

## OXFAM meal teaches students about world hunger

Faith Gaskins  
Reporter

Every day, 34,000 children under the age of five die from hunger and related causes. More than half a billion people worldwide are malnourished, including 30 percent of all children age five and under.

Oxfam America was founded in 1970 to help change these statistics. Since its founding, the organization has helped fight global poverty and hunger by working in partnership with grassroots organizations promoting sustainable development in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Americas.

This Thursday, Elon's Students for Peace and Justice helped organize a hunger banquet in the Isabella Cannon Room here on campus. The group sold tickets to students and faculty in the area, with all proceeds going to benefit Oxfam America. The luncheon helped illustrate the poverty and starvation levels that currently exist throughout the world.

As the participants in this educational activity arrived at the door, they were given a colored

raffle ticket. These colors represented the student's economic condition for the banquet.

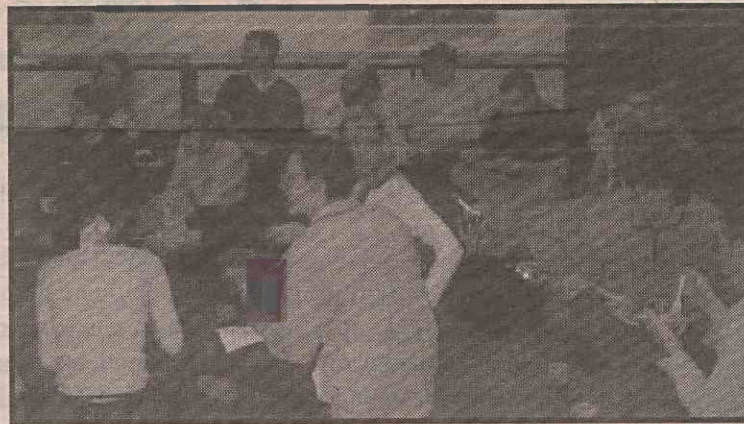
Sophomore Courtney Titus said: "This banquet was just a great opportunity to get together with other students and faculty members and gain a little education about world hunger statistics. I really feel like I learned a lot."

The four attendants who received a pink ticket were allowed to sit at the privileged table and eat from the larger buffet table, containing a full meal (seen at bottom left). They represented the high-income group. This group accounts for only 15 percent of the population, yet consumes 75 percent of the global resources.

A second group was given a green ticket. This group represented the world's middle class. These people were also allowed to sit at a table but could only eat beans and rice.

The remaining students formed the third and largest group; they were given yellow tickets. These students represented the 55 percent of the world population who

Adam Waterson / Photography Editor



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face hunger as a threat to their survival on a daily basis. They had to sit on the floor and were given only a cup full of rice and dirty water.

"I felt so guilty being in the privileged group," Shanna Sperry said. "It was really hard to eat all of the food provided for us knowing that the other groups had so little."

After the students had finished eating, they were given the opportunity to express their feelings about the structure of the banquet. Many discussed feelings of guilt concerning the situation of the students sitting on the floor and offered to share the food they had with those students.

Vanessa Kitchen, a member of Students for Peace and Justice, said: "It's great because, at the ban-

quet, we make our own rules. In the real world, it isn't that simple to share food with those who need it more than we do."

If the world's food supply was distributed equally, every man, woman and child would receive 2,500 calories a day, more than the minimum needed for basic survival.

"It's so upsetting to find out that we could feed everyone in the world if the natural wealth were distributed evenly," participant Amanda Easoz said.

"Participating in activities like this helps to increase awareness about the problem of world hunger," Kitchen said. "It's so easy to forget how lucky so many of us are in that we never wonder where our next meal is coming from."

## Computer repair shop opens

Sally Lynch  
Reporter

After the Campus Computer Shop closed last September, students did not have place a to take their computers when there was a problem.

However, now there is such a place. Before the end of fall semester, a campus owned computer repair shop opened next to Brown & Co. Food and Drinkery.

"During the last four to five years, separate computer companies have all been here and have all failed," Wayne Thompson said. The store's director added: "So, Elon College opened their own computer shop. The computer programmers are more familiar with the network because of this."

In the repair shop, networking items are for sale to students and faculty members. Thompson estimates that 45 students have used the repair shop.

The repair shop, which is open for business Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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