

Views From The Editor's Desk

By Dawn E. Camp
Editor

As some of you are aware, Gardner-Webb has a new publication, an underground newspaper--"The Axiom." This paper and its anonymous editor(s) have simple goals: "serving the students and freeing them from the oppression of their minds that is taking place here..." I have a question for these mental liberators--how can you serve the students when they can't reach you? You're anonymous. No student that you do not personally know can have a voice in your paper, or do you presume to know every student concern on campus?

But, I'm not writing this to question your motives, I would like to acknowledge the fact that you say that you mean no offense towards "The Pilot." However, I must take a moment to dispel your misconceptions. We, "The Pilot," are not "under the close eye of the administration," as you say. ("Pravda" is dead, didn't you hear?) "The Pilot" is paid for by the college, but, I assure you, I would not be editor of the paper if we were told what to print. I have worked on "The Pilot" for four years now and have never once heard any administrator even attempt to censor or in any other way control what appears in the paper.

You say that you "basically do what you want to," and you call that freedom. Yes, freedom of speech and of the press are wonderful things, but I have to bring up the question of responsibility. The United States Constitution guarantees each of us the right to say or print anything we want without prior restraint. But, some things are better left unsaid or unprinted. The former vice president of the Associated Press once asked, "Have we reached a point where we must exercise the freedom not to do all of the things the first amendment gives us every right to do?"

You made quite a few jabs at the administration and President White in both issues of your paper. But, what have you accomplished? Maybe you've solicited an occasional chuckle, but I haven't seen a mob heading toward the Webb Building to revolt. I pride myself on the fact that "The Pilot" is respected. I believe students, faculty, staff, yes, and even administrators, listen to what "The Pilot" has to say. I wonder if you can say as much about your publication.

In conclusion, I would like to echo your editor, John Doe. Your assonance is amazing. (Look it up!) Unfortunately, it is what is most outstanding in your paper.

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See any member of the SEA for more details.

Think About It

Do you have a grievance or any questions that you want an answer for that deal with our school or the way it is being run? Well, I did. You might have seen the fruit of my questions around. Those fruits were the ones with the logo of "Lakeside University" on them. I and another person printed the shirts with the question, "People, Who Cares?"

Why? Well, I love being at Gardner-Webb and I didn't like some of the things I was seeing. The people who came up with the idea and I decided to make a radical statement by printing the shirts. We didn't understand why we had money donated to build a lake and not improve the classrooms, dorms or finish the renovations of Hamrick. We wanted to find out what the deal was.

Friday afternoon I received the answers that I desired so much. I had a short talk with Wayne Johnson, and, after hearing my reasoning, he got me a chance to speak to Dean Scott, who opened his busy schedule for me. We spoke for an hour. The two of us discussed many things. For example, (I learned) that the school actually wanted to improve the academic possibilities and Hamrick Hall before getting a lake, but that was the chosen gift of the benefactors. Also, this family had three other schools begging for their money, but they chose GWC. ... I also was informed on many other situations. Dean Scott answered every question I had, freely.

I told Wayne Johnson and Dean Scott that I felt that doing something outrageous like printing the shirts was the only way to get attention on the major issues. They both asked me a question, why didn't I ask them first. I had never thought about it. I figured I would never fit into their schedules or that I would get the run around. This wasn't true at all. They were eager to give me answers and not persecute me for the shirts. They were glad that I and the other people had concern for the school, but they wished we had actually asked them. ...

Dean Scott emphasized that he is here for the students and that if they have a problem, he wants to help; if they have an important question, he wants to answer it; if they have a grievance, he wants to hear it; but, he can't if they don't talk to him about it.

So, I urge you ... before you act in haste try the proper channels first. Nothing happened to me; I wasn't punished or lectured to. I was just assured that GWC wants this school to improve, and they do want to hear what you have to say about where we are headed. If you have a subject that is getting you sore, talk to someone. Don't print shirts, don't just complain to your friends, don't print anonymous newspapers. You'll get your answers sooner than you would otherwise. Signed,

A concerned student
Kevin Walter

Watch for Yearbooks!
Coming at the End of April

Into the Mailbox

On Election Speeches

This is a letter concerning the offensiveness of some of the candidates for SGA Executive Offices. I attended the speeches and the bashing of one's opponents was appalling.

Do we not have any class? Once a candidate starts bashing his or her opponent, the opponent have to go up and bash you back just so he or she does not look like a wimp.

Are we so desperate for votes that we have to bash our fellow candidates. Also, are we so childish that we have to accuse our opponents of tearing our posters down...

To the candidates who make these childish accusations. Have you considered there might be somebody else (other than your opponent) that doesn't like you?

All of this childish stuff like candidate bashing and accusations of ripped posters is sending one message to the students at GWC. These people are too immature to hold any office whatsoever. Especially if they can't even be friendly to one's opponent.

Makes one not even want to vote.

Signed,
A very disappointed student
Stacy Stanley

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The Pilot reserves the right not to publish articles which are defamatory in nature. Views expressed in editorials are not necessarily those of The Pilot. We also reserve the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity.

Letters from students, faculty, and staff of Gardner-Webb College are welcome. Please place letters in campus mail addressed to The Pilot.

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