

Merry Christmas

THE PILOT



Gardner-Webb College



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BOILING SPRINGS, NORTH CAROLINA 28017

The Academic Cabinet: Is The Concept Working?

By: Randy Waters

Needless to say, it takes a lot of planning, thinking and directing to keep an educational institution's policies coherent, viable, and stable. The responsibilities must be meted out and carefully coordinated in order to handle current and future programs and problems.

Traditionally, the position of Academic Dean is responsible for a large proportion of the aforementioned responsibilities, including such important areas as student-faculty or faculty-faculty relations. If students had an academic problem for example, they could meet with the dean to discuss them.

Since G-W recently lost its dean, Dr. Robert Knott, to Mars Hill College, the college had to fill that important position as quickly and efficiently as possible. The administration thought it too late in the year (summer) to begin a search for a dean. After all, even if they could find a dean before Fall, he or she must have time to become familiar with the intricacies of the institution.

Since the college was (and still is) in the throes of re-

vising the curriculum, and the Fall was fast approaching, the administration decided to try an experiment in administrative duties, hence the Academic Cabinet. The cabinet, made up of G-W faculty members, handles the dean's responsibilities, dividing them among themselves.

Dr. George Cribb has been given the task of handling all academic correspondence and presiding as chief academic officer at all academic ceremonies, such as graduation. Dr. Paul Jolley has been given charge of long-range planning and the overseeing of the academic eligibility of athletes. Dr. Robert Lamb has been given the job of meeting with students on matters of academic eligibility, progress, suspension, and probation. He also works with the library director in an advisory capacity. Dr. Charles Andrews is in charge of working with the faculty in academic matters via the department chairpersons. The college president acts in a coordinating fashion for all administrative functions of the entire academic program.

Naturally, since the president and the four cabinet members already have tremendous work loads to contend with, it could seem cumbersome for them to undertake even more responsibilities. However, Dr. Cribb, when questioned on this point, stated that the work load was equally distributed for the most part and that the faculty has been "supportive" and "responsive"

to the academic cabinet concept, thus making the cabinet members' jobs much easier.

Dr. Cribb seemed enthusiastic and optimistic about the cabinet's progress and its role in the college's affairs. Dr. Cribb stressed the many advantages of the cabinet system, including the advantage of having four people, as opposed to one person, to go to with questions, problems, and so forth.

According to Dr. Cribb, the college will attempt to evaluate the success of the academic cabinet experiment in December. If the cabinet is deemed a success, the college will proceed with the cabinet. If it should appear that the college could operate better with an academic dean, then the administration will initiate a search for a dean in January. The preliminary results of the recent college-wide questionnaire indicate that the college family has been satisfied thus far with the Academic Cabinet's performance this year, but the questionnaire also indicates that an academic dean is preferred in the long run.

Dr. Cribb indicated that he had mixed feelings about the cabinet's future. He is pleased with its progress and would like to see the cabinet continue, but stressed that the faculty must be comfortable with whatever situation occurs. If the experiment is found to be unsatisfactory to the faculty, then the search for an academic dean might be in the offing.



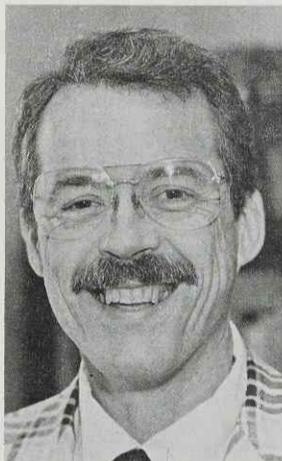
DR. PAUL JOLLEY



DR. CHARLES ANDREWS



DR. GEORGE C. CRIBB



DR. ROBERT LAMB

'A Time For Singing' Premieres

By Debbie Drayer

Of all the events planned in commemoration of Gardner-Webb's 75th Anniversary, perhaps "A Time For Singing" was the most unique. Commissioned at former Dean Dr. Robert Knott's initiative, the play was written by C. Robert Jones, drama professor at Mars Hill College. Mr. Jones, as much a playwright as a professor, is a former GWC faculty member.

The play dealt with the common background and the personal stories of two men vital to the development of the college, Dr. Philip Lovin Elliot and governor O. Max Gardner. Elliot was president of Gardner-Webb from 1943-1961.

Jones, in writing the play, was particularly impressed by the series of letters exchanged between the two men that he found when he began researching at the University of North Carolina library. According to Jones, the correspondence was "not your usual 'Hey how's life' letters.

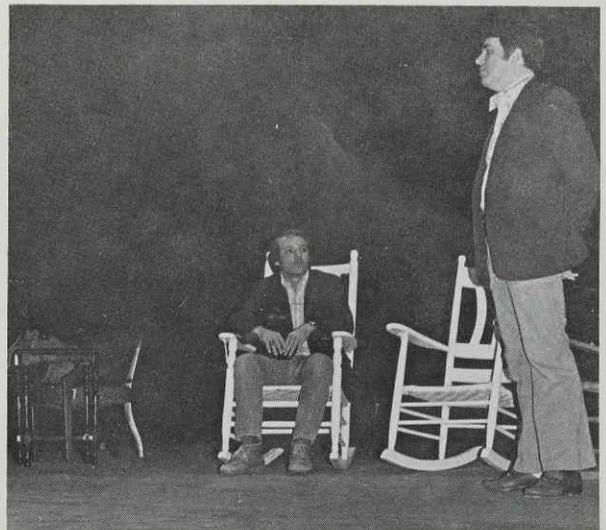
They were full of philosophical concerns, particularly about the future of the college, whether it would go in an agricultural or liberal arts direction."

Jones wanted to create and produce a play that was more than just a history of the college. He searched for a specific conflict, for one area where an event crucial to the future of Gardner-Webb could be molded into a drama. The playwright's primary concern, beyond highlighting the sacrificial effort made by Elliot and Gardner and beyond the accurate portrayal of each character, was to protect the people still in the vicinity. Mrs. Elliot is one example; she lives on campus next door to the Sign Post.

The cast included Shelby residents Steve Ware and Ellen Palmer as Gov. and Mrs. (Fay Webb) Gardner; Shelby Daily Star staff member Frank Moore and GW senior Terry Prunty as Dr. and Mrs. Elliot; sopho-

more Ruth Ann Brunson and Dana Bucher as secretaries to O. Max Gardner and Elliot; senior Teresa Yingling as a soprano voice major, sophomore John Taylor as one of Gardner's law partners; GW professor P. A. Cline as Horace Easom (who was named interim president until Elliot came); and senior Keith Flippin as James Webb "Decker" Gardner (after whom Decker Dorm was named.) Yingling's role (Mary Greene) was created by Jones "in order to demonstrate Elliot's compassionate relationship with students."

Jones found the November 20-22 performances in E. B. Hamrick auditorium quite meaningful, not only because of the references made to the building in the play, but because of its recent inclusion into the National Register of Historic Buildings, which guaranteed the renovation funding necessary to preserve the auditorium.



"O. Max Gardner" (Steve Ware) and "Decker Gardner" (Keith Flippin) perform in A TIME FOR SINGING. (Photo by John Mark Adams)