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From The President

Chapel: What's Happening

The S.G.A. President must be concerned with what is of concern to the students in general. There can be little doubt that the required Chapel point system is of concern and it takes little intuition to figure that most students are opposed to this system. Therefore, the question is not: "Whether or not to stand opposed to required chapel?"; but "Whether or not to try and change the situation?" and if so, "How?"

In keeping with an old promise, to do things, my fellow officers and I know we had no choice but to try and change the present situation. We felt, however, that it was very important to deal with this issue in a judicious and diplomatic manner. The course of action we mapped out was quite simple and based on the following information given to us by the administration and sources of our own.

For quite a while I operated under the assumption that a special joint committee would be appointed during the winter term to discuss the present required system. This had been proposed by the president of the college at an administration-student conference at Blowing Rock last October, but it never materialized.

When this assumption fell through, I decided that a general poll would be useful in gauging the seriousness of the matter and in determining what changes were needed. From past experience, the S.G.A. officers knew that any poll could be easily discredited by the administration as was the Food Plan Poll of last spring. (It was deemed "unobjective".) Thus, I met with Dr. Danieley to draw up a poll which he could fully agree to, thus validating its results. After some discussion, a compromise poll was finally composed and agreed upon. The "Chapel Poll" was taken at registration to insure the greatest number of voters. Of the 829 voters, 87.3% felt that there should be "no required attendance for any type of program."

This seems to me to be a fairly clear mandate for change. With the rapid turnover in the college administration, the College President became relatively out of touch, and I was told that any change must come from the Board of Trustees.

I had no alternative but to do exactly that. We knew that the change to the present point system was not done by the Trustees, but that the fate of a large number of students who are desperately deficient in points (including many seniors hoping to graduate) rests apparently in the Board's hands.

While there seems to be reluctance in releasing the actual figures on how many students are behind in their points, the figure of about 1000, (for the first semester) slipped out. Of these, a great many are in very serious trouble, having less than 5 points. We do know that the new system was not listed in the 1968-69 Elon College Catalogue, nor in the new Student Handbook. (Perhaps that old saying of "If you don't like it, why did you come here?" does not hold much water in this case.) We also know that at least the old system allowed for special cases by saying: "A student who is absent over the above limit will be required to show cause why he should be permitted to remain in school." Under the new system, we seem to have thrown out our small-college identity as well as a few Christian principles by eliminating any understanding in the matter and saying: "Those not having 30 points at the end of the year will not be permitted to return in the fall. Seniors will not be allowed to graduate. No exceptions will be made to this rule." I have always been able to "show cause for remaining in school," but I find the prospect of completing four years of satisfactory college work and not being able to graduate, or return in the fall, a little repulsive. (Apparently, I am not alone.)

Further, we have been informed that the faculty must vote on all matters that affect graduation. This has not been done. We know, too, that the rationale for distributing points has been somewhat inconsistent; leaving out any student sponsored events (which might be just as important as the college programs and many times, more interesting.) To be quite honest, we have learned from the numerous unfortunate experiences in Chapels, Lyceums, and outstanding visiting scholar programs that we do not want any points for our programs. As a general rule, we would rather have fifty interested people than five hundred noisy, disinterested, and rude, point-seekers. (However, if the college feels so obligated to abide by an arbitrary rule that will do such harm to 2/3 of its students as the President has indicated, then I am not sure what we will do.)

With the above information in mind, we are pursuing a relatively logical course of action. A booklet on Required Chapel is being compiled to be given to each member of the Board of Trustees. It will include the results of the chapel poll; a copy of the resolution on Chapel which was passed by the Student Senate; position papers from two ministers of the United Church of Christ, from three faculty members, from the co-editors of "Veritas", and the S.G.A. officers. On March 4, I will meet with the Board of Trustees' Educational Committee and urge their consideration of this issue and push for change. Next, if tradition is kept, the student leaders (Senators, officers, etc.) will have lunch with the board. At this time the problem will be discussed on an individual basis. (I am afraid we may not be invited this year!) From there it is up to the Board. This group has proven in the past to be, at times, very concerned with the students and I am confident of their judgment. I have to be! For if they stand by the present system-Elon's future and the future of a large part of

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Grading System

We, the tomorrow of America, need a change. This is not 1930, when your father was paddled for a low grade. We should not be treated the same; therefore, study your grading system--are changes needed? and ask?

Veritas' readers have recently read the article "Do We Need Grades?" Yes, but Professor Phil Owens, Bill Swartz, Todd Bridgeford, Earle White, and myself think there is a tremendous amount of room for improvement. We are investigating the grading systems at other colleges and universities; such as Pfeiffer, St. Mary's, Yale, Princeton, and Duke.

Questions which may interest the intellectual readers of Veritas are: Will graduate school accept a Pass-Fail grading system? How will an Honor Student be noted? What is the professor-student ratio in this new system?

Mark D. Stephens

New Draft Law

Last year the new draft law provision made most graduate student deferments obsolete. Many graduate school administrators criticize this provision because their programs would be severely disadvantaged. The number of graduate students enrolled is approximately the same as last year. This may be because local draft boards are not fully geared to the new systems. It appears likely that many graduate students will be drafted while in the middle of their studies.

Dance

On Friday, March 7, the Sophomore class will sponsor a dance in McEwen Dining Hall. The music will be provided by a group from Charlotte, the "Poor Souls", with Neil "Captain" Henning serving as Master of Ceremonies.

Miss Sheri McGirt, Vice-President of the Sophomore Class, is heading the Sophomore Class Dance Committee. She has been aiding in making preparations for the dance by the other class officers, the class senators, and a committee of sophomores.

Although the Sophomore Class will be the guests of honor at the dance, all Elon students and their dates will be admitted free of charge, and refreshments will be served. Chaperonage for the dance will be provided by Miss Ruth Doyle (who R.S.S. wants a date with), Mr. Robert Baxter, and Mr. Tyrone Rowell. Mr. Lee Roy, President of the Sophomore Class, urges all students to come out to the dance, March 7.

MacCreary Gets New Post

Mr. R. Craig MacCreary, a sophomore from White Plains, N.Y., has been appointed by the president of the S.G.A. to head the newly established post of "Student Services Officer." The "Student Services Officer" position was founded recently by President Allen specifically to further this year's S.G.A. pledge to be responsive to the Students' needs and problems.

According to Allen, the new position is designed to streamline the responsive machinery of the S.G.A. office, short cutting the need of taking complaints, questions, and special problems directly to the President. Mr. MacCreary will be authorized to hear complaints, question, etc. and respond and/or answer on the basis of the special information available to him and his contact with the S.G.A. executive. Allen stated that: "With our efforts regarding Chapel, drinking regulations, the Radio, collection of S.G.A. fees, in-class discrimination because of appearance, and the countless other student issues, the S.G.A. could easily fall out-of-touch with the student or lose valuable time before assisting in important concerns. The new Student Services Officer will leave the executive more freedom to deal with the major problems at hand, preventing a general bog-down due to an overload or over-extension."

For Mr. MacCreary's office to become effective and meaningful, students need to understand what relation and responsibilities he has to the S.G.A. executive. While many students with special question will be referred directly to him, the S.G.A. officers will remain at all times willing to hear any student. Craig will, however, have up-to-date files on what is being done by the S.G.A. on all fronts. In his new capacity he will be able to guarantee much faster response to the individual student either in consultation with the executive or in special negotiation for the President.

MacCreary is leaving his previous post as Special Aide to the S.G.A. President, where he served as a ranking member since last May. Although his main concern will be with his new post, he will still remain as an associate aide. The new Student Services Officer has in the past chaired the Special President's Commission on Local Police and Community Relations, the Joint Religious Life Committee, and worked with the Joint Honor System Revisions Committee.

Senate Report

Tuesday evening the Senate became the scene of a crisp debate between the Speaker, Mr. Paul Bleiberg and Sophomore Senator, Mr. Lee Loy. This debate arose because several of Mr. Loy's bills were not ready to be introduced. Mr. Loy contended that the bills should be presented since he had submitted them in time. He insisted that it was not his responsibility to see that the bills were prepared for the meeting. Mr. Bleiberg contended that the bills were not of major importance and did not have to be presented. After much debate the Senate, ruled in favor of Mr. Loy.

Besides the debate, the senate acted upon several other important matters. The Senate passed a bill setting up a committee to investigate the action taken by the administration on resolutions passed by the Senate. The Senate then defeated a resolution seeking to retire Burgin Beale's jersey.

The Senate then passed all new bills before them in their appropriate committees. Then after several announcements they adjourned. Several of the Senate Committees met after the meeting to make arrangements to discuss some of the new bills.

Notes From The Shrink

Dr. Ben Williams, of the Counseling Center, announces that a new Chronicle Guidance Occupational Library is available in the Counseling Center (R. 113 Alamaance) for the use of students and others interested.

The Occupational Library provides current information about specific jobs, scholarships, and college expenses. It also adds a large number of pamphlets, occupational briefs, reprints, and poster materials, to the material already available in the college.

Additional accurate and useful information about jobs and educational opportunities will be received each month from Chronicle Guidance Publications, the publishers of the Occupational Library, to keep the material current and up-to-date.

The Counseling Center invites interested parties to make use of the Chronicle Occupational Library to help answer their vocational and educational questions.

Commission On Drinking

S.G.A. President Noel Allen has appointed a special commission to investigate student attitudes on the consumption of alcoholic beverages. The commission will be under the chairmanship of Dennis Kopec. As a part of their investigation a poll of students was held on Feb. 26, 1969. The results will be made public, and presented to the board of trustees along with certain suggestions for possible changes in drinking regulations at the Spring meeting in March.

Notice

The Episcopal Church Campus Center on North O'Kelly Avenue, which received feature coverage in Veritas has decided to extend serving free refreshments through the first week of

March. It is hoped that students and faculty will take advantage of this service. The Campus Center or "All Saints Coffee House" is located directly behind Mr. Danieley's pad.