

Thanks for the New Library

Thoughtful Elon College students will be filled with gratitude to the Royall Spence family for their generous gift to provide for the purchase of the Stratford College library. This collection of 47,000 well-chosen books in good editions and in good condition will mean that Elon students can have access to a library of exceptional quality and quantity for a college of this size.

Theodore Perkins, librarian, has announced that the Spence Collection will be moved to Elon during the spring break and will soon be ready for use. One of the obvious advantages of this purchase is the fact that it included the card catalogue, shelving, study carrels, tables and chairs. The planners of the Iris Holt McEwen Library were foresighted enough to build for future expansion, and so we have the space for the newly-acquired books.

The best way that students can say "thank you" to the Spence family will be to use the volumes often, wisely, and well. This means to treat them as library books should be treated--no marking of pages at all, no stains, no tearing of pages, no losses. If we are to deserve such a collection, we should show that we are responsible citizens of the college community and can use the books well.

Letters to the Editor

Women's Basketball

Dear Editor:

I feel that the article or letter (I can't tell which it is) by Sandy Sikes concerning the women's basketball team that appeared in the March 17 issue of *The Pendulum* deserves some clarification.

First of all, the headline "Women Denied the 'Big Tournament'" is very misleading. The "big tournament" was to be played at Madison College during the week of March 23 with the winner of each of the 10 regional tournaments advancing and playing for the AIAW national championship. Only one team from Region II could participate. Tennessee Tech, the eventual winner, was the group responsible for "denying" Elon's team the "big tournament" when the Tennesseans defeated Elon's team 73-63 in the semi-finals.

But that's when the trouble began. Coach Kay Yow and her team members then began talking about playing in the

AIAW's "small college" tournament in Colorado. This possibility had not been brought to the attention of the athletic director, the faculty athletic committee or to the president before Elon's semi-final loss. The committee voted that the women's basketball season had ended with the previous night's loss in accordance with the committee's policy that only those teams that were winners in district, state or regional tournaments or playoffs should advance into national competition.

In reference to national competition by the football team and the golf team: Elon's football team advanced to the NAIA Champions Bowl in Shreveport, La. in 1973 after first being ranked number one in the NAIA at the end of the season and after defeating the University of Wisconsin-La-Crosse in the playoffs. And the team's expenses were paid for from gate receipts from that game. It did not cost Elon College one cent for its team

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and coaches to participate in that championship event.

The golf team participated in the 1974 NAIA national championship golf tournament in South (not North) Dakota after first winning the district championship. Expenses for their participation came out of the general budget of the College as did funds for wrestlers who participated in the national championships in Iowa in 1973.

The more than \$4,000 that was approved for the volleyball team's participation in the 1974 AIAW national championship tournament would also have come from the College's general fund. And that was almost money down the drain since the team had not even been invited to attend and no one knew it until it was almost too late.

If the women's athletic program ever had a "friend" on campus, then it is surely the faculty athletic committee. This committee that is "so far from the situations they review" consists of six faculty members, appointed by the president of the college, and two students, appointed by the president of the SGA. The athletic director sits on the committee as an ex-officio member.

Of the 16 children of these members of the faculty athletic committee, 11 are female and five are male. And two of the members of the committee are women. It hardly seems possible that these people could discriminate against a women's program of any kind.

These people are far from being removed from the situation. They attend most of the athletic contests and are avid supporters of all of the college's teams. I think that Miss Sikes has done them an injustice with her article (or letter).

I suggest that a major roadblock in the progress of the women's athletic program at Elon is in a lack of communications. Better communication between the coach of the team and the faculty athletic committee through the athletic director can do nothing but enlighten the "dark areas" of this segment of Elon's athletic program.

The women's program is a vital part of the total athletic program and everyone who is involved in its progress, from the president to the players, realizes this. The program will be receiving more funds, but Rome was not built in a day. It is impossible to build a program in four or five years to the status of a program that has been in existence for over 50 years.

I have been a strong supporter of the women's program at Elon since its inception. I hope that the program will progress, and I am confident that it will. But I also hope that the people who are involved with the program will grow up with it. Advance planning, better communication and some straight thinking on the part of everyone are necessary ingredients.

Melvin Shreves
Director, Public Information
Office Elon College
Editors Note: Sandy's statement was labeled a letter to the editor, but the printer inadvertently

dropped the line. The staff thought it expressed the thoughts of so many students it deserved a prominent position.

Women's Athletics

To the Editor:

In regard to the letter from Melvin Shreves:

My letter published in the last *Pendulum* regarding the women's athletic program was meant in no way to degrade the character of any member of the Faculty Athletic Committee. I have many personal friends on that committee for whom I have the utmost respect. Nevertheless, I felt their decision was unfair and should not have been quietly dismissed. I apologize for any injustice to the committee members personally, but I in no way withdraw the facts found in my letter regarding the treatment of women athletes here at Elon. I agree 100% with Mr. Shreves that communication is a primary problem in the situation.

It is my hope that it can be improved in the future to promote a situation where the faculty athletic committee and the quality of women athletes will complement each other, producing a top-notch women's athletic program here at Elon.

Sandy Sikes

Eclipse

To the Editor (and to Mac McCrary):

Re: The article on *The Eclipse of Excellence* and Mac's letter to the editor.

Professor Cahn may be of the "old school of thought" concerning what constitutes a good education. But this seems beyond the point. Old or new, education requires self-discipline and hard work. Being "interested" isn't enough. For years I've been "interested" in playing the guitar, but I can't play a note...I have not disciplined myself to learn. But Alex de Valera can play the guitar, Terre Cofield can sing, Fred Lail can play the violin, Tray Eppes can throw a pot, and they all do their "thing" well. I'd be willing to bet that they worked hard, even at times when they didn't feel like it.

In gaining any skill or mastering any area of knowledge, there comes a point (perhaps even many points) of tedium, of difficulty. Learning doesn't seem "fun" anymore. But if no one had bothered to go beyond these points, if no one had persisted when it wasn't "fun" (perhaps even when it was down-right uninteresting!) there would be no great art, no great scientific discoveries, no great anything...just many incomplete or mediocre works. Everyone would have given up at some very fundamental stage and would have moved on to something new, something which, at the moment, seemed more tantalizing.

Mac has made a basic error in thinking that our "interests" are somehow permanent, unchanging, and fixed within us--as if we were born with them. Interests are created from our coming in contact with something "other"--something we had not previously known that sparks our curiosity. Before I became an English

major, I wanted to major in psychology. That was all that interested me. I did not care to read about anything else. But I was required to take English courses, so I found myself in Eng. 211. I never though I could be "interested" in Beowulf. Yet I was absolutely electrified! The professor (whom, at the time, I did not like at all personally) was an incredible teacher. He was a master of his field. He LOVED it and taught it with great skill. And suddenly interest was born in me. The next semester I was an English major.

A true education is discovery, finding something hitherto unfound. It means stretching one's horizon, widening it to include new things, and deepening it by becoming more skillful at things already learned once. People who do this will become masters of their field, and more importantly, masters of life, in the Eastern sense of the word. People will recognize in them a depth they don't see in just everyone. THERE ARE SUCH PEOPLE AT ELON. They move through and beyond requirements for the undisciplined. They "thirst for a better understanding," as Mac says. But what they come to discover is that all knowledge is interconnected; that if one wants truly to understand literature, for example, one must truly understand languages, history, philosophy, religion, anthropology. If one truly wants to know what it means to know, then one must explore all kinds of knowing.

These are the people who should be called "Bachelors", who should have a "sheepskin" proclaiming their basic mastery of the Liberal Arts and Sciences. That's what the degree reads. No one is forcing Mac to seek a degree. He is free to take courses limited to his area of interest, if he so wishes to forfeit a degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences. He is also free to audit courses thereby freeing himself from the worry or drudgery of grades. I find that the people who do the most complaining about grades around here are the people who do the least work, the ones who want something for nothing. The real "students," the real "learners" don't have to worry about grades; for them, grades simply verify what they already know about work they've already done.

Linda Votta Sullivan

Visitation

Which is right? Are Elon students wrong in asking for visitation in the dorms? It's a known fact that visitation has been accepted in most of the higher institutions of learning throughout the nation; some even have "co-ed" dorms. Are we not being treated like children? We are responsible young citizens, and we deserve the right to be treated so.

Ask around, and you'll see just how many students, who live in the dorms, would like to see the rule changed. My bet is that the majority would. And

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Published by the Communications Media Board of Elon College in conjunction with the Student Government Association. All correspondence and articles: Box 5272, Elon College.