

Welcome to Elon's version of 'Dear Abby.' This weekly column will entertain you with questions from the minds of actual Phoenix students. Do not fear the subject matter of the questions.

# THE GURU

## "Dear Guru — Why do men and women play games with each other in relationships?" -Unwanted Player

Player-

Since ours days of Shoots and Ladders and Checkers, we are taught to play games. It is ingrained into our very beings as soon as we are old enough to utter the words "checkmate." If you really think about it, life is kind of like one big game of, well, Life.

There are millions of reasons people play games both in relationships and on a game board. There is the thrill, the challenge and the hope that one is good enough to win. No one wants to be a loser, even at Tic Tac Toe.

The little games that we were all brought up on have become the very actions that we inherently perform in our daily lives. Like Poker, people hold their heart, I mean "cards," close to their chests, never allowing the others to know what their hand really is. And the calling game. Think about it, it's really just a per-verse grown up game of hide and seek. Can you find me? Will you call me?

We are perpetually that little child hiding underneath the kitchen table wondering if someone will discover our brilliant hiding spot and make us "it." And no one wants to be "it," because once you are, you are alone.

People play games to defend themselves, to protect their feelings and to make sure they are the ones that come out on top. As the saying goes, "the best offense is a good defense." But in my opinion, if your defense is too good then no one gets to score.

Why do girls pretend to be unavailable? Why don't men call? These are all games. Relationships are games, life is a huge game. People are continuously switching sides, making alliances and breaking them. Just like in Monopoly, everyone wants to be the one with Park Avenue.

The problem is that there is only one

Park Avenue, and people must understand that you can be happy without the most sought after space. After all, if you spend all your money on one thing, then there is nothing left for anything else.

When one is playing a relationship game, the whole issue behind it is power. Power over the other person involved. If he calls me in two days I will go out with him, but if it is three then he has to wait. Everyone has this hope that the other person will play their game and succeed.

No one is perfect. And some people are just really bad at games (like me and Twister . . . don't ask.) It is unfair to put pressure on the relationship and on each other, hoping that in some way the games will all work. That you will be the one to yell, "checkmate." But my question is, what happens when the other person yells, "checkmate" and it's about your heart?

Every game is started with an underlying sensation of fear of the unknown. No one wants to gamble their heart away, so it's easier to play games with the other person's feelings than their own. Sometimes the roles become reversed, and the player becomes the playee. By this point, the web of game rules and falsehoods is so tangled that even a skilled Jenga player would get stuck.

In the end, it is really all about winning. The games people play are all set up in hopes that life will end up like Bingo. One big moment when you can stand up on your chair and yell, "I won! I won!"

But besides those hundreds of little old Grannies out there, who really plays Bingo?

Send a question to the 'GURU' at [elonguru@yahoo.com](mailto:elonguru@yahoo.com)



## Student site getting laughs

Eric Hydrick  
Columnist

Last year, a group of Elon students put up a Web site that expressed various aspects of the school, namely the funny little things many students notice but never write down. The link was posted in aol instant messenger away messages and spread like wildfire all over campus. A few people complained and said that the site should be taken down. Many others, including several alumni, said it was funny and encouraged additions to the list. This site started with 50 reasons for knowing you go to Elon. As of Sept. 3, there were 114.

The site itself is hilarious, provided you go to Elon. If you don't go to Elon or didn't graduate from Elon, you'd never get it. It provides a blunt look at the idiosyncrasies and ironies involved in the daily grind at Elon.

Several of the reasons refer to excessive drinking and drunkenness, but that's nothing new. College jokes frequently involve alcohol and at the beginning of last year, Elon had moved up in the Princeton review rankings of the "Best 345 Colleges" regarding alcohol consumption and partying.

Elon ranked sixth for "lots of hard liquor" and second for "major frat and sorority scenes."

Other reasons are no more than common knowledge, not designed so much to laugh that it happens, but to make you laugh at how often it happens. For example, reason 25 reads "You say hi to at least 5 people on the way to class each day." Elon has always been a friendly place and it's funny to think of just how

often we do greet people on a daily basis.

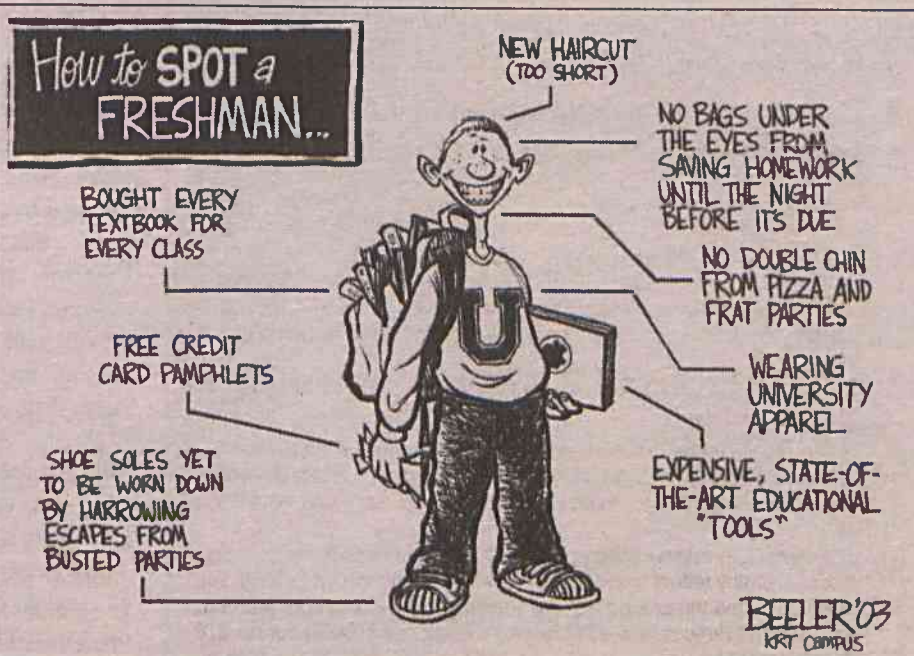
Of course, the fact that the site is practically all Elon insider jokes is what makes it so great. No one else can take the jokes and apply them to their college. They are ours and ours alone. We may not have written them, but they are unique to our lives, and us and that is what defines the Elon experience. It's not the classes, the parties or the work. It's the people, what they did and what life was like while you were here. Almost all reasons listed are timeless. They were true years ago and they'll be true in years to come — and we'll still laugh about them. The site is also updated to keep up with major occurrences at campus, the last one being Aug. 23, talking about the network shutting down because the freshmen swamped it with viruses and worms.

Overall, the "You Know You Go To Elon If" site is definitely worth a read if you haven't already seen it. However, make sure you've lived on campus for a few months first, so you have time to hear a lot of the "insider information" on the school and notice many of these things for yourself. If you read it right after moving in, you won't get the full effect and you'll miss out on much of the humor. It was written in good fun to get a laugh out of the students and you should read it as such.

If any of your friends want to know what you do here or what it's like at Elon, it's a good reference. Plus, it's another excuse for you to read that list again.

The site can be found at <http://www.geocities.com/gotoelonif/>

Contact Eric Hydrick at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) or 278-7247.



Nate Beeler, KRT Campus