

## THE PENDULUM

Elon University  
Elon, N.C.  
Established 1974

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Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed, double-spaced, signed and include a telephone number for verification. Submissions are also accepted as Word documents on disk or by e-mail and as posts on our Web site.

The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene or potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may have to be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned.

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Each person is entitled to one free copy.

# Editorials

The Pendulum seeks to inspire, entertain and inform the Elon community by providing a voice for students and faculty as well as a forum for the meaningful exchange of ideas.

## Telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth

While checking facts regarding Elon community leaders for an editorial regarding their concern for students, The Pendulum encountered a troubling fact: students are frequently and unjustifiably denied basic information regarding their campus community.

Forty-nine local high school students were arrested on drug related charges this month after parents urged local school and police officials to crack down on drug users. The leaders' goals – to help students at risk and teach others civil responsibility. Community guardians in Alamance County identified a social problem and took action to improve the situation.

Such problems with drug and alcohol use, hazing and abuse occur at Elon – and in some cases are addressed appropriately on a case-by-case basis. But are Elon administrators, faculty and staff and community leaders doing enough to protect students, ensure their welfare and administer justice? Often students are kept in the dark about

information they need to know.

The Elon University Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy Statement outlines Elon's approach to student use of drugs and alcohol as one of education and accountability.

Many students at Elon engage in illegal use of alcohol and drugs but are residence advisors engaged enough with their residents to prevent an accident or health problem by reporting intoxicated students?

Are campus security officers involved in policing all potential law violations fully and equally? Some students have expressed concern to The Pendulum regarding the campus safety and police director's involvement as staff advisor to a student fraternity. Examining this issue further, The Pendulum approached the Office of Greek Life to obtain a list of faculty/staff advisors to Greek organizations Wednesday but was denied access to this basic information by Melissa Komasz, assistant director of Greek life.

Komasz insisted that the Office of Greek Life was concerned about

releasing the names of faculty/staff advisors, as faculty/staff advisors may become upset if such information were to be made public.

In a previous incident, the Office of Greek Life has denied The Pendulum information regarding a violent fight involving students in Greek programs, acknowledging only that the office would conduct an in-house investigation of the problem.

The Pendulum has also encountered difficulties obtaining information regarding hazing incidents within sports programs. Last year when a student was said to have been abused by fellow team members, the team's coach refused to release information confirming any investigation that might have been taken regarding the incident. Team players told The Pendulum they were told not to speak on the issue.

Honor code investigations and board proceedings are vital aspects of university life necessary for determining Elon's climate for social accountability and justice.

Pendulum reporters have expressed discontent with the information available through the office for judicial affairs in the past. The Pendulum contacted J. Scott Nelson, assistant dean of students and Elon judicial officer, Wednesday regarding the nature of information available for student knowledge of judicial affairs. Nelson distinguished available information as that which does not violate student privacy laws as outlined by the government. Nelson agreed to meet with Pendulum editors this week to determine what may be published in the future.

The Pendulum is fighting for students' right to information – a key to understanding the campus community and then approaching change in an informed manner. Elon faculty, staff, administrators and community leaders do not have the right to withhold basic, public information from students by denying campus media access to information such as the names of advisors for student organizations.

## Student apathy and lack of commitment alarming

Elon students, wake up.

We are in the fourth week of classes of spring semester, yet students are acting as though we're approaching the freedom of summer.

We've still got a long way to go.

It's surprising to see how many students have already begun to skip classes and forget about homework, classic symptoms of spring fever.

Maybe people are feeling sluggish because of the unseasonably nice weather. Maybe the prospect of a snow day is causing people to shirk their academic duties. Whatever the reason, it does not bode well for the rest of the semester.

Students need to remember their time at Elon is a lot shorter than they might realize, and making

the most of that time does not include lounging around in the sun on the lawn outside of West residence hall or skipping a class at noon because you just can't drag yourself out of bed.

If you can't make class or get your work done now, in the last week of February, how are you going to concentrate in May, when the sun is shining and it's a balmy 70 degrees outside every day?

Students' apathy is spreading to other areas as well. Student organizations are struggling to retain members, and students seem less inclined to attend cultural events or honor commitments.

Perhaps it is lack of commitment that is so worrisome. Promising to do something then dropping the ball creates a ripple effect of panic and

irritation. Student organizations depend on student involvement, and when students stop being involved entire organization are thrown off.

What does this say about Elon students? Based on some students' performances so far this semester, we do not seem too impressive. We seem, in a word, lazy. We seem as though we don't care. And sadly, many of us don't. If we did, there wouldn't have been so many SGA candidates running unopposed, nor would organizations be in dire need of reporters and new members.

Save your apathy and laid-back demeanor for May. If you don't, you'll end up worrying and working yourself to death by April.

And where would the fun be in that?

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## Corrections

Please send any corrections to [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu) before Tuesday of the week the correction should run.