

Maroon And Gold

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1954

STUDENT RULE IN DANGER

(A Guest Editorial)

Imagine that the headlines in some future issue of the Maroon and Gold should read, "ELON COLLEGE LOSES STUDENT GOVERNMENT." And imagine that the story underneath should begin, "The recommendation of the administration and faculty was accepted at last week's Trustee meeting, providing that student body affairs of such groups as the Dance Committee or the Student Council will hereafter be directed under the authority of a faculty advisory group."

Can you imagine the student uproar that would result? "We have some rights!" "What'd they do that for?" "Where's our representatives? Somebody pulled a fast one." In brief form, those would be a few of the student comments.

Sure, if someone took away our privileges, we'd scream to the clouds, and yet that situation might not be too far away, for much the same situation exists now. HOWEVER, instead of someone taking them away, we are fast losing our rights through student apathy. It's really serious, the lack of student interest that exists today.

Take for example, the now common action of a student legislature meeting being postponed (indefinitely) due to a lack of a quorum. The meeting for last Wednesday, December 8th, was announced ahead of time in student chapel by Student Vice-President Phil Carter, and yet only eight members were present, not enough to hold a meeting, although earlier this year a bill was passed to decrease the number needed for a quorum.

As a matter of fact, North Dorm and Veteran's Apartments, with a total of four possible members, has not even elected a member this year. And many other campus groups, including two of the four classes, have never sent the members they did elect to any of the meetings. Have we forgotten the importance and responsibilities of the student legislature?

Everyone knows that he pays fifty cents in student body fees each quarter, a total of \$450 for the nine hundred students each quarter. Who allots this money? The answer is the Student Legislature, and certainly the student representatives should be present and share in this important responsibility.

The truth is that no more than twelve of a possible twenty-three student legislators have been present for any one meeting this fall, and yet those few members have been considering such important questions as the four per cent plan, chapel attendance, student bookstore hours and library service, all of which appear of vital interest to the student body.

Now, who has been absent from the meetings? It is surprising to note that most absentees are found among the dormitory students. The day students have usually been present in force, but students who live on the campus and who could attend with least inconvenience have been the ones missing at roll calls.

Let's snap out of it my friends, unless we want to yield our hard-won freedoms. Let's find the interest and spirit which is now lacking.—A LEGISLATURE MEMBER



jottings from here and there

By JAMES WAGGONER

"THE OTHER WISE MAN"

Nothing could be more timely than a re-telling of Henry Van Dyke's great Christmas Story, "The Other Wise Man." It is my opinion that this story is one of the most electrifying and dramatic things ever written on the Nativity.

We all know the story of the Three Wise Men who journeyed far to pay homage to the Christ Child, but not too many are familiar with the story of that Other Wise Man, who also saw the Star of the East and set out to seek the child Jesus, who yet was unable to arrive with his companions of the Magi.

This was Artaban, that Other Wise Man, a son of Abgarus, who sought to prevent his son from making the long journey to see the new-born king. Others, too, were skeptical about Artaban and his proposed trip, but Artaban would not be persuaded to stay.

His companions, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar, the Three Wise Men, had searched the ancient tablets of Chaldea and had computed the time of their departure to be ten days after the new star had shown again.

Now, Artaban could make the trip only by selling his possessions, which he did, and he bought three jewels as gifts for the Babe of Bethlehem, a sapphire, a ruby and a pearl. With them in his possession, he mounted his horse, Vasda, and rode away to meet his fellow travellers at the Temple of the Seven Spheres.

But along the way he found a man lying across the road, seemingly ready for the grave. Thinking the man dead, Artaban was passing by when the man seized Artaban's robe and besought aid, knowing that he might miss his friends, Artaban yet stayed and ministered to the sick man and, upon departing, left the man with food and drink.

Artaban then hastened on, but, upon arrival at the Temple of the Seven Spheres, he found his friends gone. He was then forced to part with his Sapphire to obtain supplies for his lone journey over the desert.

On he went, even unto Bethlehem, where he found that the Three Wise Men had departed, and he learned that the Man of Nazareth had fled unto Egypt with his family in order to save the life of the Babe.

Still determined to find the Christ-child, Artaban prepared to follow, but before he left Bethlehem the soldiers came, seeking to kill all the children, and Artaban heard a mother scream. Artaban then told the searching soldier that only he was in that house, and he gave the soldier his precious ruby, and the searcher went his way.

Only the pearl remained of Artaban's gifts for the King, and he turned his face to the East and prayed, "God of Truth, forgive my sin. I have said the thing that is not to save the life of a child, and two of my gifts are gone. I have spent for man that which was meant for God. Shall I ever be worthy to see the face of the King?"

Then for thirty and three years Artaban searched for the little family of Bethlehem, passing through countries where famines were prevalent, and he fed the hungry, clothed the naked, healed the sick, and comforted the captives.

Finally he returned to Jerusalem and found the crowds preparing to crucify two famous robbers and another one with them, called Jesus of Nazareth, who some called the "King of the Jews," and Artaban said within himself, "I have found the King at last in the hands of his enemies, and perhaps my pearl may ransom him before he dies."

But on the way he found a soldier dragging a young girl down the street, and she threw herself at Artaban's feet and cried, "Have pity on me and save me, for the sake of the God of Purity." Once more Artaban gave a precious stone for someone's ransom, and at that instant an earthquake shook a heavy tile upon his head.

The girl bent over the unconscious man and heard him crying words of anguish, ending with "Thirty and three years have I looked for Thee, but I have never seen thy face, nor ministered unto thee, my King." And from above came an answering voice.

"Verily, I say unto thee, inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, thou hast done it unto me."

Artaban's journey was ended. The Other Wise Man had found the King.

ELON'S OLD GYMNASIUM WAS ONCE FINEST IN STATE



Elon's old gymnasium in North Dorm, pictured above during a hot volleyball game, was at one time the finest in the state. Spectators crowded closely about the edges of the court, as shown in the above photo; and the balcony above the playing court, a part of which is pictured, at one time was used as an indoor running track. The combination gymnasium and dormitory was erected and placed into use in 1913, and the gym continued in use for basketball and physical education until early in 1950.

There Was A Time When...

Physical Ed Was Physical Culture

By JAMES WAGGONER

While making a study of old catalogues and other records concerning the development of physical education at Elon College, many interesting facts were found, relating to the long history of this phase of the institution's service and major programs.

The first definite record available dates back to 1911; however, the college was not wild or raving over athletics and neither did it undervalue the real worth of athletics in the symmetrical development of life and character. Baseball, basketball, tennis, and track games were all encouraged by and under the direction of the athletic director.

It was at this particular time that a new gymnasium was well underway, and it was stated that the success of the gymnasium depended upon the director. To this post was elected Roy N. Miller, of Steeltown, Pa., who had had four years' experience in gymnasium work in Richmond, Va., and with the Railroad Y.M.C.A., and had filled with eminent success his important post there. He had studied with the Association Physical Training in New York City, and his plans were to give instruction in Calisthenics, Dumb Bells, Indian Clubs, Wands, Medicine Ball, Punching Bag, Vertical Rope, Vertical Pole, Low Horizontal Bar, High Horizontal Bars, Low Parallel Bars, High Parallel Bars, Suspended Bars, Horizontal Ladder, Flying Rings, Buck, German Horse, Mats, and all of the various kinds of gymnastic games, as well as other activities included in Physical Education.

Miss Ethel Clements was the Director of Physical Culture for the young women and had been since 1910. Plans had also been for a gymnasium in West Dormitory, which would be fitted up with the latest gymnastic appliances for young ladies.

Doak Was Coach

Coach Robert S. Doak had charge of the general athletic life for the men of the college, a department in which he served with exemplary success, putting out the first all-amateur, bona-fide student baseball team in Elon's history. Prof. A. L. Hook was manager of the baseball team, and R. S. Thompson, of Aurora, N. C., was the captain. G. G. Holland was the tennis manager, and R. M. Home-wood was in charge of track. C. C. Johnson (husband of Mrs. Oma U. Johnson) was manager of the basketball quint.

Finally, in June of 1912, the president of the college submitted his annual report to the Board of Trustees, which mentioned in it as chief among the pressing needs of the growing institution the means of systematic exercise for young men and young women. Dur-

FIRST CHAPTER

This is the first installment of an article, which reviews the story of physical education at Elon College, picking up in the early days when the program was known as "Physical Culture" and when the old gymnasium in North Dorm was still a dream in the minds of Elon students, faculty and alumni.

The discussion of the matter that followed. It was shown that every college in Elon's class in the state possessed a gymnasium and the time for an addition to the campus had arrived.

Dr. W. W. Staley, a devoted friend of the college who had served as president for eleven years, moved that a gymnasium for young ladies be provided in the annex of the West Dormitory and that a separate building be erected to contain the men's gymnasium, with lockers and running track. Another staunch friend of the Elon idea, Dr. J. Pressley Barrett, moved that the men's building be constructed with the view of using it for dormitory purposes as well as for a gymnasium.

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to put both these motions into effect, and they appointed a building committee, with full powers to act, consisting of the president of the college, Dr. W. W. Staley, and K. B. Johnson. That committee's work is the present structure which is called North Dormitory.

Trustees Approve Gymnasium

Interested friends gave money to erect and furnish the building. Their confidence in the future of Elon College was thereby established, for which the institution's grateful acknowledgement was herewith recorded. The Board of Trustees readily saw the need of the building and "believed that the Lord would provide a way to pay for it."

The 1912-13 school year rolled around, and a name had to be selected for publication in the annual catalogue. The faculty of college could think of none more appropriate than North Dormitory, since all the other buildings were named for their location with reference to the Administration Building, between it and East Dormitory, hence the original name.

Although the building was at first designated as the North Dormitory, the Alumni Association at commencement agreed to pay for it, and it was therefore named the Alumni Building.

The two excellent gymnasiums offered ideal conditions for the work of Physical Culture, which is now called Physical Education. It was stated that Physical Culture was a necessity in the life of the modern school and that there

was constant demand for teachers who had had this type of training. The course in physical culture was free to the students of the college, and its aim was not only to correct bodily deficiencies in the students themselves, but to equip them to handle physical culture classes of their own.

During this same year Robert N. Miller was the Director of the Gymnasium. Athletics and physical culture instructed that each student must have a healthy body and mind in order to do the best work. Heads of the schools and colleges had learned through years of experiences that it was almost necessary for each student to take a certain amount of physical exercise each day. Therefore, such games as would contribute to the best interests and the good health of the students were introduced. All the sports participated in by the young men were under the direction of the athletic director.

Gym Was Well Equipped

The Alumni Building was a four-story, pressed-brick structure, 125 feet long and 65 feet wide, with every modern convenience. It was one of the latest additions to the college buildings for dormitory purposes and was architecturally imposing and prepossessing. The cost of the building was \$26,600, and it was called the peer of any in the South. The cost was as stated, but its value was reckoned at \$50,000. The Class of 1913 was the originator of an Alumni Association Fund, which would by vote of the Association and the Board of Trustees be used to pay for the building.

The first floor of the new men's gymnasium consisted of five showers and 117 lockers. It was also equipped with lavatories, slate shower baths with non-scalding valves, and every modern convenience known to the plumber's art at that time. It was described as sanitary and beautiful.

On the second floor there was floor space of 100 x 60 feet. The floor was made of Michigan hard maple, and the gymnasium itself was equipped with every appliance known to the gymnastic art. Competent critics pronounced it to be the best gymnasium in the state, and no expense had been spared to make it so. It even included sanitary drinking fountains and cuspidors at each end of the building. Another phase of the second floor was the use of the rowing machine, the dumb bells, wands, Indian clubs, and other apparatus of similar character.

Balcony Served As Track

An interesting feature about the gymnasium was the fact that it provided the balcony on the third floor which was used as a running track. Fifteen laps made one mile, and it was lighted by skylights in the roof.

(Continued On Page Four)

curley's campus chatter

By CHARLIE OATES



Greetings, fellow students and campus cronies! To everyone having the generosity to devote a few moments to the consumption of this column, may I say this—Any resemblance between the contents set forth and the accepted material is left to the consideration of the reader (and we hope there is one).

With all the spontaneity it contains, chatter we hear around the campus is often exactly what the name implies. However, we do occasionally find ideas, humor, and viewpoints that seem worthy of sharing with others.

'Tis the week before Christmas in Elon College.

No one is thinking of acquiring knowledge.

Be careful driving," the radios moan. "The life you save may be your own."

But, I told those to whom I was talking, "You may save my life, because I am walking."

During vacation, drink soft drinks alone. And the headaches you save will be your own.

WELCOME CHRISTMAS

Welcome Christmas! Elon's welcome mat is spread for You, while millions await your arrival. As we take notice of the atmosphere of the campus, it is quite evident to us that the big day is "just around the corner."

Our ears have already become accustomed to the novelty tunes and jingles we hear during the Yuletide season. The sounds are the same every year. Of course, there is the exception of an occasional tune with the touch of humor that momentarily catches our attention. In spite of this, we wonder why we do not hear more of the truly great Christmas music, which represents what this great holiday really stands for.

Happiness, surprise and suspense-filled moments of expectancy surround us in our hurry to do the things we are so eager to finish before Christmas. With the other things we have to do, there is that Christmas shopping we were going to do early. That was two or three months ago.

As the days grow shorter and colder, the hand of winter settles over festive scenery. Trivialities of Christmas commerce weigh down on the minds of all of us. It is time for standing in lines at post offices, long traffic jams and short tempers, great expectations and small bank accounts, less Christmas and more Christmas spirit.

The Yule spirit seeps into us in our classes and in our rooms, in the dining hall or at the grill, on campus or in town. It is in the grey depth of Winter during the December days, sniffling noses pressed against shop windows, tired eyes of sales clerks and bits of red ribbon blowing down the sidewalk show evidence of its presence.

The sound of weary music is replayed across the night air, the long-clanging bell of the Salvation Army, and the chatter of relatives tells us that we are no longer amid campus life. It is the stacks of Christmas cards, bleating like little sheep, "Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas." It is the waste baskets piled high with discarded paper, strings, bits of holly and cedar. It is the smell of wet feet and heaps of unsold greenery on the corner lots.

Then comes a moment of quietness on Christmas Eve, as the shadows lengthen, a hush steals into the atmosphere. The Christmas bustle runs down like an unwound toy. The world sighs. As the lights twinkle on, shining through icy darkness, there comes the familiar feeling of expectancy. Cooking smells flow from the kitchen; angels, padding on pajama-clad feet, rush from room to room—from the red-embroidered fire and the stocking to the riotous tree and the bright boxes underneath. A pleasant silence reigns, and then happiness, contentment and thankfulness are in the hearts of all; it is Christmas.

A worldly-wise history teacher in an Oklahoma high school ended one lecture by saying, "Will Aaron Burr win his duel with Alexander Hamilton? Will the American people go for the Monroe Doctrine? Come to class next Monday and find out."