



Across the Editor's Desk

Roberta L. Borden

Let's assume for a moment that students are the heart and soul of Gardner-Webb College. In this situation, students pay the college thus providing the institution with a viable means for continuation and in turn the college gives them an education. Students are to a college what a major account is to a bank or advertising firm. The only difference in this analogy is that the customers involved with such businesses are treated with the highest degree of respect and the relationship nurtured. This is not true, however, of the students and the faculty and staff of Gardner-Webb College. Granted there is a large majority of these people who do cultivate a rich relationship with the students, making them feel welcome and important. There is, however, that undeniable minority that does its best to be uncooperative, disrespectful and blatantly nasty.

Recently, Dr. Chris White issued a memo to the staff and faculty reminding them why and for whom they are here. Hopefully this will modify the behavior of some, but if you've recently encountered, as a student or student-employee, certain individuals in the library, business office or almost any administrative office on campus, you'll find yourself doubting that the entire campus will ever recognize the importance of the student body. I guess the most simplistic way to phrase my sentiments and those of a large majority of students is "you would not have a job if we were not here." Now, do not get me wrong, I do not condone disrespect on the behalf of the student body. However, I do feel that many times students are the unsolicited victims of staff malice and also that this occurrence is not merely coincidental. In fact, what I (and many, many others) have found to be true is that generally the individuals who are nasty are that way all or most of the time. (You know who you are.) My question is why? Do we inconvenience you too much? Do we ask too

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THE PILOT

Editor-in-chief.....Roberta L. Borden
 Sports Editor.....Jeff Melton
 Features Editor.....Shawn "Flouder" Lewis
 Advertising Staff.....Pam Sharts & Shellie Hamrick
 Photographer.....Janet Curry
 Staff.....Henry Doo, Brett Bridges,
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Student Editorial

Victims of Snow by Dr. Jim Taylor White

by Henry Doo

Although we did not have a White Christmas this past year, we certainly had our share of frozen precipitation. The Shelby-Boiling Springs area was carpeted by "Snow White" making travel to Gardner-Webb difficult for commuting students and professors. Some areas claimed up to fourteen inches of snow, evidenced by myriads of children throwing snowballs, building snowmen and sledding.

Most schools in this area were closed but regardless of this fact, Gardner-Webb students were required to attend classes. That is the classes which were being held (few at best.) On the whole, most students were annoyed that classes were held at all. Says boarding student Melissa Richardson, "I think the policy of 'no policy' regarding class cancellations due to snow stinks." Ms. Richardson's attitude was reiterated by commuting students who felt that the school endangered their safety by not

The commuting students who did make it to campus were greeted by no plowed parking lots and ice-covered roads and sidewalks. Elizabeth Johnson, a commuting student from Shelby said, "I didn't worry about missing class because I just couldn't get out."

Unfortunately, it seems that G-W's un-snow policy, indirectly penalizes commuting students as one professor may hold a class which the student can not attend due to road conditions. Is it fair that a student be knowingly put behind his peers merely because of the weather? Most would say "No". What does the G-W administration have to say?

Another View: Guest Editorial

Ever had a bandage over your eye? A scratched cornea? Ever felt stupid? I have. And it was all so unnecessary.

For years I played the odds, foregoing the obvious protection afforded by racquetball eyeguards because I considered them a bother and didn't like the way they felt. When my opponent returned the Z-ball serve and I glanced back to track the shot, it happened--a stinging, sickening impact against my left eye. My first response was not a howl of pain but an inward tongue-lashing. The tournament entry form had clearly stated: "Eyeguards recommended. Required for juniors."

In 1985, 70,000 eye injuries occurred in racquetball, a number of these resulting in lost vision. Ask the victims why they weren't protecting themselves and you would get the usual excuses: We don't hit the ball that hard. We have been playing for a long time and know how to avoid injuries. The glasses impair my vision and bother me.

I have heard several Gardner-Webb players use the first excuse. Yet a racquetball, regardless of its velocity, can easily damage the eyes of people who play socially and who have lulled themselves into a false sense of security. In fact, it is such players who need eyeguards most of all. I have seen such persons hurt, largely because they have not mastered the skills of moving in a small room with a blue ball whizzing around their heads.

More experienced players may indeed move well on the court, but even they are subject to chance and circumstance. It is when the person least expects to be hurt that accidents often happen. No one is immune. Marty Hogan, many times a national champion, always wears his specs, even when practicing by himself.

The third excuse was my undoing. Actually, I had tried eyeguards previously but decided that they weren't worth the trouble. So, it was out of the tournament and into an ophthalmologist's office. A monstrous bandage and eyedrops then kept me company on a perilous, one-eyed drive home to Shelby down 85. The worst part was the questions: "What on earth happened to you?"

The difference between the racquetball player who won't wear eyeguards and the driver who resists seatbelts is minimal. The belts I have worn religiously since a 1962 wreck. Now the eyeguards are standard equipment. With two lousy ears, all I need is a black eyepatch.

Eyeguards are made for everyone. Sports fans have doubtless noticed the

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Pilot Editorial Policy

The Pilot's policy for letters to the Editor remains that the letter must be signed by the student in order for it to be published. The name may be withheld upon request. We reserve the right to not publish any letters which may be libelous or defamatory. The purpose of this policy is to benefit the student.

Please feel free to express your opinions to the Pilot in the proper manner. All letters are welcome. Please place letters under the Student Publications door (112) in the C.I.D. building.