

Administrative policies:

Is there justification for limiting class size?

A policy at Elon which is detrimental to the students in many instances is that concerning class size. If a class does not have at least 15 students registered for it, it will be dropped and the students signed up for it will have to suffer through something else, not to mention the hassle they will have to go through to choose and register for another course.

There is no justification for requiring a minimum of 15 students. In many cases, the classes are designed to be seminar courses which provide a more challenging and intellectually stimulating atmosphere than normal lecture classes. Rather than the minimum, 15 should be the maximum number of students in order to promote an active interchange of knowledge and ideas through informal discussion. It is the smaller groups which enhance such seminar courses.

Given the small size of Elon College and the low number of majors in several areas, the school should be able to offer these courses for 10 to 15 people. Students should not be deprived of the benefit of broader areas of study, but instead should be offered the advantage of a wider range in course selection -- regardless of how many students sign up for the course. The interest of the few may be greater than the interest of the many.

Speaking generally, it is the course with fewer people in them which tend to be the most rewarding classes for student and professors alike. This is the root of real and lasting education. The personal exchange of thoughts allowed in small classes always seems to be the most beneficial educational experience.

Courses required for the majors must also be given special consideration because the number of students in the class may inevitably be limited due to the small number of people majoring in a particular area. In the same right, electives and upper-level courses offered for majors should cover a range broad enough to allow for the diverse interests of individual students. This range should not be determined by economic considerations such as the number of students enrolled in the course but by the intrinsic value of providing students with a comprehensive knowledge of their field.

Another problem that may be caused by designating 15 students as a minimum per class is that many classes may be cancelled at the last minute. This may prove traumatic to graduating seniors who had counted on a course which was required for their graduation. For this reason, courses should be offered unconditionally; with no catches attached to them. The list of course offerings looks like it is being intentionally if classes are made available only on the condition that 15 people sign up for them. This has been known to foul up the plans and lives of many students. It should not be necessary to create these problems when the goal of this institution is education in the fullest sense -- a spectrum which should cover all possibilities for potential growth.

The Pendulum

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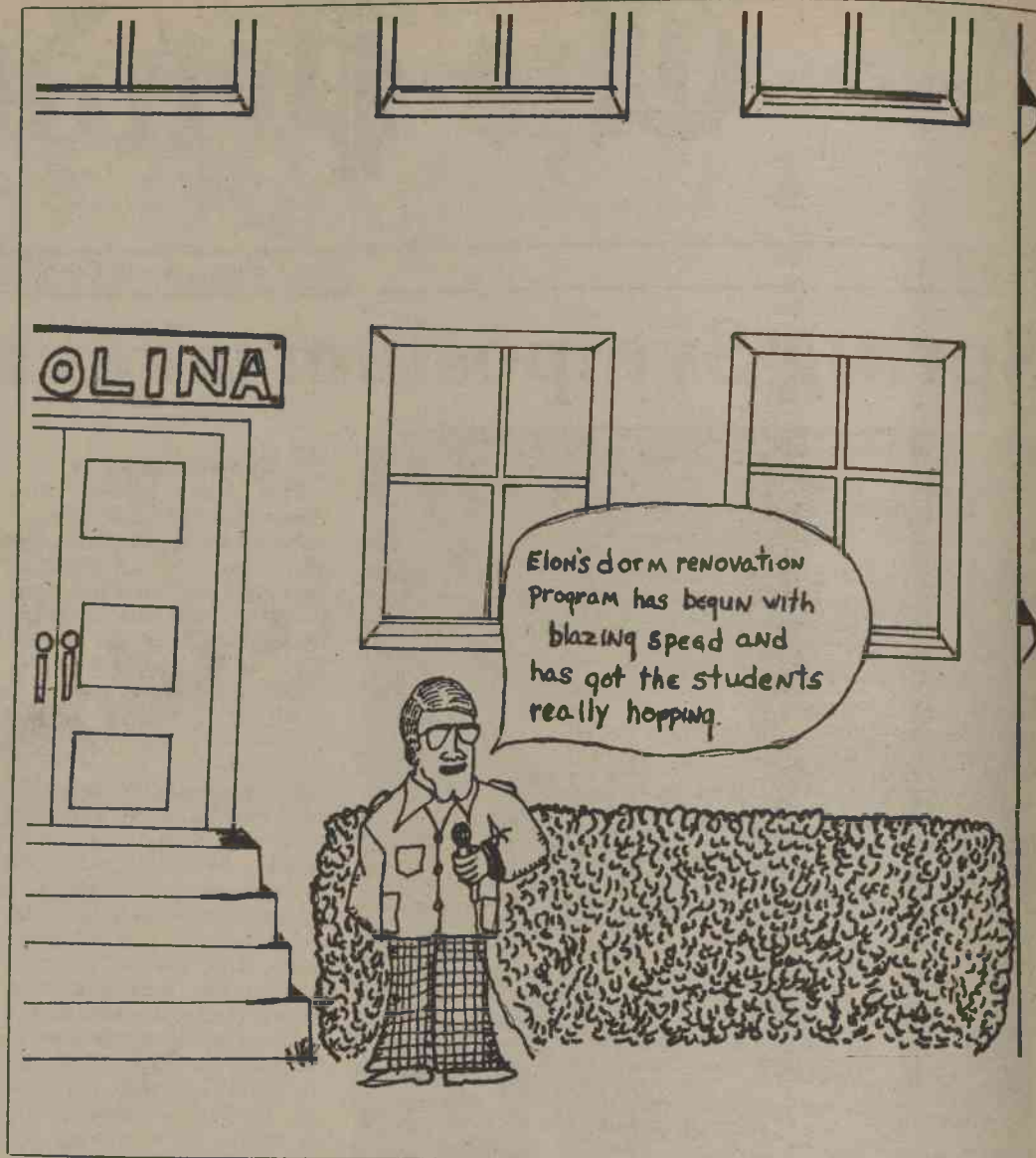
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Letters

Dear Editors,

I have heard rumors that President Young, against the advice of most of the administration and against the wishes of the students, is planning to turn at least one, if not two of the dorms in the Hook, Brannock, and Barney complex into women's dorms and to make Sloan into a men's dorm.

What the hell is going on in this school? While the idea itself might not be bad, why haven't they asked the students? We are the ones who are going to be shuffled in another one of Elon's Crazy Eights card games. I live in Barney dorm, and I know no one has asked me if I wanted to move or not! I have spoken with women from Sloan dorm, and they are also angry about this since they do not want to be moved.

Added to this is the fact that I am not even certain if this is rumor or truth. Why doesn't the school ever let the students in on how we are going to get messed up this time? This college's administration seems only to care about its wishes and not the students. What is this, a prison?

With this fire in Carolina dorm, I think that it is about time this college did something about the disgusting living conditions on this campus. If it were not for the property of the students in Carolina, I would have hoped that it had burned to the ground. This would have left about 150 students roomless, but also thousands of pigeons, mice, and, of course, cockroaches. To put it bluntly, Carolina is a dump.

I lived in Smith dorm (another dump) for two years before I managed to get over to Barney dorm. Since then, I have

enjoyed living on this campus. My grades have improved, because I can study without noise from a hallway. I can now get to sleep at a decent hour. Now this school is going to force me to move back into a similar situation. What is this college becoming?

Face it, everyone. We need at least one if not two new dorms on this campus. Sure, it will cost money, but we're paying out money to live in hell-holes. Switching dorms isn't going to change the lousy conditions on this campus. Only some money put to good use, and an administration that's not only for the students but with them will make things better and not just different.

Living in Barney

Dear Editors,

Believe it or not, I would like to commend the administration on their innovative project to change the dorms around. Not only is this a great move toward a more liberal campus but the change will provide better social and living conditions.

Up to this point the students have been so segmented according to sex, males on one side, females on the other. There was always the fear on the part of the females that they would be labeled if found on the male side, and it will be such a natural setting having both sexes walking on both sides of the campus. It will be fun to be able to sit out on the steps and have all sexes being able to talk openly.

Another valid point is the protection idea. Having the guys close to the girls will provide good protection and mutual respectful caring on the part of both sexes.

It will be nice for the girls to have eight of their friends

together in a suite and the guys in Sloan will only have to share a bath with six guys and they will be close to the cafeteria, library and Garrison's.

We talk about this being against student rights, but we don't complain about being in the dorms we are in now because they were here and organized when we entered college. If we had come with this already done then it would have seemed natural and not against student rights.

Sure there are some problems and lots of disagreement with this, but come on, students, we always plead for changes and this is one change that can help us as a school to progress. Think about the good things and let's try to show a little foresight in what could become a great future.

Dorm resident

Dear Editors,

Many excuses are often given, much rationalization is done, compromising of morals and beliefs often occurs, a battle with the conscience sometimes erupts (hopefully), all in an attempt to somehow legitimize a practice that has reached epidemic proportions in the Elon College classroom -- cheating. Yes, cheating in a flagrant, willful and often open manner. The adage, "Everybody does it" is most often echoed. So now, two wrongs make a right.

Professors are in a difficult position. Cheating is very difficult to document and prove, especially when only the "scoping" method is used. The Honor Court can do little when signing of the Honor pledge is only a mock gesture. Witness the fact that only one person

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