The unspoken prejudice

One of the minority groups that works very hard but receives little or no recognition is the black students. With the exception of athletics, where both black and whites must work together, the black students are about as alive as ever on the Elon College campus. Whenever a group or organization on campus has a fund-raising event, they expect all students, black and white, to participate for the success of the project. But when the Black Cultural Society or any other black group sponsors any kind of fund-raiser, only black people come and participate. Why such a discrepancy?

The majority of white students do not support or encourage the activities of the minority. Two recent activities immediately come to mind. Both the Mr. and Ms. Ebony contest and the Swayhili Swing were held for Elon students as part of Black History Month. With the exception of one or two whites at these affairs, the turnout was completely non-white. The same holds true for the dance that was held after the pageant.

Perhaps the problem we are facing on this campus is one that is experienced by other campuses on a much broader basis all over the country. Black people will patronize black and white businesses but many white people do not see it necessary to patronize black businesses.

Part of this prejudice is the belief that history. But enslavement is no longer a way of life in 1981. If ignorance could be replaced with knowledge and acceptance, the campus might be more unified.

There needs to be more interaction of the races. Planned events should appeal to both races, such as concerts and plays. Committees and clubs should strive to have a minority spokesman, and people should be seen as people.

One example of prejudice stems from the fact that only one professor at Elon is black. This does not set a very good example for students to follow. The "unspoken prejudice" is voiced in such ways as racial slurs and comments. Many people also group the Gospel choir and the Black Cultural Society together when they are two different groups.

Although cultures differ for blacks and whites, part of a liberal arts education is to learn to accept and understand different cultures. One black girl said blacks are not welcome at many Greek parties. One remedy for this problem is a sorority and fraternity that does include people of all colors and backgrounds.

We should strive for more unity and individuality that less for cliques. Perhaps a committee to study racial prejudice could be formed to study ways in which this problem could be solved.

What would happen if all black students stopped giving their support to campus events? There are fewer than 200 black students on this campus, but if they pulled together, they could make history as they did last year during the yearbook burning.

Blacks have come a long way on this campus. "Rockin' Ron" has been this country's prime adversary — the Russians.

As a gesture of his authority, "Rockin' Ron" asserted that the Russians aim toward world dominion. A moral standard for them is morality. What seems trivial but they are the exception of one or two blacks. With the Black Cultural Society and the Black Cultural Society together when they are two different groups.

The rewards of visiting shut-ins

Editor:

In addition to the limited extra-curricular activities available for Elon students, there are a few less physical and more consecutive areas to which an individual can apply himself or herself.

Although the activity I am referring to takes only a few minutes a week and there is no designated time to perform it, it is one of the most memorable and rewarding things an individual may do in the course of their college career.

I am referring to simply watching a few minutes every week or so to visit an elderly or shut-in person. During the course of a busy school week, we can usually find the time to watch the soaps or read magazines. Essentially, we find time to do what we want to do.

Sometimes we fail to recognize the fact that older people are the most ignored segment of society. Fortunately, there is an organization that allows an individual to visit only one visit with a shut-in or invalid this becomes obvious — usually they are because no one has the time or facilities to take care of them. It also becomes obvious that your time is never better spent than by showing a person who feels that no one cares about them that you do care.

I believe that this is something worth thinking about, and an activity worth fitting into your weekly schedule if at all possible. More than likely it will be as gratifying to you as to the person you visit.

Susan Trotter