

Curriculum priority

Honors Course

With the additions to curriculum planned and already put into practice, faculty, students and administration should take the time to consider the pros and cons of each addition. Although the administration has the final word on changes at Elon, students can have a tremendous impact if they will only make themselves heard by someone with more authority than other students.

One course new to Elon this year is Fact and Value, an honors course. This course is designed to be a challenge to students who have already excelled in their academic work. A professor of history and a professor of philosophy were given special funds for summer research to develop this interdisciplinary course. The fall semester was designed to deal with problems of love and work and the spring with their solutions.

At present, ten students are in the four-hour course, and of these ten only five have signed up for the continuation of the course in the spring. Granted that some courses should be geared to students with the potential to do upper level work, it still seems unfair to pay two professors' salaries for a class of five students while classes are overcrowded. It also seems that administration and faculty should look into the causes of why half a class is not completing the second half of a two-part course. So far, no student has been approached by either faculty or administration seeking his ideas or suggestions.

Perhaps a review committee meeting in February with ten members of the faculty and staff to evaluate the course will have the insight to question some of the students who decided against taking the course in the spring. This evaluation is a good idea, but in an honors program as new as this one, some evaluation should be going on simultaneously with the course.

The administration is also applying for a government grant to bring in a person with experience in interdisciplinary classes to aid in making helpful suggestions to the professors.

One idea, which is being pondered by the administration, is to set up honors courses within the different departments. This appears to be a better investment. Students in an interdisciplinary course are usually well informed in only one of the disciplines, and they find it almost impossible to do equally advanced work in the others. Granted an interdisciplinary course would be helpful to pull together the segmented type education one gets in four years but Elon students do not have enough in-depth knowledge in several disciplines to study advanced level work in all of them.

What seems a more serious problem than stimulating the five or so students willing and able to do advanced level work is stimulating the 500 or so students on academic probation. Elon, being a small private college, must, in order to continue operating, admit a certain number of students each year. And each year a large number of students admitted are not ready for college level work.

Supervised study

The academic skills lab is one attempt made by the administration after English department pleading, to help with this problem, but more is needed still. Another "crisis" measure taken by the administration is the supervised study which is being carried on in Mooney 111 and by individual professors in Alamance. The evaluation of such "crisis" measures will not be available until January. If successful, the same type thing may be continued next semester.

Another supervised study program being considered would entail opening Alamance throughout the semester to supervised study in various subjects. Students would possibly supervise in the different rooms with a faculty supervisor in charge of all the study areas.

Elementary school teachers are challenged the most by having students who are on many different grade levels educationally, but all are the same age, therefore in the same classroom. High schools have tried to deal with this problem by having special honors classes as well as special education classes for under-achievers. But the fact remains that a high school is public and must try to educate anyone who continues to attend. Colleges, on the other hand, have the choice of not admitting students who are not up to college level work academically. However, standards are such that students on an eighth grade reading level who can pay are admitted while quite intelligent students are clerking in local grocery stores because they cannot afford to go to college.

Letters

Cut out "cut" rules

Dear Editors:

I am writing this letter hoping that someone, somewhere on this campus, will finally wake up to the fact that this is the 20th century. Although I realize that it is rather fruitless to try and change things at Elon I believe there are a few things that desperately need to be revamped, and priority number one on my list is the attendance policy. Granted, the school is concerned about the welfare of the students, but when did all the departments heads become psychoanalysts? Who gave a faculty member the right to lower a grade if their attendance requirements do not coincide with yours? Maybe we did when we paid our tuition, but if that is the case then we made this mistake.

It has been said that a student is a consumer of education paying for the knowledge and wisdom the school (in the way of instructors) can provide. Considering the fact that we pay for classes beforehand, I feel we should use the time according to our needs, not what some administrative jackass believes are our needs. Can you imagine the department store you bought your T.V. from re-possessing it because you did not play it the way they suggest, or the car dealer who purchased your car from (with cold cash) taking it back because they felt you didn't drive it enough? If you think this is crazy, consider the fact that these teachers we pay cannot even add! Really, simple math! Show me a calculator or a slide rule or any mathematical formula that shows how three tardies equal one absence, or how a C with four cuts equals a D, but a C with three cuts equals a C. Is this the new math? Come on, it just doesn't work!

An administrative answer is that most teachers are more understanding than that, and I think that is true, but I'm talking about the few who aren't. For this minority who prefer to deal with students as numbers instead of people, this system is just not fair. If someone loses an A or a B because of a cut, it's more than a shame, it's an outrage and an injustice. I hope teachers will keep this in mind with the semester at end because when the smoke clears and the grades tell the story, an infraction of the "cut" rule can really hurt.

Gary Cartwright

Not Again

Dear Editors:

Elon's \$10 parking tickets are only a down payment to keeping your car on campus. Three parking violations is nothing to laugh at. The reason for so many tickets is lack of space. I feel if you pay \$10 for a permit that you should at least get a parking space. My first violation was a \$5 hazardous ticket for parking against the curb. Since this incident my car is kept beside the train tracks in the grass.

The Pendulum

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Letters

Parking at Harper Center is also forbidden, but I didn't realize that until I paid another \$5 violation. The guy who writes these tickets must follow me wherever I go because a day later the third ticket was on my car. I can't afford to pay the tuition and the parking tickets! Elon needs better parking facilities and new parking rules.

Phillip T. Bell

SGA Donations

Dear Editors:

Recently while on the Thanksgiving vacation I noticed the "Magazine of Elon" on the coffee table at home. While reading through the list of donors I was surprised to see that the SGA was listed for quite a sizeable donation. I don't feel that the SGA fees should be used in a donation to the college. The tuition I pay includes SGA fees and if I want to make a donation to the college I would do so on my own. SGA money should be used for activities and entertainment for the students. I would like to know who is responsible for authorizing the expenditure of this money to the institution to which we already pay over \$2,000 a year.

Bill McKinstry

Editor's Note: This matter was checked into. The SGA Senate approved this contribution earmarked for lighting equipment for the drama department.

To increase attendance

Dear Editors:

There are many fine cultural presentations in Burlington. For example, the North Carolina Symphony appeared recently at a local high school. The symphony is a credit to the state and deserves to be supported. Unfortunately, the audience was small and far too many of us missed a most entertaining evening.

The resources of Elon College are limited so the college alone could not sponsor the symphony. The symphony ought to receive more support from the college community. Perhaps support for the symphony and similar cultural events in Burlington could be increased if college program credit could be given to those students who attend. Such credit would encourage better use of the resources available in the area which cannot be provided by the college itself. It would also encourage those in the area who might sponsor such events to do so by increasing the audience for these valuable events.

Anthony M. Coyne
Dept. of Philosophy

Football Fame

Dear Editors:

Concerning your sports page in the Nov. 18 issue of the *Pendulum*, it was stated that the mention of Elon College in *Sports Illustrated* was its debut.

Let me inform you that the 1974 (10 win, one loss) Fighting Christians impressed *Sports Illustrated* enough to have Elon selected as a "team to watch" in their 1975 Football Preview and mentioned them in the small college south section along with Grambling.

Evidently Mr. Spitler was too concerned with seeing his name in print (it appeared five times) than researching his statements.

In the future I hope he takes more care in reporting on the toughest small college team in America!

On to Texas!
Craig Kirtland

Sports Editor's Note: You're right about *Sports Illustrated*; however, you're wrong if you say Elon's on to Texas. You are always welcome to come and write sports news if you would like, for I am solely, by myself, writing the entire sports page(s) this year. If you don't like my name, come and let's add yours. Signed — "Sports"