

Viewpoint

It's nice to know that students are willing to take a stand for something they believe in (especially those involved in the greek system).

It's good to know that they are outraged by the fact that putting silver coins into a penny-drive jar will take points away from their organization during Homecoming next week.

Wait a minute, how old are we? Isn't the purpose of the penny drive to raise money for philanthropy? Oh sorry, we wouldn't want to raise money or anything. We just want to win. That's all we care about. Win. Win. Win.

It's also rather amusing that several fraternities and sororities are not allowed to enter a king or a queen because the participants don't have a grade point average of at least 2.25.

That's sad news, folks. If you can't get higher than a 2.25, you don't need to be representing the college. And if you can't keep a 2.25 at this college, that's even more pathetic.

What's the big deal about Homecoming anyway? All it ever turns out to be is Greek Week in the fall.

Let's paint a picture of Homecoming at Elon. Bus loads of frat boys are all decked out in their coats and ties, sloppy drunk. Their dates (even sloppier than the boys taking them out) are dressed up in their red pumps and skirts that are too tight to even walk in. They all head down to the high school football stadium to watch our college football team struggle through another Homecoming game.

At the half, some girl is crowned queen (something she'll probably put on her resume, along with the fact that she's been in a sorority for the past three years, was a fraternity sweetheart, and a waitress at a local cafe).

And throughout the week, students make up lame excuses why they couldn't get their homework done because they were working on keeping silver coins out of their penny-drive jar.

Gee, that sounds like a lot of fun for everyone.

Prohibition comes to Elon for a week

Just what do those right wing fascists at the Religious Life Council think they are doing with this alcohol awareness week?

Treating us like babies during the week of Oct. 17-24 was an outrage. After all, we're all adults here. Except for a scant few 17-year-olds in the Freshman class, all of us are old enough to be drafted to fight for our country.

If we're old enough to go fight, we certainly should be able to hoist one up to toast Old Glory. The old men send the kids to fight but don't even allow them the opportunity to drown their sorrows about having to go.

We of all people should be able to criticize the hippies who are running the country now. They smoked pot, drank like fish and now are making claims about the legitimacy of alcohol and so-called illicit drugs. They coined the phrase, "Don't trust anyone over 30."

Now, they are the ones over 30 and we should be plenty angry. They had wild crazy sex; we have AIDS, they had a free reign on just about every cool mind-altering substance known to man; we have Clinton's \$2 a cigarette pack tax hike. They had music that really rocked like the Dead; we have ex-gospel singer Amy Grant. I could rest my case here, but I'll go on.

I guess the main point that all

Scott Miller



these Bible-banging prohibitionists are making is that alcohol is bad for the Elon community. There was a pledge up on different banners around campus, "I pledge to remain substance free for a week". This is probably one of the silliest idealist propositions I've heard in a long time.

Come on, let's look at the good points of alcohol and drugs at the college level.

* Alcohol stimulates creativity — Just read the Crime Watch section of this newspaper to see the multitude of places and ways people have been arrested for public urination.

* Alcohol prepares the student for the real world — How many business deals have been consummated by individuals able to outdrink others at the table and keep their wits enough to have the upper hand? High tolerance levels are reached in college.

* Marijuana stimulates the local economy — How many thou-

sands of dollars in business have The Pantry and Subway done when stoned students come into satiate the "munchies"?

* Alcohol doesn't affect academics — Only rarely do students miss class because of hangovers. For goodness sake, you just drink on weekends, right?

Time out here. If you said, "Yeah, Yeah, I think he's right" to any one of the above remarks, you should take a serious look at yourself. Your mind is the one thing that you have absolute control over at all times. If you can read this column, you have control of your destiny. Alcohol and drugs cut away at that control.

Yeah, college is about learning the art of social interaction. However, the emphasis placed on alcohol at this institution, while miniscule compared to other institutions of comparable size, is too heavy. Every year, inordinate numbers of freshmen try to become greeks. To put on their resume? Yeah right.

Even though the work involved might well have been slight, a great deal of credit should go to the Religious Life Council for saying what needs to be said.

I'll go a step further. Stay substance free for a lifetime. Let's be clear headed and start fixing our problems.

Elon student visits homeless in N.Y.

Neil Smith
Guest Columnist

The weekend of Oct. 14-16, I along with four others from Elon traveled up to the "Big Apple" for the National Student Campaign on Hunger and Homelessness. These are important issues as they affect us all. Whether one has a nice home and personal security or one is on the street panhandling for change, one is not alone as we ALL compose society.

When we walk the bricks of privilege on a daily basis and view only cultivated shrubbery, we forget those who go without a home and security. We are members of the society that cultivates the class of "forgettables." We worry what shirt will match what pair of pants instead of what we can do to end this state of the union. I point no fingers nor do I seek to blame "society" for these problems. I merely state that such problems do exist and as a greater whole we all contribute to the on going sameness or

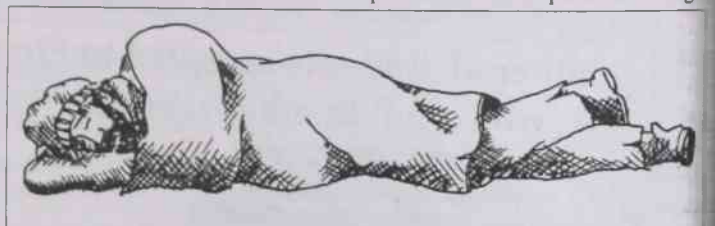
difference that the future holds.

The weekend offered panel discussions with workers and homeless people who can speak with authority on such issues as what it means to be living on the streets or poor and HIV positive. These people know how it feels to go hungry while those around them in comfortable setting dine on expensive food. Hunger and homelessness are not isolated to urban setting nor do they effect only minorities. While many women and ethnic backgrounds fall below the poverty line, white males are also affected as a 14 year-old told us. We heard at the conference that some low-income people have organized themselves, but they need our help to break away from difficult and oppressive conditions. Once in such a difficult situation

the immediate circumstances may be viewed as a "slippery slope" — not easy to overcome.

Many factors contribute to this social disease including the amount of minimum wage, government policy (e.g. laws and health care plans), but the most important—the mind set that poverty is acceptable and that soup kitchens and homeless shelters are permanent solutions to the "problem" of homelessness. Homelessness and hunger are not the problems; they are the symptoms.

If you feel that tax dollars are not being spent wisely (\$100 million for a military refurbishment of antique aircraft) or if you have any suggestion on how this country is run, please write your congressman today. Get to know someone poor. We have the power to change.



Off The Record

"This is my world and I am a world leader pretend...I have been given the freedom to do as I see fit...It's high time I raised the wall that I constructed."

- R.E.M.

"World Leader Pretend"

THE PENDULUM

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