

## Viewpoint

### Theft affects everyone

Someone stole all 2,600 copies of the Pendulum off the racks last week. Numerous comments have been made about the theft. Some concern has been expressed and some snickers have been heard.

The truth of the matter is that the theft of a newspaper affects everyone in one way or another. Obviously affected were the editors and reporters and photographers whose work was treated like trash.

Those not so obviously affected were the people who created the ads, who submitted ads for publication, who paid for the paper.

Let us discount the people who did the actual work. Let us talk instead about the First Amendment, freedom of speech and the press. We all remember that, right? This year marks the 200 anniversary of the Bill of Rights which we celebrated just a few weeks ago.

How quickly we forget, or maybe the significance of the First Amendment has never been understood.

When someone stole the newspaper someone stole ideas. They took some of our freedom, the free exchange of ideas. The editorial page contained four letters from members of the Elon community. Their rights as citizens were taken away when The Pendulum was stolen.

Sure, we reprinted. So whatever the reasoning behind the theft was to no avail. But the fact remains that citizens of the United States practiced censorship of the news at Elon College. From all accounts, it appears to have been students who did the censoring.

If students are censoring students, what are we doing in college? We are hear to listen to new ideas, not squelch them.

Maybe the lesson here is that ideas can't be stolen. They can only be repressed for a while.

### The Pendulum

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The Pendulum, founded in 1974, is published by Elon College students each Thursday during regular school terms. The Pendulum welcomes your opinions, with letters limited to about 250 words, if possible. Letters must be signed and a phone number given for verification. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Monday.



### Student makes suggestions to SGA

To the Editor:

In a moment following our recent SGA elections, I'd like to issue a charge to our newly elected college officials and representatives. It is my wish that the Elon College Student Government Association will take on issues of real substance and concern to the campus and student body. Our SGA members could use their positions to initiate dialogue and discussion on a campus which all too often avoids such a necessary component to college life.

Yes, there are concerns over the softness of the official Elon College toilet paper, but to some of us there are even larger concerns such as recycling, AIDS, drugs,

### LETTERS

To The Editor

alcohol awareness, and bookstore prices just to name a few. All of these issues affect each of us as an individual and as a collective member of the community of Elon College. Just as Parker Palmer might suggest, it is time that we brought the subjectivity and reality of such issues closer to home.

By hearing many of my friends at other colleges and universities speak of their student governments, I know of the potential quality that lies in our reach. I think that Elon does have

the potential to provide its student government with more than just an extension of high school politics; and it is my hope that under the leadership of people like Carter Smith, April Craft, and Rachel Esposito, our SGA can fully meet its potential of becoming a viable working unit of student government.

The lessons and opportunities afforded to many of us here at Elon are enormous. If we, the students of today, are to become the leaders of tomorrow, then shouldn't we as a campus attempt to meet the same levels of needs and concerns that will ultimately one day face us?

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### Middle class students need financial aid

Amy Reynolds  
 College Press Service

It's an age-old complaint among college students stuck in the middle - their parents make just enough money to disqualify them for financial aid, but they need financial help.

Many students, parents and educators say they are tired of a system that favors the rich and the poor and leaves out those in-between. Now, the problems of middle-income families struggling to educated their children have

caught the attention of legislators and administrators.

And some colleges have come up with innovative programs to help students caught in the middle-class money squeeze.

On Sept. 26 the United States Student Association, a student lobbying group, convinced the House Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education that middle-income families need help.

In the draft reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, USSA had an impact on several changes made. One of the most dramatic

was the establishment of Pell Grants as an entitlement under which every eligible student can receive grant assistance.

The Higher Education Act is reviewed every five years, and the Pell Grant's maximum amount is recommended in advance to the Appropriations Committee.

As an entitlement, the Higher Education Committee would take the current discretionary function away from the Appropriations Committee. For example, if \$5

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