

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 cooperation with the journalism department.

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FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 1966

SELF-ANSWERING QUESTION

Many questions which exist in American life today are answered by means of a public poll, a special example being the sampling of public opinion which determines the popularity of various television programs, and one doubts whether these public polls are valid in their results, for it is seldom that one encounters a person who has been contacted for his or her opinion.

This writer is definitely not impressed with the results of these polls or opinion surveys, partly because that he mistrusts the answers themselves and partly because he mistrusts the questions in all too many instances it is harder to devise a fair question, and there are many of these questions in the polls that could be and possibly are so worded as to be self-answered. In other words, the questions themselves are loaded.

Many scientific experiments have shown how careful one must be in asking questions. For example, two different groups of scientists held two different theories about the sense of smell. A few years ago, the researchers on the problem asked people to estimate the relative strengths of certain odors.

It was found that a quite simple change in the way the question was worded would make the answers conform to either one or the other of the theories. The difference in the wording was so slight that it took the researchers a while to discover what was wrong — the question was psychologically slanted (unintentionally, of course) to evoke a particular kind of answer.

Such unconscious slanting is even more common in non-scientific polls and surveys. It is easy to phrase the same question in three or four different ways and get as many different "majority" opinions. If one asked a random sampling of Americans, "Do you believe in the principles expressed in the Declaration of Independence?" the replies would be overwhelmingly, "yes." However, if one asked, "Do you believe that all men are created equal?" the answers might be 50-50, even though "created equal" is the basic principle in the Declaration. And this is because most people do not know what the phrase really means.

"Do you believe we should continue to prosecute the war in Viet Nam?" would, I believe, receive the assent of a majority of Americans. Yet this could easily be rephrased so that a majority would answer "No." And it could be so ambiguously put that about half would reply affirmatively and half negatively.

This kind of experimenting has been done, for instance, on the subject of capital punishment — where it was found that one set of questions would get most people to be against it, and another set would get most people to be for it. It is the emotional reaction that is evoked, rather than the objective question, that determines the kind of answer we give.

All trial lawyers know the absolute importance of phrasing a question in precisely the "right" way — which means, for them, eliciting the answers that will benefit their side. Until we refine our method of forming questions, our "surveys" tell us less than we think.



a glorious feast

By

RICHARD HUTCHENS

Elon is a local event! Having attempted in the last article or two to expose some of the prevailing problems confronting Elon, the editor is going to return to more serious and consequential maladies outside the fabled brick walls.

The problem today is concerning an extremely romantic, idealistic, childish, and Victorian idea now being perpetrated in North Carolina that a man may only take a drink in his own home. This idea is unequivocally absurd. Why is it absurd? Note the following.

In the first place, how can such a re-interpretation of the law be enforced? The alcoholic beverage control officer has already admitted that if he had about one thousand extra officials he might be able to approach the means of enforcement.

Well, this certainly shouldn't be a problem. Let the good Old North State hire one thousand extra officials and pay them while the secondary school system trudges along in the next to last position in efficiency among all the other states. Perhaps the ideal is to be dry, illiterate and virtuous rather than wet, "sinful" and erudite.

A second argument for the destruction of the 1966 edition of prohibition in North Carolina is best presented by a portrait of a typical scene that inevitably will result from this jaundiced judgment. Picture the middle-aged, near-wealthy and rabid Carolina fan at the annual Duke versus Carolina classic. The game ends and our sports enthusiast leaves with a number of friends and their wives on their way to one of the more exclusive restaurants in the area where they have paid for a private room.

Picture the couples seated around the table chatting harmlessly and relishing the excellent hors d'oeuvres along with a cocktail mixed from the restaurant's "set-ups" and the conventional "fifth" which they brought along. Picture the waitress bringing in steaks sizzling on a platter complete with all the trimmings. Picture our friends beginning to enjoy their dinner. Picture a squadron of police smashing in the door to their room shouting RAID!

No doubt the conclusion to this story will be a convenient reinterpretation of the reinterpretation in order to avoid embarrassment and the wrath of our friend who happens also to be some friend of Attorney Katzenbach. One must admit, however, that the image of North Carolina would be improved immensely after the Associated Press got the story and it made national coverage, improved that is, in the eyes of ninety-year-old mid-Victorians who feel that we should still be lighting with kerosene and who think of Marconi as "that Wop who invented the radio or something".

In conclusion the question is Why? What could the motivation possibly have been for the Charlotte judge to impose such totalitarian restrictions on the people of North Carolina? It seems that after the bitter lesson taught in the 20's and 30's the legislative and judicial bodies of the land (more particularly the state) would realize that those who want to drink are going to do so regardless of the legal obstacles put in their way. Finally, why is it that tee-totalers are always trying to impose their standards of provincial morality on drinkers whereas those who imbibe are content to simply enjoy their highballs and let other people wait along their merry way without accosting them in the street and attempting to force a glass of whiskey down their throat?

Before closing my column I would like to make a sales pitch for something that really shouldn't (or maybe doesn't) require one. Next week the Liberal Arts Forum is presenting a week-long series of lectures by eminent scholars from throughout the country. Music, art, history and a number of other subjects will be discussed by the best men the field have to offer.

My personal guarantee goes out that something will be dealt with that each and every one of you students is interested in. At least give the series a try. Let us unite and show the visiting scholars what kind of student body we have here.

Before anyone voices a complaint again about "no intellectual opportunity," join me in attendance at these lectures and support what may very well be the most significant and important event that Elon College has sponsored in a decade. Thank you, and I'll see you there!

SERMONETTES

Don't smoke in bed — the next ashes that fall on the floor may be your own.

If you want to leave your footprints in the sands of time, wear your work shoes.

Naturally I seem stupid to my teacher; she's a college graduate.

MUSICAL GROUP HEARD WITH PRAISE AT ELON



Music lovers of the Elon campus and community heard with pleasure last night the Baltimore Symphony Woodwind Quintet, one of the nation's finest musical groups, which appeared as an outstanding attraction for the final Elon Lyceum program of the season. The musicians pictured left to right above are Britton Johnson, flutist; Joseph Turner, oboist; Robert O. Pierce, hornist; Susan Willoughby, bassoonist; and Ignatius Gennusa, clarinetist. Those who heard the performance described the light night's performance as "an evening of exquisite music exquisitely performed."

Arts Forum Plans Cultural Programs

(Continued From Page One)

Engstrom will lecture in West Dorm Parlor at 3 o'clock that afternoon on "The Changing Image in French Literature." To note all the achievements of this guest scholar would be to exhaust the space in this paper, but tribute must be paid.

Dr. Engstrom is Alumni Distinguished Professor of Romance Languages at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he received the noted Janner Award in 1960. He has also served as a visiting scholar at the University Center in Virginia. He is presently a member of the editorial committee of the "University of North Carolina Studies in Comparative Literature" and is also on the editorial board of other publications.

Paired with Dr. Urban T. Holmes, another of the guest scholars appearing at Elon next week, Dr. Engstrom edited "Romance Studies Presented to William Morton DeVey" in 1963. The Liberal Arts Forum was honored last year to have the great linguist speak on the Elon campus on "Synaesthesia and the Poetic Imagination." Besides being a fine scholar, Dr. Engstrom is remembered here as a very fine conversationalist.

At 8 o'clock Tuesday night in McEwen Dining Hall, Dr. Friedrich B. Artz will present a lecture entitled "How and When the

World Began." Professor Artz is professor of history at Oberlin College, where he served as head of the history department from 1949 until 1960. He holds the Ph.D. from Harvard and has published too many articles and books to be listed here, but among his outstanding works are "France Under Bourbon Restoration, 1814-1832," "Mind of the Middle Ages," and numerous other volumes. His "Reaction and Revolution" is available in both the Elon library and book store. His Tuesday night lecture will also be followed by a reception in West Dorm Parlor.

Seminar On Wednesday
The Festival Week offers as a feature of its Wednesday program a seminar by Dr. Artz on the subject of "The Earliest College Students, 12th-16th Centuries," a topic which should prove exceptionally interesting to present day college students. This seminar will come as a preliminary to a program in McEwen at 8 o'clock Wednesday night, when Dr. Urban T. Holmes will present a paper on "Man in the Middle Ages."

Dr. Holmes is Kenan Professor of Romance Philology at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. He holds the A.B. degree from the University of Pennsylvania and both the master's and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard. He is a Fellow of the Medieval Academy and a member of the Dante Society. His teaching specialties

are medieval literature and civilization and the historical structure of the Romance languages.

In response to a query concerning his publications, the Forum received the information that his publications are too numerous to be mentioned, but he was described as one of the most honored scholars in this country and well known in Europe. Those who hear Dr. Holmes will have an opportunity to question him at a reception to be given in his honor.

Chemist Comes Thursday

On Thursday, April 28th, Elon College will have the pleasure of hearing one of the finest chemists in the United States in the person of Dr. Paul M. Gross. A recipient of the Ph.D. from the University of Leipzig, Dr. Gross is now William Howell Pegram Professor of Chemistry at Duke University. He will lecture on "The Fifth Estate in the 20th Century: The Changing Image of the Scientist."

At Duke, Dr. Gross has been chairman of the Chemistry Department from 1921 to 1948, dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences from 1947 until 1952, dean of the University from 1952 to 1958 and vice-president of the University Division of Education from 1949 to 1960. One of his most significant accomplishments is that he was one of the incorporators of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, which he served as presi-

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a few blasts and bravos

By

MIKE WYNGARDEN



ONE BIG BRAVO

Beginning next Monday, the Elon College Liberal Arts Forum will present the first in its series of programs dedicated to "Studies in the Humanities: Elon College, 1966." The topic around which all of the lecturers will be speaking is "The Changing Image of Man."

The presentation of this splendid program marks the final step in a long year of planning. But no matter how hard the Forum has worked, it could never have accomplished all of its aims if it were not for the valuable assistance and guidance given by many of the people here at Elon.

First of all, the Forum would like to express its most sincere thanks to the school for its show of interest. The entire administration has been most pleasant and especially cooperative. Dr. Daniels, who has been particularly cooperative, rendered great assistance to the Forum in getting House Minority Leader Gerald Ford to speak here at Elon.

Without Dr. Daniels's assistance, the students here at Elon would have denied the privilege of hearing such an important political figure as Gerald Ford. Also Dr. Daniels has helped the Forum greatly in suggesting where the group could have brochures printed. The school has been most cooperative in assuming the costs for printing the brochures.

Mr. Baxter has been especially helpful in giving suggestions for publicity. Thanks to his cooperation, the publicity for the Festival Week has reached every corner of North Carolina. Mr. Baxter has on occasion laid aside many of his regular duties and assisted the Forum to the utmost. The Forum cannot thank him enough.

Nor can the Forum heap enough thanks on Professor Daniels, of the art department. It was he who created the designs on the brochures; and it was he who gave so freely of his time in helping to guide the forum in the making of the brochure. One needs only to glance at the brochure in order to note the time Professor Daniels spent in composing the designs.

We cannot hand out the Bravos without praising the faculty advisor to the Forum, Prof. James Perry Elder, Jr. He has spent a great deal of time in drawing up lists of numerous scholars who might appear here at Elon. His suggestions have been most helpful and his guidance has been flawless. He has donated his time without hesitation, and the Forum is deeply indebted to him.

Thanks must go to Professor Brandon. It is she who will handle all the receptions following the various programs. She, too, has given of her time in order that the students here at Elon will have an ample opportunity to chat with outstanding scholars over a glass of punch and a cookie. As has been the case with all the rest of the receptions this year, we the students of Elon anticipate with vigor the up-and-coming receptions.

Thanks also go to Elon's Professor of Sound, Mr. Jack O. White. Because of Professor White's able assistance, the Forum has been able to present some very enjoyable music. We must also thank the members of the music group for giving their time. The Forum greatly appreciates the assistance given by Professor White and his music makers.

The Forum also wishes to extend its thanks to Mr. Jerry Cameron and the rest of the members of the SGA. Jerry Cameron has all the way been most pleasant and cooperative. The various student Senators are also to be thanked, because it was they who secured for the Forum that most important commodity — Money.

The Elon Players must also be thanked for presenting their fine play. Professor Moffett has been most understanding and cooperative in his assistance to the Forum. Certainly we cannot forget the faculty.

Thanks to their many suggestions, the Forum was made aware of the wide range of scholars who might appear here at Elon. And because of their whole-hearted support and encouragement, the Forum has carried through with its most difficult task. Never once did any faculty member utter a word of pessimism; it was always "go ahead." This is the type of encouragement which the Forum will never forget and for which it will always be thankful. Like the old saying goes, "They also serve who sit and think."

Much of our publicity could not have been carried out were it not for fine cooperation given to the Forum by Professor Byrd. Thanks to his knowledge of the news media, the publicity for the festival week has reached many newspapers and radio networks. Professor Byrd is to be thanked sincerely by the Forum.

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A Sleeveless Errand

By WILLIAM BRADHAM

the problem is rather nebulous. Perhaps general headquarters also dictates what quality of meat, vegetables and other food should be ordered. So again, can we blame the Slater official? Probably not, and if we are on one of Slater's food service plans, then I guess no argument can be made.

However, as I mentioned in my last article, there are problems that can be remedied. One problem already discussed is the dirty silverware and the salt, pepper and sugar containers, along with pests that are said to scurry about. These problems, however, have already been mentioned, and may those in charge take notice.

The other problem, as I see it, entails the first but is on a wider scope. It is one of basic and single efficiency. Although no expert on the subject, it does seem to me that there could be a simpler and more efficient method of handling the students during the dining hour.

A number of facts immediately arise. First of all is the slow way of serving students in the two dining lines. Usually it is the result of a hold up in the cooking in the kitchen, and this can be remedied by more orderly and

better timed food preparation process.

Secondly, the milk machine and the coke machine may be centrally located, but much confusion does exist in this area during the dining hour. Placement of these machines could be improved, yet the size and structure of the dining hall may make it impossible. Then again, maybe it does not. The same situation applies to the salad and peanut butter table adjacent to the above mentioned machines. Perhaps all of this could be made a part of the main serving area.

The final problem is minor and yet annoying. It is fresh and cool outside, yet when one enters the dining hall he is met in the face with a stifling heat and humidity. I know that there is an air cooling system in the hall, so the officials may not want the windows open. However, if the air conditioner is not needed, then why not open the windows. It is a simple answer to the problem.

A separate problem, which runs as an under current is attitude of both students and officials. I would like to discuss the nature of this problem in my following column due to limited space here.