

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

**"All of my friends seem to be getting boyfriends recently. I don't want one, but they keep telling me I do. Help!"**

What I am about to say might shock some people, so I hope you are sitting down.

It's OK to be single. It can actually—dare I say it?—be fun.

Not that being in a caring, committed relationship isn't wonderful. But sometimes it can be more fun just to go to bed with a good book.

Told you it was shocking.

Now the idea of curling up with the latest New York Times bestseller may not get your heart racing or your libido flaring, but there is more to being single than catching up on your reading.

In general, people do seem to put too much pressure on the importance of being in a relationship. Those people treat it like it's some sort of super-exclusive club that only a select few can join.

It makes sorority recruitment look like an afternoon of tea.

If you are hesitant about entering a relationship, then it is a clear signal from your subconscious that you probably aren't ready.

Don't be intimidated just because all your friends have boyfriends. Just because "everyone else is doing it," doesn't mean you have to as well.

Besides, that is what happens this time of year. It's the beginning of the year and everyone is getting together. The apartment next to me went from three single guys to three guys in a relationship in less than a month.

But that's Elon. All the good ones go fast.

That doesn't mean you can't go out and have fun.

Just because your friends are staying at home with their significant others doesn't mean you and your single gals can't go have some good

times with some insignificant others.

Just remember that chasing after the opposite sex isn't just fun, but it can also be tiring. So much energy is wasted in "pursuit."

Plus, if you are anything like my friend, those scratches from stalking in the bushes can get annoying.

When you are single there is time to actually concentrate on the important things in your life—like yourself.

It's a time to have fun and find out who you really are. Plus you don't have to "check in" every few hours. You can go out and let loose, be free.

You may even have some free time to read a book or two.

Unless you have found someone very special, being in a relationship is pointless. Why spend valuable time with a relationship that is based on fear of being alone? Having a boyfriend is great if you like him and not the role he plays. Relationships are based on caring, mutual respect and the ability to be yourself. They are not about showing off your new arm candy.

Boys are individuals, not some new Gucci clutch.

In the mean time, there is no reason you cannot go sow some wild oats of your own. But watch out, cause you never know, Mr. Right Now might end up turning into Mr. Right.

As for me, I believe chapter 4 is calling my name.

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



## How to really use your Phoenix card

### Reporter Name

### Staff Title

*Editor's Note: This elite column will appear weekly and will be written by elites' training team coordinator.*

Why do you need to know about your student ID and the Phoenix card? They are essential to your time here at Elon and will gain you access to a variety of services.

In the past, Elon used Social Security numbers to identify students. To help protect you from identity theft, Elon has changed how you are identified. Each student has a Student ID (your Datatel number) that is now your source of identification. You will need to know this number for a variety of Elon functions. You can find your student ID number by logging into OnTrack and opening your degree audit. The seven-digit number next to your name is your student ID number. (Your student ID is NOT on your Phoenix card.)

The Phoenix card acts as your Elon student ID card. The card allows you to make purchases, pay fees and gain access at many locations on campus. Divided into three accounts (plus the possibility of linking it to a Wachovia Student Checking account), the Phoenix card gives students flexibility and choices in handling their money. The three accounts included on the card are meal plan, meal dollars, and Phoenix cash.

You and your parents decide upon your Meal Plan when tuition and housing fees are paid. The meal plan options include 5, 15, 19, and unlimited meals. The meal plan account is deducted one meal each time you swipe your card to dine at an on-campus dining facility such as Harden, McEwen, Danieley or Octagon.

Meal dollars are an extra dollar amount that can either be included in your meal plan or can be added throughout the year through deposits. For example, the 15-meal plan option includes 15 meals a week plus an additional \$275/year in Meal Dollars. Meal Dollars can be used at campus dining locations for food not covered in the meal plan.

Phoenix cash is not included or required to be on the Phoenix card. Phoenix cash is only on a student's card if someone has deposited funds onto it. The Phoenix cash is the only source for paying off-campus vendors and for purchasing non-perishable items. To deposit money into your Phoenix cash account, students and parents can log onto [www.elon.edu/phoenixcard](http://www.elon.edu/phoenixcard) and click on "Manage Your Phoenix card." At this site, funds can be added to the account via credit card. Other credit card deposits can be made over the phone by calling the Phoenix card office at 336-278-5436, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students can also deposit money via cash, check or credit card at the Phoenix card office in Moseley Center during office hours. Cash deposits can be made at one of the Value

Elon University has developed business relationships with the following off-campus merchants. You can use your Phoenix cash account to pay for your purchase at these spots:

Sandy's Steaks and Subs

Side Track Grill

Domino's Pizza (Elon location)

Subway (Elon location)

Campus Photo

Coming Attractions Hair and Tanning Salon

Mike's Deli

The Checkerboard Grill

Panera Bread

Papa John's Pizza (Burlington location)

Skid's (Elon location)

Sal's (Burlington location)

Transfer Stations in Belk Library and Danieley Commons.

The following is a list of available services for students with Phoenix Cards:

Pay for meals at all campus dining facilities. (Meal Plan, Meal Dollars, Phoenix Cash)

Purchase books and supplies from the Campus Shop. (Phoenix Cash)

Do laundry at most machines on campus. (Phoenix Cash)

Use vending machines. (Phoenix Cash)

Pay for services, tests, medications, etc. at the Health Center. (Phoenix Cash)

Check out materials/books in Belk Library. (No Fee)

Check out equipment from Media Services and Television Services. (No Fee)

Make photocopies in Belk Library or at the Print Shop. (Phoenix Cash)

Pay for services in Media Services. (Phoenix Cash)

Pay for computer repairs at the Student Computing Services store. (Phoenix Cash)

Pay for parking stickers at Campus Safety and Police. (Phoenix Cash)

Purchase stamps and mail packages at the Mail Center. (Phoenix Cash)

Pay some fees at the Bursar's Office. (Phoenix Cash)

Gain access to student activities, concerts, athletic events, and cultural events on campus. (No Fee)

Vote in Student Government elections. (No Fee)

Use Campus Recreation facilities and programs. (No Fee except with Special Programs, which can be paid using Phoenix Cash)

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

**Think you can be tomorrow's next big thing?  
Get your start at The Pendulum today.**

To be a columnist  
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