

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, MAY 6, 1966

PECULIARITIES OF SNOBBERY

In one of his books, Arthur Koestler tells about a friend of his who was given a Picasso drawing which she thought was a reproduction. She hung the picture in a rather inconspicuous place on his staircase.

A few months later, however, she learned that the drawing was an original — whereupon she quickly removed it to a place of honor over the fireplace mantel in the living room. As a valuable "original," it delighted and thrilled visitors who had not given it a second glance before.

Koestler then asked the question: had the picture changed? Yes and no—it had not changed artistically or physically, but it had symbolically. Its intrinsic merit was no different, but its importance as a status symbol had multiplied a hundredfold.

This is equivalent, of course, to the stories that turn up every decade or so, in which a Heifetz goes out into the street and plays the fiddle incognito for a few coins, and is unrecognized as a great concert violinist. In the dynamics of cultural snobbery (as in social snobbery), it is the appearance and not the reality that really matters.

For most of us live by names, and not by things. Americans, for instance, still believe that any titled Englishman is an aristocrat, although the British know that there is as much difference between one "lord" and another as there is between a Duke and a dustman.

And most of us lack the ability to tell the real thing in any field outside our own. Many years ago, on the coast of France, there was held a "Charlie Chaplin" contest during a fiesta, in which the entrants made up like Chaplin and imitated his screen mannerisms. Unknown to the others, Chaplin himself entered the contest—and came off with only third prize!

Speaking of the screen, it is sadly true that many of the "sex symbols" of American filmdom have been actresses who did not feel sexy at all, but were frigid, depressed and suicidal in their emotional lives. The reality of the personalities had nothing at all to do with the image projected by vast publicity campaigns—which they soon grew to hate and despise as distortions of their true selves.

Ninety per cent of our judgments are based on appearance; this is why the "image industry" has become so important in manipulating public opinion. Today, for instance, we identify beards with "beatniks"; in our grandfathers time, the beard was a symbol of dignity, of respectability, of all the bourgeois virtues so flouted by the bearded contingent of today.

Distinguishing between the substance and the image, between the appearance and the reality, may be the hardest task confronting the human race. In the case of Picassos, it is admittedly a job for an expert; but in the case of picking Presidents, or choosing mates, we often go just as frightfully wrong, taking the label for the contents. — SELECTED.

NEW RELIGIOUS INTEREST

Much of the editorial comment in recent months has been aimed at the trend toward radicalism on the various college campuses of the United States, and this has been triggered by the recurring demonstrations which have taken place in various parts of the country, but a survey released recently in a news story offers the



a few blasts and bravos

By MIKE WYNGARDEN

RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Well, the week of lectures entitled "Studies in The Humanities: Elon College, 1966," is over. The various scholars, each and every one of them, performed their jobs with vigor and are now back on their respective campuses. It is certain that all who partook of the various activities, students, faculty and administration alike, formed their opinions about the scholars. Without a doubt, some of the papers and personalities were liked better than others. And that is well and good, because that shows that the people here at Elon were attempting to distinguish between the various topics.

But, the really important questions must be asked: What did the scholars think of Elon? Did they think that the week was worthwhile? Will they take back to their campuses creditable observations? How did they react to the hundreds of questions put to them by the students? What did they think of the faculty members whom they met?

Well, as soon as this column is read, certain people will say to me—"Those are silly questions. What do you mean with what did they think of Elon? And one person in particular will say, well if they did not like it here, they never again have to come back. After all, we gave them the privilege of coming here." These reactions of course are so much wind; but let us, nevertheless, attempt to ascertain the results of the week as seen by the scholars.

To begin with, the majority of those visiting lecturers never heard of Elon until they were asked to speak here. They have heard of it now and will never forget it. The entire college community pat its ego on the back and say, "We are good." In short, each and every visiting scholar was taken away by the hospitality, the reception and the audiences here at Elon. The importance of these implications cannot be realized enough, and as one of the scholars himself remarked, "Say, the students here take their academics pretty seriously."

So, when Dr. Artz returns to Oberlin College and chats with the members of the faculty and administration there, the word Elon College will be spread around with great vigor and will be associated only with the finest impressions. The same holds true for the other scholars and their schools.

So much for the impressions received by the scholars. What did the students, faculty and administration here at Elon gain from the week? In the first place, they saw and heard some of the finest orators in the country. Each one of them presented his paper with clarity and precision. And all who were present had an opportunity to see a scholarly mind in action.

But, perhaps the most favorable result obtained by the student body was the chance to converse with these men, and this is what impressed the dignitaries most. The yall remarked that the questions put to them by the students really put them on their toes and made them earn their money. Thus, their impressions of Elon students was most favorable indeed.

Anyway, the week is over, and the Liberal Arts Forum hopes that the "Humanities Week," will be continued next year. It is a tribute to the students, faculty and administration that the week this spring proved to be such a success.

interesting observation that there is a new wave of religious interest among college students. That survey story follows:

While college students have been capturing the headlines with "new radicalism," the nation's campuses report a wave of interest in the study of religion. In the Journal of Higher Education, Robert Michaelson, chairman of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of California in Santa Barbara, calls the trend "a quiet revolution."

The impact has been most extraordinary at the large state universities which, in the past, usually offered no religious studies at all. Ironically, despite frequent charges that the Supreme Court has been acting "godlessly" in its ruling prohibiting sectarian religious activities in public institutions, religious study at state universities has been speeded by these court decisions.

Nationwide spot checks by the New York Times confirmed this week that students have been enrolling in courses on religion in record numbers. Some institutions find it difficult to recruit enough faculty members to fill the demand.

Not unlike the student rebellion, the revival of interest in the study of religion appears to have its roots in an intellectual search for direction and identity — not in sectarian or theological motives or in personal piety. The mood most generally reported is one of groping for answers, not of search for — must less acceptance of — dogma.

Heralded As Great Success Arts Forum Offers Cultural Programs

(Continued From Page One)

In his paper Dr. Sweeney, an outstanding orator, attempted to explain the problem of understanding art in an impatient age. A piece of art, related Dr. Sweeney, must be understood in terms of its own attributes, and he further declared that the real aesthetic concepts of many times cannot be defined, especially in an age in which impatience is such a dominant force. The lecture was followed by a reception in West Dorm parlor. Dr. Ferris Reynolds introduced Dr. Sweeney to his audience on Monday night.

On Tuesday, April 26th, the scene shifted to West Dorm Parlor, where Dr. Alfred G. Engstrom, Alumni Distinguished Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, presented a paper in the afternoon on "The Changing Image of Man in French Literature." In his paper, Dr. Engstrom claimed that the hero of Twentieth Century literature is an outcast, one who is an outsider and a stranger, which is just the opposite of the hero in older types of literature, who was a center of society.

This was the third time that Dr. Engstrom has been brought as a speaker to the Elon campus by the Liberal Arts Forum. As most of the people observed when they met Professor Engstrom, he is a very fine gentleman, and he spent much of his time entertaining questions from the students. Dr. Eleanor Moffett, of the Elon faculty, introduced the speaker for this program.

Then, on Tuesday evening, April 26th, again in McEwen Dining Hall, Dr. Frederick B. Artz, eminent historian from Oberlin College and the author of numerous books and articles, presented a paper entitled "The Earliest College Students: 1200 to 1600." He was greeted by an overflowing and enthusiastic audience. A most humorous man, Dr. Artz entertained questions from the floor. Dr. Edwin A. Moore introduced Dr. Artz, who was guest at a reception in West Parlor after the program.

Dr. Artz appeared again on Wednesday afternoon, when he gave another paper entitled "How and When the Modern World Began" in West Dorm parlor. He was again greeted by a large audience and again answered questions from the floor. At this program the speaker was introduced by Prof. James P. Elder, and again a reception followed the lecture.

On Wednesday evening, Dr. Urban T. Holmes, Professor of Romance Languages at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, gave a paper entitled "Life in the Middle Ages." In this paper,



A Sleeveless Errand

By WILLIAM BRADHAM

abilities." Enough said. Congratulations to the forum.

enough. So I must return to my topic. My purpose was to discuss the prevailing problem of the general attitude of students and officials regarding the dining hall dilemma.

First, let me take the problem of the student attitude. It appears to this editor that the general student attitude is one of constant complaint. So, I would ask myself "Is there true cause for this complaint?" The very fact that there is a general dissatisfied attitude or feeling would lead one to believe that there is sufficient reason for complaint.

Of course there is. The editor has already discussed the major problems. However, the attitude emitted by the student populace is not constructive, only destructive. Also in their apathetic attitude, they put forth no offer for a remedy or simple aid for the betterment of the situation. They simply complain, and nothing else. So, if there is something to be done, then the attitude of the students must change. They must help!

One reason for the student attitude is the inability to know the real deep-seated problem. Few realize that it takes time to remedy

the cafeteria problem. Mr. Word is attempting to remedy the food problem, but as he said, it takes time. Also he needs the student cooperation, or he cannot do a good and complete job. Granted the problem appears hopeless at first, but a closer look will reveal that there is an attempt to solve it and thus get student faith.

The one fault which rears its head is the officials' attitude. Maybe they do not realize the problem, and they maybe they do know and don't care. Perhaps that is too harsh a statement, but it is the way many students feel for they know nothing else.

I am on this side of the fence. There seems to be the same apathetic attitude on the officials' part as with the students. So, all we can do is hope for increased interest and cooperation on both sides.

As a closing note, the Slater Food officials are to be congratulated on their attempt to make the dining hall more enjoyable. The flowers and table cloths are an improvement. Also the buffet suppers and the fashion show make the mundane existence in the dining hall a little more easy to take. Congratulations! As long as the food improves, we should have little to worry about.

ELON SPEAKER MEETS PRESS



Congressman Gerald R. Ford, who proved to be one of the most entertaining speakers of the liberal Arts Forum's "Humanities Week" series, is pictured above in one of the genial moments of his press conference, during which he met with representatives of the North Carolina newspapers, radio and television stations in the new seminar room of the college's Carlton Memorial Library. Another picture of Congressman Ford is shown on the front page of the Maroon and Gold.

Dr. Holmes gave detailed accounts of the life of people in the Twelfth Century. He too was greeted by an overflow audience. A most entertaining speaker, Dr. Holmes talked at length after the reception with students. A reception was held for Dr. and Mrs. Holmes in West Dorm Parlor. Dr. Frances Muldrow, of Elon's modern language department, introduced this speaker.

On Thursday morning, April 28th, in Whitley Auditorium, Dr. Paul Gross, William Howell Pegram Professor of Chemistry at Duke University, gave a lecture entitled "The Fifth Estate — The Twentieth Century — The Changing Image of the Scientists." In his speech Dr. Gross, former special consultant to Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, claimed that the scientist, contrary to popular opinion, could not merely wave his magic wand and come up with some new and miraculous theory. Dr. Gross, who was introduced to his Elon audience by Dr. Roy Epperson, of the Elon chemistry

faculty, entertained the students and faculty members in a question and answer session in the new Elon seminar room in the library.

On Thursday night, Dr. James G. McMannaway, of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, presented a paper in McEwen Dining Hall entitled "Shakespeare's Quintessence of Dust." Dr. McMannaway's paper was received with a standing ovation, the only paper to receive such a tribute during the entire week. The guest speaker was then the honor guest at a reception in West Dorm Parlor. This final speaker of the week was introduced by Prof. Tully Reed, chairman of the Elon English department.

The "Humanities Week," which must be hailed as an unquestioned success, came to a close when the Elon Players, student dramatic troupe, presented Oscar Wild's "The Importance of Being Earnest," a satire on Victorian English society, in Mooney Chapel Theatre on Friday and Saturday night, April 29th and 30th.

glorious feast

By RICHARD HUTCHENS



The reader will not need to brace himself for another tirade in this issue of the Maroon and Gold. This column will be devoted to a suggestion concerning an innovation in our fair college and to heap a measure of praise on one of the most stimulating and brilliant speakers the editor has ever heard.

Primarily, the praise is directed toward Dr. James J. Sweeney, the Monday evening speaker during last week's "Studies in Humanity" program presented by the Liberal Arts Forum. Dr. Sweeney gave as his topic "Art and Impatience" and developed it enthusiastically and dramatically.

The audience, regardless of its interest in or his acquaintance with the world of visual art, couldn't avoid being impressed with the delivery and the ideas of a man so visibly enamored with the universal language of art.

Seeing the age of the 20th century as one characterized by "impatience", the speaker enlightened the listeners as to the one area where one cannot afford to be impatient, that of art. It is absurd to think that an observer can look at a painting, a piece of sculpture or architecture only once and discern the value of the work.

To look at a work of art and to attempt to decide just what the work resembles, according to Dr. Sweeney, is to destroy any chance for the rewarding experience of becoming personally involved with it. The object in perusing a work of art, is not to look it over and compare it to something of one's own past experience but to make the work an experience in itself.

To use the far more illustrative and effective diction of Dr. Sweeney, when one is in a museum standing before a sculpture he should not ask, "what does that look like?" Rather, the sympathetic observer would ask "what is this?" and the informed response to the query would be "that is a sculpture."

What the artist does, or attempts to do, is to convert the mind's inspirations and insight to order. To see the order inherent in good art and to realize the achievement of bringing the chaos of the universe to this order on some sort of medium is to begin to understand what value is contained in the products of artists all over the world.

Secondly, the innovation is concerning what Elon College could do about improving the students' conception of what art is and what it represents. A tremendous stride toward this end would be to revise the program of fine arts education. The suggestion is to divide the Fine Arts Course that is presently being taught by Professors White and Daniel and to allow each to instruct a course devoted entirely to his chosen field, that being respectively music and art.

The results of this change would be multiple and beneficial. For one, the knowledge gained of the two fields would be of a more coherent nature, and the professor would gain a definite advantage in that he could proceed more readily from topic to topic without fear of losing the continuity of his subject.

Most important in this consideration is the hoped-for result that instead of the smattering of knowledge gained from the course in its present context (which is completely unsatisfactory to a student with any intrinsic interest at all), there will be a more complete and comprehensive education on the fine arts, just as there is afforded in the survey courses on American history and English history.

In closing, I would like to invite questions on this suggestion and/or criticisms. If enough interest is indicated on the part of the students the editor will pursue the matter further. Please send responses to Box 1334 or accost the editor in the hall. Your advise is more than welcome!

Wisps of Wisdom

Of the two, a ready hand is superior to a ready tongue.

Too many people who want to change the shape of things try doing it by chiseling.

One sure "something" a man gets for nothing is failure.

Too Many!

One of the answers to a questionnaire published by a magazine to find out how much people knew about the Bible contained this choice bit of humor. To the question "How many wives does the Bible allow for each man?" the answer was sixteen (four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer).

On The Tab

America is a wonderful country. Where else can you walk out of your mortgaged home, step into a time-payment car, and drive down a bonded highway on credit gas to charge something at your favorite store.