

Maroon And Gold

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FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1964

WORDS REVEAL CHARACTER

There are many times when human character is revealed by words which are spoken carelessly, or by words which are constantly repeated through an often unconscious habit of expression. This was brought out by a well known North Carolina writer in a recent commentary that is presented below:

Our unconscious verbal habits tell others more about us (if they are tuned in) than we realize. The other night, I was watching a TV master of ceremonies who said three times in ten minutes, "To tell you the truth, I really don't..."

He gave me the distinct impression that telling the truth does not come naturally or easily to him; else why bother to preface a perfectly ordinary remark with this statement?

"To be frank about it" is a phrase used only by people who are not normally frank; a candid and open person would not even think he was being frank, nor would he half-apologize for this trait.

On a lower social level, the man who says "I'll level with you" immediately brands himself as not a leveler, if it takes a conscious, articulated statement to proclaim it. Those accustomed to dealing honestly don't have to strike a moral pose before doing so.

Then there are some who say, "Well, everyone is entitled to his opinion" in a tone clearly signifying that he wishes it weren't so, and he would prefer a society in which everyone were not entitled to it.

Those who end nearly every phrase of sentence with "You know? You know?" are more pathetic than reprehensible. They fear an inability to communicate perhaps because their parents never really listened to them when they were little, and are desperately trying to break through the barrier of words that separates them from others.

"In my humble opinion" is one of the most unconsciously arrogant phrases a person can utter. The essence of humility is unawareness of itself as such; and to call one's opinion "humble" is a contradiction in terms and a psychological tip-off that great egotism is lurking in the wings waiting for applause.

Of course, nearly everyone has enough Freudian sophistication by now to recognize that the person who tells you an unpleasant truth "for your own good" is not doing it for your own good at all, but for the malicious delight he gets in recounting it. "It's none of my business, but..." is a comparable phrase used by the same kind of person, who really thinks it is his business, or intends to make it so.

The ways we express ourselves reveal more about ourselves than the actual substance of what we say. Words in themselves are toneless and valueless; it is the emphasis, the expression, the "music" behind the words that disclose our feelings and provoke others to mistrust or sympathy or anger.

Wispas of Wisdom

The person with a chip on his shoulder always carries an unnecessary burden.
 Those who criticize the younger generation seem to forget who raised it.
 An executive is some guy who is always annoying the hired help by asking them to do something.



a view
 from
 the oak

By
 MELVIN SHREVES

ROOMMATES INFLUENCE STUDY

A study by Donald Adams, director of residence hall student services at Michigan State University, provides new supporting evidence for the theory that roommates significantly influence a student's academic performance in college.

In a pilot survey of 51 men who roomed in Rafter Hall as first-term freshmen in 1956, Adams found that all of them considered roommates a vital influence in setting the academic atmosphere of the room. The study dealt with students in the top and bottom 20 per cent of potential scholastic ability according to tests taken when they entered MSU.

Adams found that about 75 per cent of the students had made room changes since they entered college. He also found that an average of 75 per cent of studying by all groups was done in dormitory rooms. A definite trend was noted in the study for a man leaving a three-person room to have a radically different grade-point average from that of his other two roommates.

Study and social habits were almost exclusively the reason for students leaving the rooms. Common card partners, students with similar athletic, social, or religious interests, fraternity pledges, and students with poor study habits in common tended to want to room together.

"Low ability students in particular seemed to be tremendously influenced by their roommates," Adams said. "Those with high achievement almost invariably picked a roommate who would be a positive influence on their academic performance. Those with low achievement generally had a roommate like themselves."

According to tests taken when they entered MSU, students in the top 20 per cent with at least a 2.5 all-University average were considered "high ability, high achievers." Those below a 2.5 were termed "high ability, low achievers." Students in the bottom 20 per cent of potential ability were considered "low ability, high achievers" if they had over a 2 point average. Those with less than a 2 point were classified as "low ability, low achievers."

Nearly 50 per cent of the students agreed that residence hall living helps students learn how to study. The majority of students in the study also believed that residence hall social and athletic activities do not detract from academic experiences.

HONORS PROGRAM GRADING

The Honors Council at Winthrop College recently sent the following memo on grading practices to all members of the honors faculty. The report by Dr. J. S. Eells, Jr., also appeared in the Superior Student.

"Grading is a major problem in honors programs all over the country. We do not pretend to offer a solution — but we would like to share with you our thinking on this subject. The problem is of great importance because if grading is unrealistically handled, the result is extremely damaging to the whole program.

"According to our present rule, a student getting a C or less fails to receive credit toward an honors degree. We think it should be borne in mind that in most cases the fact that a student is in an honors situation is substantial evidence of her ability. The selection of honors students is a difficult and complex one, and mistakes are inevitably made. But an honors student ought, we think, prima facie to be regarded as a good student.

"Grades in honors courses should therefore not be expected to follow a normal distribution curve. The C should not be considered the average grade in honors courses as it often is in nonhonors ones. But neither should all student in honors courses necessarily make an A or a B.

"Our position can, we think, best be summarized in the words of Professor E. A. Cameron, of the University of North Carolina, a member of the Executive Committee of the Inter-University Committee on the Superior Student. Professor Cameron, in response to an inquiry addressed by us to many authorities, replied, 'We generally try to make honors grades as high as they would be in regular courses, so as not to penalize the student.'

"This is the position we endorse. If a student would normally get an A in a non-honors course, we think she should do so in an honors course. We, therefore, suggest that you try to imagine, as you arrive at grades, that your honors course is a non-honors course; or, rather, how your students would have done had your course been a non-honors one. We think that to do so may be helpful."

ANOTHER ELON STAGE SCENE OF PAST YEARS



The scene pictured here comes from the Elon Player presentation of Mary Chase's "Harvey", which was given in the first show of the 1957 dramatic season. Those pictured, left to right, are Curtis Medlin, of Sanford, as Judge Edgar Gaffney; Dorothy Apple, of Burlington, as Veta Louise Simmons; and Melba Meletiou, also of Burlington, as Myrtle Mae Simmons. Dorothy Apple is now the wife of Prof. Guy Lambert, who joined the Elon College library staff this year.

Into The Modern Period . . .

Of Players And Playmaking At Elon

The Modern Era of student dramatics at Elon College, embracing the ten-year period that got underway with the 1949-50 term, has been marked by highly successful stage productions and wide acclaim for Elon's student actors.

A student musical, an original script entitled "Are You Having Any Fun," was the final one of five plays given in 1949-50. Others were "Room Service," "Kind Lady," "Out of the Frying Pan," and "Antigone." Leading role awards that year went to Robert Wright and Rosamond Bromley, both from the cast of "Antigone," while supporting awards were won by Ann Truitt from "Out of the Frying Pan" and to Ed Engles from "Antigone."

Three excellent plays and another student musical were on the agenda for the 1950-51 season. "The Man Who Came To Dinner," "Outward Bound" and "You Can't Take It With You" were the three plays, while "Hallelujah," an original student musical, completed the year's

stage activities. Ed Engles, another Maroon and Gold editor, was named top actor in a leading role for his brilliant performance in "The Man Who Came To Dinner," while Virginia Trigg Hawkins was honored for her work in "Outward Bound." Supporting role awards went to Lois Walker from "You Can't Take It With You" and to Lynn Cashion from "Outward Bound." Cashion was to become Maroon and Gold editor the next year.

Mrs. Smith doubled as director and actress when she took the leading role in "Medea," final production of the 1951-52 season. Other plays that year were "See How They Run," "Giaconda Smile," and "Papa Is All." Robert Walker, star of "Papa Is All," and Joan Wickman, top performer in "Giaconda Smile," received the top performance awards that year for leading roles. Supporting actor and actress awards went to Lois Walker and Joe Brinkley, each chosen from the cast of "Papa Is All."

Change Of Directors

The 1952-53 season closed the ten-year regime of Mrs. Elizabeth R. Smith as director of Elon stage activities, and the year's program included "January Thaw," "The Double Door" and "Hasty Heart." Leading role awards that year went to Diane Maddox from "The Double Door" and to David Crowle from "Hasty Heart." Supporting role awards went to Ann Wilkins from "January Thaw" and to Jerry Loy for his acting in "Hasty Heart."

Prof. Charles W. Cox assumed the reins as director of dramatics in the fall of 1953, and the 1953-54 season brought forth three long plays and two shorts. The long plays included "The Glass Menagerie," "Pygmalion," and Shakespeare's "As You Like It." The shorter offerings were "The Sisters MacIntosh" and "Abraham and Isaac." Diane Maddox for the second straight year received a leading role award for her work in "Pyg-

(Continued on Page Four)

Syde Lines

By SY HALL



A major cause of chronic pulmonary disease. Smoking is by far a more contributing factor in chronic and pulmonary diseases than is atmospheric pollution or occupational exposures.

The amount of cigarettes smoked and the length of time a person has been smoking are determining factors in a person's susceptibility toward lung cancer. The Surgeon General's report stated it thusly — "The risk of developing lung cancer increases with the duration of the smoking and the number of cigarettes smoked per day and is diminished by discontinuing smoking."

The following relationship exists between cigarettes consumed and the annual death rate: Studies indicate that for men who smoke fewer than ten cigarettes per day death from all causes is about 40 per cent higher than for non-smokers of the same age.

For those who smoke between ten and nineteen cigarettes per day, the death rate is about 70 per cent higher. The rate for the smoker of one to two packs a day is 90 per cent higher than for non-smokers, and for the man who smokes more than two packs per day, the rate is about 120 per cent higher.

In the United States approximately 70 million Americans consume tobacco, representing about half of the adult population. The average American cigarette smoker smokes 4,000 cigarettes a year. Besides the cigarette smoker, there are thousands of cigar and pipe smokers, but the lung cancer rate is considerably lower among this

group of smokers.

One reason for this fact is due to the different types of tobacco used, and another is lack of inhalation. Most pipe and cigar smokers do not inhale the smoke, hence their lungs remain relatively clear. However, although lung cancer is not prevalent among them, lip and mouth cancer does rate high among the pipe and cigar smokers.

It is interesting to note that most cancer producing compounds are present in the tobacco plant. The big hazard in smoking is one of combustion. The smoke coming into the lungs is the product of a chemical reaction. The mouth serves the same purpose as a test tube, and the heat from the cigarette serves as a reaction stimulus. The harder one draws in the burning tobacco the hotter smoke and the faster and more violent the chemical reaction.

Tobacco burns from 350 degrees to 850 degrees Centigrade, depending on each individual smoker, and the substance that formed in the resulting chemical reaction is benzo (a) pyrene, which is a potent cancer producing substance.

The report from the Surgeon General is not intended to make people stop smoking. Its only objective is to educate the public. It is estimated that there are less than five per cent of the adult population will stop smoking because of the report. However, it is hoped that by educating youth on the dangers of tobacco, the young people will think twice before they begin purchasing lung cancer on the installment plan.

the
 fourth
 year

By
 PAUL ROBINSON



Each semester a new group of faces can be found on the Elon campus. Some of these are new professors, some are freshmen or transfer students, or they may even be the every-other-semester-scholars. At any rate each of these new faces, as well as the community already present on the campus, has a particular impression of the world within the four walls.

There are probably some, especially freshmen, who view college as the grandiose dream of his life, while others might view it as the anticlimax to a socially centered career in prep school. I imagine that some are here because it is "the thing to do" and do not find the slightest challenge in their work.

Professors probably have a different impression. Many have a family to support and are trying to continue their education while teaching at the same time. Some probably have a standard that they feel that they must maintain in their class lectures. To some it might be a vocation, while to others it might very well be merely a paying job and they had just as soon get paid here as anywhere else.

The center of concern here, however, is not the faculty, but the student morale. The attitude that appears to dominate the Elon campus community is one of dissatisfaction. A certain amount of discontent with the status quo is good, for it would be stupid to expect everyone to be content with every regulation enacted by either administrative or student groups. If such a situation were to exist, there would be little or no individualism on the campus. Lacking the ability to think for himself, the graduate from Elon would be destined to a life of failure or, if once employed, would never advance.

The form that much of this discontent seems to take is unbecoming to a college community. Rather than discussion of the disagreeable elements of the status quo, be they regulations or situations, rumors are started. The actual complaint in these cases never reaches the person or group of persons that could eliminate the tension. This important step never occurs for various and for the most part unknown reasons.

I have never attended another college, but I would presume that this very same situation exists in other college communities. It without a doubt exists in the outside world. The university of gossip and rumor, however, does not make it right.

One of the most amazing elements of these rumors is the fact that so many people believe them. As is true of most all rumors, nothing good is said about anybody. For example, I heard that Dr. Danieley was in New York a week or two ago. This I found was very true, but did you know that some were told, and actually believed, that he was there looking for a job. The truth, if anyone is interested, is that he was there on business concerning the fund-raising campaign.

One of the classic stories, which I am sure everyone has heard, was the one that Elon was offered a \$2 million endowment by Burlington Industries but refused it because it required Elon to change its name to Burlington City College, which meant losing the name of Elon, something the Board of Trustees could not do.

Rumor also states that the reason Trinity College in Durham received the endowment from the Duke cigarette fortune was because Elon turned it down first, the Board of Trustees could bear to accept money made from a sinful product.

Experience has taught me in my four years of residency here possible causes for this attitude. One which stands out in my mind is the fact that many of my contemporaries from beginning freshman to "long term seniors" suffer from an inferiority complex.

I do not refer here to a personal complex but rather to a "group complex". This is one that is the result of the desire of many to be attending Duke, Wake Forest, Davidson or any larger, more "collegiate" school.

This attitude seems to relate the feeling that Elon is not good enough, and that after a couple of semesters the pros have "dished out" so many bad grades in their direction that they cannot transfer.

In essence, then, these individuals feel that they are being held here against their will. Since the school blamed for both the bad grades and the captivity, there is ample reason to complain. The result is a lack of pride in the school's equipment, willful destruction of the school's property and the oft-recurring rumors.

(Continued on Page Four)