

D.C. journalist encourages viewers to be wary of TV bias

Krystal McDowell
Reporter

Washington D.C. journalist Angela Owens visited Elon Monday night and encouraged students to become aware of how the news shapes their view of the world.

Owens' program was titled, "Controlling Images: How T.V. Shapes Our Views," presented by the Liberal Arts Forum.

Owens is a news reporter, for WRC-TV in Washington D.C. She discussed the influence television news had on the viewers' attitude towards what is news.

She said viewers should pay more attention and think critically about what comes to them in the form of news.

"Everything ain't already a done deal," she said. "You can, if you choose, take charge of what shapes your opinion of the world around you."

Owens mentioned two factors that can influence viewers; what they already know about the situation and the attitude of the presenter.

"You should choose very carefully the station you watch, network and locally, because you're going to watch it day in and day out."

Owens continued to say that missing elements in a news story can sometimes shape the viewers attitudes.

She said that reporters work very hard to be sure the facts are

there, but sometimes because there hadn't been enough time to

get the other side of the story in the same day, or because the reporter had very little time to tell the story, important details may be left out and that can warp the story.

"I thought she had great points but she didn't go as far as I would in exposing the media," said Anne Cassebaum, advisor to the Liberal Arts Forum.

"There are really problems with corporations controlling the media, not wanting things covered."

Neil Smith, president of the forum felt it was the responsibility of the media to be honest and that people expect that. "It was like she was trying to sell us on something. I thought she was good but she was too business-like. She could have been more real with us," he said.

Owens has received a number of community service and journalism awards. She received a Community Outreach Award from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc. and the Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters' Award for outstanding editorials.

Owens holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature and Philosophy from Eastern College and has done graduate work in Political Science at Howard University.

CRIME WATCH

On Nov. 10, Jennifer Hoch, of Elon College, was cited at 10:20 a.m. on East Leabon for a stop sign violation.

On Nov. 5, Amy Hackett, of Elon College reported that between the hours of 12 p.m., Nov. 4 and 1:15 p.m., Nov. 5, some unknown person(s) damaged her 1986 Honda Prelude while it was parked in the gym parking lot. Damage was estimated at \$1300.

On Nov. 4, John R. Fredrick, of Route 3 Box 286, Fenwick Island, DE, reported that while his 1993 Ford was parked in the Harper Center lot between 12 a.m., Nov. 3, and 1:15, Nov. 4, a vehicle collided with his causing approximately \$200 worth of damage to Fredrick's vehicle. The driver of the other vehicle left the scene. No injuries were reported. An investigation is pending.

On Nov. 4, Edward Anthony Gimmil, of Elon College was cited on Holt Avenue for a stop sign violation.

On Nov. 1, Matt Anderson, of Elon College reported that someone slashed a tire on his car. Damage was estimated at \$40.

All information gathered from the town of Elon College police department reports.

Students to learn about four-hour credit system in spring

Gina Isaac
Reporter

Elon College students will learn on March 3 how they will be affected by the four-semester hour curriculum which begins next fall.

"Assessment Day" will give students a chance to meet with their department and speak with advisers about next year's changes.

Courses which are three semester hours will change to four semester hours in order to create "a more in-depth curriculum," said Academic Dean Bill Rich.

Sophomore Conley Tribble said, "I think it's going to be tough. I have a feeling general classes are going to suffer. Four hours a week of a class is a long time for a class you're not interested in."

Under the new four semester hour course system, full-time students will take just three or four classes per semester.

"This will be beneficial for both faculty and students. The faculty will be teaching less, specifically six courses a year instead of nine courses, so they will be able to spend more time with the students," Rich said.

Although there is a concern that class variety will be decreased, the general consensus of the faculty was that "the benefits will be tremendous," Rich said. The system will allow students to spend up to four days a week in a class

and, therefore, have more extensive assignments, discussion, and writing.

Freshman Staci Saltz agreed, "We'll have to concentrate on fewer classes, which will help us learn more about each."

Discussion to change to the four semester hour courses has been in the works for more than a year. The faculty voted last April to implement the four hour courses for next fall.

"Transitions are hard. We just have to hope that in the long run, the changes will enhance and improve the educational program of Elon College," Rich said.



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