

This weekly column will feature confessions of a Southern religious studies major. Each week, Jonathan will offer a light-hearted look at the little things in life that can make a big difference.

IT'S THE *Little* THINGS...

Howdy Y'all

"With all the faults of the South, I love her still."

-Emily Pillsbury Burke, Southern abolitionist

Jonathan Chapman

Columnist

I am Southern. I love fried chicken and chug sweet tea. I listen to country music and am intrigued by Southern authors such as Flannery O'Connor and William Faulkner.

Since arriving at college, I have been made aware of my excessive use of "y'all" and "ain't," not to mention my relentless referring to any carbonated beverage as a "Coke."

One thing that all Elon students are aware of is where they are from. The differences between those of us from the South and those from the North are constantly being observed, commented upon and debated. One of the biggest differences is the way people from the two regions talk.

These are my observations, as a Southern man, in hopes of helping those from north of Dixie to understand us a little better.

People from the North, as a whole, speak at least twice as fast as anyone from the South. During fall break, my first trip home since coming to Elon, no one at home could

understand me.

And who deserves credit for my speedy speech? I suppose it's unfair to the tack all the blame on my Northern friends, but they hold at least partial responsibility.

It's not that talking fast is a bad thing, it's just that sometimes Yankees talk faster than my ears want to listen.

This is where many people from outside the region find trouble. They equivocate talking slow with being stupid.

While in some cases this may be true, many times, the slower they talk, the smarter they are.

Southerners also have a tendency to make one-syllable words into two. Take, for example, the common Southern name "Jim." Anybody in the rest of the United States would say it like it looks — Jim.

But in the South, there is an extra syllable. How can this be, you might ask — it only has three letters. Leave it to the Southern rednecks, roughnecks and gentlemen.

One of my favorite examples of such syllabic-extension is offered by your favorite and mine — the

television evangelist.

He gets on that stage, begging for money and shouting at the top of his lungs about "He-yell fire and damnation."

I know what hell is, but I'm not exactly positive what "he-yell" is. In any case, he says it, and for some reason, it sounds right.

That's because Southern conversation is a craft. Southerners (especially Southern women) can make even the worst of situations seem as refreshing as sweet tea in the middle of the summer.

As long as you can say, "Bless your heart" with sincerity, you can pretty much say anything you want and it'll be OK.

You also have to be a good liar. Now, my mother would argue that Southern women "don't lie, we just have manners."

In any case, Southerners have a tendency to smooth things over — they aren't particularly fond of conflict, so they avoid it.

So be careful when relating to Southerners. You might think you know what they are thinking, but chances are you are totally off base.

Good luck!

Contact Jonathan Chapman at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.



Jonathan Chapman

New intramural field location better for all

Bryan McMinn

Columnist

The planned construction of a new business school at the site of the current intramural fields has left some students wondering what will happen to intramurals. If you build it, will they come?

Construction of the business school is likely to begin no later than March 2005 on the large lot of land between the Greek houses and Danieley Center.

Much controversy has been brewing among students as to what will happen to intramurals in the future and if this location really is the best spot for the building.

The intramural fields as they are now are a prime, central location on campus and an easy walk for any student who is directed toward that area.

The future site for the intramural fields is planned to be across the train tracks by the Elon Homes for Children area. The anticipated site of the intramural fields leaves Elon's lazier students dissatisfied by the

commute that will have to be made in the future.

Although the commute comes as a small inconvenience to some students, in the future it will be forgotten because transportation will most likely be provided to students arriving by way of Danieley Center.

Other students, however, will not need transportation to the future intramural fields because they will be located even closer to most student dormitories than they are now.

All in all, the location of the future business school will prove to be most beneficial for students.

Since business administration is a popular major among Elon students, the central location of the building is best.

As for the future intramural fields, there are expected complaints regarding the commute, but as soon as Elon students adjust to the new system these will reside.

Thus, answering the age-old question once more. If you build it, they will come.

Contact Bryan McMinn at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.



Bryan McMinn

Students should use Day of Silence to support others

Adam Smith

Columnist

On Wednesday, Spectrum and Elon Volunteers! will be participating in the National Day of Silence. Students and staff members will wear T-shirts with the word "silenced" on the front. Faculty members will also wear pins showing their support.

The Day of Silence allows people across the country to speak out against the ignorance and hatred faced by gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people in our society.

These people have been silenced throughout their lives. Many youths feel they can't speak out and be themselves. They are ashamed of being gay, bisexual or transgender. The Day of Silence is a way to break their silence.

Volunteers for this project are not

all homosexuals. Most know people who have been silenced and are working to prevent the silencing of others. Volunteers will be silent throughout the day, speaking for those who remain unheard.

The organizers and volunteers of this event feel the National Day of Silence project is important for Elon. Those who are afraid can know they don't have to be. We want to protest ignorance in our government and those discriminating against us. We do not want special rights, only equal rights.

Our mission is to end the silence on the campus of Elon University.

What will you do to end the silence?

Contact Adam Smith at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

sp. Know

sp. write?

NO HOW TO RIGHT?

We want you! Pick up an application outside of Moseley 233.

The Pendulum will soon be hiring for paid staff positions for next fall. If you are interested, please pick up an application and return it to our office and we'll call you for an interview.

THE PENDULUM

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