

An Open Letter To the Student Body and Faculty

We, the editors of the *Pendulum* wish to extend an open invitation to you to join in the production of the newspaper. We are hoping to establish a paper which will both serve the needs of the students and faculty as well as develop a closer rapport with the greater community.

We intend to report events which are important to both the students and the faculty, to develop a channel by which students and faculty members may voice their opinions, to dispel rumors by gathering all the facts and to insure their validity before the article is printed.

It is our hope that this paper will evoke a response from those who read it. We welcome editorials, news articles, features and literary work—any contributions that you as students and faculty members wish to send in. However, we do reserve the right to edit all work to insure a high quality of journalistic writing.

Please address all correspondence to P. O. Box 5272. Again, we wish to extend you a welcome to the Elon College community and hope that you have a pleasant and successful year.

Yours truly,
Patsy Lynch and Debbie Cochran
Co-Editors

Policy Changed on Absence Notes

Due to the great number of students who flock into the Student Health Center every day, the Student Health Service in collaboration with the administration has instituted a policy which no longer enables the student to obtain a note for a missed class. The policy that is now in effect is that the student may only obtain a note if he has missed a test or exam, provided the student has reported in advance his name and excuse.

When asked for a personal reaction, Mrs. Mary Jane Salter, one of the nurses in the infirmary, stated, "We had to institute the policy. If we had to stop to write excuses all the time we would not get to see everyone that needed attention." Mrs. Salter also said, "We feel that it may also influence students to attend classes when they're on the borderline."

Some students are not aware of the change. Some are still questioning why they cannot have a note to show their professors that they truly were sick. It very simply is not necessary for college students to convey notes from the infirmary to the professor stating that they had been ill. College students are expected to be reasonably mature adults capable of making decisions and assuming responsibility for themselves. It is solely up to the individual to get the material that has been covered in a class he or she missed for whatever reason. If we are responsible college students, it is not necessary to rely on getting a note from an authoritative figure to take to our professors. It is a learning experience in itself to stop relying on others. We must make a clean break from a constant reliance on our high school traditions.

This change in procedure concerning absences is a mere, but not to be overlooked, stepping stone in this college's request for more freedom. Inevitably, freedom breeds responsibility. At any rate, the Student Health Service is there for our convenience and protection. We should understand their purpose and review our own responsibilities to ourselves.

The Pendulum

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Choosing Your Major

by Prof. Jennings Berry
Counseling Office

Two prevailing and often perplexing questions on college campuses are: What should I major in? What career should I head toward? Most students eventually find the answers, but unfortunately some begin the search too late. This fact has a hint of tragedy in it, for of all the years in a person's life, the college years provide the best opportunity to explore various fields and discover personal interests.

Timing, however, is perhaps not so crucial as the care with which the choice is made. Although a student should decide early enough to begin taking major courses before his junior year, the decision should not be rushed. But since a sound decision will not develop automatically, the student should deliberately probe and search.

But where can a student search? What will help him to make up his mind?

For one thing, the student can make use of the idea that knowledge about a subject may awaken unexpected interests. Students often fail to recognize that taking a variety of subjects can help them in discovering a major and a career. In fact, some students do not give themselves a chance for this discovery, for they do not study their subjects deeply enough to awaken an interest. To some degree, they ignore the fact that one cannot know whether or not he has an interest in a subject unless he learns quite a bit about it. For example, a student may have musical talent, but he will never find it out unless he genuinely tries to play or sing.

There are other means to discovery and decision. For instance, the Counseling and

Placement Office (Alamance 104) has sources describing a wide variety of courses. A student may browse through such sources to see for himself the nature of specific careers, the requirements, the pay ranges, and such. The Counseling Office can also administer an hour test which may be valuable in indicating to the student his potential interests. Many faculty members can provide information about careers. In addition, the library has sources that are well worth pursuing. A student may also talk with representatives who visit the campus to interview students. In short, the student who actively seeks can find information and assistance.

While some careers require specialized training, others welcome broadly trained persons. In fact, a broadly based education often has more flexibility in meeting social and employment changes. In addition, specialization is often more soundly developed if there is a broad base upon which to build. The student should explore both specialized and general preparations and should try to discover as early as possible what careers are open to the major he is considering; or, if he is confirmed in his major, he should find out what careers the major may prepare him for.

Editor's note: Future articles will pursue this topic of majors and careers, considering various majors at Elon College.

Parenthood Counseling

by Patsy Lynch

Planned Parenthood is a voluntary, privately funded health care facility. The main goal of this organization is to "make every child a wanted child." Having been in existence

for two years, they offer a variety of services ranging from literature on various contraceptive devices to health services which include a complete physical examination before a method of birth control is prescribed. These services are available at a small fee based on a sliding income scale.

Some of the functions of Planned Parenthood include:

1. Counseling and education in human sexuality.
2. First trimester abortion.
3. Pregnancy testing, referrals for prenatal care, infertility, contraceptive services, homes for unwed mothers, adoption service, and sterilization.

Editors' Note:

This is the first in a series of articles designed to inform students and other interested persons about the facilities which are available at little or no cost to them.

600 Students Aided by Funds

by Michael Pierce

More than 600 students at Elon College might not have come here if not for the services of the Financial Aid Department. This department, under the direction of Barry Simmons, is the center for all information, counseling and application pertaining to state and federal grants, endowments, institutional scholarships, the work study program and veteran affairs.

These students have received a total of \$473,655 this term in federal, state and institutional funds. The work study program, which offers on-campus employment for students, is expected to employ 400 students this year.

This financial assistance is neither a welfare agency nor a loan company. All programs have regulations concerning need and depend on applications at the correct time. Students requesting aid must fill out an Elon College financial aid application and a Parent's Confidential Statement (PCS) or similar statement for independent students. The classification of independent or dependent student must be determined before any funding can be considered.

Students Can Be Heard by S.G.A.

by Mark Mancini

A men's dorm government has been organized through the combined efforts of the Dean of Students and the S.G.A. This government eventually will become the judicial and legislative body within each dorm.

The reduced concert program of the 1974 Homecoming Weekend was caused by the lack of student participation in preparing for the events. The variety of social organizations on this campus make it difficult for S.G.A. activities during the Homecoming Weekend. Therefore, the S.G.A.'s Entertainment Committee is planning a "big-band" concert towards the end of November. This concert will be set in an "off-weekend" to insure a large attendance by students.

A Student Life Coordinating Committee has been formed by the Elon College administration and the S.G.A. This committee has been established as a hearing board to help improve student life at Elon College. Any student who has a problem with any aspect of student life is invited to attend these semi-monthly meetings and express his views to the committee. To appear before this committee, a student need only make an appointment through Dr. James Moncure's office.

An open public hearing was held earlier on the S.G.A. budget, and the president of the S.G.A. has expressed his hope that the students have a chance, through these open hearings, to express their views on the spending of S.G.A. funds.

Fall

by Lanna Leavy

As I sit here in this class,
Slowly watching the time pass,
My mind tends to drift and wander,
While the professor lectures on
with a thunder...

My sleepy eyes gaze out at the
morning sun,
I can't help falling into total
oblivion,
What a "tarheel" blue the sky is
today,
The Earth is loving the weather
this way...

It's so hard to concentrate with
the window so near,
The lecture is confusing me—yet
everything outside is so clear,
No one else in here seems to be
listening at all,
Perhaps they too are noting the
beauty of Fall.