

# The Pendulum

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## Rising legal costs

As students see the case

The legal world of today is one of increasing complexity which tends to make the average person stand in awe. One characteristic of today's legal system is the long time required to settle a case in court. An example is the case of Elon College and the town of Elon College. The trial has been postponed twice, and now the case has been filed by college attorneys in federal court. Although this move by the attorneys might be viewed as a good legal move, one must ask whether this is the right move in regard to student interest.

We hope the college realizes that it is the students who, in the end, are involved in this case and caught in the middle of the whole legal affair. Moreover, it is the students who are also in the end paying the college's ever increasing legal fees. The students themselves may wonder if they are going to also get it in the end!

One might wonder when considering the time element and risk involved in this controversy between the college and the town if it wouldn't be better for all concerned if the college moved all fraternities on campus and created a fraternity row. At least by doing this the college would avoid any further legal fees pertaining to this case and the possible risk of losing the ability to future and for expansion. Furthermore, by building a fraternity/sorority row which is popular at many colleges, there would be the centralization of Greek housing and there wouldn't be the constant problem with offending the citizens of the town.

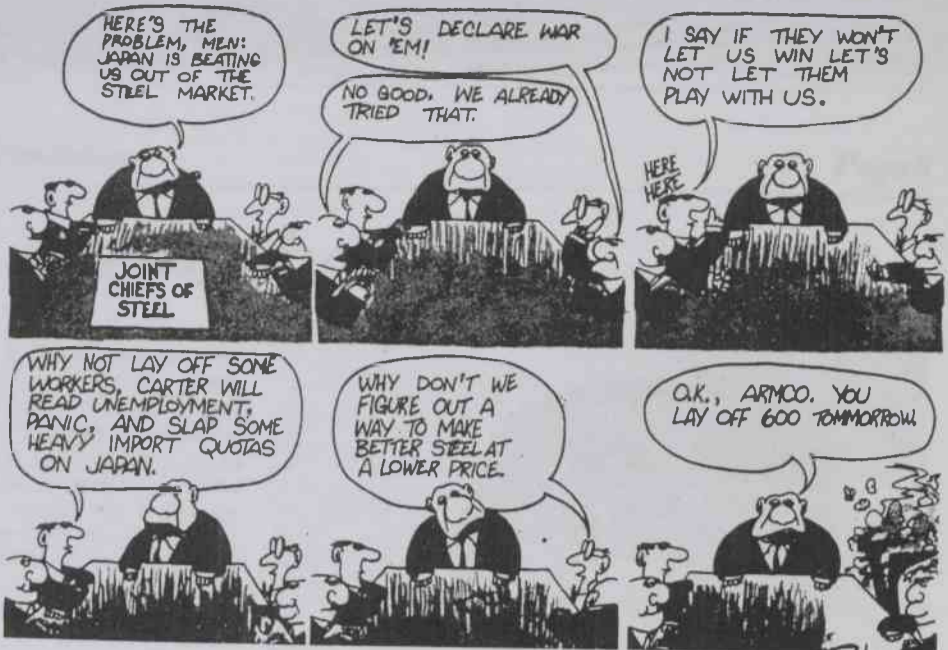
### Citizens view the suit

Students of Elon College may find the case of the town against the college, brought to court Tuesday and postponed until spring, a confusing and aggravating affair. If so, they join the company of many citizens of the town. If students are concerned that their fees could be increased because of the cost of attorneys' fees to defend the college position, citizens find the \$10,000 a year budget for town lawyers' costs a financial drain they had not expected. A federal court case now may absorb another \$10,000 in the wink of a clerk's eye. And then another, if the case drags on. And the citizens had no part in the decision other than to elect mayor and aldermen.

What could the little town do with \$10,000 or \$20,000? It is just now waking up to renovation, to its history, and to civic responsibility which includes beauty. Such amounts of money could help provide a recreation program, fund a block of trees and shrubs, build the gate and information board now deleted from town plans, or otherwise add something that now cannot be funded because of a court case which a few inaugurated and most knew nothing about.

If there have been no cases of complaint by citizens against fraternities this year, as one candidate for reelection said publicly, then this state of affairs could have been reached by some method other than bringing a suit. No one wishes to have noisy and immature neighbors, and if fraternity men were acting like brats in a residential area, there are both college and town rules of behavior that could have been enforced.

Both parties to the suit should try doubly hard to learn from this premature action that the Southern penchant for suits can be costly and can hurt many innocent people. Young people aren't the only ones capable of foolish actions.



## Letters to the editor

### Enrichment

To the Editor:

At last Elon College has discovered a major new tool in the educational process. Its name? The Academic Enrichment Class. Not entirely limited to those walking computers on campus, it allows the student a more in-depth study of the particular subject. Although there may be a bit more work involved, this shouldn't be a deterrent to students who might feel the course would be more difficult. With smaller classes and more personal attention from the professor, the student becomes more involved, thus gaining a better understanding of the information presented.

Having been enrolled in Dr. Lamar Bland's Academic Enrichment English section, I would highly recommend the continuance in this program, and would hope that more students could realize its benefits.

Dean Thompsonson

### Ripped off

Dear Editor:

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM. It was Wednesday, and as usual, I was trying to decide whether or not I should grace Betty Gerow with my presence. As I covered in a darkened corner of first floor Alamance, sufficiently removed from the faculty lounge, I made a chance discovery. "Something about that bulletin board is not right. . ." I inched closer. The entire southwestern area was overtly EMPTY. My thoughts swung back to that recent evening when lethargy and loads of spare time led me to amuse myself making posters for Hugh Holman's lecture, "Thomas Wolfe in America." I pondered. "Someone has indeed taken a free ride on the Tweetsie!" The verdant product of my creative elan (complete with a colorful choo choo) had been bushwacked. "But. . . wait!" The opposite end of the bulletin board boasted another large poster — large and suspiciously GREEN. I read: TKE INVITES YOU TO A LIQUID SUNSHINE. . . Harmless enough — although

I find it rather disconcerting that the staging of this spectacle should coincide with the Liberal Arts Forum lecture scheduled for the same evening. Quite on impulse, I reached out and lifted a corner of the broadside. The cool green that met my gaze rapidly became a brilliant red as my anger and frustration boiled over. The Forum poster had not been stolen — it had been crudely pulled down, reversed, and made over to publicize an adverse event.

Dear brothers of TKE — I trust your "liquid sunshine" celebration was an unqualified success. At least allow me the assurance that in the future you will be sufficiently able to procure and assemble your own store of materials. The Forum operates on a limited budget and is restricted to sponsor only those events which promote the Humanities and extol the Liberal Arts. (Besides. . . yellow would have been eminently more suitable.)

P.S. Every good letter needs one.

Gayle A. Fishel

### Programmed

Dear Editor:

During the holiday vacation, I came across a message in a book written by Dr. Wayne Dyor that concerned me and perhaps others. My thoughts after digesting the material were "It's true; I've been programmed to think and behave in that particular way."

By the time a student reaches high school he may have a difficult time making decisions about what to take and will feel much more comfortable with the decisions that are made for him. "In class he'll learn not to question what he is told. He'll learn to write a theme properly and the correct interpretations of Hamlet. He will learn to write papers based not on his own judgment and opinions, but on quotes and references that will substantiate everything he says. If he doesn't learn these things he'll be punished with low grades — and the teacher's disapproval. When he graduates, he'll find it difficult to make a decision for himself, because for twelve straight years he has been told how to think and what to think. He has been fed on a solid diet of check it out with the teacher, and now on graduation day, he is unable to think for himself. So he covets approval, and learns that gaining the sanction of others is tantamount to being successful and happy."

In college the pattern of indoctrination continues. "Write two term papers, use correct format, set margins at 16 and 84, make sure it is typed, have introduction - body - and conclusion, study these . . . The big assembly line. Conform, please your professors and you'll make it. Then a student finally gets into a seminar where the professor says: "This semester you can study whatever you want in your field of interest. I will help you in your selection and the pursuit of your interest, but it's your education, and you can do with it as you please. . . Panic sets in "But how many papers do we have to do?" "What books should we read?", "How many examinations?", "What kinds of

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### The fact is . . .

Dear Editor:

An error appears in Robin Moser's gracious article on me in your November 17th issue that I feel should be corrected. Ms. Moser mentions in the latter part of her article that the Soviet government allows the samizdat press "to criticize as long as this censor is directed at the local political figures and not the national figures such as the president of the party." Actually, this is a contradiction, since Soviet officials could never sanction any select criticism by the samizdat press since they consider the entire movement totally illegal. The practice Ms. Moser refers to is the privilege accorded readers of Soviet dailies such as Pravda and Izvestia to criticize local and regional government and party practices through letters to the editors of these newspapers, as long as these letters do not touch on sensitive national issues or policies.

David M. Crowe, Jr.

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