

Letters & Submissions

Letters to the editor are always welcome. Submissions must include your name, contact information and class standing. Letters from faculty and staff are also accepted. 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. Send submissions to opinions@elon.edu.

Portrayal of gay relations on television 'sickening'

To the Editor:

While home for the weekend during the fall semester, I walked into the living room while my mom, using the wonderful new invention Tivo, was rewinding a part of the show "Will and Grace." She said only, "You won't believe this," and pushed play.

Standing there, disgusted, watching two men kiss on national television, I asked myself the same thing Blake Hinton asked himself in last week's column while watching the State of the Union address. "What the hell is going on?"

I, for one, representing many other Americans Hinton has obviously never met, cannot tolerate the way homosexuality is being represented on television in America.

I am sickened by the way it is being represented on television: as a normal, everyday thing that everyone should openly accept and approve of.

I think Hinton even put it correctly in his article when he stated that one would get the impression that's it is OK. One would get that impression, but homosexuality is not accepted and shouldn't be.

I'm sure he does not care too much for President Bush, but the last thing Hinton should be doing is blaming Bush for trying to pass an amendment banning gay marriage.

In case Hinton has not noticed, it's not just George Bush who doesn't approve of gay

marriage. The last thing I would think is Bush is holding America back by not "looking into the future," as Hinton put it.

When Hinton talks about sanctity of marriage in his column, I actually found it amusing. He basically tries to bring down the level of sanctity that marriage holds today in an attempt to pass gay marriage as acceptable. If that is what it takes, do you really think America is ready for such a thing?

If someone has to belittle marriage by making it seem like it is not as sacred as it was 50 years ago, then he or she should realize that perhaps homosexual marriage is not as acceptable as he or she makes it out to be.

I also was surprised by the comment about marriage being not about love between a man and a woman, but about love between people.

Well, if Hinton is in a position to make up his own definitions, then I will make up mine.

Actually, I will do better and quote one from a higher source: "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable," Leviticus 18: 22.

Even if marriage between same-sex partners is legalized, which would certainly create an end to anyone's political career, homosexuals in America will not be considered normal or ordinary in any way.

Get used to it.

-Nicholas Benjamin, '07

ESTV also used as outlet for expression

To the Editor:

In the editorial last week titled "Students should initiate independent expression," the author mentioned a variety of outlets for student voices, concerns and ideas. However, he or she failed to mention Elon's television newscast, Phoenix14News. Every week, the newscast encourages all Elon students to e-mail our station with questions, comments, concerns or ideas that directly affect our cam-

pus community. Phoenix14News is a student-run, student-focused, student-driven show and welcomes the opportunity "to provoke discussion and change." You can e-mail the show at phoenix14news@elon.edu.

-Jennifer Sposato
Executive Producer

Elon helps students adjust after spending time studying abroad

Angela Ragouzeos

Columnist

Although I find Leanne Jernigan's Feb. 12 article about study abroad ("Elon study abroad students experience re-entry shock") true in some indisputable ways; that being thrust back into the confines of our small university setting after studying abroad is a surreal and difficult experience, I still question a few of her suggestions about Elon's role in helping students readjust to life on campus.

Isn't there already a class geared toward returning Elon students to help them readjust to the "Elon culture?" Last spring, a class called "Study Abroad: Analyzing Your International Experience" was offered for "...students who have studied abroad and would like to reflect upon and expand their understanding of their experiences overseas in a shared learning setting," as last year's course description stated.

So the article's statement, "Some universities around the country offer programs that help students who are returning to the states with reverse culture shock. Elon does not offer students the chance to receive help or advice on adjusting back to regular life," is perhaps true now, after having such a course in the past either fail or simply not be re-approved for this year's curriculum.

I think that the workload of Winter Term is as demanding, if not more demanding, than the normal course load. During previous years at Elon, I've taken both a sociology course as well as an art course, neither of which I would have considered easy, as every night I had required reading much longer than that of a spread-out semester. I had projects to complete, papers due, exams that were worth so much I became a nervous wreck.

This past Winter Term, I studied abroad in Greece, and it was as rigorous as I've always considered Winter Term to be.

In order to take advantage and learn all I could in three weeks, I found it difficult to enjoy the comfort of a weekend off and some leisure time to enjoy the surroundings. I found that people in the country of Greece where I studied were very different from the students interviewed for Jernigan's article. The people wore makeup, dressed in normal dress and were not so different from what I am accustomed to seeing people at Elon wear.

I found a considerable amount of work came packaged with my course abroad. I had

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to read a lengthy book and write a five-page paper during the New Year's holiday before departing that next Monday. I also had to take notes on lectures and get up before the rest of the country every morning to get on a bus, return for dinner, write in my journal, find enough time to recreate and photograph, and after seeing countless sights and museums, finish up with a 10-page paper on "what I learned." I can't imagine a semester being more intense, and I'm taking 19 credit hours this semester between Elon and UNC-Greensboro.

If people are returning from fall term abroad, it is a difficult thing to study only one subject after being exposed to such a variety of observations while living abroad. The best solution then is to take a general studies course related to the country or a subject about another culture that can ease the transition.

"Since Winter Term consists of only one class, returning students are just now feeling the pressure of 16 to 18-hour class weeks," comments Jernigan. In actuality, I find it a relief that I can do my laundry again, that I can decide when I wake up, how far I'm going to travel and the comfort level of my bed.

I believe after having such a deep and rich overview of what is important in my country of study, I hardly took one course, I took several. I learned art, architecture, history, religion, sociology, business, politics, theater and gained respect for the vast differences and similarities between my home country and the home of my heritage.

Nothing could have prepared me to start at Elon again, because I feel so small in comparison to what is out there for me to learn.

If students struggle with being reacquainted with their surroundings, perhaps they should consider timing when they travel abroad. A five-week summer course leaves all the month of July and half of August to readjust to life back home.

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