

editorials·letters

Required courses should be taught during semester

Elon's Winter Term offers its students and teachers many advantages. Teachers can plan and develop many innovative new courses for students; they also can plan travel programs abroad such as those to England and the Holy Land — trips that many students could not afford any other way. But these excellent alternatives are not all that are offered; many courses required for graduation are also taught during the term. That poses a problem.

These courses are required because they are necessary to a solid education in their field. But when they are taught during the Winter Term undue stress may be placed on both teacher and student. Students must meet for three hours at a time, and the workload may become too concentrated to be conducive to learning.

Also, the teachers' effectiveness may be compromised because of their increased workloads. Their classes may become more tedious than enjoyable because of the longer class periods. This may be the time for the college to re-think offering such classes during the Winter Term to serve the interests of all involved.



1982: A year of surprises, changes, violence

With the dropping of the big apple in New York's Time Square, the tooting of horns and lighting of fireworks, the New Year was ushered in. For the past 365 days, people had lived through, sometimes only enduring, the year 1982.

And indeed, 1982 was an interesting year, if one can forget inflation, record high unemployment and the constant nagging of President Reagan to obtain more money for the military.

It was a year of not only economic distress, but a distressing devaluation of human life. Israel invaded Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps, killing thousands of innocent people. The British and Argentines fought over the tiny Falkland Islands, killing many young men over the slim prospect of oil being somewhere near the islands.

The world saw a new leader in Russia arise, Yuri Andropov, after the death of Leonid Brezhnev. A leader in Monaco—Princess Grace—died after her car plunged off a mountain near France. The field of entertainment also suffered loss as Henry Fonda, Ingrid Bergman and John Belushi all passed from the scene.

Watergate prosecutor Leon Jaworski also died, along with King Khalid of Saudi Arabia and Pierre Mendes-France, former prime minister of France.

The fields of science and art saw the passings of such great people as John Cheever, Archibald MacLeish, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Thelonious Monk and Anna Freud.

Yet 1982 was a year of rising hope. Lech Walesa was freed as martial law was lifted in Poland. Felipe Gonzalez of Spain, Miguel de la Madrid Hurado of Mexico, Yasuhiro Nazason of Japan and Helmut Kohl of West Germany all arose as new leaders in their respective countries. Anti-nuclear protestors organized their efforts against new weapons like the MX missile, ironically renamed "The Peace Maker."

Computers invaded everything from new video games to the classroom. High technology also aided doctors in placing the first man-made heart into a human and launch a satellite from the space shuttle. Wall Street

showed a sudden rebirth in activity while many businesses still declared bankruptcy and the masses still clamored for jobs.

But the shadow of distress deepened once again as Jews were attacked in Paris, major airplane crashes still happened, IRA bombings continued in England and over-the-counter drugs, especially capsules, and some food were found to contain poison.

But Americans found an escape from the depressing side of reality in block buster movies such as "Tootsie," "E.T." and "Gandhi." Or escapism could have come in games such as Pac-Man, Jane Fonda's new aerobics or television series such as "Brideshead Revisited." Or perhaps Americans were just thankful that they did not have the problems that Sophia Loren, Prince Andrew and "Koo," John DeLorean or Claus von Bulow had.

Some Americans were doubtlessly let down by Ted Kennedy's decision not to run in the 1984 presidential election or Gary Trudeau's decision to take nearly a

two-year vacation away from Doonesbury. But Princess Diana and Prince Charles gave the world a new leader, a future blue-eyed king named Prince William, who has already captured the heart of the British as well as the rest of the world.

And so 1982 has passed. It was a year full of surprises, yet 1983 could hold in store just as much, if not more. However, perhaps

there is one thing all the people of the world could ask for in the new year. It's not lower taxes or more jobs or higher wages. It's peaceful, undisturbed, eternal peace.

New Year's Eve programming depicted nearly all the world's leaders stating they wanted one thing for 1983—peace on earth and good will toward men. Now wouldn't it be nice if they really meant it?

The Pendulum welcomes letters, limited to 250 words, from our readers. Longer material may be submitted as opinion articles for page 3. Editors reserve the right to edit for length, libel, good taste and accuracy.

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very thoughtful!

Transition?