

Gardner-Webb University

THE PILOT

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Student/Faculty Forum

We should all be TRUE Bulldog fans

I am not a real fanatic of sports. It really bugs me when a game of some type comes on TV and I have to miss a show that I like to watch, but I really enjoy supporting Gardner-Webb sports, especially football and basketball. I cannot sit still at these games. I am constantly on my feet and I have to be constantly yelling in support for my team. However, I was very disappointed in the majority of the Gardner-Webb students and the majority of the spectators at our final home football game against Mars Hill.

This game was very exciting and I do not understand how anyone could stay in their seat. There were only about twenty people standing. Some Gardner-Webb students actually had the nerve to tell us to sit down. This was the only yelling they did. Among these, I believe, were some whom I have seen walking around at times with black jackets, name tags, and their noses in the air; aides to the president. You know who you are.

Well, let me just say that bleachers were not made for sitting back comfortably and relaxing while watching a game. They were put there so when you get tired of standing, you can sit down and rest a minute or two.

Bruce Wilson
A TRUE Bulldog Fan

Fans should clean up act at basketball games

Recently, I attended a GWU home basketball game. I've never been one to really get involved in playing the game but I do enjoy being a fan and cheering my team on.

After the first five minutes of the game, I realized there were some other students who enjoyed "cheering" the team on also. Their method of doing this was rather on the vulgar side. I heard constant remarks about the referees. I heard players getting cursed at. I even heard insults made at the cheerleaders. I realize it is one thing to get into the game and yell and scream for your team. I also realize it is difficult not to tell the referee when he is wrong or when he has made a bad call. But, insulting and harassing the other team, while they are playing in the game, is quite another. Do people around here not have enough self-control to ex-

hibit some sort of sportsmanship?

Should the roles be reversed? I seriously doubt fans would appreciate being called the names they so carelessly used to refer to some of the players on the opposing teams. I think it is time we clean up our act at this school before our reputation goes down the drain.

Anonymous

Professor compliments outstanding students

At Gardner-Webb we save our recognition of academic work for the beginning and end of the year, focusing on non-academic endeavors from September through April. Hoping for change, I take time to recognize the intellectual accomplishments of three students.

Robert Blair and Brian Burgess are students in my 8:00 am English 101 class. Both are bright, but, more importantly, they are hard workers. I walk into Craig 201 every morning knowing that I can count on them -- and several other students in the class -- to contribute knowledgeably and thoughtfully to class discussion. They take responsibility for their small groups, inviting the participation of all group members. Furthermore, I have heard that they frequently hold study sessions in their dorm room, inviting other students in the class to join in examination of the readings. "Academic leadership" is a phrase which has fallen into disuse. Let's begin to use it again: Robert and Brian display academic leadership, the kind that Gardner-Webb faculty ought to recognize every week.

Intellectual accomplishments also assume creative forms. Our monthly Reflections poetry readings provide a forum for sharing the work of the mind. I first heard about Vas-Shawn Scott from his English instructor, Melissa Brown. She told me that his poetry displays a perspective unfamiliar to most of the Gardner-Webb community. She was right, but there was more.

At the September Reflections poetry reading, twenty people heard Vas-Shawn's poetry, the work of a mind assembling the parts of his experience into a meaningful whole to share with an audience. It was powerful work which deserves recognition and praise.

Join me in congratulating these students (and others left unmentioned) for doing well what college students ought to do.

Dr. Kevin Binfield

Remember the reason

I love the holidays. There is nothing better than celebrating the birth of Christ with family and friends. Sadly enough, too many people do not realize why we celebrate Christmas. As we enter into the holidays, let's remember the true reason for the season.

One student recently told me that, on Christmas morning, her family gets out of bed and the first thing they do before opening any packages is sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus. When I heard that, I almost started to cry. Christmas is Jesus' birthday, a time when we celebrate the birth of Christ into the world.

Remember when you were a kid and you always looked forward to your birthday? And when the big day finally arrived, you were showered with gifts, money, and cards? All were from people who loved you and cared enough for you to remember you on your birthday. That is the exact same way we should treat Jesus on his birthday.

You see, Jesus came into this world so that we might have eternal life. He sacrificed his life so that we could live. Doesn't that make you want to thank him? It makes me want to reach out, grab his hand and bow down before him, for if it weren't for him, I would not be here.

Christmas is the time of year that we should be extra thankful for the gift of life. If we allow the true meaning of Christmas to get lost in the hustle and bustle of working or buying gifts, then we squander our chance at thanking our Saviour. This Christmas, before any gift is unwrapped, before any card is opened, let's thank the one who gives us life. Join me in wishing Jesus a happy birthday.

Jason Farr

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