

This weekly column will entertain you with questions from the minds of actual Elon students. Do not fear the subject matter of the questions.

THE GURU

“Dear Guru - There is this guy who really likes me. He’s a great guy, but I don’t feel anything for him besides friendship. I don’t want to hurt his feelings, but I just can’t make myself like him. What should I do?”

Going to school at Elon, or any other university where the sex ratio is unfairly proportioned for females, can make it extremely difficult to pass up on any interested guy. But just because he likes you doesn’t automatically mean you have to like him.

It’s as simple as a mouse. A computer mouse, that is.

What you need is a double click.

Now, you are probably sitting there thinking that I have completely lost my mind. Either that, or I have gained some obscene interest in computers. But fear not, this is a valid theory.

Think about when you are trying to open up a file on your computer. You can click that stupid little icon a million times, but if your click isn’t a double click, then your singular attempts could last for hours. The same goes for relationships. Unless it is a double click, a relationship just won’t open.

A lot of times women (and men) feel a certain need to settle for whatever is lying around. In those cases, it is more of a fear of being alone than a true sense of fondness that creates a relationship.

Please don’t fall into the habit of becoming one of those girls who just always has to have a boyfriend. You know the kind of girl I am talking about. She seems to acquire a brand-new man every month.

But if you really think about it, she is always getting a new boyfriend because she probably never liked the first one.

For her, and for many other girls out there, it seems easier to settle for a man and gain the title of “girl-

friend” than to face being single. Of course, after a month she is so annoyed with the poor man she has to let him go and find another.

Right, because the next one is going to work out so much better.

A dear friend of mine was once in a very similar situation with a certain golfer. But rather than tell the guy her true feelings, she attempted to make the best of it.

Well, the “best of it” ended with her getting annoyed with his “clinginess” and telling the poor boy to shove his putter up his ... Well, let’s just say it wasn’t his golf bag.

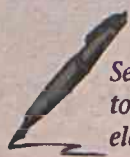
Not only is it unfair for you to settle, it’s also hurting the other person involved. To get yourself into a situation — or even to prolong the inevitable — is unfair to that person; for if he likes you now, he will probably like you even more later on.

It may be scary to let him go and wait for someone else to come along. But you know the saying: Good things come to those who wait.

Tell him the truth. Explain that while he is a great guy, he just isn’t the guy for you. He will eventually understand, and in the long run he will probably thank you.

And let me tell you, there is nothing better than a double click after a long series of attempts.

Trust me on this one.



Send questions to the ‘GURU’ at elonguru@yahoo.com

Nader joins race for president to gain exposure, shake things up

Steve Earley
Copy Editor

After one-time Democratic front-runner Howard Dean’s announcement to end his White House bid Feb. 18, the Democrats were sitting pretty. Just under a month after the Iowa caucuses, a once comically large field of nine Democratic hopefuls had dwindled down to four, with Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry and North Carolina Sen. John Edwards being the only real contenders.

The party’s intentionally fast-paced primary schedule did what it was supposed to do: keep the Democrats and their criticisms of President Bush in the news (this helped the president’s approval rating dip below 50 percent for the first time in his presidency) and allow their eventual nominee to escape the primary process free of the political bumps and bruises typical of a more drawn-out primary season.

Indeed, with a strong showing on Super Tuesday, Kerry could lock up the Democratic nomination by this time next week.

But, whether the Democratic nominee is Kerry or Edwards, it’s clear the party will emerge from the primaries unified behind a senator named John with no one between them and the White House but George Bush.

Or is it?

Enter Ralph Nader.

The longtime consumer advocate and 2000 Green Party presidential candidate announced Sunday that he would again run for the presidency, this time as an independent.

Democrats contend that the 70-year-old’s quest to “challenge the two-party duopoly” will also take votes away from their candidate, in turn giving an unnecessary edge to Bush.

They say that’s exactly what happened in the historically close 2000 presidential election. Had Al Gore received the majority of Nader’s votes in Florida, he, not Bush, would now be sitting in the

White House.

And Democrats are worried that it could happen again.



Before Sunday’s announcement, Democrats lobbied extensively to convince Nader not to run. Democratic National Committee chairman Terry McAuliffe personally urged Nader not to run and liberal organizers even

set up a Web site devoted to the cause: <http://www.ralphdontrun.us>.

But the Democrats needn’t worry. Nader won’t let history repeat itself.

Certainly Nader, a supporter of universal healthcare, clean energy and workers’ rights who once called the president a “dictator,” wants Bush out of office as much as anybody.

And certainly Nader, who will have to scramble just to get his name on the ballot in every state, knows as much as anybody he has no real shot at winning the presidency.

He’s running to ruffle the Democrats’ feathers, not sink their ship.

It’s no coincidence Nader picked now as the time to enter the presidential race.

With just four Democratic candidates left, Nader will get more media time than if he were competing with a Democratic field twice as large. And with more than seven months before the general election, he has plenty of time to make his points and then step aside.

We’ll hear about the need for election reform, regulation of the automobile industry, the effects of media concentration and about other issues often ignored by the two main parties.

And, with the threat of a Florida repeat, the Democrats will have to at least pretend they’re paying attention.

But, as long as Nader exits the

race before the general election, and in an interview Sunday on NBC’s “Meet the Press,” he left this a possibility, he has the potential to do more harm to Bush than to the Democratic nominee.

With next to nothing to lose, even without a party to answer to, Nader will be as free as ever to speak his mind. He’ll be able to say all the things the Democrats have been thinking about Bush but have found too politically dangerous to say publicly.

Nader deserves commendation for his courage to stand up to the role of corporate interests in Washington and for his decades of work to protect consumers, workers, taxpayers and the environment. Even at age 70, he’s a political breath of fresh air.

But, especially at age 70, he needs to realize that he can do more damage inside the system than outside of it. Politics are all about compromise. Nader’s uncompromising spirit is admirable, and works well for Nader the activist, but it will lead to no more than moral victories for Nader the politician.

If Nader truly wants to be a politician, he should campaign hard against Bush as well as against the Democratic nominee — make it clear he’s a force to be reckoned with. Then, he should strike a deal: agree to drop out of the race in exchange for a high-level post in the Democrat’s administration.

Such a deal would be a win for both sides. The Democratic nominee would once again have no one between him and the White House but Bush himself, and Nader would have the opportunity for more than just a moral victory come November.

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