

## A month of celebration

As campus activities stir after a winter term nap, one item of interest is that of Black History Month. In the past, the Black Cultural Society has planned and organized events for the celebration of Black History Week. It may be difficult not to celebrate a peoples' culture in one month, but a one-week celebration is out of the question. A condensed version does not allow one to get the full meaning or the actual importance of Black history.

This year marks the first one-month celebration of Black history in several years at Elon College. Thanks to the Black Cultural Society and the student task force, February will be filled with special programs and events specifically for the cultural and educational enrichment of the Elon College campus and community.

Last year's celebration was plagued by a lack of student involvement and lack of concern of non-participating students, faculty, and administrators. Black history isn't just an issue of the past. It's one of the present and the future. Spectatorship and support is needed not only in the bleachers of sporting events but also in other facets of Black culture.

## Foreign language needed

Learn a foreign language, says the noted columnist Sylvia Porter, if you want a form of "insurance" for just about any career for the next 10 to 20 years. Ms. Porter says that with a language skill added to your other skills, "you might double your chances of getting the job you want." For whatever the shape of tomorrow's world, everybody knows that it will be more international.

In the last 20 years the number of Americans employed abroad has jumped nearly 50 per cent; our largest companies earn at least half their profits overseas; and in U.S. more people are employed by foreign-owned companies. More and more, executives in top and middle management are selected from those who know a language in addition to English. Even for enjoying travel and knowing more about other people, a foreign language is a real asset.

What does this mean for Elon College students? If we are listening at all, it should mean that we start a foreign language, or if we have started one, that we continue with it. We have fine instructors, Learning Resources Center equipment, and fields such as business education and human services, as well as the humanities. All will be enhanced by the knowledge of a foreign language.

The United States is now the fourth largest Spanish-speaking country in the world. Parts of the country are already bilingual; so the most popular language is Spanish. In our isolationism and penny pinching, our high schools and colleges have pared foreign language in recent years. We must now try to make good this deficiency. Many colleges and universities are requiring at least two years of one modern foreign language for the B.A. degree.

At Elon it is now an option, but it is one option that should be taken — for the sake of our future.

# The Pendulum

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## February Marks

## Black History Month

1979

YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY, BABY!

## Letters to the Editor

### Librarian offers exam study hours

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond at several levels to Ms. Burke's letter in the December 7 issue concerning library hours during final examinations. In the first place I wish to assure her that we are not opposed to learning or to facilitating it by further extending library hours in the future. Last year a total of 12 hours were added to the regular library schedule.

In the second place, we have a long standing policy of remaining open during finals past normal hours when at least ten people wish to use

the library. In other words if ten students wish to put in an "all nighter" studying for finals, they may do so in the library. Unfortunately, the policy was not re-announced in the *Communicator* as in the past. For that I take responsibility. In the future a publication of hours in the *Communicator* and in *The Pendulum* should keep everyone informed.

Finally, I would like to make a plea to Ms. Burke and all students who have a problem with the library — its personnel, policies or services. Tell us first and then if

we do not respond write *The Pendulum*. A cliché is to the point here, "my door is always open" and so is that of the Associate Librarian Mr. Lambert. We are always ready to hear you simply because you are why we are here.

Charles B. Lowry, Librarian

### Elon -- one of the best

Editor:

Although I have only been a student here at Elon for a few months, I've heard that plenty of students find fault with the college. All colleges have their faults, but if one will look closely enough he can find many advantages at Elon that other schools do not have.

Elon's campus is one of the nicest in the state. The many oak trees and squirrels add something to the campus that other colleges lack. Also, the beautiful lake is an added attraction that many campuses are not lucky enough to have.

The best advantage that I have found since I've been at Elon is one that many students seem to overlook. The people at Elon (students, professors and the area residents) are extremely friendly and easy to get to know. This is probably the best advantage that Elon offers and one that most students overlook.

F.W. Lewis

### Benefits of privacy

Dear Editor:

I'd like to propose the idea of installing private telephones in each dorm room. Personal phones would benefit students for such reasons as the quieting of halls controlling of vandalism, increasing of privacy and the contacting of individuals.

Hall phones cause unnecessary clamor by their continuous ringing day and night. Private phones would put an end to the scrimmage of such phrases as: "Linda, it's for you!" or "Somebody answer the phone!" Instead, the residents of the room would answer their own phones, and the loudness of the ringing could be controlled.

Telephones placed in dorm rooms would be protected from vandals. The responsibility would be regulated by the persons in each room and, if unaccountable, they must pay for the replacement.

Privacy would be a big

advantage for the students. Since they could remain in their rooms without having to stand in the halls, a conversation could be held comfortably.

Contact of persons in emergencies could be easily made. An occupied phone would occur less often with three people to a phone instead of an average of 32 people to two phones. Also, important messages would be more likely to reach the residents.

The question of the problem of installation would surely be debated. Yet, private phones have been possible in many other colleges and universities, so I'm sure it would be possible at Elon.

By installing individual phones, noise and vandalism would be reduced, privacy and contact would be increased, and nothing would be detrimental to either staff or students.

Linda Jenkins

### Grade irritates student

Dear Editor:

An injustice occurred during winter term that I am sure has happened before and will no doubt happen again.

A brief term paper on a specific topic (determined by the student) was due three

days before the exam of a particular class. The instructor of this class had 35 papers graded and returned in class the day before the exam. As it turned out, 13 students received a grade of zero on their papers. These zeros were

not given for cheating or plagiarism as the reader might assume. These zeros were given for errors like footnotes in the wrong place, wordiness, no outline, or, in my case, not enough research, according to the instructor.

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