

Op/Ed

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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.

The Pilot is produced using the Quark Publishing System provided through a generous grant from Quark, Inc.

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

DANGEROUS MINDS—STAFF EDITORIAL

Make use of your resources

Vent, complain and make your thoughts known in *The Pilot*

Sarah Olimb
Pilot co-editor

So, I'm tired of it.
We all do it. Complain. Vent.

Yet, many of our issues with this institution, our government or humanity in general are left as faint murmurings.

We have opinions — often, good opinions — but they never get past those late-night-everything-is-wrong-with-Gardner-Webb-debates.

My challenge is this: make use of your resources.

We publish this newspaper to keep you informed and connected to this com-

munity. But, it's also your opportunity to express your thoughts on what is happening or not happening on campus. If you feel strongly about the stadium renovations or visitation, for example, write a well-thought-out letter to the editor.

The administration does read this student publication. It may not change their collective opinion about the subject, but your letter will give them some idea of what some students think or how their actions will affect members of this community.

I'm not giving you license to rant and rave about every little rule you disagree with. Be articulate. Think about your argu-

ment — do you really have one or are you just venting without cause?

Last year we were swamped with letters from students and faculty expressing their thoughts about the events surrounding the NCAA investigation. It's sad that it takes a scandal on campus to awaken students from their apathy.

In the same way, if you notice something that our school is doing right, let everyone know. Or if you disagree with another student's letter, challenge their opinion with a letter of your own.

This is your publication. Take advantage of it.

Sarah

The JEFF ZONE

a humor column by Jeff Davis

Hallo-what?

It's that time of year again.

October ends with arguably the least necessary of all holidays. All of the major American holidays have an important significance of some kind, but not Halloween.

I looked up Halloween in the dictionary and the definition is: n., commercial holiday with no real purpose other than more uses for pumpkins and an excuse for candy corn.

I've participated in this popular American ritual ever since I could say "twick-ow-tweet" and I have yet to understand exactly why we do it. We teach kids they can walk up to people's doors and make demands (and yet we dislike Jehovah's Witnesses?). We give these kids a false sense of reality: that people will always give them handouts just for being who they are or who they want to be.

The activities associated with Halloween are a lot of fun but have no significance at all. We carve smiley faces with bad teeth into pumpkins. We share stories of fear of various fictional creatures that are vulnerable to some of the dumbest things: witches that melt in water and vampires that can't survive

light.

Although Halloween is a lot of fun I challenge anyone to show me the reason for the way we recognize it other than the increased sales of pumpkins, costumes and candy

The History of Halloween...

Being the good "investigative journalist" that I am, I did some research into the true history of Halloween. The encyclopedia I found in the library revealed some interesting information.

In 1883, two poor rural North Carolina farmers named Jethro T. Hall and Marcus L. O'Ween started Halloween. Hall and O'Ween were desperate for cash during hard times and were close to losing their farms. They came up with a way to increase sales of their most abundant crop that year: pumpkins.

Hall had a knife and O'Ween had the idea to cut out a smiley face in the likeness of Hall, who had several missing teeth and some oddly shaped facial features. They advertised that the last day of October would be a day in which folks would dress up as someone or something else, ask strangers for candy, and play games. There

would be fun and games for everyone that day, including a pumpkin-carving contest.

Pumpkin sales skyrocketed.

People came up with many uses for pumpkins besides just pumpkin pie and carvings.

Jack O'Neil even put a candle in the middle of a pumpkin he carved and called it a Jack-O-Lantern.

With increased sales and profits Hall and O'Ween were able to pay off their debts and keep their farms. Hall and O'Ween were pleased with their successful business venture. They decided to do it again every year and they started calling the anniversary Halloween.

Years went by and other businessmen began to get involved. Apple growers, caldron makers, costume designers, candy makers, storytellers and later television producers all got involved with the Halloween concept and it evolved into the holiday we now know.

And now you know the rest of the story.

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