

The unspoken prejudice

One of the minority groups that works very hard but receives little or no recognition is the black students. With the exception of athletics, where both blacks and whites must work together for a team, prejudice is about as alive as ever on the Elon College campus.

Whenever a group or organization on campus has a fund-raising event, they expect all students, black and white, to participate for the success of the project. But when the Black Cultural Society or any other black group sponsors any kind of fund-raiser, only black people come and participate. Why such a discrepancy?

The majority of white students do not support or encourage the activities of the minority. Two recent activities immediately come to mind. Both the Mr. Ebony contest and the Swahili Swing were held for Elon students as part of Black History Month. With the exception of one or two whites at these affairs, the turnout was completely non-white. The same holds true for the dance that was held after the pageant.

Perhaps the problem we are facing on this campus is one that is experienced by other campuses on a much broader basis all over the

country. Black people will patronize black and white businesses but many white people do not see it necessary to patronize black businesses.

Part of this prejudice is the result of history. But enslavement is no longer a way of life in 1981. If ignorance could be replaced with knowledge and acceptance, the campus might be more unified.

There needs to be more interaction of the races. Planned events should appeal to both races, such as concerts and plays. Committees and clubs should strive to have a minority spokesman, and people should be seen as people.

One example of prejudice stems from the fact that only one professor at Elon is black. This does not set a very good example for students to follow. The "unspoken prejudice" is voiced in such ways as racial slurs and comments. Many people also group the Gospel choir and the Black Cultural Society together when they are two different groups.

Although cultures differ for blacks and whites, part of a liberal arts education is learning to accept and understand different cultures. One black girl said

blacks are not welcome at many Greek parties. One remedy for this problem is a sorority and fraternity that does include people of all colors and backgrounds.

We should strive for more unity and individuality and less for cliques. Perhaps a committee to study racial prejudice could be formed to study ways in which this problem could be solved.

What would happen if all black students stopped giving their support to campus events? There are fewer than 200 black students on this campus, but if they pulled together, they could make history as they did last year during the yearbook burning.

Blacks have come a long way on this campus. '79-'80 SGA President Bryant Colson and the '79 Homecoming Queen, Mary Carroll, are proof of this. But we still have a long way to go for complete integration on the Elon College campus.

Joy Hamilton and Robin Adams

Editorials



What our readers say

The Pendulum welcomes letters from our readers. Letters should be limited to 250 words, and the editor reserves the right to shorten or delete items of bad taste or possible libel. The writer must give address and telephone number where he can be reached.

Rockin' Ron's reform

To the editor,

Apparently to some people's surprise, Ronald "Rockin' Ron" Reagan has commenced firing. Our commanding chief's prime target has been this country's prime adversary—the Russians.

As a gesture of his authority, "Rockin' Ron" asserted that the Russians aim toward world dominion. A moral standard for them is to cheat, lie and commit crimes that further their goal.

Another of Reagan's gestures, also aimed at the Russians, was to let them have no special diplomatic privileges. These gestures may seem trivial but they serve as a symbol or stain of "Rockin' Ron's" policy.

His prerogative is, in essence, one of reform. Multitudes of Americans wanted a turning point and are still waiting for it. To some, Reagan at first rekindled the long awaited fire of the American spirit.

Obliteration has already set in. A fundamental contributor to Reagan, Jesse Helms, has made us aware of his dissent toward

"Rockin' Ron."

After criticizing Jimmy Carter for imposing the grain embargo, Reagan himself plans not to lift it. His aides notified him that it was severely costing the Russians to purchase foreign grain from other countries.

Marvin Meek, president of the American Agriculture Movement, was another one of Reagan's fundamental organizers in vote-getting. It seems that Reagan had planned to either lift the embargo or give the A.A.M. a price support increase. What turns out is no price support increase but rather a decrease and no lifting of the embargo. This is another brick in the wall of dissenters.

The optimism that earlier set in is slowly but surely transforming to the same old case of alienated pessimism. How much longer will we continue to allow these dignified prevaricators to estrange the people away from the American spirit?

A rather famous dictum of Nobel prize winner Albert Camus comes to mind, "I rebel— therefore we exist."

Marosh Nicholas Niko

The rewards of visiting shut-ins

Editor:

In addition to the limited extra-curricular activities available for Elon students, there are a few less physical and more consecutive areas to which an individual can apply him or herself.

Although the activity I am referring to takes only a few minutes a week and there is no designated time to perform it, it is one of the most memorable and rewarding things an individual may do in the course of their college career.

I am referring to simply taking a few minutes every week or so to visit an elderly or shut-in person. During the course of a busy school week, we can usually find the time to watch the soaps or read magazines. Essentially, we find time to do what we want to do.

Sometimes we fail to recognize the fact that older people are the most ignored segment of our society. After only one visit with a shut-in or invalid this becomes obvious— usually they are where they are because no one has the time or facilities to take care of them. It also becomes ob-

vious that your time is never better spent than by showing a person who feels that no one cares about them that you do care.

I believe that this is something worth thinking about,

and an activity worth fitting into your weekly schedule if at all possible. More than likely it will be as gratifying to you as to the person you visit.

Susan Troxler

The Pendulum

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