

editorials • letters

Security needs better equipment

Last week's *Pendulum* printed a letter from a "disillusioned student." This disillusionment came because she and several others were unable to locate an Elon security guard when a few people had shown a lack of maturity and responsibility when they overturned several garbage cans on the second floor of Virginia dormitory.

Why was this "disillusioned student" unable to reach any security guards? It was not because the guards were lax in their patrol of the campus, but because a lacking in available communication measures exists in the security system.

At least one security guard is patrolling the campus during each of the two nightly shifts, which run from 5 p.m. to midnight and from midnight to 7 a.m. Two guards work on weekends during "the hotspot" of 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., according to Mike Robinson, director of security.

But one problem the guards have to deal with is an ineffective system of communication. With only one pager for the whole security system, the guards often do not know when help is needed on the other side of campus. They must keep walking around campus, and this means that no one is in the security office to answer the phone if a student should call for help.

Certainly, students should try to contact their resident counselors or area coordinators before they call the security guards. If more help is needed, then the guards should be called in using the paging system that the RCs know how to operate.

In fact, as the system now stands, guards are not allowed to patrol inside the women's dorms anyway, unless specifically called by an area coordinator or resident counselor.

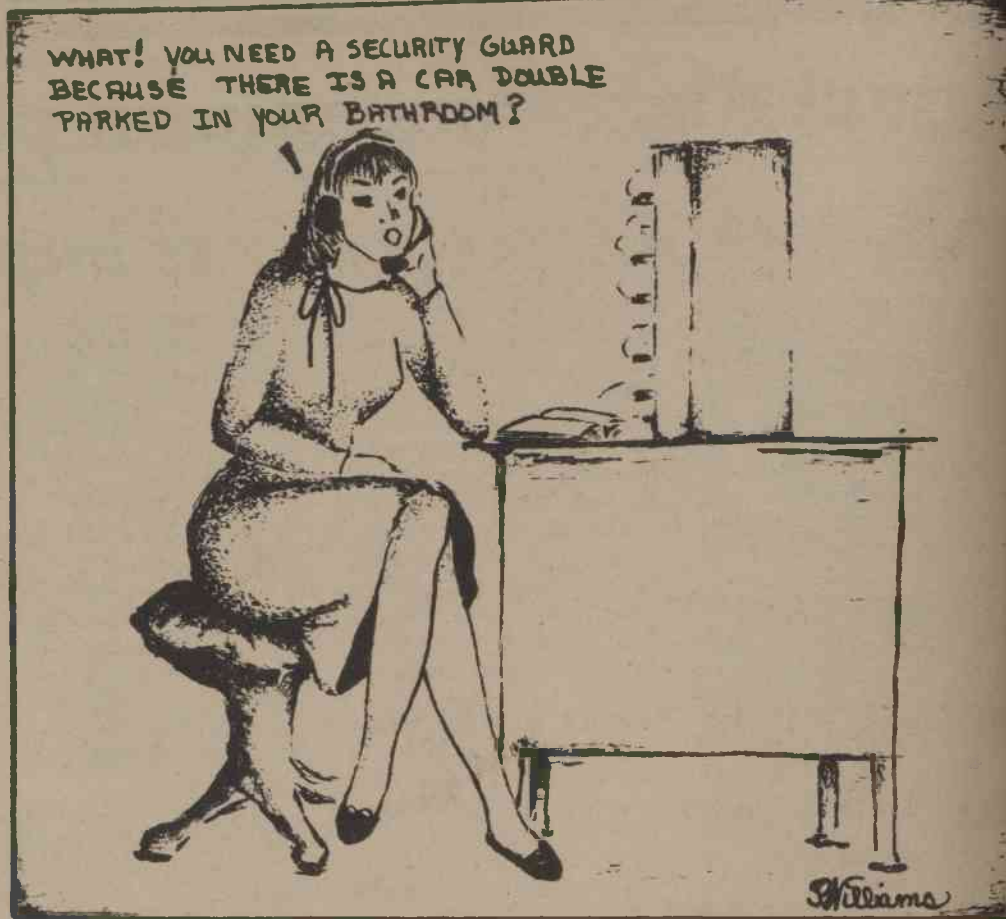
If more money were made available to the security system, perhaps one guard could do a regular patrol while another guard stayed near the office phone. Or perhaps a dispatcher could stay by the college switchboard with a guard who could then decide what type of help the individual calls merited. Robinson would like to see this idea enacted very soon.

Robinson did point out that two-way radios have been ordered for the guards, and they will soon be able to talk to each other. But will this be enough?

Somehow the student security guards and Robinson have still managed to do excellent jobs considering their circumstances, but many problems still exist which must be overcome.

For Elon College to have a truly effective security system, more money must be set aside for more and better equipment for the guards to work with. This would not only make the security system more efficient, but it would also make students more respectful toward the students who work as security guards.

The *Pendulum* welcomes letters, limited to 250 words, from our readers. Letters should include name and phone number where the writer can be reached. Longer material may be submitted as opinion articles for page 3. Editors reserve the right to edit for length, libel, good taste and accuracy.



What our readers say...

Robinson defends Elon security

Dear Editors:

I am writing in response to a letter you printed last week concerning the security system here at Elon.

Initially, I must say that I am sorry that the incident with the "unsociables" ever occurred. I would like to assure all students that this is not an everyday event.

Specifically about the security end, I would like to set the facts straight. The author of the letter made no mention of contacting the RC or Area Coordinator on

duty. They should have been the first ones contacted, as they are responsible for security INSIDE the residence halls. Both Area Coordinators and RCs are aware that security should be called inside a residence hall only in event of an extreme emergency.

The "disillusioned student" did have a valid point, in that security should be available when they are really needed. I suspect that the person in question was not trained in the use of the

pager units by which our guards are contacted. These units are one-way radio communication, in which only the caller can talk, and the guard can listen, but not verbally respond.

If anyone has any questions concerning the operation of the security system, please feel free to contact me at the Office of Student Affairs.

Sincerely,
Mike Robinson
Director of Security

RC clarifies earlier statement; works on Elon visitation policy

To the Editors:

Lately, the students have shown more responsibility concerning visitation, but some students have not shown enough responsibility to get visitation. A few students are ruining the chance for everyone on the whole campus to get extra visitation.

The few are hurting you, and to help yourself, the few need to be disciplined who do not obey the rules. As a resident counselor, this is my job to discipline the few.

As of now, I am trying to work on more visitation hours for the East area. I

am sorry if I said anything wrong several weeks ago, and if it offended anybody, I apologize for making this

impression to the writer of the *Pendulum*.

Steve Martz

The Pendulum

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