

Town receives improvement grant

by Liz Priestley

The summer of 1977 will see a new and much improved town of Elon College. The town has received a federal grant of \$93,200, which according to Ms. Shirley White, alderman and chairman of the committee supervising the downtown improvement project, will be used to make the town a more inviting and pleasant place.

The Bicentennial Commission began the plans for the downtown improvement scheme two years ago, when the town and college began working together to improve the business prospects of Elon College.

The contractors handling this project (the same company that is carrying out the downtown project in Burlington), Muldower and Patterson, of Atlanta, Ga. are scheduled to begin work on April 26.

The first step of these plans will be the removal of all telephone poles and wiring from the main business section of Williamson Ave. to the rear of the buildings. Red brick sidewalks will replace the make-do's in use now, and with the elimination of six parking spaces it is hoped to make the area more easily accessible to pedestrians.

With the additions of Brown & Co., State Farm Insurance, the Jean and Shirt Barn, and the Renegade Beauty Shop, the first stages of the buildings' facelifting project have begun. There are plans for all the buildings in this area to be sandblasted and retouched to add a colonial flavor to the street. Basic colors will be used throughout, primarily red brick, slate blue, and moss green. Eventually, an ordinance will be proposed to limit all exterior advertising to a bare minimum.

There are tentative plans for a drugstore to take over the old launderette, under lease from the college by Brown.

"By the end of the summer, it is hoped that we shall see a pleasantly arranged colonial style business section, with brass lamps, iron benches, and at least six to seven trees lining the sidewalks," Ms. White says.

Because Alamance County has high unemployment, Ms. White plans to use the many unemployed skilled workmen in the completion of this project.

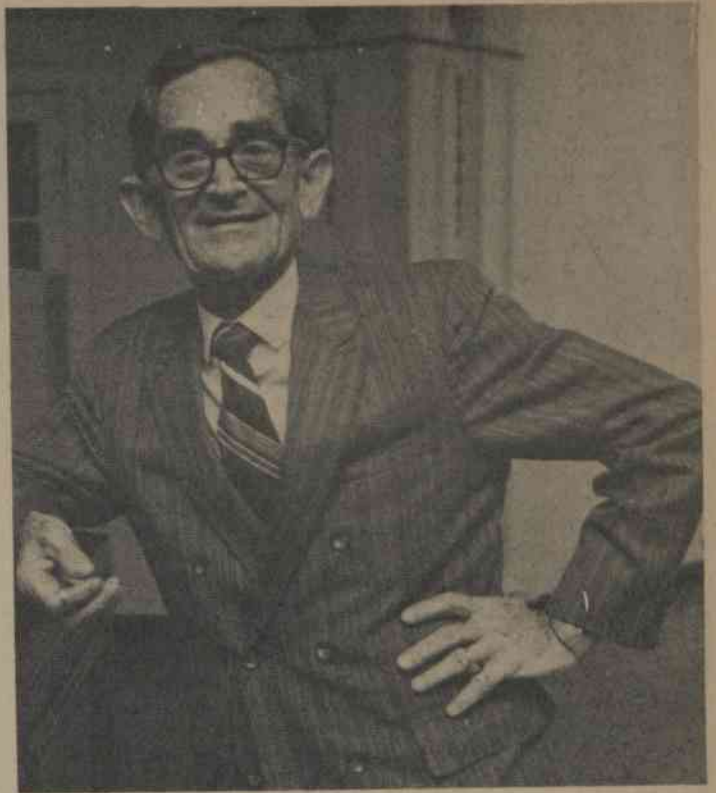
The blueprint also includes curbing and guttering to be continued around the corner on the street on which "Bill's Blue Room" is located.

A town by-pass is also in the long-term scheme, for by 1995

the volume of traffic is expected to be in the 11,400-14,360 range for average daily vehicles on Williamson Ave. and Haggard Ave. If a town bypass is not approved, state highway 100 may become four-lane, forcing many of its attractive homes to be affected.

A second major project concerns the town's water system, already in progress. The total cost of the scheme will be \$347,900. A bond referendum will pay \$200,000 and state contributions will amount to more than \$86,000. Town funds will pay another \$50,925 and Alamance county will pay the remaining \$10,000. A new tank is being constructed in the old ball park behind Johnson Street. With its completion, possibly by the winter, the college tank will be taken down and the use of four wells on the campus will also be discontinued.

The project under the chairmanship of Robert Olsen will attach Elon College pipes to those of Burlington, join up the dead ends, and provide better water pressure. It will also improve emergency situations such as fire-fighting, to both the students in residence and townspeople.



Elon will be without the sharp tongue and quick wit of John Graves who will retire after this semester. (News Bureau, Robert House, Photo)

The Rev. John Graves will retire from teaching

by Greg Gentry

John Seay Graves, associate professor of religion and religious education, will retire from his teaching position which he has held for 26 years at the end of this term. Elon College won't be the same place without him.

Born in Birmingham, Ala., he moved as a young man to Atlanta, Ga., where his father died. John's plans for college came to a quick end. The Great Depression started, and John Graves went north to seek work. Taking a job with a retired businessman, he traveled with him and helped look after his business affairs. In this venture he met many artists, and famous people.

When World War II broke out, John left his job to serve his country for four years in the field artillery in the European theater. After service, he met a minister in Connecticut who came as a student from Yale Divinity School. Later Mr. Graves was working in a post office in Atlanta when the pastor telephoned John to ask him to come to Burlington where he was holding a revival

to see a little college called Elon.

Mr. Graves says, "I took the train from Atlanta and arrived at Greensboro at 3 o'clock in the morning. When the train stopped at Elon, I looked out of the window, and I saw a little town with very few buildings. I said to myself, 'Dear God, I hope You don't ever send me to a place such as this.'" When he arrived at Burlington, he said, "Or this place, either."

I had asked Mr. Graves about how he got into Elon. "I was tricked," he answered. "When I came to the college, I saw a big pile of coal in front of Alamance Building. I thought to myself, 'If he thinks that I am going to this place, he is out of his mind.'"

The minister from Connecticut introduced John to the dean and the president of Elon College. That night he was invited by the pastor to the First Christian Church in Burlington. Mr. Graves says, "I thought that he was just being polite, but within two minutes after I entered the church, I felt like a goldfish. People asked me questions and I asked them

(Continued on Page 6)

Buffett mixes mellow and boogie

by Doug Durante

The long awaited Jimmy Buffett concert highlighted one of the most enjoyable weekends of the year. Near 80-degree temperatures on Friday and Saturday gave the weekend a holiday-like atmosphere, and the students who stayed for the weekend found plenty to do while warming up for "the Buff." Tennis, softball, volleyball, and just plain hanging out insured that everyone was quite ready (as well as primed) for the event.

Jimmy Buffett did indeed bring a holiday atmosphere with him, singing of the world he has come to love — the sunny skies and blue water of the

Florida Keys. I was particularly impressed with two things, his stage presence and song selection. The man was so relaxed that you could believe if you were sitting in his living room he would be no different than on stage. He immediately established a good rapport with the audience, displaying a sense of humor along with his musical talents. The other important ingredient in the success of the concert was the mixing of the songs. Too many bands with a style of both mellow music and boogie begin their show with a selection of slow, easy listening and conclude by blasting you out with the rocking songs. Buffett seemed to want to avoid this type of trend and mixed the two styles very well.

At the end of the concert, he was joined on stage by a full fledged gorilla from our student body, and I think he appreciated it as much as anybody. "We love J.B." signs could be seen scattered throughout the crowd, and I can honestly say that the "Evening with Jimmy Buffett" was great.

From a financial standpoint the SGA sold 420 Elon student tickets, 375 in Chapel Hill and approximately 100 from the Burlington area. The general admission sales brought in \$1,075, bringing the total to \$6,900. Although the SGA lost approximately \$2,000, Treasurer David Nichols said it was the most successful in the past two to three years. I have to agree.



Shorts and bare feet tell the story at the Sig Ep house as everybody relaxed while waiting for the "Buff." (Doug Durante, Photo)

Elon Grad named director of public information

Tim McDowell, B.A. '76, has been named director of public information for Elon College. He is replacing Mrs. Marjorie Long who left on March 1 to become executive director of the United Fund.

Mr. McDowell was graduated from Williams High, Burlington, in 1964 after which he spent two years in active service in the Navy. He has had six years in the Naval Reserve. From the Navy he went to the Technical Institute of Alamance for training in business administration for two years. From T.I.A. he came to Elon College when he racked up

a 3.75 grade point average.

In the meantime, Mr. McDowell had served as editor of the *Mebane Enterprise* for four years. Last year he was campaign manager for Mrs. Bob Scott in her bid for the position of commissioner of labor of North Carolina. Mr. McDowell is secretary of the Alamance Young Democrats Club. As a hobby, he enjoys painting in oils. He and Mrs. McDowell have a son and a daughter.

As part of his work he will edit the alumni magazine, the college bulletins and other publications as well as all non-sports news.