

OPINION PAGE

Should Elon students take oath of chastity?

by Joy Hamilton

Visitation on the Elon College campus is a joke to many students who view the rule as unfair. The present visitation rules allow males and females to visit in their dormitory rooms on weekends only. The exact times for this are: Friday, 6 p.m.-midnight; Saturday, 2 p.m.-midnight; and Sunday, 2-8 p.m.

This policy robs students of basic freedoms, one of

which is the inalienable right to visit another student. However, parents often see the archaic visitation rules as a kind of protection that larger state schools do not provide. This form of protection doesn't provide a realistic setting for college students.

It is also mentally unhealthy because students are not treated as adults. In reality, an accountability has been transferred from

parents to school officials. The student hasn't really grown in independence at all. College is an experience in independence and social growth; for this to be stifled is robbing the student of adequate education.

Elon, in fact, is doing students a disservice by not exposing the reality of social interaction on a spontaneous basis. Even for students who wish to study together, the

dorm room is outlawed. The strict visitation rules provide more than an inconvenience; they provide an academic vacuum for students of different sexes who need to study together.

One possible solution for this would be for students to support their SGA and show their dissatisfaction at the student polls. Change will only come when students

band together as a team to protest the unfair and ancient rule of visitation on weekends only.

Furthermore, if rules were more liberal, students would most likely act in a more responsible manner and take greater pride in their rooms and halls. Until rules are changed, perhaps students should be forced to take an oath of chastity.

Pendulum poll

Visitation policies are criticized, defended

Many colleges and universities have liberalized visitation rights for their students in recent years. But at Elon College dormitory students may not visit students of the opposite sex on Monday through Thursday nights, and dorm visitation privileges are restricted on week ends.

In a recent unscientific sampling of student opinion, The Pendulum asked: "How do you feel about visitation and what changes would you like to see in the system?"

ERIC STRIMPLE of Burlington, a resident counselor on first floor Smith, said, "As far as weekends, the present visitation policy is not adequate and needs to be extended to 1 or 1:30 a.m. on the weekends."

He added, "Major universities have 24-hour visitation and have coed dorms; they have no vandalism problems. We need visitation of some sort during the week."

"I'm not acting like a policeman as an RC. I don't go around looking for visi-

itation violations; I'm not like that. Students need to remember that in order to get further visitation they need to obey the rules now."

"Why get more visitation when everybody keeps violating it? I don't see it as a party time but as a time for friends to get together. The whole idea of visitation during the week is for people to study," concluded Stimple.

STEVE MART of Liberty said, "If they (students) can't grow up, we should keep the present visitation rules as they are. Being an

adult means you don't get snookered every weekend. Students need to practice moderation in partying."

"I do not think visitation should be extended now because people are not obeying rules now," said the R.C. for second floor Smith dorm. "People need to abide by the rules. If they can't act like adults, they don't deserve daily visitation."

LINDA OLIN of Virginia Beach said, "I think the visitation rules are ridiculous. I think visitation should be during the week also. We should be given responsibility to act like an adult. I think the RCs should be more uniform in applying the rules."

DIANE BUTTS of Greensboro, a commuter student, said, "I think the present visitation policy is okay. I'd like to see it extended to the weekdays, but it really doesn't affect

me since I commute."

TRIPP OWEN of Asheville said, "I think they should just let us be free to go in the dorm. I realize this may cause an inconvenience. I feel the penalty is much too stiff for such a violation."

"I think they should do away with all of the rules and let people come and go as they please or at least extend visitation to the weekdays," he added.

JAMES McCARTHER of Mount Airy said, "I think it should be more lenient especially for upperclassmen in the Oaks. The upperclassmen should have more freedom. You might need to get in contact with someone who doesn't have a telephone and some guys' dorms don't have phones."

He added, "There's no reason not to have daily visitation; we're supposed to be adults, aren't we? I live

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