

Emphasis

Video-taped England trip to be used as series

By Kami Brooks
Emphasis Editor

Elon students and professors visited England during the Winter Term while the rest of us attended classes. Jay Massengill went to England with the Communications group which was headed by Professor Gerald Gibson. The Elon students and professors from different departments visited England from Jan. 3-24.

While weather in January was one of the coldest ever recorded, the weather in London, according to Massengill, "was not as bad as the rest of England, with the temperature averaging 35 degrees." They got a chance to see snow while they were there because it snowed two to three inches for several days.

Students were allowed to take the last week off to take optional trips to other countries. Several students went to Scotland for a week and enjoyed warm weather.

"The time difference between American and England is five hours. For example, when it was 5 p.m. here, it was 10 p.m. over there. "It was quite different trying to adjust for the first few days while there," said Massengill.

When asked if the people were friendly, Massengill said, "the older people were a lot friendlier than the younger people because their unemployment rate is so high and they are jealous of the Americans."

Most of the students cashed in their money here for English pounds before going to England. When they got to England, the rate dropped and their money was worth more. Students took advantage of this and purchased a variety of souvenirs and gifts for their friends and families.

Massengill said, "clothing was the best value," and he purchased a variety of clothes. Massengill said, "The English people dress about like we do; however, we did see some punk rockers with their hair painted." He added that you can see that here too, so people were not much different from the Americans.

The students stayed in the Kennedy Hotel in London which catered to Americans. Elon students were furnished a "continental breakfast" that consisted of bread and juice. "Although most places in England served drinks without ice, the Kennedy Hotel did," said Massengill.

The itinerary allowed students to stay very busy while there. The communications group carried cameras with them to videotape most everything they did. The purpose for that was not only so they would have what they did on tape but also to show it to future students who may be interested in

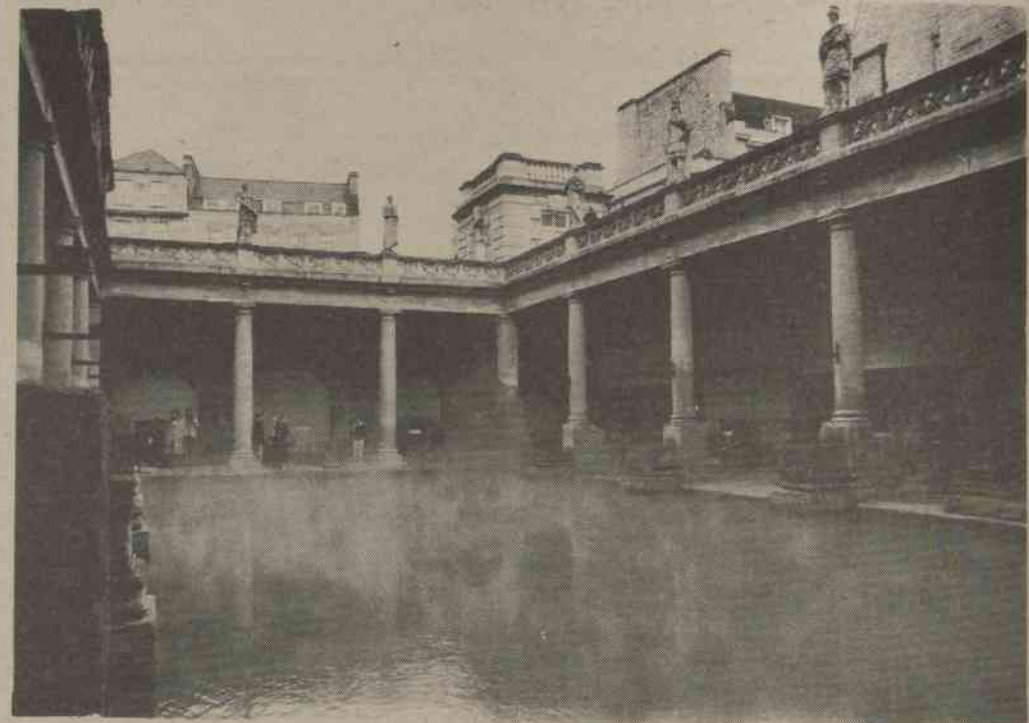


Photo by Jay Massengill

ANYONE FOR A DIP? Elon students enjoy seeing the ancient baths in England, pondering the thoughts of diving in.

attending England. The Admissions Office will get a copy of the tape to show to prospective Elon students. The videotape will also be shown on Cable Channel 32 within a month on the "Elon in Review" show, which airs Thursdays from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m.

The students visited Stonehenge, the City of Bath

and the Abbey on the first day. The students also visited such art museums as the Victoria and Albert Museum and the British Museum. They went to where Geoffrey Chaucer based his famous "Canterbury Tales." They saw other cathedrals while there but were not allowed to videotape inside them.

The theater was a popular activity among the students and such plays and musicals that were seen included "CATS" (popular on Broadway in New York), and "Run for Your Wife."

Massengill attended a famous play, "Of Mice and Men" and in his opinion, it "was better than the musicals." The best seats were eight pounds or less than \$10. Dover Castle and Windsor Castle (the home of the Queen), were also popular.

England had a variety of restaurants including Indian, Mexican, Chinese and Italian food. Massengill said, "The best food was at the Italian restaurants and was not very expensive."

At night there were not a lot of events scheduled for students but some visited pubs and discos. The Pubs opened at 5 p.m. and closed at 11 p.m., so the students didn't stay out very late. Massengill went to The Camden Palace, where Boy George once performed.

Night time allowed students to "catch up on their homework." The various departments made assignments to their students that were due when they returned. The Communications group had to keep a log of all they watched on TV or what they heard on the radio. They had to write two short papers comparing and contrasting England's communication with the American media. "The TV programs were bad and they don't even show The Benny Hill Show in England," said Massengill.

The students left on Jan. 3 and rode a bus to the Dulles, Washington airport. Massengill said, "that was the worst part of the trip." They flew to Heathrow Airport in London. And after landing, Massengill said, "I go to sit in the pilot's seat on the plane," which highlighted his trip. He said, "the best part of the trip couldn't be narrowed down to one single thing because everything was so impressive."

Their customs and traditions are similar to ours," Massengill said. "And while there, I settled down to living in London and adapted to their lifestyle."

When asked what advice he could give to students planning to go to England in the future, he said, "Pack lightly. Most of the students packed a small suitcase inside a large one and brought back souvenirs in the empty suitcase."



Photo by Jay Massengill

LET'S PLAY DOMINOES! Students weave their way through the Rocks of Stonehenge.