

Maroon And Gold

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1954

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Students have frequently discussed the various needs of our campus, and many have commented on the need of extra pencil-sharpener and a convenient water-cooler.

Instead of commenting and complaining, why doesn't some organization take up this need as a special service project? We have approximately 30 student organizations on campus; if each group would just purchase one pencil-sharpener, we would see 30 new pencil-sharpener in our buildings.

As for the water-cooler, this looks like a good project for the complete student body. Giving can be enjoyable and it doesn't cost very much. Each of us can profit by both projects. May we give careful consideration to the above suggestions.

—WAGGONER

EXTRA-CURRICULAR BENEFITS

While doing research in the Elon archives, it is interesting to note how many times one finds the same students participating in various types of activity. This was true in former years, even as it is today, and one surmises that there has likewise been a great many students in each period who never take part in any extra-curricular activity.

It is regrettable that so many students pass up in their college years the great opportunity that is open to them through the medium of campus activities such as dramatics, music, publications, debating, student organizations, and sports, all of which offer wonderful chances for improvement of the individual in leadership and the ability to mingle with others.

Not all of a college education is found in books, and students who grasp the opportunities that are theirs in such extra-curricular activities often find in after life that knowledge gained from varied campus activity is quite as valuable as that which was gained from between the covers of the textbooks.—WAGGONER.

STUDENT COURTESY

The following editorial comments were gleaned from an old issue of the Maroon and Gold for November, 1935, pertaining to student chapel behavior and student courtesy, and portions of the article apply equally as well today, full nineteen years after the comments were first written.

"The student body as a whole is to be commended on its fine courtesy. . . . Guests on the campus are usually met with a friendly smile or pleasant kindnesses, and visiting teams and student groups receive this same courteous treatment at the hands of our students.

"Naturally there are some students whose actions are exceptions to the generally fine attitude of the student body, and it is unfortunate that some people seem to judge only by the exceptions and not by the whole group. The courtesy of the majority, however, augurs well for the future, for students with such courteous attitudes must eventually make their ideas felt by the unsocial exceptions."



jottings from here and there

By JAMES WAGGONER

BRUCE BARTON SAYS ABILITY TO SPEAK LACKING IN TODAY'S COLLEGE PEOPLE

A modern philosopher once remarked: "You might build a barn along side of St. Paul's Cathedral and put Phillips Brooks in the barn, and there would be no question as to the result—the Cathedral would be empty and the barn would be full."

Brooks' ability to speak were an asset to him for his words were as subtle as radium in the rock, as distinct as the lightning in the cloud, as strong as current in the sea and as tenacious as the lingering notes of unforgettable music, able to operate on the human mind for instruction, entertainment and inspiration.

His instrument was his voice, which stirred, aroused, and quickened those who heard him. Articulation was his tool, giving clear enunciation to each word. And his vocabulary was his armor, giving weight, color, size and atmosphere to every word. But how many of us are as well-prepared as Phillips Brooks? In Bruce Barton's father's day one of the most important courses in college was public speaking. It was compulsory for every boy—no exceptions.

"There were also literary societies whose meetings were devoted principally to joint debates. No boy was considered fit to graduate unless he could stand up on his feet and express himself in clear, forcible English."

"Today," says Barton, "I would say that public speaking is the most neglected phase of adult education."

Dean Paul S. Andrews of Syracuse University Law School, said recently: "Law schools find a very large proportion of college graduates insufficiently grounded in English. Most are grammatical, to be sure, but few can use English accurately, forcibly, happily, with any pretense to style, with any sense of the importance of searching for the right word which carves the biggest chunk out of the raw material of thought."

"But English and thinking (formulated, reasoning thought) are identical. You can have feelings or emotions without words. But not abstract concepts, not reasoning. A meager vocabulary means an unfurnished mind."

Norman Lewis, who is a member of the faculty of C.C.N.Y., has several good books out on vocabulary building, which every college student should have in his library. "Word Power Made Easy", "The Lewis English Refresher and Vocabulary Builder", "Power With Words", and "Thirty Days to a More Powerful Vocabulary," which is written in collaboration with Dr. Wilfred Funk, noted lexicographer and doctor of letters, are to name but a few of them.

Barton continued that businessmen, by and large, are inarticulate and hence often at a disadvantage in their dealings with labor leaders, all of whom are trained to talk well.

And he reminds us that in poetics, of course, the ability to speak agreeably and convincingly is the biggest possible asset. F.D.R. was not a profound thinker, but there was never a human voice with greater power to move minds.

"Emerson, who was a skillful writer but an imperfect speaker, exclaimed, as he listened to Wendell Phillips rolling out his well modulated sentences, with point, polish and precision: 'If I only knew his secret.'"

"The colleges," adds Barton, "would do a much better job if they would cut out enough of the so-called social sciences to reinstate the most important of all social assets—the power to communicate thought in language precise, pleasing and persuasive."

In the above comments Bruce Barton was speaking of American colleges and college people as a whole, but he might well have been speaking of Elon College as a particular unit, for it is always difficult to find enough student speakers to place a debating team in competition.

Attempts have been made several times in recent years to organize a live and active debating unit on the campus, and it has been impossible to keep enough students active long enough to finish out a regular forensic schedule.

Dr. James Hess devoted time to debating here during his service at Elon, but he got little student interest and cooperation. We understand that efforts are underway to place debating upon a more active basis this year, and it is to be hoped that the new efforts will prove more successful than they have been in the recent past.

AS STUDENTS OF 1943 PRESENTED SHAKESPEARE



A group of the student actors in Shakespeare's "Henry Fourth, Part One," which the Players presented in Mooney Chapel in February, 1943, are shown in the above scene. Left to right, the actors are Miller Basnight, as Falstaff; Nancy Fowlkes, as a tavern lass; Ivan Ollis, as the Earl of Worcester; Jeanne Hook, as Lady Mortimer; Herbert Spivey, as Bardolph; Edna Truitt, as Poins; George Bullard, as Prince Hal; Mary Dean Brown, as Dame Quickly; Earl Farrell, as King Henry IV; Dorothy Galloway, as Kate, wife of Hotspur; and James Darden, as Hotspur. This play is recalled as one of the better costume shows of a decade and more ago.

Of Plays And Playmaking At Elon

By JAMES WAGGONER

"All the world's a stage, and all men and women merely players; they have their exits and entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages."

So said the Bard of Avon, and history proves that 'tis only human to love make-believe and to be interested in plays and the stage. Such interest dates back to the Greeks, and such interest has long been present at Elon College.

Few records have been found concerning dramatics at Elon College before the 1920's, but the students were interested in plays and the making of plays in that earlier period, although work in that field was usually referred to under the name of "Expression" and not "Dramatics."

As early as 1913 Miss Ethel Clements was listed on the faculty as "Director of Physical Culture and Expression," and there were ten members of the Expression Class. Two years later Miss Bessie Urquhart was instructor in "Expression and Physical Culture," and there was a Dramatic Club with no less than twenty-three members. One of the members was Oma Utley, now Mrs. Oma Johnson, who is Elon's librarian.

Societies Gave Plays

The first definite records as to plays date back to 1920, when the three literary societies sponsored plays. The Philologist Society, a men's group, presented "She Stoops To Conquer;" The Psihelian, a women's organization, presented "The Princess;" and Clio, another men's group, presented "Nathan Hale," a drama in four acts. The 1921 annual tells of the Phelia Dramatic Club, which sponsored dramatic activities. Its president was Essie Mae Truitt, who that year became Elon's first May Queen.

There is no record available for 1921-22, but the college year of 1922-23 again saw plays presented by the three literary groups for campus entertainment. "Betty's Last Bet," a farce comedy in three acts, was presented by the Psihelian Society; "Over Here," a drama of American patriotism, was given by Clio; and "Driftwood," a drama in four acts, was presented by the Philologist Society.

A new literary society was formed in 1924, called Psykalean, which staged a mystery comedy late in April of that year, entitled "Am I Entending." During this same year the Psihelian Society presented "The Lady of the Library," and Clio offered "The Hut." The Philologist Society presented a variety show as its dramatic contribution for the year.

Four Plays In 1925

Four plays were presented during the 1924-25 college year. "Come Out of the Kitchen" was given by the Psihelian Entertainers; "The Charm School," a delightful comedy, was presented by the Psykaleans; "Dulcy," a three-act comedy, was given by Philologist Society; and "A Regular

FIRST CHAPTER

This represents the first of two installments of an article, which sketches in some detail the story of student dramatic activities on the Elon College campus. The result of extensive research, the story begins more than forty years ago and brings the stage activities down to the present.

After digging through the dusty files of the Maroon and Gold, checking the pages of the earliest Phi Psi Cli volumes and interviewing persons who have spent many years on the Elon campus, the playmaking story has been unfolded from the dim recesses of the past. The concluding portion of the article will appear in the next issue of the Maroon and Gold.

Scream" was the offering by Clio. It is interesting to note that William B. Terrell, later an editor of the Maroon and Gold and present-day president of the General Alumni Association, was a member of the cast for "Dulcy."

The season of 1925-26 brought four additional plays, all by the literary societies. The Philologists gave "A Marriage of Convenience," on November 26, 1925; the Psykaleons presented "The Whole Town's Talking," a three-act farce, on January 18, 1926; the Clios gave a drama, "The Dust of the Earth," on February 26, 1926; and the Psihelians presented "The New Poor," a three-act farce, on April 3, 1926.

During the 1926-27 term the four literary groups gave programs, but there was no record of real dramatic offerings. The Maroon and Gold for that period reveal that the Dramatic Expression Department, under the direction of Miss Emily Johnston, took over the stage activities, and partial files reveal that the only plays given were "The Patsy," presented on December 9, 1927, and "Second Childhood," presented May 23, 1928 to a large crowd.

The records for the seasons of 1929, 1930, 1931 and 1932 are scarce, and there is no definite record of student stage work, although there is a mention in the Maroon and Gold of the presentation of "Boomerang" by the Expression Department on March 1, 1929.

Dramatic Organizations

A newly organized dramatic club, the Playmakers of Elon College, made its appearance in 1932 and on December 6th of that year the group presented "You and I" a comedy in three acts, as its initial performance. This was under the direction of Miss Virginia Fitzhugh. Other offerings by the Playmakers that year included three one-act plays, "The Delicate Child," "Lima Beans," and "The Return of Buck Gavin." Also given that year was "Polly With A

Past," but complete data was lacking.

The Playmakers failed to remain active for long, and the Maroon and Gold in the fall of 1934 carried a story of a reorganization for dramatic activities. The story stated that "realizing the need of an active dramatic organization on the campus, a group of students under the direction of Miss Floyd Childs met in September, 1934, to reorganize the inactive Playmakers of Elon College."

The story stated that "at the first meeting the name was changed to the Elon Players." First officers of the new Elon Players included Rebecca Smith, daughter of Dr. Leon E. Smith, who was named the first president of the group. Other officers of the Players that first year were Dick Kimball, of Manson, and Marcell Ackenhausen, of Cincinnati, Ohio.

On November 22nd that year the Elon Players gave their first performance. It was "Her Husband's Wife," which was presented in Whitley Auditorium. The second performance of 1934-35 came on March 21, 1935, when a bill of three one-act plays was presented. The bill included Christopher Morley's "Thursday Evening," Susan Glaspell's "Suppressed Desires," and "The Valiant," great one-act tragedy by Hall and Middlemass. The Players also gave a commencement play in 1935, choosing Sidney Howard's famous comedy, "The Late Christopher Bean."

Ibsen Play Presented

The Players were once more under the direction of Miss Childs for 1935-36, and they chose Ibsen's "A Doll House" for their first show of the year. Outstanding in the cast was Sara Virginia Hook, daughter of Prof. A. L. Hook, who was listed as "heading the cast for the play." The Maroon and Gold recalled that she had taken the lead in previous performances of "Polly With A Past" and "Peg O' My Heart" and that she had a prominent part in "The Late Christopher Bean."

It seemed that dramatics at Elon at that time were a cooperative project, for the stories stated that costumes for "A Dolls House" had been made by the Home Economics Department, which was directed at that time by Miss Laura Howard. A complete new set of scenery had been made for the play by the Players themselves, with the help of Alfred Apple, then the superintendent of buildings.

The review of "A Doll's House" in the Maroon and Gold spoke with praise of the work of two youngsters in the play, paying tribute to "Patricia Hook, eight-year old daughter of Prof. and Mrs. A. L. Hook," and declaring that "little red-headed Mary Sue Colclough, in spite of her only two years, played the role of Eimmy as one long accustomed to the footlights." Present-day Elon students know Mary Sue as a senior his year and as co-editor of Phi Psi Cli.

(Continued On Page Four)

bullets in the bull's-eye

By TOM TARGETT



The hospitality shown to the Elon camera men during our game with the Cata-mounts during the first half of the game is to be commended. . . . However, Bill Burke noticed that with each touchdown Elon made it became less and less. . . . News from our European correspondent: Bob Rogers, Tim and Teresa Holt have spent weekends with Luuk Groot in Amsterdam. . . . Did you know that there were baby sitting courses being offered to Elon students on Thursday night during the fall quarter? . . . Richard Newman, the week-end after his auto accident in front of the gym, slipped an engagement ring onto Grace Bozarth's finger. . . . Doc Reynolds is teaching a seminar course in Semantics on Wednesday nights. . . . The basketball team is planning to start the new season off in a flashy manner by sporting some new uniforms. . . . The Maroon and Gold now has a competitor on campus. . . . The Spanish Club's news sheet "El Periodico" . . . Noel Coward's comedy "Blithe Spirit" is a good show. . . . Student Activity cards will be valid for admission. . . . The show opens Thursday night. . . . The Education Club has a weiner roast in its plans for the future. . . . Kappa Psi after its formal initiation had a "smoker" at Tom Barron's. . . . A baby girl was born to another of the tenants in Vets Apts—the Phelons. . . . Charlie Schraeder has recently been promoted to lieutenant at Quantico, Va. . . . Attention all girls. . . . This is the news you have been waiting for (that's what Larry Barnes told me). . . . The telephone number at Carlton House is Elon 9831. . . . South Dorm is in the process of creating a den in the dorm. . . . The fraternities' intra-mural teams will be sporting new uniforms this year. . . . Horst Mevius, the international student from Germany, scored 34 points for Club House in the intramural track meet. . . . Have you noticed the four maples planted on the walk to the post office. . . . Attention Seniors: There is a file in the dean's office on fellowships and scholarships available to this year's graduates. . . . Joe Harvey, '54, was on campus a few days before returning to the army at Aberdeen. . . . Peg Miller to wed Chuck Michaux during the Thanksgiving holidays. . . . Congratulations. . . . A baby boy was born recently to the Mellburgs. . . . The Deta U's are thinking of applying to the government for disaster aid. . . . The radiator broke in their sorority room and flooded it. . . . The Field Secretary Office is working on a new 13 page pictorial bulletin. . . . The Halloween party in West Dorm parlor was a huge success. . . . The hit of the party was the fortune teller and the witch. . . . The girls' WRA is really on the ball this year. . . . Elon has many of her sons helping Uncle Sam at Camp Gordon, Ga. . . . James Clyburn, Ronnie Black, Roger Phelps, E. B. Moore and Leon Long are all serving time. . . . Last week, I forgot to congratulate Hugh City and John Allen as the new members of the cheerleader squad. . . . Congratulations to all those who were elected to Who's Who. . . . Last Sunday evening, Rev. W. J. Andes was formally installed as the pastor of the Community Church. . . . What has happened to "Square Head's" front truth? . . . The North State Student Council to meet soon at Lenoir Rhyne. . . . A Canasta Club has been formed at the Vets. Apts. . . . An official of Sellars Department Store in Burlington spoke to the Marketing Class. . . . Dr. Brown has recently received a citation from the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg.

VARSITY HUMOR

A woman, explaining a traffic crash to a policeman, concluded: ". . . and then I very clearly signaled that I had changed my mind."

As the young man entered the church at a wedding an usher asked, "Are you related to the bride or groom?" Came the reply, "No, I'm the defeated candidate."

To be successful, find out where the money is and get there as quickly as you can, and when you get there get all you can get and then get out of there with all you can get out of those who are there before those who are there get out of you all that you got there after you got there.

Teacher: "Define deficit." Student: "That's what you've got when you haven't got as much as you had when you had nothing."

A husband is a man who is spouse-broken.