

Viewpoint

As a senior I feel old. In eight short months I will have a job (hopefully) and be married. Oftentimes, I find myself contemplating all the changes I have seen in people and on campus in my 3 1/2 years here at Elon.

I also think of the changes I have experienced personally from freshman year to my senior year. Like most people, I have gone through friend changes, attitude changes, and room changes, but the one change that I hold closest to my heart is becoming a Christian. This is the change I am proud of the most. Finding Christ has been the turning point in my life and the foundation on which I plan to build the rest of my life.

Unfortunately, I've watched some of my friends and people I've gotten to know destroy the foundations they worked so hard to build. They came to college with a foundation of morals and beliefs and one way or another have had that foundation destroyed.

Whether you like it or not, college is the place where we form the foundation that the rest of our lives is built on. Some people will have firm foundations that will survive through thick or thin and others will have foundations that will crumble beneath them.

Don't let your foundation be destroyed. Or if it already has, work on rebuilding it so you can leave college with a clear mind about who you are, what you believe, and where you are going. There actually IS life after college and you want to graduate with a foundation on which you can build, whether it's your faith in God or your expertise in a certain area. Building a foundation on bad memories and regrets will only hurt you down the road.

While this might sound like a lesson in morality, it is more of a reflection of my own experiences. Yes, I would encourage people to examine their spirituality, but my point is to make people reflect on where they've been, where they are and where they are going.

■ Robert Mancuso
Editor in Chief

Off The Record

"I keep losing sight of the lessons I've learned. I'm standing at the crossroads with just one concern. Which bridge to cross and which bridge to burn."

- Vince Gill

"Which Bridge to Cross (Which Bridge to Burn)"

THE PENDULUM

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Editor-in-Chief
Robert Mancuso

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Columnists
Chris Chadwick
Joe Mattern

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Office: 2800 Campus Box, Elon College, N.C. 27244. 584-2331



The U.S. revolutionary war of 1940

While I was at home during fall break, I happened to watch a news special regarding people's lack of knowledge about history. The things that I saw were appalling. News reporters were asking kids simple questions like when did the U.S. Civil War occur? (1861-1865) and when was the American Revolution? (1775-1783)

I believe every American citizen should be able to answer these two easy questions. Most of the students asked however, had absolutely no idea when either one occurred. Some of the more common answers to the Civil War question were 1665, 1780, 1918, and 1865. The only answer which came close was 1865 which marked the end of the Civil War. Answers for the revolutionary war question were the following: 1940, 1861, 1720, and 1900.

The knowledge uncovered in this news story spurred a local news agency to question college students at Penn State and other Pennsylvania colleges and universities. Three of the questions asked were the following. First, who won World War II? Second, who was the dictator of Germany during the Second World War? The third and last question was what was Sputnik?

College students did as well

Chris Chadwick



answering these questions as the high school students did answering the questions given to them. One senior believed that Benito Mussolini, Italy's dictator during WW II, was the German dictator instead of Adolf Hitler. Come on now, does Mussolini sound like a German name? (even though of course Hitler was an Austrian)

Another answer which blew my mind was how one college junior answered the question on who won WW II. In her opinion, the Japanese won because they are doing so well economically in the world today. My favorite answer had to deal with Sputnik, which a junior believed to have been a Russian sailing ship used for exploration during the 1400s.

When I first heard some of these answers to be quite honest caused me to laugh. It was only afterwards that I began to realize just what a serious problem this really is. In order to become an American citizen, a person has to

be able to take and pass an exam. One of the questions asked on the exam deals with the American Revolutionary War. It is pretty sad when some of our OWN citizens would flunk the exam because of their apathy and ignorance toward history.

I apologize for always referring back to the revolutionary war, but I feel it is very crucial to our history and should be known by each and every American citizen. There is probably that one eight ball out there right now who is reading this article saying, "What's so important about the revolutionary war?" Well I'll tell you what's so crucial about it. First of all this was the war where for the first time we managed to break away from Great Britain, becoming a separate entity.

This article is not proclaiming history as the greatest and most important thing in the world. What I am saying is that it's important for people to know the history of their country in order to understand their own culture. We should begin learning at least more about our own history for our own benefit and for our children's. History should also be remembered as a memorial to all of those great people which through self-sacrifice have made our country what it is today.

Speaking of . . .

This Week:

Weather and Attitudes

How does the weather affect you emotionally?



Susan Higgins, sophomore: "I love rainy days, it relaxes me because it doesn't make you feel like you're missing out on anything. Because on sunny days you feel like you have to be outside all the time."

Carol Oakley, Secretary to the office of student life: "Hot weather makes me irritable and lazy. Rainy weather makes me want to be inside. Spring makes me happy...but I'm always happy."

Anwar Cruter, senior: "When it rains I'm less motivated to do anything. It's depressing. When it's a



Kelly Romano, freshmen: "I hate it. Winter's totally depressing. .. You're tired, run down... You start to feel sick. On sunny days you're more alert, more awake. I'm already looking forward to summer."

nice day I'm motivated. I'm full of energy and life."

Mark Kadlecik, freshman: "If it's sunny out it makes me happier. If it's rainy out, it pisses you off. It controls my emotions."

Liam Cahalan, senior: "When it's sunny out, you like to hang out and



Jana Lynn Patterson, Associate Dean of Students: "The sunshine makes you feel better... I see how it affects students... The change in time- how it gets dark earlier- that affects me. It's hard to get used to."

have fun. When it's dark you just want to stay inside."

Chuck Buckley, freshman: "If it's nasty on the outside, you feel nasty on the inside. If it's sunny you feel all bright and cheerful."

Compiled by Tracey Stark