

A mere inconvenience or a constitution with power?

Dear Editor,

The founding fathers of our nation took great care when drafting our Constitution so we could enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In the same manner, the founders of Student Government at Gardner-Webb University took care to protect the rights of its students and empower a group of officials to enforce these rights. Lately, however, this document has come to mean nothing to this institution. It has become a burden; something to be disregarded in favor of convenience.

Throughout my years at Gardner-Webb University, I have had the pleasure to experience two terms as SGA Senator. In these two years, I have witnessed more abusive power of government and bureaucracy than I thought could be possible. Democrat-

ic ideals have crumbled in the shadow of convenience and it is this issue of convenience that must be revealed to the student body.

This article is not designed to place guilt on any individual but is designed to encourage participation in campus government and bridge the gap between students and their government. All officials in SGA are elected by the students. They are our representatives whom we are to hold accountable for the protection of our freedoms as students. It is our job to elect qualified representatives. Unfortunately, there is a shortage of qualified representatives. This puts more responsibility on those elected to protect our rights within the con-

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finer of their powers: the SGA constitution.

This document is posted each year in the student handbook. Yet very few students are aware of what this document contains. Even our elected officials are ignorant of its contents. For this reason much of what SGA has done in the past has been unconstitutional. SGA has set a precedent that our constitution is nothing but a piece of paper to be used at our convenience and discarded for the same reason.

Your Student Senate spent much of the whole first semester doing nothing but figuring out how the system worked and remanding acts that were passed unconstitutionally.

By the time you read this, SGA President Brian Burgess, will have resigned from office for reasons which are not pertinent to this discussion.

According to the constitu-

tion in Article V Section C-3, "The office of Vice-President will be filled by special election should it become vacant; however, no special election will be held less than sixty days prior to the close of the academic year. If the vacancy occurs within the last 60 days of the academic year, the Senate Pro Tem will be elevated to serve as the Chairperson of Senate, and the office of Vice-President will remain vacant for the remainder of the year."

Some of our elected representatives have asked for a special election to be held, but others have argued that it is inconvenient to do so. They have decided to ignore the constitution in favor of convenience and the University backs them up on this. When our constitution means nothing, the students lose all power to protect their free-

doms.

A solution must be found. The easiest remedy is to increase student involvement. If students want rights, they will have to fight for them. The second solution, is to revise our constitution so that its meaning is clear and no one will be able to misinterpret or abuse it.

Last we must have the support of the faculty and staff at GWU. Without their support, all our work is meaningless. A government cannot protect its citizens if not empowered to do so. We must not ignore our Constitution. If we do, we concede all power of protection to those who know least of what we want. It is then when we lose our freedom.

Joe Ramirez
SGA Senator

Education career fair

Starr Gist
Staff Writer

Gardner-Webb University education students had the opportunity to visit potential employers Friday, Feb. 13 while attending the Teacher Education Career Fair.

The fair was open to all GWU students and was designed to provide seniors with an opportunity to establish job contacts. The fair also provided freshmen with the opportunity to see what the field of education has to

offer.

Elizabeth Hanson said the fair helped her to make an important college decision. "I was an undecided major until today. I think I have found my major now."

Melissa Armstrong, a senior, said, "the fair was nice and helped me far as coming up with ideas that I can use once I begin work in my classroom."

According to students, the fair was a great opportunity for meeting potential employers

Star Gist
staff writer

The GWU Gospel Choir celebrated its ninth anniversary with a gospel festival at Dover Campus Center on Saturday, Feb. 7 at 7:00p.m.

Three choirs performed: The Gardner-Webb Gospel Choir, LIFE Revival Fellowship Crusade Choir from Florida, and Walls Memorial Praise Team Choir from Charlotte, N. C. The event was hosted by Student Entertainment Association.

Students and the commu-

nity flocked to this event. GWU choirmaster John Orr described the event as a "true Holy Ghost party."

The event seemed to bring students together spiritually and many described the event as uplifting.

GWU Gospel Choir spent the week preparing for the event, often practicing late into the night.

According to Orr, their hard work and persistence paid off in producing a wonderful program. The guest choirs added a rich harmony and beauty.

The program lasted until almost midnight, yet no one wanted the night of fellowship to end. The intention of the gospel festival was fellowship and attendees said it was successful.

People responded to the program in varying ways. Some simply revelled in worshipping God through song, and some students realized for the first time the true nature of God.

Members of the Gospel Choir hope the effects of this event will be felt for a long time around campus.



Photo Courtesy of Dr. David Parker

New members of English honor society Sigma Tau Delta receive membership certificates and pins at the induction ceremony. Students are (left to right) Suzanna Saadi, Jenny Rogers, Karolynn Stuckey, Emily Johnson, Brian Burgess, Denise Horton and Brandy Stephens.

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Campus Phone: 4389

Published biweekly by the Communication Studies and English Department Newspaper classes for students of Gardner-Webb University.

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