

*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... Who Would've Thought?

**Jonathan Chapman**  
Columnist

"This fraternity will be different." That is what the founders of Sigma Phi Epsilon said when they were asked why a new fraternity was needed by a faculty committee at the University of Richmond in 1901.



**Jonathan Chapman**

Different. That is what first caught my eye when I was initially introduced to the organization by one of my favorite faculty members.

Greek Life was hardly on my radar when I returned to Elon for my junior year.

I had never been a particularly huge fan of Greek Life. In fact, I wrote a column my freshman year about women's recruitment and the frustrations that it supplied.

As far as I was concerned, Elon's Greek system consisted of drunken men

*"This fraternity will be different, it will be based on the love of God and the principle of peace through brotherhood." ~Founding Fathers of Sigma Phi Epsilon*

who enjoy their stupidity and women way too concerned with Vera Bradley.

This notion hardly changed overnight. I remember my roommate going through new member education (what pledging is now called) my freshman year. The stuff they had him doing was crazy.

Not hazing, just crazy.

But as I got to know more people on Elon's campus, I began to dismantle the John Belushi-Animal House sort of stereotypes and realize that while there are certainly students on Elon's campus who allow their Greek affiliation to identify them, there are a huge number of Greeks who consider it just another part of their experience at Elon.

These are the students unwilling to let the misunderstandings of others pin them into a

certain way of acting or being.

Last Thursday, I was identified for the first time as a SigEp. It wasn't a "This is Jon, he works for Admissions, writes for the Pendulum, is in Spectrum and SigEp." No. It was, "This is Jon. He's a SigEp."

The way it was included in the conversation seemed like that bit of information was supposed to give the person I was being introduced to a list of adjectives to describe me.

Granted, of the fraternities to be associated with, this would be the best one (in my unbiased opinion) to be defined in terms of, but that experience really threw me a loop.

As I was thinking about it on my way back to The Brittany, I began to recall all the times I had done the same to others, the times I had lessened people's validity in my

mind because they joined a Greek organization, and the times I had even, (yes, I'll say it) bashed people because they were Greek.

So, how could I have joined one, you ask? I've thought a lot about that too.

I realized I didn't know enough to be educated about it.

I realized that I wanted a change of pace.

I realized that it could have an impact on the rest of my life.

I joined because this fraternity is different.

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## Is the lottery that big of a deal?

**Erin Moffet**  
Columnist

The North Carolina State Lottery began with much controversy. But what is all the fuss really about?

The lottery is a state-run gaming service where people can pay a couple of bucks to buy a piece of paper and scratch at it to win or maybe pick the right numbers that are given on the news that evening.

Should this even be considered gambling? People aren't throwing down hundreds of dollars at a time. They are purchasing little slips of paper for a couple of bucks.

With gambling, you have a high chance of winning big every once in a while, but the odds of winning big in the lottery are very slim. That keeps a lot of people from playing frequently or at all, and from putting too much money or hope into it.

Having a lottery in North Carolina is hardly endorsing gambling but allowing people to play a silly little game of chance.

And why not? This way the state makes some money off of people's desire to play games of luck.

Surrounding states, such as Virginia, have lotteries and therefore if people really want to participate in a lottery, they can do it elsewhere. But this did not benefit North Carolina.

North Carolina realized that they were losing money they could be making to surrounding states that have a lottery. So this fall, North Carolina got a lottery. And the controversy began.

A great deal of North Carolina citizens are of the Baptist denomination. Baptists are strongly against any form of vices, including gambling, and have voiced their outrage against North Carolina having a state sponsored lottery.

The belief is that the state is endorsing this vice, and to those who do not believe in gambling, this is very wrong for the government to do.

But the state is not tied into the Baptist church, due to the separation of church and state, and therefore should not be a factor. North Carolina can make a profit off of the people who play these lottery games in other states.

So now that there is a lottery, the people who are against it just need to accept this fact and move on. It does not hurt them any.

If they don't like it, they don't have to participate in it. And at the same time, their state is still making money that it had been basically giving to other states so it inadvertently is benefiting them as well.

The lottery is not such a bad idea after all. The real question on everyone's minds should be what took North Carolina so long to get one.

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