

## Op/Ed

## ANOTHER YEAR GONE

## Take time to reflect on years' events

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The Pilot is the official Gardner-Webb University student newspaper. It is produced by students under the supervision of the Department of Communication Studies.

Gardner-Webb fosters an atmosphere in which student journalists may report on matters of common interest and write critically about University issues, policies and programs without fear of reprisal. At the same time The Pilot adheres to high standards of integrity and journalistic responsibility.

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Letters to the editor must be signed, but names can be withheld if requested by the author

Another year. Another year of getting up early and staying up late, cramming for tests and goofing off with friends. Another year of change. Another year of college over.

As you leave Gardner-Webb and embark on your summer, take time to reflect on how YOU changed this year. Neglect not also to look back to the turbulent times the school as a whole and world overcame during the 2002-2003 year.

In August, freshmen moved in and upperclassmen helped them get adjusted to college life. Orientation week and welcome back activities saw new friends made and old friends reunited.

In September Gardner-Webb experienced some of the hardest days in its history, as the NCAA investigation broke out and word spread with allegations against some of the school's top leaders. After a month of emergency meetings, student protests, faculty resignations and high-profile media reports, President M. Christopher White stepped down from his position of leadership.

Though investigations continued, October and November saw a quieting down of the chaos of the previous month.

Gardner-Webb hired Frank Campbell as interim president during this time, and the university began its healing.

In December students finished up the semester with exams and went home to take a rest and celebrate the holidays with their families.

In January students started a new semester with a fresh outlook on 2003. Most tried to put the turbulent fall 2002 semester behind them and move on with their lives and education. The end of the month saw many make commitments or recomitments to Christ during the student-led Celebration Week revival.

By February rumors of war in Iraq were getting more heated, and students with friends and family in the service began the emotional toll of waiting for the war to begin. Some GWU students with loved ones already overseas spent Valentine's Day alone.

By mid-March the U.S. had begun attacks on Iraq and Gardner-Webb students reacted with prayer services, increased media viewing and discussions of war implications with trusted professors.

While war loomed over our nation and the Middle East, a reminder of Gardner-

Webb's own "war" resurfaced as the NCAA revisited the institution in continuance of its investigation.

In April, Gardner-Webb professors hosted a war forum for students and the community. During the forum, many questions were answered to increase understanding of the complicated conflict.

April also saw the announcement of the board of trustees' decision to increase tuition in the 2003-2004 school year, raising overall costs of attending Gardner-Webb to \$19,300.

That brings us to this week—classes are finally over, and most students have begun exams. End-of-the-year and pre-graduation parties coupled with sentimental goodbyes and nonchalant "see-ya-laters" will swarm the university in the coming days, as another year transitions into the summer.

The events and subsequent changes the university and world underwent this year may have been unexpected, but they were inevitable nonetheless.

What changes did you experience? How are YOU a different person today? This summer, take time to reflect on that.

## STUDENT POLL — WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO THIS SUMMER?

"I am going to Malawi, Africa for my third summer in a row in association with Hands on Missions in Shelby." -Becca Miller, junior

"I am going to Stravapol, Russia this summer for two weeks on a mission trip, working at an orphanage and deaf institution." -Emily Dobbs, freshman

"This summer I am going to Alajuela, Costa Rica with the school to complete my core requirements in Spanish." - Dan Swartz, junior

"During the summer I will hopefully be working at Chester County Hospital in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania as the Registrar for outpatient procedures." - Summer Hess, sophomore



**Gavurnik**

"After graduation in May, I will be moving to Winston Salem to research at Bowman Grey Medical School until medical school." - Jerryann Weddle, senior

"This summer, I am going to be working at Crooked Creek Ranch in Colorado as a lifeguard. It is a camp that helps high school students find Jesus." -Harilyn Gavurnik, sophomore

"I am going to go to South Africa for a little over a month this summer on a mission trip through Global Expeditions. I'm so excited!" -Tiffany Tompkins, freshman



**Dobbs**

## EDITORIAL

## The reality of war

Emily Killian  
Pilot copy editor

Many students today are making comparisons between the Persian Gulf War and the current war in Iraq. In many cases, they did not understand the reason for the war in 1991, and still don't know the reason for the current Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Students must keep in mind that this is not a do-over of the Persian Gulf War. It is not merely a trip to settle unfinished business. It is a war. Most students do not know what war is. They have never experienced it firsthand.

So before taking war lightly, think about the soldiers in Iraq. Think of them as someone's brother, sister, cousin, friend, fiancé, husband or wife. They are people—not cartoons or video game superheroes.

The Persian Gulf War in 1991 did not hit home for many students, partially because of their ages, and partially because they were so accustomed to seeing things being blown up on video games. And unlike Nintendo, war is real life, with real people. No opportunities to gain extra lives. Mario dies.