

Maroon And Gold

Dedicated to the best interest of Elon College and its students and faculty, the Maroon and Gold is published semi-monthly during the college year at Elon College, N.C. (Zip Code 27244), publication being in co-operation with the journalism department.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1965

SELF SCRUTINY

Much time has been spent here at Elon and in other institutions in recent years in self-study programs, seeking to improve the curriculum and instructional programs, and such self study or self scrutiny can also be advantageous to individual as well.

One nationally known columnist wrote and published recently some interesting observations on such individual self-scrutiny, and it may be interesting to Maroon and Gold readers to have the observations of the columnist repeated here. They follow:

When young people ask, as they often do, about the best way to understand themselves and others, I usually refer them to a maxim of Goethe, which at first startles them, because it seems upside down.

"If you want to know yourself, observe what your neighbors are doing," he said. "If you want to understand others, probe within yourself."

Most of us do exactly the opposite. We observe our neighbors in order to understand them, and we probe within ourselves, in order to understand ourselves better. But neither can be done in these obvious ways.

This is because we normally look at others objectively and look at ourselves subjectively. We see others in the cool light of sanity and realism — we detect their flaws, their weaknesses, their self-deceptions, their prejudices masquerading as principles.

When we probe within ourselves, we cannot see the same distortions, for the personality's angle of vision does not refract this far. We see only our own good intentions, our wistful dreams and hopes, our hidden fears and deepest needs and our unremitting calls for love and appreciation.

Even when we try to be self-critical, it is not in the same way in which others are critical of us. For it is not really justice we want, for ourselves, but mercy on top of it.

Since everyone — except, perhaps, the severely disturbed — feels this same way inside, it is when we probe within ourselves that we come closest to grasping the essential nature of others. And it is only when we look at others, with a candid eye, that we can realize how equally transparent we must seem to them.

It is no accident that the most saintly men and women considered themselves as "sinners," while loving the rest of humanity. For this is precisely what makes a saint, and distinguishes him from the rest of us: he looks at others subjectively, and at himself objectively. He judges himself with cold justice, and others with warm mercy, so that their major faults seem to him less grievous than his own minor flaws.

Most of us, of course, cannot approach anywhere near this profound reversal of everyday values. (And if we try to do it before we are ready for it, we turn into a neurotic imitation of sanctity; no one is worse than the person who wants to be a saint before he is fully human.)

Self-scrutiny is painful and futile, if its end is to "know thyself." Introspection is not at all what Socrates meant in his famous injunction: for we can know ourselves only by entering into the other, and we can know the other only when we appraise him by the same merciful standards we apply to the self.



a glorious feast

By RICHARD HUTCHIENS

The United States during the last decade has been witness to a good deal of important and historical legislation. The controversial eighty-ninth Congress that adjourned just recently is very evident of such activity. More legislation was passed in this particular session than in the famed "Hundred Days" Congress of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The various bills that have been signed into law during the past few years have, for the most part, been realistic and necessary. Many of the sponsors and supporters of these bills have been thoughtful and conscientious in their ideals. There are other followers of this liberal trend, however, who are shallow and uninformed in their opinions of issues facing our generation. These status-seekers are many times the direct cause for widespread skepticism toward the very programs they so vociferously support.

An excellent example of such a detrimental element of our society can be found in a recent article in the "Saturday Evening Post." The writer has evaluated Ronald Reagan, the latest conservative hopeful, and the following is a statement made in the article:

"If Ronald Reagan wins, the effectiveness of the 'Good Guy Image' will be demonstrated beyond doubt. Then a nice smile and a winning manner will become more important to an aspiring politician than political experience or a talent for government."

No one will avow that Mr. Reagan has a "talent for government" or any great amount of "political experience." The complaint with the above statement made by Stuart Alsop is that it is not only shallow but also mundane and thoroughly biased. It would not be entirely out of order to say that the number of presidents who HAVE NOT been elected for the "winning smile" and "nice manner" could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

John F. Kennedy was the recipient of millions of women's votes for those same characteristics, yet, oddly enough, Mr. Alsop supported the late president. The truth of the matter is that many influential writers see only through liberal lens. To many of these editors, a conservative, regardless of the truth or falsity in his platform, is a character to be defamed or ridiculed.

While waging inconsistent warfare against so-called "reactionaries" and "right-wingers," such ptomaine-tongued critics find very little time to say anything of substance. Instead, one is confronted with a pedantic style of writing that leaves lucid implications but nothing of any factual value. Practically the only benefit derived from reading such articles and editorials is the knowledge that if one ever finds himself at a pseudo-sophisticated party, he should not wear an American Legion hat.

It is admitted that Barry Goldwater brought such jaundiced journalism on himself, but Ronald Reagan has not done so. It seems that at least the possibility of a few conservatives having a genuine interest in their country could be considered before putting the blindfolds on and diving headlong into a scurrilous report on the politician's latest remarks. It certainly is a shame that so many men with influence similar to that of Stuart Alsop have succumbed to the factions of their own generations. Tragic also is the fact that the public is so often deprived of objective and non-partisan reporting.

In summary, the fact that in most political issues the liberal premise or ideal is usually presented a more beneficial ideal to the most concerned is true. This column would use more proof of this fact, however, and loss of the haughty diatribes against those who do not particularly like Hubert Humphrey.

To all my avid readers: A blissful and rewarding holiday season. Dissenting opinion? Box 1339.

Wise of Wisdom

If some people continue to save at their present rate, at retirement they will owe about \$300,000.

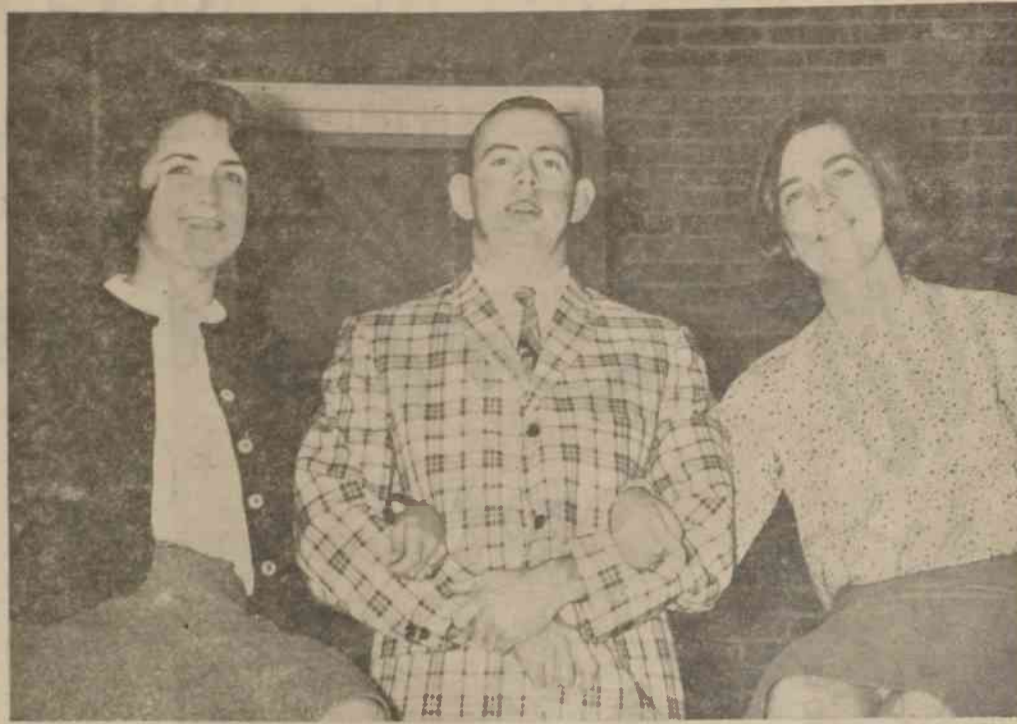
It's nice to see people with a lot of get up and go, especially if they are visiting you.

School days are the happiest days of your life — if your children are old enough to attend.

When you get a chance to buy something for a song, it is a good idea to check the accompaniment.

Old wives' tales are often about younger ones.

THEY LEAD IN SOPHOMORE CLASS ACTIVITIES



The three students who lead the activities of the sophomore class at Elon this year, all of them chosen by vote of their classmates at the annual campus election held last spring, are pictured above. Left to right, they are Paulette Westphal of Hampton, Virginia, secretary-treasurer; Dempsey Herring, of Whiteville, president; and Susan Jager, of Pawtucket, R. I., vice-president.



A Sleeveless Errand

By WILLIAM BRADHAM

A small liberal arts college has, shall we say, many virtues. However, there are not necessarily as many as are claimed for it in promotional speeches by college presidents and public relations officials. The small college such as Elon laboring under two major disadvantages.

The first is that what one might call the "smallness" that often goes with smallness has a tendency to curtail the important benefits of higher education, that being the opportunity of what may be called the all-important and irreplaceable idea of intellectual intercourse among students who, from environmental necessity, differ widely in their professional dreams or aspirations, personal interests and basic philosophical beliefs.

This ever present broadening experience is not only a personal asset to the student but a social asset to the new idea of sharpening of ideological conflict and the process of divergence, termed by C. P. Snow the "two cultures," seem to make more important than ever the re-establishing among educated people, teachers, professors, scholars and administrators. If this spark is not kindled in the early years of college, it may never be kindled, and thus four years in college are wasted.

This second disadvantage seems to stem from the fact that first, but more in regard for the teachers. An institution of higher education, unless it has managed to combine research, the pursuit of knowledge with teaching, the dissemination of knowledge. In the best words of a penetrating critic, a university without research would be nothing but a super-secondary school." The hallmark of educated persons, not merely those who made a career of research, is to be a seeker after truth. The fostering of this all-important attitude seems to be the prime motive of higher education, at least it should be. It is, however, a goal is difficult to attain when the teachers themselves lack the means and incentive to scholarship, which sadly enough is often the case.

This is a harsh statement concerning a purely undergraduate college where students are numbered in the hundreds and whose faculty may not reach three figures in number nor five figures in salary; also in an atmosphere where the college income is barely sufficient to keep the institution on its feet, let alone furnishing the necessary laboratory and library facilities needed for present-day research. This issue, however, must be faced by any college not content with being solely a "super-secondary school."

This problem will not always yield to the formula of our cherished fund raisers that there is nothing that money cannot cure. It does, however, have its economic aspects. Thus, second only to the importance of doing a good job is the desirability and need for doing it efficiently. Many of our colleges today could hardly pass an efficiency test. This leads one to the idea that they could do better economically as well as academically through cooperation, as illustrated here in the Piedmont University Center. But why stop here? Other small schools have not and are functioning better as a result.

This successful attempt to join the intimacy and solidarity of a small school with the scholarship of a university is seen in the collegiate system developed at Oxford and Cambridge, where each college is a social and residential unit within the confines of the larger body, which is the university. This idea shares the teaching function of the entire unit but not the degree-granting function of the university.

A modified form of this situation has been found to work in American universities and exists now in the Claremont College community although each member retains its individual smallness and grants its own degrees. This solution, however, may be

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a few blasts and bravos

By MIKE WYNGARDEN



BRAVO NO. 1: Hail to the swiftest man of sound, Prof. Jack O. White! Hurrah also for the Elon College marching band! The bravo may come a little bit late, but nevertheless it is fitting. Four years ago a swinging fella by the name of Jack O. White came to this campus to build up a marching band. This, most obviously, he has done with great vigor. Year after year the improvement of our band has been most remarkable. And to observe this marching band observe is to see in action the end result of many hours of intense and dedicated work. Certainly each and every time the maroon-jacketed marchers covered the field, they gave strong evidence of outstanding spirit generated by their director. Indeed, the very thing which gave the band its most distinguishing characteristic was its good college spirit. Even when observing the game from the stands, the fine spirit presented by this band overshadowed the spirit of other spectators. The students of Elon College should be very proud indeed of such a fine organization as the marching band. However, Elon should be even more proud of its Professor of Swing. Good leaders are hard to find.

BRAVO NO. 2: Cheers to Jerry Cameron, president of the S.G.A. In four years at Elon, I think it can be said safely that there has never been in the S.G.A. a president who with such great spirit and understanding has attempted to make the student government into a well-working machine. Very conscientious and understanding, Mister Cameron has attempted to form the S.G.A. into a unit which works entirely for and with the students. A great advocate of efficiency and order, Jerry Cameron has done away with many needless committees and red tape in an effort to conserve money and time. Furthermore, he puts in more time in his office than is generally known to the average student... this being done, of course, strictly for the benefit of the student. But the amazing thing is that, unlike politicians, Mr. Cameron has with great vitality attempted to carry out each and every "promise" made during last year's political campaign. And, as he promised, he is doing everything possible to make Elon College a genuine academic community.

BRAVO NO. 3: And what about our administration? Bravo!! Two amazing steps have been taken during the year to aid the student. The first one was the I. D. cards. Needless to say, the employment of one card, complete with serial number, home address and picture (mine was gross) — to be used at plays, athletic functions and the lunch line — is indeed much better, more orderly than having to paw through one pocket for your lunch ticket and another pocket for your activities card. There can be no excuse for forgetting your lunch card, and also some of the good-natured ticket punchers at the athletic events can no longer look at you as if you are some sinner who has borrowed an activities ticket from your roommate: your picture (be it bitter or be it sweet) is there for all to see.

The second great brainstorm was just realized at the time of the writing of this article. That is, there has been an innovation in the rigorous process of registration!! It isn't much, but still those who did it should be commended. Now the innovation amounts to not having to have your schedule hashed, rehashed and muller over if (1) You wish to take more than 18 hours; (2) If you have split courses; or (3) If you have a slight error in your schedule. If any of the above are present, you will be notified after registration that a change has to be made, thus saving much time in the process. Just think, no more standing in line to have one of the administrators certify an overload. It will still have to be verified, but a time will be set more convenient to both the administrator and the student. This step is one which the students will sincerely appreciate, both in terms of registering and consideration to the student by the administration. Bravo!! Bravo!! Bravo!!

No it's a curious thing how students participate in the whole when the thousands of little parts will form that whole are rational and easy to get along with. However, administrators must expect students to react unfavorably to various rules. Students have done this very thing — from the students at Edinburgh dropping dead fish on the professors during graduation ceremonies to students at Whit Wham University protesting against the rules of wearing pink toupees. Many times students just gripe for the sake of griping.

OFFICERS WHO LEAD ELON FRESHMAN CLASS



The three students who were elected earlier this fall as officers of the freshman class and are leading their fellow freshmen through their first year on the Elon College campus are pictured above. They are, left to right, President Leon Trea, of Virginia Beach, Va.; Secretary-Treasurer Kathy Copeland, of Norfolk, Va.; and Vice-President Paul Allen, of Burlington.