

West Dorm Follies

"Puritanism - The haunting fear that someone, somewhere may be happy." - H.L. Mencken

Back in the days when Grover Cleveland was president, back when Tsars still ruled the Russias, back before the Great War and the Spanish American War, and back before our parents were born, in the days when our grandparents were young, Elon College was founded at Mill Point, N.C. Even today it still can be said that most of the students, faculty, and administration have been more or less inclined to keep the institution in its original setting - an archaic model of Southern civility, Victorian propriety.

Of course, I suppose something can be said for the fact that we are residing in the midst of a Twentieth Century anachronism, that our History Department can boast to other schools that among other curiosities we have, in many respects, a living exhibition of nineteenth century Americana, and that we have yet to advance into the scary darkness of this century. However, discounting the tourist value of such attractions, I hardly feel that we should continue to foster the spirit of reaction at Elon.

For example, look at the regulations governing the conduct of women at Elon. They are enough to make a nun feel that she is being persecuted. Indeed, a nun must only obey three commandments - "poverty, chastity, and obedience". As if these are not hard enough, the Elon co-ed must also accept a vast number of written and unwritten commandments, many of which are quaint but hardly logical.

For example, the girls must submit to an arbitrary system of room inspection, as if it were someone's business as to the appearance of their cells. The "call down" system appears to be in need of definite revision and in many cases it can be taken advantage of and can be singularly inequitable. The bermuda shorts ruling is questionable, the hours are based on a high school criteria, and the whole series of confusing and seemingly unwritten rules should be reexamined. Lastly, the definition of "unladylike conduct" is surely worth exploring.

It should be fairly obvious that many of these commandments are totally antiquated, and although Martha Washington might approve, this is no reason to assume that they are practical or logical. It can only be hoped that Elon's "scarlet daughters" will demand some kind of revision of rules. However, until they decide to do this I suspect they will be compelled to remain in their same, quiet, cloistered environment, as Elon's unwilling Victorians. B.C.S.

Past Presidents Conference

One of the lesser publicized but nevertheless important, events of the Homecoming Weekend was a Saturday meeting of the Past Presidents of the Student Government Association. Noel Allen called the meeting in an attempt to gain more understanding in the proper role of the President.

Those in attendance were: Larry Barnes, 1956-57; Ed Boelte, 1960-61; C.V. May, 1966-67; and Furman Mosley, 1955-56.

Distance from Elon or military service made the attendance of others at the conference impossible.

Editors of Veritas:

First of all, let me extend a hale and hearty welcome to a news media that has for so long been lacking at Elon College. Needless to say, this will be the students' chance to get things accomplished through action. Your paper, with its liberated press, is an immense improvement over the other well-known school publication which seems to have fallen into a pool of stagnation.

It clearly takes an independent-minded staff to have the guts to call to the attention of the Administration some of the absurdities of the great, all new 1969 chapel system. I, too, fail to see why the Administration refuses chapel credit for such events as the Liberal Arts Forum, Contemporary Affairs Symposium and Fine Arts Festival with a combined total expenditure of over \$11,000.00. I cannot possibly see the reason for absolute blindness of an Administration which refuses to recognize such a great expenditure for the cultural uplifting of Elon students. This program represents an expenditure of virtually 1/3 of the S.G.A. budget. One-third, can you imagine that being ignored? I can't!

Secondly, I wish to go on record supporting the official statement of the S.G.A. Religious Life Committee regarding the matter of on campus drinking of alcoholic beverages. Three clonks of a beer stein for the intestinal fortitude

(culture again) to come forth with a liberated viewpoint such as this. I support this action as a basic human, moralistic right with reserve. It should be noted that Davidson College has since adopted the policy allowing on-campus drinking. It, too, is a church-supported school. However, there is one, great, vast difference between Elon and Davidson students. Davidson has mature students who think and accomplish things. They are not the same immature, helter-skelter students that inhabit Elon's hallowed walls. I don't think we are ready.

A case in point, let us take a look at the mature(?) Elong students' behavior at the recital given under the auspices of the Lyceum Series by Mr. Robert Guthrie, Classical Guitarist. I am ashamed to say that I sat through the same torture as Mr. Guthrie. To Mr. Guthrie I extend my deepest apologies for the infantile behavior of the student body.

I thought that after the last recital program SOME of the students might have learned to behave. Unfortunately, it is quite the contrary. I had the unfortunate honor of arriving at Whitley Auditorium only to be ushered upstairs into "Peanut Heaven." Among the topics coming up DURING the performance were (1) Who's shacking up with whom at: a) Holiday Inn, b) Fleetwood, c) Kirk's for homecoming, (2) Coach Wilson's crackdown on the foot-

ball team. (3) Whether Wallace will take Alamance County.

In addition to the above I observed (1) one ambitious fellow using his tie much as one would use a towel in a towel fight. (2) one dainty? young lady who smoked three cigarettes during the intermission INSIDE the auditorium. (3) After intermission one fellow who very casually brought his drink in and munched on the ice. Not only those above cited instances but the whispering and coughing became so intense in the second half that you could not even hear the performance. And last, but not least, my guillotine blade strikes a blow to those who rushed (ran) out of the balcony without extending the common courtesy at one encore (This group is not to be confused with imbecilic clods that got up and started to walk out before the program was finished.)

Indeed, I support drinking on campus, but until there is a definite improvement in the conduct of the student body, which hopefully would indicate a maturing student; until that time I feel that the only bottle outside of those for carbonated drinks should be a baby bottle to encourage the student body to grow up.

Apologetically yours,
Dan L. Livingston

Dear Editor,

I offer the following questions to the Administration:

1. Why does the Administration ignore student pleas when the vast majority of students want a change in the food system?
2. When is the Administration going to realize its policies on no drinking do not make any sense in this day and age?

3. Why are Elon students required to take six hours of religion in a school which is "church-related" in name only?

4. When is the chapel program either going to apply fairly to all programs or be abolished?

5. Why won't the Administration at least listen to the students' opinions and suggestions in reference to some of the various "professors" here?

6. Why does every building contractor, which Elon hires, fall behind schedule?

7. Why does the Administration continually praise Elon's growth yet does not make any movement to adapt to this growth?

Although some of these questions may not seem relative when taken alone, I believe, as a whole, they form the basis of the discontent that is prevalent at Elon College. What I want to know is: when is the Administration going to attempt to answer these questions?

David O. Bowden
Box 4232

Dear Editor:

Certain students, being incapable of using the opportunities for education and enjoyment afforded them at Elon, refuse to let others make the most of these privileges.

Witness the last two Lyceum programs. In times past the artist sponsored by the Lyceum has had fairly large and appreciative audiences comprised mainly of students and local townspeople who enjoy the performing arts.

Recently, however, due to a regrettable change in the chapel system these two Lyceum artists have been mistreated, during their performances by a large number of ill-mannered, unappreciative students who could not enjoy the programs and would

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not allow others to do so. Such fine artists as Charles Lynam and Robert Guthrie ought not to be subjected to the humiliation of such students whose acts undermine the reputation of the school.

I propose that Elon try some other method of increasing the school spirit and culture of her uncivilized few. Those students who enjoy the Lyceum programs (there are some) should not have to be embarrassed by the conduct of their fellows as many of us have been at the last two Lyceum programs.
Ellen Rose Barnes

To the Editors:

The much talked-about and long-awaited Veritas finally rolled off the presses, and after reading every word, this reader was very much pleased. It's good to know that there is now finally a newspaper on campus which is my voice and the voice of every student at Elon.

The articles were varied and interesting; the writing was excellent; the statements of intent and editorials were firm and explicit. It appears to me that this is truly a newspaper by and for the students.

I want to personally thank the entire staff for beginning a liberated press at Elon. It helped snap me out of complacency as I'm sure it did many students. Students can now be united by and heard through the Veritas. This is definitely an important and great step forward toward a better college community. I hope all students will read and utilize the Veritas, and I hope they all take as much pride in this accomplishment as I do.

You have my gratitude and my support.

Steve Prye



Publicus

By EARLE WHITE

As in the Presidential campaign the N.C. gubernatorial campaign offers the voters a mediocre choice for governor.

It is distressing to know that neither Bob Scott nor Jim Gardner have effectively brought the issues to voters. Gardner refers to the current administration as "the Moore-Scott Whitewash administration". Scott declares that "North Carolina does not want a ready-made, a public relations-made governor". Certainly these statements can not be pictured as a constructive discussion of the issues in this campaign. Both Gardner and Scott have resorted to personal attacks in order to get votes. Whoever can sling the most mud can get the most votes.

Although the campaign and candidates are mediocre, Scott and Gardner seem at least passively concerned with the educational establishment in North Carolina. Mr. Gardner emphasizes the need to bring the teacher's salaries up to the national level. Mr. Scott also seems somewhat concerned about education when he advocates a program of vocational training in high school. Better education, which both candidates support, is the only salient issue of the campaign which both candidates discuss at any length.

Mr. Gardner emphasizes, at length, the great need for a progressive, dynamic administration for North Carolina. Of course, Mr. Gardner chose not to reveal to whom his progressive, dynamic administration will be directed. Who will benefit from a Gardner Administration? Will it be the numerous financiers of his campaign or will it be the white backlash vote? It can be concluded from Gardner's Congressional voting record that his will not be the progressive administration that he so ardently proclaims. For instance, Gardner has consistently voted against any civil rights legislation, including the Open Housing section of last year's Civil Rights Act.

There seems no chance for the poor, underprivileged citizen to better his predicament under a Gardner or Scott administration. The minority group most affected by the candidates' whitewashing of this critical issue will be the uneducated Negro. The black minority, especially, has no choice in this campaign. With Reginald Hawkins out of the race to whom will the black people of North Carolina turn? Both Scott and Gardner are against any state or Federal open-housing law which North Carolina sorely needs. Both candidates, especially Gardner, would cut off anti-poverty funds which seek to aid the poor. Gardner, like George Wallace, seeks to return the school boards back to local control.

It also is interesting to note that Mr. Gardner's campaign is being directed to the supporters of George Wallace. Gardner has given Wallace tacit support by stating that he (Gardner) disagrees with nothing Wallace says. Like Wallace, Gardner plays on the fears of the disaffected white vote by emphasizing his campaign to restore "law and order" and voting against any legislation that seeks to aid the black citizens of North Carolina.

With the emphasis on personal attacks instead of a sane discussion of the issues, neither candidate offers a reasonable choice for governor of North Carolina in 1968. Instead of uniting the state both candidates encourage divisiveness. Instead of relieving the plight of North Carolina's black population both candidates give lip-service to this issue.