

Editorials

The Pendulum

Serving the Elon College community

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The Pendulum welcomes your opinion, limited to about 250 words if possible. All letters must be signed, and a phone number given for verification. The deadline for submissions is 2:00 p.m. Friday. The Pendulum, founded in 1974, is published by Elon College students each Wednesday during regular school terms.

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"Your class is closed!"

by Kathy Meadows
Managing Editor

"Closed!" It's got to be the most dreaded word in the vocabulary of the Elon College student, especially during the weeks of pre-registration. This past week has been no different. In fact, things seem to be worse.

Not only have students had to contend with the hassles of closed classes, but also with the sudden realization that changes have been made in the number of hours required for class status.

It appears that this change has set back a number of upperclassmen in their classification. As a result, some upperclassmen are having to pre-register with students of a lower class ranking.

In past years, 84 credit hours were required for senior status, whereas it has been changed to 93 as of this semester. Likewise, 57

credit hours used to be necessary to be a junior. Now it takes 60 hours.

Although this change was bad on everyone it involved, the would-be juniors seem to be the most affected. After two years of getting in the pre-registration line at sunrise, pulling their hair out because they couldn't get into classes that were prerequisites for advanced courses in their majors, then eventually settling for what they felt were worthless classes, just to have a minimum of 12 hours, these students were looking forward to a break.

But instead of getting that break, they were broken by the news that these classification requirements had gone into affect, and they knew nothing about it!

In a recent survey of some juniors and seniors, one out of 10 was aware at the end of last semester of the change.

Why weren't these students informed? Was it because they missed a few classes? No. Was it because they didn't check their mail boxes often enough? No. Was it because they weren't officially informed by the college? It sure seems that way!

It's almost as if no thought went into the plan. Although the administration has logical reasoning behind the decision (one being that it is more realistic for a senior with 93 hours to obtain the necessary 126 hours to graduate than for someone with 84 hours), a little more planning might have allowed the administration to foresee the problem that is occurring.

By implementing the plan with this year's freshmen only, the problem would be solved, and everyone would eventually be satisfied.

Temporary dorms not wanted

Picture this; you wake up from a nights sleep and when you look out your window all you see are temporary college dormitories. Because of those cheap dorms, your land and home value has decreased ten percent. That afternoon your child wants to play in the backyard and the obscene and vulgar talk of some Elon coeds, fills your childs head. At night as you are ready to fall asleep, the sound of a blasting stereo rocks your windows.

This is exactly what Elon town residents that live on Arcadia Drive are worried about. The dorms in question are like those of the Oaks. As you may have noticed they are not like the traditional Elon buildings like the New Area and main campus.

The Oaks are pre-fabricated, temporary buildings that are to last for only 50 years. If the school is going to pay for additional housing then they should spend it on buildings that are going to be around for the next century and beyond.

The student population is not going to decrease anytime soon, so why build something that's going to have to come down in a few decades. It's great that Elon wants to build more housing but lets get something that's going to last and something the Elon College community can agree on.

Editor - John Hoyle

Blacks make electoral gains in south, especially in N.C.

from the Winston-Salem Journal

Blacks continued to make significant electoral gains in the South last year, led by North Carolina, eventhough the rise in the number of black elected officials nationwide was not as great as in the previous two years, a survey found.

The Joint Center for Political Studies, in its annual survey of black elected officials, found that the number of black officeholders

in the United States increased by 4 percent, from 6,424 in 1986 to 6,581 in 1987. That compared to a 6.1 percent increase in 1986 and a 6.2 percent increase in 1985.

The center, a non-profit institute that researches issues of concern to blacks, said that North Carolina, Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi accounted for 142 of the 257 new black elected officials last year.

From 1986 to 1987, the number of black officeholders increased

by 13.5 percent in North Carolina, by 11.2 percent in Alabama, by 10.2 percent in Georgia and by 5.2 percent in Mississippi.

Although the number of black officeholders continued to increase, the center said that blacks still hold less than 1.5 percent of all elective offices in the country. They make up about 11 percent of the total population.

In Alabama, where blacks comprise 22.9 percent of the voting-age population, blacks hold 10.8 percent of all local, state and federal elected offices, the highest percentage in the nation.

Ranking behind Alabama, the percentage of elected offices held by blacks are Louisiana, 10.7 percent; South Carolina, 10.5 percent; Mississippi, 10.4 percent; Georgia and North Carolina, 10.3 percent.

Mississippi, with the nation's largest proportion of voting age blacks at 30.8 percent, has the largest number of black elected officials at 548. Louisiana is second with 505, followed by Alabama with 448, Georgia with 445, Illinois with 434 and North Carolina with 353.

BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed