

## Faculty Column

Activism among Elon College students this year has been healthy. Each of the students involved seems to be genuinely interested in moving toward a better Elon College. Requests made are legitimate and are for privileges that rightly belong to the student body. The astute student of history recognizes that liberalism (change, reform or expanded freedom) can be brought about through collectivism. The anthesis of liberalism is conservatism. Webster's Dictionary defines conservatism as "the disposition and tendency to preserve what is established; opposition to change." Herein lies the stumbling block at Elon College.

Conservatism permeates this campus administration, faculty and student body. The past for the conservative is a resting place - a permanent resting place - instead of a place from which to move. A conservative society will not attempt to solve the problems it faces and often refuses even to face its problems because it fears freedom. Activism to the conservative is repulsive because it disrupts the status quo, the fixed laws that bind men to the past. The conservative attitude is inherently incapable of allowing a rational and willed change. Collective action by responsible people willing to enforce demands is necessary if noticeable change is to occur.

The Elon faculty bears a large share of the blame for a lack of innovation on this campus, for failure to assert itself and take its rightful place in the government of the college. Never before has Elon College possessed a better opportunity to achieve at least a good measure of the freedom which is contemplated and for which we have hoped. And yet, there are those faculty members who "don't want to get involved." Others "have just a few years to retirement." Another type will tolerate limited freedom "until I can find a job elsewhere." There are a few who would "deal individually." There may be some faculty members who are afraid of dismissal or failure to secure tenure. A few may be supplementing the spouse's income and so will tolerate any condition rather than face loss of income.

Whatever the case, an agency does exist on this campus for the presentation of the views of the whole faculty and for support of student rights. That organization is the American Association of University Professors. Since its birth on the Elon Campus four years ago, the AAUP has not been able to get off the pad for lack of faculty support. This is indicative of the minimal level of professionalism among the Elon College faculty, for the AAUP is the professional organization through which all professors, regardless of discipline, can work together for expanded freedom and rights.

The following are a few examples of privileges that do not exist for the faculty, but could be realized except for indifference, fear, negativism and conservatism - the faculty horsemen of the apocalypse. These statements are from the AAUP's statement on Government of Colleges and Universities, 1966.

Faculty status and related matters are primarily a faculty responsibility; this area includes appointments, reappointments, decisions not to reappoint, promotions, the granting of tenure, and dismissal. The faculty should actively participate in the determination of policies and procedures governing salary increases. . . The chairman or head of a department. . . should be selected either by departmental elections or by appointment following consultation with members of the department and of related departments; appointments should normally be in conformity with department members judgments.

Support for student rights is evident in the following AAUP Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students, 1967.

As constituents of the academic community, students should be free, individually and collectively, to express their views on issues of institutional policy and on matters of general interest to the student body. The student body should have clearly defined means to participate in the formulation and application of institutional policy affecting academic and student affairs. . . The student press should be free of censorship and advance approval of copy, and its editors and managers should be free to develop their own editorial policies and news coverage.

Let the faculty take its place now, beside the student body in securing full opportunity for joint planning and effort. The future of Elon College demands it. The concerned will answer the call.

The story is recalled of the individual who was stopped by a friend on his way to the town meeting. "Don't you know, there ain't no use in going to that there meeting? That Crowd has enough power to carry everything they want and more too. You can't make headway agin' 'em." "That's all right," was the reply. "But I can worry 'em some."

The quest for campus liberalization and for faculty-student voice may be successful, if we "worry 'em some."

C. W. Harper  
Associate Professor of Social Science

## Stanford's President Experiments In Progressive Education

Palo Alto, Calif.--(I.P.)-Kenneth S. Pitzer, Stanford's president-elect, has criticized the draft law, backed student involvement in education reform, and set open communication with students and faculty as his most important immediate objective.

Scheduled to take office Dec. 1, Pitzer went directly from his first news conference to confer informally and privately with Student Body President Denis Hayes and six other students.

On a long-run basis, he told

newsmen, Stanford's "aim and ambition should be a university second to none in the world," the equal of Harvard and MIT combined in the distinction and range of its academic programs.

He said he was "all in favor" of Stanford's recent commitment to double its minority group enrollment by 1970. "We should digest what we've already promised before making more promises," he added. The University has estimated its costs for

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## Letters to the Editor

To the Editors,

It has been fun reading your "Liberated Press" newspaper for the past few weeks. I cannot think of any newspaper in the United States so loaded with trash except for, of course, the Daily Worker which is the all-American low.

In issue after issue I have read of how the administration is the blame for all the ills of Elon. Actually the administration is one of the few bright spots left on this campus. Certainly the aggregation of long-haired, beard beatnik slobs and anarchists are no help, nor are the "ill-mannered students" who have to yell up and down the hall to their favorite boyfriend, girlfriend (pick the appropriate one) during classes or block the halls during breaks so that movement is impossible. The students at Elon say they want to be heard and believe me if you keep only one ear open you can hear more swearing and obscenities faster than I have time to look them up in my Funk and Wagner to find out what they mean. The students can't help but be heard.

I have read that North Carolina needs a zoo. They have one without knowing it right here at Elon. The "animals" (disguised as students) would put even the Bronx zoo to shame.

When Elon students begin to grow up and act as adults then, and only then, should the administration give more freedom--as for now a cage or baby crib is the only thing students have earned. Put that in your pot and get high on it.

Ronnie Edgerton.

Gentlemen:

As a person who has spent some two and one-half years of his life living and teaching at Elon College, and who still has a great interest in the affairs of that overall college community, I was greatly encouraged by the appearance of a newspaper that is truly representative of the opinion of the student body. Each edition of your paper has impressed me with its honesty, intelligence, and clever reporting. Since I have been following activities at Elon this year through your paper, I thought I would take this opportunity to share my views with you concerning some of these activities and, more particularly, your paper's coverage of them.

Let me first summarize my views by stating that there doesn't seem to have been any major change in the overall situation at Elon since the time of my departure. There are matters which still continue to persist that I find quite objectionable. On the other hand, there are also many aspects of Elon life which I continue to find quite meritorious. My great concern at this moment is that while your paper has done a great service in bringing to light many of those matters which are objectionable, Veritas has not as yet proceeded to the second stage of inquiry. By this I mean the students of Elon must now decide upon a definite course of action to change those things which they find objectionable, and to encourage those things which they feel are exemplary. The time has come to desist from picking the grapes of wrath and to plant new seeds of positive growth.

It is time, in my opinion, to quit complaining about: (A) a football coach who doesn't always do things the way we want

him to, (and I have disagreed with him as much as anyone else) but who nevertheless is working hard to establish an athletic program which has a place within it for the athlete who also wishes to be an interested student; (B) to stop griping about a food service which is admittedly below par, but which is operated by a fine gentleman who is doing his very best to make each meal as appetizing as possible, and (C) to cease focusing grievances and complaints upon the shoulders of any one man--even if that man happens to be the president of the college. The point should be made that the president of a college has as his prime duty the recruitment of funds which that college must have in order to continue to operate, and the maintenance of cordial relations with the community at large. In my opinion, Dr. Danieley is doing his job, as I have just defined it.

While I feel that many of the complaints of the student body are unjustified, I also believe that there are several institutions now existing at Elon that are much worthier of a correctional movement. How a student body can continue to tolerate the type of individual who begins each class with a "nigger joke," and who is not qualified to teach on the college level in the first place, continues to amaze me. How a student body and faculty can continue to allow itself to be ruled over by an Academic Dean who, though a very fine musician, knows very little about academic matters relating to other fields is another source of confusion for me. Finally, and in a more general vein, I am perhaps most shocked by the tolerance of all concerned for those members of the faculty who show no desire to continue to improve themselves as teachers. Let me clarify this last statement--there are many fine teachers at Elon, and certainly they deserve much praise for their efforts to bring truth to their students, but there are still far too many professors who are strictly disinterested in the improvement of the college's academic atmosphere. These people show up for classes and are in their offices for the minimum number of hours required "by law"--at this point they feel their duties are finished. It should be pointed out to them that their responsibilities are not.

I am not asking that the student body take up my crusades, however, it is time for concerned individuals, and Veritas, to turn their attention from secondary issues and to focus their energies on undertaking positive programs which have as their ultimate goal the building of a better Elon.

Sincerely yours,  
Paul G. Sebo

Dear Editor:

I find "Dear Beverly Axebiold" a stimulating and enlightening feature of Veritas.

It is unfortunate that the spirit of pride manifested in the Black Power movement is not prevalent where it is needed most--in the South.

Traditional Southern white racism, which has psychologically conditioned the Black Man to believe he is inferior, stems from ignorance which has bred hate. This hate has not always been emotionally felt but traditionally taught and accepted.

May the Black American be-

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come aware of his inner human self. Only then will the "nigra know his place."

Randy Davis

Editor of Veritas

Congratulations on the response to the Biafra-Nigeria Food Fund which amounted to nearly \$200. Surely it is not God's will that any suffer for lack of food, and there are no technical reasons why any should go hungry. There is enough and to spare. If we will, we can bring relief from hunger to millions. "The will--there lies our bitter need."

Hunger is the greatest of human problems. The World Food Congress says one-third of the world's population is on a starvation diet, and one-half of these are at the stage called "belly-fire," the gnawing pains that come as the body slowly devours itself for want of food.

Kevin Miller, a student at Manchester College in Indiana, drew a picture especially for Thanksgiving this year. It is posted on the bulletin board in the Student Center. At first I think he meant it as a satire, holding up a ridicule and scorn the traditional Thanksgiving emphasis with fruits of the field and orchard pouring out of an uncommonly large cornucopia. The man is the most satiric part of the picture, a combination of the all-American images of Uncle Sam (the hat), Peter Pilgrim, and Santa Claus. The cornucopia is in keeping with surrealist form. Here are mixed humanoid forms with huge apples, pears, grapes and flowers. The humanoid forms seem to indicate that humanity is the most important element in our abundance.

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