

## Op/Ed

**The Pilot**  
Gardner-Webb University

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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

# Funding and support for the arts

**Sarah Olimb**  
Pilot co-editor

This editorial stems from one of those late night discussions, usually seeped in passion and lofty ideas. Those of us involved found the subject of funding and support for the arts at Gardner-Webb a personal and even touchy subject.

I feel a need to qualify this article before I even start. I realize that funding, budgets and money are all very complicated matters that are not taken lightly by our administration. However, I want to utilize my position in its fullest capacity — as a voice.

To begin, it seems as though our Art department must fight for any funding, recognition or additional faculty that it receives. We don't

have a studio — we have a classroom. Due to their limited budget, the department cannot offset the cost of art lab fees; thus, students must pay yet another fee in order to participate in the class. Also, this department is not granted space on campus to display student art permanently. An art gallery, displaying the work of current students could draw prospective students to the school and grant deserving artists recognition from their institution and community.

And while I want to acknowledge the steps the administration has taken on behalf of communication studies as well as their support of this student publication and the freedom they grant its editors, I also wonder if the amount of money given to our budget

compares to our role on campus. We are the voice of the students as well as a thread between the administration and the student body. Our resources are often limited, which limits our education. This leads me to ask the question, "Could we be more effective if we had more resources?"

On a more personal level, it's easy to complain about funding and other such bureaucratic notions. However, when we evaluate our involvement as a student body in educationally enriching programs, which are sponsored by our university or more specifically individual departments on campus, we should be ashamed at our apathy and laziness. Many times we as students only attend these functions if they are requirements for an academic class.

We're students. We are at this institution to learn — not only academically but also artistically. We should attend these events, programs and meetings simply to develop our minds. By attending events like Life of the Scholar or any Gardner-Webb choral performance, we enrich our lives. Let's shun our apathy, support our professors and fellow students in their interests and enhance our experience at GWU.

Its cyclical — as our involvement in educational programs outside of the classroom will alert the university to our concern for the role that these events play in our education, which may in turn affect funding decisions made by our university.

*Sarah*

## SGA notices upgrades

To the student body,

Well, I don't know about you guys, but if the rest of the year is as crazy and fun as the first few weeks, I'll be dead but have had a blast. I can tell you already, you as a student body have already been a thrill to be with. This letter concerns the Caf. Freshmen, I want you to find an upper-classman sometime and ask them about some of the changes that we didn't have last year, both in the Caf and downstairs at the Meal Exchange. Suzanne, who's in charge of the food services, and the entire cafeteria staff have worked very hard to improve the overall conditions of the food services. However, these workers understand that sometimes things might not be exactly the way you may want it. Suzanne told me last year, "We don't work 60 to 80 hours a week for the students not to be happy." Please, if something is not how you want it, tell them how you would like it. Don't be rude, but respectfully let them know what they could do to make things better for you. They will greatly appreciate your input.

Chip Carter  
SGA President, 2003-2004

## HOWDY PARTNER



Photo by Scott Holstein

Junior Ashley Hall grabs hands and swings her partners around at Gardner-Webb's square dance during welcome-back festivities.