

Maroon And Gold

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FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1965

WORDS IN MEMORIUM

It is seldom in the long history of Elon College that the Elon faculty and the Elon community has been struck three times within the period of a fortnight by the hands of death, but such has been the story within the past two weeks, during which death has claimed Patricia Kittinger, William E. Butler, Sr., and Mrs. Ella Brunk Smith, and each of the three deaths has struck at the very heart of the Elon faculty and community.

The death of Patricia Kittinger, herself an honor graduate of Elon College and the daughter of a faculty family, left a strong impact on the minds of the college people; and the death of William E. Butler, Sr., father of Elon's veteran business manager, also came as a shock, due primarily to the fine contribution which his son has made and is continuing to make to the progress and growth of Elon College.

But to the older residents of the Elon College campus and community and in particular to the faculty members of veteran status, few deaths have struck more deeply to the heart of the college and college people than the death of Mrs. Ella Brunk Smith, wife of Dr. Leon Edgar Smith, Sr., for she joined with her husband in a tremendous influence upon the development of the college itself and the college community as a whole.

She was herself a graduate of Elon College with the Class of 1907 and was honored half a century later when the college named her as its "Alumna of the Year," but it was while Dr. Smith served for twenty-six years as president of Elon College that she gave most to the college and its growth. When Dr. Smith retired from the presidency in 1957, he paid tribute to his wife in a special part of his last report to the board of trustees. Nothing to be said now more adequately sums up her services than the words of Dr. Smith himself, which are presented below:

"I should not close my final report to the Trustees of Elon College as President without giving due recognition and paying tribute to Mrs. L. E. Smith for her unselfish and untiring efforts in behalf of Elon College. She has given of her time, talents and energy, without reserve, for the college.

"In the dark days when we were laboring zealously day after day and into the night for the recovery of Elon College she spared no effort to realize our ambition and hopes for our college. During the summers of 1932, 1933, 1934 and 1935 she took care of cleaning the buildings, putting the campus in order and the improvements of surroundings in general without asking or expecting any kind of type of remuneration.

"Mrs. Smith drew the plans and specifications for all the faculty houses that we have built at Elon. In fact, practically all the improvements on and off the campus bear the imprint of her personality and effects of her artistic touch in making these improvements. All the public programs given by the college through the years have been built and fashioned by her.

Personally, I could not give too great a tribute to her interest and labors for the advancements of our college. We owe her a lasting debt of gratitude for her efforts and unselfish services."



a view from the oak

By MELVIN SHREVES

Book Store Investigation

The report of the Special Investigation Committee on the bookstore (see story in this issue) which SGA President Fred Stephenson made public three weeks ago was probably one of the best products of this year's administration.

Drafted by Student Affairs Committee Chairman Ron Hodgkinson and prepared by him and Stephenson, the report was answer once and for all the complaint of high priced textbooks, although many students will not want to believe what they read. The report expresses the conclusion that from its investigation the textbooks are priced reasonably and in line with those in book stores similar to Elon's.

But most everyone will agree that the report accurately nails the real problem, that of the attitude of the book store personnel. The investigation was initiated by the Student Senate and sanctioned by the Student Affairs Committee, a committee made up of an equal number of students and faculty members.

The committee made clear its personal feeling toward the investigation in stating, "We have undertaken this investigation and have made recommendations in good faith without any malice intended. It is hoped that our study will be considered in good faith." The intentions of the report were "to expose certain weaknesses and to recommend what we thought would be constructive and helpful suggestions to help correct inadequacies."

It seems that the committee received cooperation from all areas except one, our own book store management. The management "did not like what the committee was doing and refused to give certain information to a committee representative. This action within itself seems to point out the attitude of the management toward the students which the book store serves. On this matter, the report said, "We cannot reconcile the existing attitude of the Elon College Book Store."

The committee is certainly to be commended for its outstanding report on a problem which has been only too obvious to those who have been customers of the store during the past few years. The conclusions of the report seem to be well based and the recommendations sound.

Textbook Rentals

While on the topic of book stores and textbooks, this reporter received a news release from River Fall, Wisconsin, where it is reported that students of nine Wisconsin State Universities are renting textbooks rather than buying them. The following release and the program which it reports on may be worth consideration:

Renting instead of buying textbooks is saving students at the nine Wisconsin State Universities well over a million dollars this year, the Board of Regents office in Madison reports.

At the State University, students may either rent or buy textbooks assigned for their courses. Nearly all students rent their books at a cost of \$6 or \$8 a semester, rather than buy the assigned texts at an average cost of \$35 to \$40. For the year, the average saving is about \$60 per student.

Because of the rental system, there is no market in current used texts on State University campuses. Where there is a market in used textbooks, students seldom recover more than one-third of the cost of new books after completing their courses.

Assuming that all students bought texts and sold them for one third, the rental system results in a saving of about \$40 a year for each of the 30,000 students enrolled this year on the nine state campuses, or \$1,200,000.

For several weeks during each semester, WSU students have an opportunity to buy any of the textbooks they are using at a discount. Very few purchase their texts, the State University reports.

"The Informer"

The above title appeared over an editorial in the March 13th issue of "The Saturday Evening Post" on the Air Force Academy's honor system, and the editorial itself follows:

There can be no difference of opinion on the gravity of the cheating scandal at the Air Force Academy. It is outrageous that exams were being bought and sold among scores of students — students who, incidentally, were being trained for the acutely sensitive task of operating the nuclear strike forces of the future. At the same time, we wonder if the Academy is right in maintaining an "honor" system that punishes any student who fails to inform on his fellow student. Few children are brought up to treat tattling as synonymous with honor; and the "stool pigeon" however necessary to the police, is held in contempt by society. Rarely, indeed, has the informer occupied a prestigious place in American life. We believe the Academy should re-evaluate its means of enforcing the honor system."

CHOIR AND QUARTET OFFER CAMPUS CONCERT



The Elon College Choir, which was heard with pleasure in its annual spring concert in Whitley Auditorium last Sunday night, March 21st, is pictured above, with its more than forty student singers. The concert, featuring a varied program that included the compositions of Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Liszt, Mendelssohn, and others, was given under the direction of Prof. Wandell Bartholf, pictured left, director of choral music in the Elon music department. Also featured in the concert was a group of selections by the Elon Male Quartet, which is pictured below. Members of the Quartet, pictured left tonight, are Randy Smart, Fred [Name], Oscar Fowler and Wayne Kanoy.



JUDICIAL OBSERVER

Excellent Food For Thought

"So are they all, all honorable men . . ."

The question of honor codes is a problem shared by many colleges across the nation.

An article which appeared in the February 5, 1965 issue of "Life" magazine revealed some startling statistics resulting from the most comprehensive study ever made of cheating among college students. The study was published recently by the Bureau of Applied Research at Columbia University.

Five thousand students from 99 colleges and universities were questioned in confidence, and the following information formed part of the report:

Nearly half of the students questioned admitted they had engaged in some form of cheating since entering college.

Cheating is more prevalent at large schools than at small schools and occurs more commonly in large classes than in small ones.

The highest proportion of cheaters (68 per cent) is found among mediocre students who treat grades lightly themselves but who are under great pressure from their parents to get good grades. Students with poor grades tend to cheat more often than better students. Among

those who admitted cheating, 57 per cent had average grades of C-minus or lower. However, 37 per cent of the "A" students polled admitted cheating at some point in college.

The stricter the classroom rules against cheating — a teacher constantly watching, assigning seats, staggering seats, refusing permission to leave the room, etc. — the more students are likely to cheat.

Cheating occurs most often on tests using multiple choice or true and false questions, least often when essay-type questions are used. It is most prevalent in courses where frequent tests are given and where the standardized tests are given year after year or to different classes in the same year.

Cheating has a direct relationship to study habits. Only 42 per cent of the students who study for 30 hours or more per week admitted to cheating. Among the cheaters 57 per cent study only 19 hours a week or less.

Students in career-oriented fields like business and engineering are more likely to cheat than students of language. In between are students specializing in the sciences or the arts.

The social life of the students has a bearing on their tendency to cheat. Only 41 per cent of the students

who said they did not play cards or watch TV wound up in the cheating category, while 56 per cent of those who spend five or more hours a week in these pursuits admitted to cheating. Students who date regularly cheat more than those who do not.

Ninety per cent of the students — including many who admit to cheating — said they are opposed to the practice on moral grounds. Over half of the students — again including some cheaters — believe it is far worse to cheat than to report another student for cheating. Of those who hold this view, 16 per cent would report even a close friend to the authorities if they caught him cheating, and 51 per cent said they would either ignore a friend or turn him down if he asked for help during an exam.

Cheating is most prevalent at schools which try to control it by a joint student-faculty system of monitoring. It is slightly less common at schools where the faculty alone tries to cope with the problem. And it occurs far less often at colleges with an honor system, in which the students themselves do the policing and enforcing.

the other view

By RICHARD GUNKEL



Of the many suspected violations turned into the Honor Court this year, only two have gone so far as a trial. Does this mean there has been a decrease in cheating, or scuttlebutt has it in some circles, that it is hard to receive a conviction in the Honor Court. I will answer the convictions point by point.

Many of us are in classes which are rather large, and sometimes all of the seats are taken up. This situation presents a problem when a quiz or test is to be given. If a vacant room cannot be found at the time the test is to be held, we are left no choice but to take the test in crowded quarters, and the chances for violations and suspicion increase under such conditions.

Careful investigation by the Honor Court has shown many of these suspicions to be groundless. A thoughtless or careless student will often bring into the classroom materials other than a pen, pencil and a bluebook. These very actions are a cause for suspicion. Many a student has checked his mailbox before a test and has then taken a letter with him into the test. A folded letter can look very much like a stack of note cards, and so can a pack of tissues and the like. Many an unpleasant situation could be avoided if all students would heed the Honor Court rules and refrain from taking into a test anything other than a pen or pencil and bluebook.

Some violations do take place during a test and are ignored by fellow students, for some of the students feel that it is not right to tattle on a fellow student. They have been taught not to tattle since they were small, and it goes against the grain to report a violation. Their silence only hurts themselves, for by allowing an offender to get away with cheating they cheapen their own grade and the degree from Elon College. If the cheater gets an "A" and the other student gets only a "C" on the course, then the other student has only himself to blame for being lower on the totem pole. His grades will be looked at by future employers, and those grades will speak in part for the student's lack of initiative and success here at Elon.

Sometimes there is a case in which the professor turns in a student. He has pondered this question for hours to the point where he is almost sure of guilt. Sometimes the professor is right in suspecting guilt, but sometimes he makes a mistake too, or perhaps the evidence is not conclusive. Naturally the professor may feel resentful if the Honor Court does not see eye to eye with him, and that is a quite human trait. If he is a big man, then he will accept the decision in good faith, but if he is a small man he may take the decision personally. The same can be said of any one who is very sure of himself.

One of the things in particular that interested me was the fact that the majority of the cases investigated by the Honor Court involved freshmen. It thought it was revealing that most of the freshmen involved had not read the Student Hand Book. They knew little about the Court or the operation of the Student Government Association. They were apathetic and for the most part were headed for the "other" Dean's List.

We need a little better orientation system, not only for the Honor Court but for the Student Government Association as a whole. At William and Mary the Honor Court is presented to the students in such a way as to make a lasting impression. During the orientation there, students are led in small groups into a candle-lit room, where a member of the Honor Court proceeds to explain the traditions and the spirit of the Honor System. The high point of the ritual is when the student takes the oath and signs his pledge card. At Carolina the Honor Court holds a mock trial for the freshmen. Our Honor Court plans to hold a mock trial sometime this semester.

Another device used by other college Honor Courts is a pamphlet. Some of the pamphlets are very simple, while others are more elaborate. One of the best ones I have seen was issued by the Honor Court at Brigham Young University. It is a profusely illustrated booklet of some fifteen pages done in several colors.

Perhaps we should consider this particular device as a permanent part of the Honor Court System. We could start out with a simple pamphlet, working up to a more elaborate one in time. Various ideas on the subject have been expressed in discussing this problem. Another idea that may deserve consideration is the sending of a letter to all students during the summer in which the Honor Court and Honor System are explained. Some colleges and universities have had considerable success with such a plan.

Definitions

ADOLESCENT — A person old enough to stay up for the late programs on TV and young enough to enjoy them.

INFLATION — Something that cost \$10 a few years ago and now costs \$15 to fix.