

# Maroon And Gold

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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1956

### THE YEAR OF 1955

It is time to take a backward look at 1955 and figure what kind of a year it was. It was, above all, a year of prosperity for everybody and everything—from the common man to the common cold.

The nation earned its highest income in history, and loan offices did a land office business. Times were so good that inmates of an Alabama prison shop even began making their own money.

The price of pork fell, and every group ate higher on the hog except the farmers who raised the pork—and maybe the Republican Party.

It was a year in which it became possible to win \$100,000 on a television quiz contest, and a fellow who bought a new Cadillac met the jeer. "What is the matter stupid, couldn't you answer the \$64,000 question?"

It was a year in which the booming organ voice of Sir Winston Churchill was stilled in retirement, leaving a world still stirred with mighty echoes.

It was a year in which a new author, Harry S. Truman, made his first real bid for the Nobel literary prize.

It was a year in which, as Hal Boyle stated, "Santa Claus met formidable competition in philanthropy." Santa took care of you and me, and the Ford Foundation took care of Elon.

It was a year in which parents learned why Johnny can't read, but nobody took the trouble to discover just how many parents themselves still remember how to read.

It was the year in which Russian leaders graduated with honors from the Geneva charm school, then forgot their lessons and went right on back to acting like Russians again.

It was a year when man finally localized his major wars down to riots, rebellions and revolutions, but Mother Nature ran wild with floods, hurricanes, droughts and tornadoes.

It was a year in which Notre Dame lost a football game and the New York Yankees lost a World Series.

It was a year in which Elon will long remember because of its record enrollment and building program.

All in all, 1955 has been quite a year, one with less fear and more prosperity and laughs than we have known for a long time. — G.B.T.

### A PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE

Developing a philosophy of life offers no choice between the two alternatives of developing a philosophy of life and not developing a philosophy of life. The choice is between planning, directing, and controlling your philosophy and letting the process take its own course without a conscious effort at direction. As you think of these two alternatives, the problem will be clarified if some thought is given again to the nature of philosophy.

As explained in "Successful Adjustment in College", a person's philosophy is his outlook upon the world, his interpretation of the meaning of the world in which he lives and his relationship to it. This outlook is determined by his beliefs, attitudes, and understandings. Now the question that needs to be answered is whether it is better to have these beliefs, attitudes, and understandings develop without any effort to control and direct them or to consciously and purposefully strive to make the beliefs you hold free from bias and prejudice, the attitudes you have justified by critical analyses, and your understandings supported by fact. As everyone is entitled to



## the quidnunc

By GARY THOMPSON

### IT'S NO DISGRACE TO BE AVERAGE

A FRIEND WAS TELLING ME the other day about a talk he had last spring with the head of a preparatory school which his son was attending. The young man, who was about to graduate, wanted to go to one of the East's old and distinguished "Big Three" universities. But the headmaster immediately discouraged the idea.

"If I were you," he said to my friend. "I wouldn't even think of it. You must remember that Bill is just an average student."

This advice put me in mind of some remarks by Dr. Phillip Weltner, president of Oglethorpe University at Atlanta, Georgia. He once said that he deplored the tendency of large universities to place a premium on precollege grades and to accept only brilliant students and engage in a spirited competition for them.

SMALL COLLEGES, he maintained, have the opportunity "to make a powerful contribution to the democratic ideal and principle by training for good citizenship the average students."

I feel Dr. Weltner has a sound idea there. And if, as he says, some universities accept only the scholastically brilliant and compete for them, I fail to see that the practice is any more admirable than that of other larger universities which compete for the most brilliant athletes. In either case, it seems to me, the emphasis is on the school's reputation rather than on the student's education.

Take the case of my friend's son Bill. He's a nice boy and a bright boy, a young man with a variety of interests. While at preparatory school he worked on the school paper, built sets for school plays and did a lot of other time-consuming things which, though extra-curricular in the narrow sense, were all part of the school program. They cut into his study time, and his grades suffered. So he's tagged as "just an average student."

It's hard to see that the tag is any disgrace, even though it automatically excluded Bill from the college of his first choice. After all, the great bulk of college students are just average students, just as the great bulk of men are average men.

And I'm inclined to go along with Franklin P. Adams' once expressed opinion that the average man is above the average. IF A COLLEGE NEGLECTS OR IGNORES ITS AVERAGE STUDENTS, IT IS NEGLECTING A NUMEROUS AND HIGHLY IMPORTANT GROUP OF PEOPLE. Statistics show that this average group may very well include many who are better rounded people than the academic upper crust.

I realize that a lot of colleges and universities are crowded, and that they do not have the funds for necessary expansion, facts which may mean that they must be somewhat exclusive for physical as well as academic reasons. I also realize that there are many institutions of higher learning where straight A's are not an entrance requirement, and we still go along with Oglethorpe's president in deploring the premium on pre-college grades.

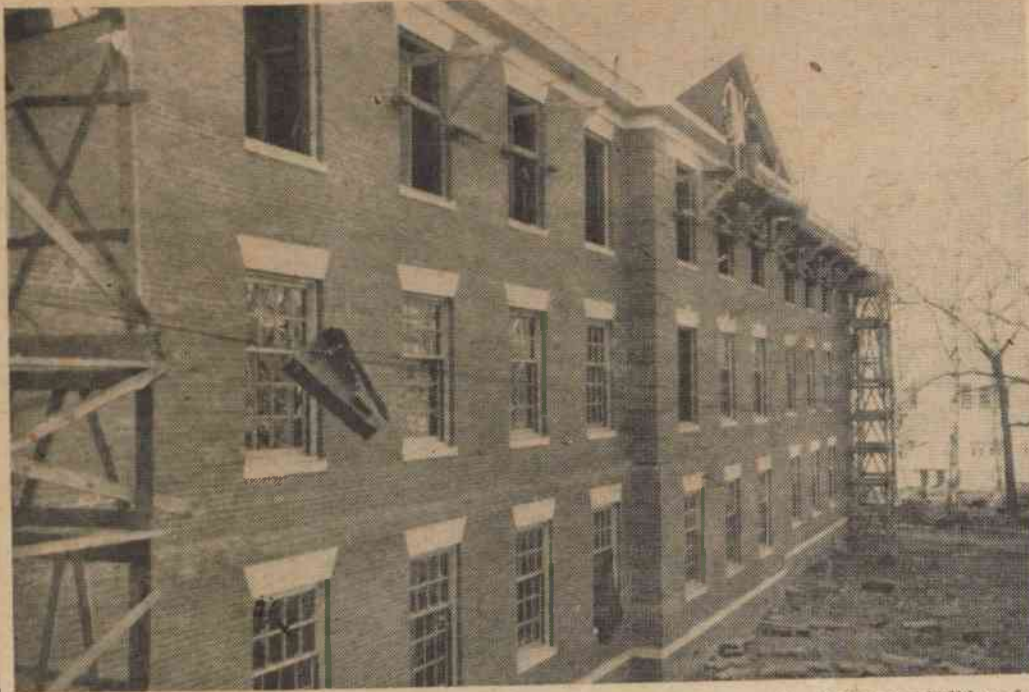
An undergraduate school, if it is to serve its best purpose, should be neither a trade school nor a sort of scholastic paradise where only the elite among the grademakers may enter. It should, like any other school, be a place of revelation and development. And it should, theoretically, welcome the average student who comes, as Dr. Weltner describes him, "with no standards, no philosophy of life." It's a college's job to help give him these things.

As a matter of fact, it appears that in many cases the so-called "average students" become the graduates of whom the college or university may be most proud. In all too many cases the top honor students, many of whom have devoted so much time to study as to lack a well-rounded development, find themselves unable to combat the stark realities of life.

More times than not, it is the "average student" who goes out into life, well adjusted to his fellow man, and becomes the truly successful person. From such may come the philanthropists of tomorrow, the alumni who are financially able to contribute to the support of his Alma Mater. Then, at least, Alma Mater will be proud of that "average student" who was too busy with campus affairs to bother with making honor grades.

think for himself and believe as he wishes, so everyone is entitled to his own philosophy. But the soundness of one's philosophy depends upon the soundness of the thinking that goes into the process of developing his philosophy. — G.B.T.

## ALREADY UNDER ROOF IS NEW GIRL'S DORMITORY



With construction moving ahead rapidly, the roof was completed before the Christmas holidays for Virginia Hall, the new girls' dormitory, which stand just north of the present West Dormitory. In fact, the new girls' residence hall, upon completion, will be linked to the West Dorm by a corridor at each of the three floor levels. This building is to be completed under terms of the contract by the 1956 commencement late in May.

## Building Program Tops Among . . . Outstanding Stories Of Elon Year

(Continued From Page One)

3. PRESIDENT SMITH'S ANNIVERSARY — An important figure in the new fund-raising effort is Dr. Leon E. Smith himself, just as he has been an important figure in all of Elon's progress since 1931. He passed another milestone in his long service to the college on November 1st, when he began his "Silver Anniversary Year" as Elon's guiding administrator. His 1955 anniversary assumed more than usual significance due to the fact that he had requested the Board of Trustees in mid-summer for retirement during 1956 or later, at the pleasure of the board. His request for retirement was made in keeping with a trustee ruling to set a definite age limit for active faculty duty.

4. FORD FOUNDATION GRANT — This story, telling of a grant to Elon College of \$125,700 for increase of faculty salaries, barely hit the press in time to be classed as one of the "Big Stories of 1955." In fact, the Maroon and Gold got the "break" on this grant just in time to run a small lead story in the recent Christmas issue, and follow-up appears in this first issue of 1956. However, since the grant was made in 1955, the story must be grouped in that year. As Dr. Smith has pointed out, the effects of the grant may not be felt for some time, since the principal of the fund must be invested and begin yielding income before such income can be used.

5. HIGH SCHOOL DAY — No event during the entire year brought a larger crowd to the Elon campus than did the sixth annual "High School Day," which was observed on Wednesday, February

16th. Although no new records were set for attendance, delegations were present from 68 high schools of North Carolina and Virginia, with more than 1,400 high school seniors and class sponsors being guests for the day. Scholarships totalling \$6,000 were awarded in a contest held in connection with the event. An all-day program was climaxed by the attendance of the youthful guests at a varsity basketball game with Lenoir Rhyne that night.

6. ANNUAL CAMPUS ELECTION — There was interest once more in the campus political campaign during the spring quarter, and several stories appeared as the Maroon and Gold gave ample coverage to the contests, which were settled by the annual campus balloting on Tuesday, April 19th. At that time the students named Furman Moseley, of Columbia, S. C., as president of student government. Each of the classes also chose officers at that time, and members were named for the Student Council and Honor Council.

7. ACTIVITIES OF ELON CHOIR — As has been the case for several years, the Elon Choir came in for widespread attention during 1955. Although there was no northern tour last spring, the student singers drew high praise for their annual Easter cantata, for the commencement music and for the twenty-third annual rendition of Handel's "Messiah" during the recent Christmas season. The Handel oratorio was sung five times during a tour of Eastern North Carolina and Tidewater Virginia.

8. DRAMATIC ACTIVITIES — As always the case, the Elon Players received much attention in Maroon and Gold columns for their student dramatic productions, and

a new high in campus interest was reached when the Players began work under a new director in September and had a record-breaking five-night stand with "Out of the Frying Pan." Player shows of last spring were Ibsen's "An Enemy of the People" and Moliere's "The Imaginary Invalid."

8. COMMENCEMENT — The graduation of another large class of seniors on Monday, May 30th, climaxed a long weekend of commencement festivities. Always a big feature of the college year, the 1955 commencement was marked by outstanding speakers, the award of honorary degrees, an enjoyable commencement ball and the gathering of hundreds of alumni, all of which received much attention in the Maroon and Gold in May. A second commencement at the end of summer school in August also came in for attention.

9. MAY DAY FESTIVAL — As always, the 1955 May Day Festival was a big event of the year on Elon's campus, and many townspeople and alumni gathered to witness the pageant, which was built around the beautiful theme of Peter Pan. There were numerous comments from spectators that the 1955 pageant was the most beautiful at Elon in many years.

10. ANNUAL HOMECOMING DAY — Top event of the autumn calendar on the campus, from the standpoint of student and alumni interest and participation, was the annual Homecoming Day observance on the last weekend in October. Getting underway with the annual Homecoming Ball on Friday night, the event continued through an all-day Saturday program and was climaxed by an Elon victory over Western Carolina in a Conference football game.

## NEAR ELON'S WEST GATE IS NEW DINING HALL



Standing near the west gate of the campus is the new McEwen Memorial Dining Hall, most nearly complete of the three structures that represented a big story in Elon's progress during 1955. The dining hall was the first of three new buildings to be placed under roof, with construction advancing to that stage before Thanksgiving. It was reported some weeks ago that the dining hall may be ready for use before the end of the college year.

## Sounding Off

By LARRY BARNES



The brightly colored Christmas ornaments have been packed and put away, the football Bowl games are history, and Saint Nicholas has retired to his cold lair for another year. Normalcy reigns supreme once more on the Elon campus as we look forward to the birth of a new twelve months. The pigskinners have returned to their familiar haunts on the practice field. Classrooms are again full of students, and Comrades are Veep, is working diligently in the Student Government Office. The Student Union is full of eager chattering voices mixed with its trademark, rock 'n roll music. As usual, Yogi is scurrying across campus to find out what is happening on the other side. Brer Luther is consuming his usual ten Pepsis a day, and Judy is receiving her two hot dogs in a bucket. The only thing that is not typical is Square having his own cigarettes.

Wake Forest — Demons or Deacons? Dissatisfaction and effigy-burning closed out the old year at Wake Forest College. The students of Baptist Hollow and the name of Wake Forest has been spread over newspaper pages from coast to coast. The furore began with the resignation of the football coach, Tom Rogers, and the athletic director, Pat Preston. All the mass demonstrations and effigy burning spread throughout colleges and universities of the nation. Washington U., San Jose State and George Tech had their fling at it, so Wake Forest is by no means unique in this respect. It appears to be the latest fad in the collegiate circle. However, Wake Forest's mass hysteria hit close to Elon and the North State Conference.

It seems that many students were noticeably disturbed by the "tossing in of the towel" by the school officials previously mentioned. Their resignations caused some people to act before they thought clearly. Athletic de-emphasis was their prime concern. They were, quite sure it was on its way in at Wake Forest. Many rumors spread like a forest blaze across the historic institutions grounds. There were many reasons that lead to the demonstrations in front of the President's home, but we are primarily interested in one. The hearsay to which I am referring deals with Wake Forest's supposed entrance into the realm of the North State Conference. This was extracted from the Wake Forest campus weekly, Old Gold and Black, dated December 12 of last year. "Another rumor that went the rounds was that one which said that Wake Forest was to join the North State Conference. Some stories even went so far as to say that College President Harold W. Tribble had papers on his desk that would put the college in that league. This seems to be the main question that was presented at the demonstration in front of Dr. Tribble's home. Yet none of those who voiced the question stopped to consider whether or not the North State Conference would even allow Wake Forest to come into its circle. With its present roster of athletics, Wake Forest would probably take nearly every game in the major sports in the North State league—reason enough for the officials of that conference to keep Wake Forest out."

There was another item printed in an extra edition of the above-mentioned paper that was no so nearly complimentary (if the quote I used is complimentary at all). It impressed me as being very blunt and derogatory to the North State Conference. Wake Forest seemingly was placed on a golden pedestal looking down upon the plebeian beings of North Carolina's small college group. I don't think that we hold them in the fearsome awe that they appear to presume. I wonder what President Tribble was thinking of as his effigy was burning in front of him?

### Cleaning Out The Odds And Ends With The New Year's "Revolutions"

To the student body of Elon College — If at all possible we may have a big name band to visit our neighborhood. Tales are cut that the Student Legislature is attempting or will have attempted to acquire either Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey or Buddy Morrow for a dance to be held in the spring. If other colleges can do it, I'm sure that we can.

To the English professors and majors — During the year 1956, let us hope that Christopher Marlowe is not proved conclusively to be the author of William Shakespeare's works. Think of all the students who have long since graduated and passed the English tests with the wrong answers.

It is now time for me to close out this column. I would like to draw my concluding statement from TV's George Gobel, even though I do not understand it. Anyway, I've got to "go, go, go, like Harriet Beecher Stowe".