that which matters?

"For a good book is the precious life blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life." And "Studies lead to their own use, but that is a wisdom beyond them and above them to be observed."

All the reasons Dean Wilson lists are good, but no one perhaps is enough. Perhaps all together lack something; but the answer may be that through all these I may be able to find that which will give me peace to me and inspiration and courage to those who know me. The reason, therefore, Why I Came to College becomes increasingly significant.

All Studying With No Social Life Makes Smart Social Misfits

According to the old saying, "When you want something done, go to the busiest person you can find, and he will do the task." Mr. John Hoyt, our new Dean of Students, is the one to whom we should perhaps turn. It may be somewhat difficult to find him, especially if you go to the most obvious place—his office. You might, however, heed the permanent sign placed on his door—"I'm in the library if anyone wants me." On the other hand, it is entirely possible that you might encounter Dean Hoyt several times a day in such populated locales as the Student Center, the C.M.O. Lounge, the Gym, or any other place on campus that you might happen to be. Once you have made an appointment to see Dean Hoyt, you will be over. You will not have difficulty in finding him at the appointed place at the appointed hour. You may find, however, that a number of your classmates will drop in while you are there. They may be seeking to register their car, receive their movie pass, or sign up for an out of town football game. At any rate, it is easy for one who spends a little time in Dean Hoyt's office to see the great demand upon his time and signature and the vast scope of his work.

It is interesting to note that the Dean Hoyt's work is entirely new on the Gardner-Webb campus. Before has there been a Dean of Students as such. This endeavor will be new for both the students and the Dean. Completely separated from other academic functions on campus, Dean Hoyt's emphasis lies on the social and religious aspects of the student's life. Because he will be working through the various organizations on campus, Dean Hoyt will not always receive due

credit for his work. Through such groups as the B.S.U., the Student Government, and the Athletic Department, he will institute many of his plans for the students at Gardner-Webb. One important phase of Dean Hoyt's work has already been evidenced: The thirty six G-W students who attended the Lee-McIntee football game on October 27 were very happy to have the opportunity to travel to and from the game at Washington by means of a chartered bus. With such an enthusiastic cheering section, it is no wonder that the Bulldogs played a victorious game. Dean Hoyt would also like to arouse a new interest in Intramural Sports. He is working closely with the Athletic Department in an effort to set up a complete Intramural Program. Much of Dean Hoyt's time will be spent in planning week-end activities for students who remain on campus. He is particularly interested in scheduling picnics, skating parties, and hayrides in addition to such seasonal events as the Thanksgiving and Christmas banquets. For those students who enjoy hobbies, Dean Hoyt is interested in forming a Hobbies and Crafts Club. He readily admits that he is an amateur photographer and stamp collector.

When asked about this particular interest, Dean Hoyt said, "I'd be happy to talk with any student who collects anything except demerits." Another of his responsibilities involves planning our chapel program. He is eager to hear any suggestions that any student or faculty member might have regarding how he might make Gardner-Webb a

better college.

In brief, Dean Hoyt's job is to build up the school spirit and arouse an interest in every activity on the Gardner-Webb Campus. He wants every student to take full advantage of each opportunity presented to him. Gardner-Webb is happy to have the chance to fulfill one of Dean John Hoyt's ambitions. He admits that one of his main ambitions has always been to return to his Alma Mater as a member of the faculty. We hope that he will have many successful years here as he strives to make Gardner-Webb a better school for the students who attend here now and for those who will go here in the future.

Thomas Dixon Collection In Cleveland Shrine Room Of Dover Library

No doubt most visitors, many students, and some faculty members of Gardner-Webb do not know about Gardner-Webb's famous Thomas Dixon Collection. The collection has been brought to the college, and since 1952 it has resided in the Cleveland Shrine Room of the Dover Memorial Library. It was through the efforts of Lee B. Weathers, then publisher of the *Star*, that the books came to the college. Dixon, with only about a year to live, gave many books from his personal library and several of the original oil-painted illustrations for his novels. Since Dixon is, by far, the most famous literary personage Cleveland County has produced, it is very appropriate that this collection be housed in the Cleveland Room.

Thomas Dixon's is an Horatio Alger, rags-to-riches story. He was born in Cleveland County in the midst of privation and civil poverty just before the end of the Civil War. He became not only one of the most successful novelists of the early twentieth century, earning well over a million dollars with his pen, but he also wrote the screen play for *The Birth of a Nation*, the first tremendous screen success. Yet because of unwise investments — for example \$25,000 for the patent on a non-refillable bottle—he died in poverty and was buried at the expense of his friends, an end quite unlike that of an Horatio Alger hero.

It was not until after his death in 1946, he prepared his autobiography which he dedicated to "the large flock of blue sheep known as ministers' sons—by one of them."

Tom's difficulties began early. When he was only ten years of age, his father, Thomas Dixon had him stop on his way from school at Aaron Moore's barroom, not far from his Cleveland County, North Carolina, home and he never left.

Tom's mother, a Baptist minister and a chaplain to the Ku Klux Klan, found out about the purchase and soundly thrashed the boy. When Grandma Dixon heard of the whipping, she got her things together, and in a huff left the Dixon home. Although she was eighty-seven at the time, she trudged on foot the eighteen miles of bad road from the Dixon home to the home of a relative in Kings Mountain, N. C. She was nearly blind, but she did know and sat on the platform at the centennial celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Tom had a good deal of Grandma in him. When things did not go to suit him, he turned in another direction. Because he was six feet, three and a half inches tall and weighed one hundred and thirty pounds, he failed to get a part in a New York play. On his way home to Shelby, N. C., from New York, he decided to be a lawyer. Later, at the suggestion of his father, he ran for the North Carolina legislature and was elected before he was twenty-one years old.

He had, however, gave up both law and politics and entered the ministry. It was while he was pastor of the Dudley Street Church in the Roxbury section of Boston, in the early part of the late 1880's, that something happened which determined what he called his life's work. At a mass meeting in Tremont Temple, Dixon listened to a man make a speech on the "Southern Problem," which, as he says in his unpublished autobiography, "gave me a shock down my spine that lifted me from my seat." The speak-

GARDNER-WEBB MERRY-GO-ROUND

A brass ring for one free ride on the Gardner-Webb Merry-Go-Round goes to the college administration for changing the holiday schedule. In recent years there has been obvious and understandable dissatisfaction among both faculty and students because of the rather unusual holiday periods and the members of the college administration. The benefit of new-comers to the faculty and student body, it should be pointed out that last school year Gardner - Webb had no Thanksgiving holiday and that the Christmas vacation started so early in December that the students had to go to school before New Years. In addition, the Easter holidays came so early that Easter and classes resumed on Easter Monday. Gardner-Webb students were in class three of the four holidays that came during the year.

But all this has been changed now and, as this columnist sees it, for the good. The new holiday schedule has logic on its side and will permit students and faculty to be at home on Thanksgiving, New Years Day, and Easter Monday.

The first vacation—the mid-term recess—will be in the middle of the first semester, immediately following the mid-term examination period. The vacation will begin after classes on Wednesday, November 11, and classes will resume on Monday, November 16. Thursday, November 26, will be Thanksgiving and a holiday.

The Christmas vacation will begin on Wednesday, December 2, and classes will resume on Monday, December 15, and will extend until Monday, January 4, 1960. This particularly is a welcomed change in comparison with the top-sliced Christmas vacation of last year. The spring recess for the second semester begins after classes on March 23. Classes resume on March 24. It is always advisable to have the spring holidays coincide with the Easter season, when this is possible and reasonable, since Gardner-Webb students like to be home when students from other colleges are home. But this year Easter comes so late that we feel the additional advantage of having the spring recess earlier. We can be home on Easter Sunday and stay through Easter Monday, April 18.

Students and faculty are grateful for the change. Now, if the administration would go one step farther and devise a plan which would eliminate Saturday classes, the system would be complete. We can dream, can't we? But dreams have come true. If Saturday class were to suffer the fate of the Bodo bird, we would feel like Grandpa. The administration an annual pass for unlimited rides on the Gardner-Webb Merry-Go-Round.

the forum of the world." Dixon is primarily known today as the author of the screen play, *The Birth of a Nation*, the first million dollar movie. The Birth of a Nation was based on a story in vain Dixon offered his screen play to the major producers, but finally a new company headed by H. E. Aitken took the play, put it in the hands of D. W. Griffith; and after two years and many disappointments, the movie was finished. The movie costars more than ten years it was seen by a hundred million people and grossed \$18,000,000.

In twenty-five years, Dixon wrote about twenty novels. His motion picture out of which he made \$1,250,000. He once held the deed to a beautiful island off the coast of Florida. He once in Currituck Sound, which took him all day to walk around. The craze of the land boom caught him and he bought "rock" in land company in Florida. He was in the land boom in North Carolina, he was persuaded to buy a mountain and "to build on it a summer refuge for third authors, musicians, actors, singers, and teachers." A company was formed to carry out the venture known as WILDACRES, on a peak under the shadow of Doubleday Ridge and the land boom collapsed in 1920, and Dixon again lost every dollar he had.

Dixon, though, was philosophical about such changes in his relation to material property," he said, "there has always been a screw loose in my make-up. I've always been generous, and Dixon had been given a tortured South a hearing in

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