

Maroon And Gold

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1962

COLLEGE AND THE MYTH

Some observers have measured America's growth in delusions rather than in social or economic progress, and one of the other college newspapers in North Carolina recently published a commendable editorial on the delusions or myths which have become current in regard to American development, applying it at the same time to modern conditions on the college campus.

Historical commentators cite for example the myth of the "Old West," which plays a big part in the thoughts of the American people, pointing out that America developed through the "mythological" Old West and on through the myth of "the Small Town" to a modern and more prosperous folk image, which in future years may be referred to as the "Big City" myth.

Whether the Old West and the Small Town can truly be referred to as myths or not, it was also cited by the writer in the other college newspaper that there are also certain mental pictures or myths which may be said to exist in regard to the American college campus and the life that is found there.

The college myth involves youthful years, including the teens in their sleek tweeds and imbued with "Esquire's" bold sophistication, mixed in with a tied-after-the-half football game or a corner bull session with a prof. Such images, it is true, are grounded to some extent in reality, just as are the American myths of the "Old West" and "Small Town."

However, the editorial writer declares that the pleasures of college years are not generally so completely romantic, a fact which most upperclassmen realize and which freshman will in most cases find out before graduation.

College involves uneasy adjustment to unfamiliar roommates with different ideas, and it also involves a sharp new self-evaluation and facing up to reality for all students after the first full-bloom disagreement with the unfamiliar roommate or the first round of college quizzes.

College years also involve the realization that there are certain campus regulations which must be accepted, even though they are accepted unwillingly and many times with rebellious spirit. Some students never accept this realization, but most of them accept it before graduation as a training for the living with authorities that will exist and which must be obeyed in the greater battle of life.

For some, it is true, college remains a delusion, a mythological round robin of social activities. The myths which were in their minds before arrival on the campus continue to delude them, and they never realize that such myths are a poor substitute for the ideas which may be studied and possessed and which will prepare them for the hard reality of a workday world that looms in the future.

Definitions

A gossip is somebody who takes a dead secret and puts life into it.

Propaganda is baloney disguised as food for thought.

Confidence is the feeling you have before you know better.



shades of elon

By HINSON MIKELL

A Challenge To Students

In the past, faculty advisors have shown, by their interest in fraternities and sororities, a faith in the value of our social life. Why, then, should a new policy be allowed to spoil our amicable relationship with the faculty?

Elon College, being a liberal arts institution, places stress upon many various aspects of an individual's development. The current tendency, therefore, to curtail social freedom, which is an integral part of this development seems unwise. A liberal education is defined by Webster as "a general extensive education, not necessarily preparing the student for any specific profession." This certainly does not imply omission of the social.

I have heard that students of universities and colleges in Europe rarely take time for social experiences because of the difficulty and intensity of academic work. These Europeans deserve to be pitied for their inability to realize a fully broad outlook on life.

We, however, as Americans have an excellent opportunity for developing ourselves and, because we are endowed with a great heritage of freedom, it is our responsibility to defend vigorously this opportunity. Not with chaos and vulgarity, but with corporate determination and self-respect.

To Clarify Misunderstanding

I have rarely attended a school dance, fraternity party or other function, during my two years at Elon, at which the chap-erone (or whatever one chooses to call him) has been an obstruction to the success of the affair. As far as I'm concerned, faculty advisors are always welcome at the parties to which I go. My behavior at such functions is quite in order.

These statements seem very inconsistent with what appeared in my column two weeks ago; what I then intended to say, however, is not inconsistent with this attitude. My ideas were misconstrued. The phrase "ubiquitous intruders" which appeared at the end of my last column was, unfortunately, misunderstood; it caused some rather unpleasant faculty reactions.

I used the phrase in an effort to express this idea: That those advisors who attend a social function with feelings of censoriousness and mistrust about them create an atmosphere which is uncomfortable to those who are trying to enjoy themselves. This is not necessarily a characterization of any Elon faculty member. Rather, it expresses objection felt by many of the student body to the new light in which the faculty apparently must consider social.

A few people also have the impression that the aforementioned phrase ("ubiquitous intruders") is an indication that students don't appreciate the time given to socials by faculty advisors. It is my opinion that we do appreciate this time, perhaps more than we openly express.

This commentary should not be interpreted as a retraction of the stand I made two weeks ago in behalf of student rights. I intend it rather as a clarification of this stand and as a reaffirmation of existing friction between students and the administration. To all who have made comments, pro and con, I feel saddened by your interest.

Exam Schedule

For the benefit of those who are not aware of it, a new exam schedule is presently being considered for next year. It seems that several students in past semesters have complained that the regular period allowed for exams (six days, two exams each day) works a depressing hardship on their minds and bodies. Having five or six exams in unbroken sequence can certainly be a trying experience and, since the administration will not make exceptions in such cases, a sub-committee on exams, headed by Bob Saunders, has been attempting to solve the problem.

The situation is as follows: Six days each semester are presently allowed for exams. Students have expressed a desire to double this exam period, thereby having only one exam per day. This would perhaps be an ideal situation, but to allow twelve days for exams hardly seems practical. Because we must attend a certain minimum number of class hours to be an accredited college, it isn't possible to extend the exam period within the present term.

Considering this, the sub-committee on exams is recommending the addition of a week at the end of school and two days in September. This additional eight days will provide us with ten exam days each semester; using these figures the sub-committee has drawn up a tentative exam schedule to be submitted as a recommendation to the administration.

Sigma Mu Sigma Gets New Members

The Sigma Mu Sigma Fraternity, college student affiliate of the Masonic Order, which has been one of the most active service groups on the Elon College campus for more than a decade, has just initiated five new members to swell its active membership for the 1962-63 term to twenty-eight.

The initiation of the new members marks another step forward for the fraternity, which was established on the Elon campus in 1950 under the sponsorship and direction of Dr. William M. Brown who was a member of the Elon faculty from 1948 until his retirement in 1961 and who is recognized as one of the outstanding members of the Masonic organization in America.

The group was first organized at Elon under the fraternal name of Sigma Alpha Chi, the Greek letters which represented the initials of the Square and Compass. No person who is familiar with the Masonic organization can fail to recognize the Square and Compass an emblem of the Masonic brotherhood.

In the years since 1950 the Sigma Alpha Chi chapter here at Elon has been merged on a national basis with another organization and been transformed to the present national fraternal name of Sigma Mu Sigma. The group, which has both social and service features, has had among its members here some of the most outstanding members of both the Elon faculty and student body.

The national history of the group is also an interesting one, for the Square and Compass originated as a club of Master Masons at Washington and Lee University in 1897, and it was chartered by the State of Virginia as the Sigma Mu Sigma Fraternity in 1921. At that time the national pres-

FOUNDER



DR. WILLIAM M. BROWN

Founder of the Elon Chapter of Sigma Mu Sigma was Dr. William M. Brown, a member of the Elon faculty from 1948 until 1961, who retired from the faculty two years ago and is now residing in St. Petersburg, Fla.

1000 members were fifteen college presidents and many prominent Masonic officials.

The Sigma Mu Sigma Fraternity, which merged with and gave its name to the older group, was formed in 1921 at Tri-State College in Angola, Ind., being chartered by the State of Indiana and later given a national charter, during the next thirty years, a total of about 1,200 members were initiated, among them many college and university officials and prominent figures in the public life of the United States.

At that time the national pres-

ident of Sigma Mu Sigma was Dr. Harry K. Eversull, who holds an honorary degree from Elon College, and the national secretary was Dr. William M. Brown, who was at the time a member of the Elon faculty. Dr. Brown's close connection with the local group is commemorated by the annual William Moseley Brown Award, which the Elon chapter gives each year to an outstanding senior.

Officers of the Elon chapter this year are Jerry Drake, of Greensboro, president; Kenneth Lumpkin, of Danville, Va., senior vice-president; Wally Sawyer, of Portsmouth, Va., junior vice-president; Nick Ciotola, of White Plains, N. Y., treasurer; Harold Rogers, of Snow Camp, secretary; Allen Beals, of Annapolis, Md., guide; and Ocie Murray, of Virginia, Va., guard.

Other active members from last year include Jack DeVito, Stamford, Conn.; John Jones, Greensboro; Larry Schucker, Hickory, Va.; Robert Young, Long Island, N. Y.; Skip Paska, Arlington, Va.; Fred Stephenson, Greenville, R.I.; Barbaros Celikkol, Ankara, Turkey; John Sargent, Whitehouse Station, N. J.; Bob Hoseny, Hockessin, Del.; Bob Schmidt, Lindean, N. J.; Robert Ditzel, Roselle, N.J.; Ken Broda, Fair Lawn, N. J.; Bill Luby, Wethersfield, Conn.; Dudley Purdy, Edgewater, Md.; Harold Gray, Greensboro; and Larry Biddle, Dover, Del. There are eight other student members on the inactive list this year.

New members just installed include Ronald Hodkinson, Norwich, Conn.; Kenneth Harper, Henderson; Adrian Bromirski, Linden, N. J.; Thomas Connally, Burlington; and Al Woodward, Wilmington, Del. Faculty members and advisors for this year include Prof. John S. Graves, Prof. Paul Reddis and Prof. George Boyles.

a voice from the corner

By

DON TERRELL



This week I am submitting my allotted space to Paul Hyde, resigned chairman of our Honor Council. Paul's experience as chairman of the Honor Council should put him into an advantageous position to speak critically and evaluatingly concerning our present weak position. Mr. Hyde's comments follow:

There are few elements that are more important to the mature character than one's honor. An honor system provides a medium in which an individual is able to come into contact with honor, learn to integrate honor into his character in the proper perspective, and be able to exercise his honor in an active manner. If an honor system does not provide such a medium, what reasons can be given for the existence of an honor system other than the fact that it furnishes a system under which students may find loopholes for legislation or a system under which the administrative body may delegate some of its more unpleasant tasks?

The present honor system at Elon College is deteriorating rapidly. I feel that in the past two months it has become glaringly evident that the honor system here is becoming inadequate. At the present too many duties are placed on a few. About five people must function as police, investigators, prosecutors, defenders, jurors, and judges. It would be a full time job merely trying to determine in which capacity one should be at the present. In addition to this the Honor Council must constantly defend their decisions when criticized by students or faculty who are often not aware of all the details. Unless the system that is now used is changed, capable and responsible people will not be available to insure the efficient maintenance of the honor system.

It is obvious that something must be done. The abolition of the honor system would prove little except to show that this type system is far better than totalitarian rule by the administration. The only alternative is revision of the present system. I understand that an ever present committee has been set up to study the present honor system and propose changes. At this point, speed is essential although it should not come at the expense of foresight. It is never wise to replace one evil with another.

Since serving on the Honor Council and experiencing the different and difficult situations in which the Honor Council is placed, I have seen, as any other person who has served on the council, the many strengths and weaknesses that exist under the present system. With much forethought and the realization that my opinions of the honor system revision are not all inclusive, I would like to state my views on honor system revision.

First, even greater selectivity should be exercised in admitting students to Elon College. It is only good logic that higher calibre students would contribute to a stronger honor system. More realistically however, the mechanics of the present system should be changed. I feel that the six members of the council should be replaced by a Tribunal. There may be safety in numbers, but not necessarily wisdom and strength. The three people who would serve should be appointed by the president of the student body with the advice and consent of the Student Senate. They would listen to evidence presented to them during a hearing, exonerate the accused or find them guilty, and determine the punishment of the guilty. Perhaps the most important aspect of a Tribunal system would be the creation of a department of prosecution. The prosecutor and his deputy should also be appointed positions, and the department of prosecution would gather evidence for the student body and present it formally at a hearing. A department of defense should also be set up from which accused parties could receive proper aid. I feel that the distribution of duties would create a more satisfactory system.

There are two aspects of the present honor system that appear to be unchangeable regardless of the type of revision employed. There is always an external authority; the external authority of student government is an administration. Therefore, any decision made by students would HAVE to be revised by some agency of the administration before they could be rendered valid.

Since a police force would defeat the purpose of the honor system, the responsibility is properly placed with the students to see that the system is maintained. Thus the deterring factor that keeps one from breaking the honor system regulations is the surety of being caught, not

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A View From The Oak

By MELVIN SHREVES

One objection of this proposal would be in selecting a jury. One may wonder whether or not there are enough capable people on the campus to make up the juries for a full year. Or there may be more capable people in one department than in another with the smaller department being called on to put out more work per person than some larger department. It seems that jurymen from the Student Body at large would be a more satisfactory arrangement.

One former honor council member suggested that a six member council be elected with one member serving as the judge and the remaining five serve as the jury. This has its drawbacks in that an election may cause some capable person not to run for the office because he may not be as popular as some other candidate for the same office.

It was brought out in the Student Senate meeting last week that a lower court should be created to deal with the petty offenses, such as line breaking, parking violations, etc. This would give the Honor Council jurisdiction over the major offenses of the Honor Code, and other offenses, and would help the Honor Council retain its high respect and regard for the Student Body. This matter should be considered by the Revision Committee when it gets to the writing stage of their process.

The Revision Committee would also dissolve the Student Council so that all appeals would be made directly to the Faculty Committee on Student Government. If a person is found not guilty, the Faculty Committee will not review the case and all records of the proceeding will be destroyed. If a person is found guilty, the case may be appealed to the Faculty Committee, but if a person pleads guilty, the Faculty Committee will not review the case. In cases where a person is suspended from Elon College, an automatic appeal is made to the Faculty Committee. In all cases of appeal, the pro-

ceedings will be held in the presence of the defendant.

When all of the wrinkles are ironed out of this revised constitution, a person who is brought before the Honor Council will be dealt with in a much more democratic way than has been possible under the present constitution. The present Honor Council has been called a "puppet" organization of the administration, but with a more democratic constitution, the Council can very easily shake this name.

School Spirit

It is a great thing that has happened . . . Elon students are developing some school spirit.

But who got the ball rolling? You might say that it was the newly organized and highly spirited band that Elon acquired this year under Prof. Jack White's direction. Or you might say that it came about through the leadership of a small group of students. Without a doubt, Elon's winning football team has had a lot to do with this great upsurge of spirit. Actually the combination of these groups and others unmentioned got the ball rolling, and like a downhill-rolling snowball, the spirit is growing larger as the school year progresses.

The spirit really became noticeable at Homecoming with all its elaborate activities. And with the Lenoir-Rhyne game, it was still on the rise. Groups sit together in the stands cheering their lungs out, and making up new cheers as the game progresses. Signs appeared all over the campus seemingly out of nowhere. Everyone is talking about the last game, and speculating about the up-coming game.

Let's hope that the spirit will not drop after the football season comes to a close. The Fighting Christians have a rough basketball schedule lined up, and will need the support and spirit of the Student Body. Let's not let our team down; let's not let our College down; and just as important let's not let our let ourselves down. Let's keep the School Spirit high!