

# Editorials

## The Pendulum

Serving the Elon College community

JOHN HOYLE  
Editor

CARRIE TOWN  
Associate Editor

Offices, 102 Williamson Ave, Elon College NC 27244  
Telephone (919) 584-2331

The Pendulum welcomes your opinion, limited to about 250 words if possible. All letters must be signed, and a phone number given for verification. The deadline for submissions is 2:00 p.m. Friday. The Pendulum, founded in 1974, is published by Elon College students each Wednesday during regular school terms.

KATHY MEADOWS  
Arts Editor

Arts reporters  
Monica Mancuso

Sportswriters  
Jonathon Blake  
Wes Durham  
Doug Gorman  
Patrick Finnegan  
David Hibbard  
Jeff Marcin  
LaDonna Martin

General Assignment  
Amber Close  
Brad Simmons  
Lance Meacham  
Maria Donio

Advertising Representatives  
Jonathon Blake  
Bill Bruenig  
Lonnie Horsey

DENESE DeJERF  
Chief Photographer

Photography  
Matt Howell  
Shelli Willbrand

Production  
Julie Barton  
Crystal Morrison  
Stephanie Redding

Dr. JERRY ADAMS Faculty Advisor

## Last in line: Playing the name game

By Carrie Town  
Associate Editor

They are outcast who have been thrust to the back of the classrooms everywhere.

Their eyesight and hearing have suffered from the incredible strain of trying to read chalkboards and hear light-speaking professors.

These people are the unfortunates whose last names start with letters from the end of the alphabet.

It was the slaves of ancient Egypt with names at the end of the alphabet who were sent to the top of the pyramids. Often many of the Zimmermans and Yales

plunged to early deaths, coining the phrase "dead last name" or simply "dead last".

My only goal in life is to marry into a family name beginning with the letter A to H. This is the only way besides lengthy and costly legal procedures to spare my children the "Last Name Stigma."

Of course since we are all thrown to the back of the classroom by virtue of the alphabet the chances of my spouse having a "first - letter" name is almost impossible.

Still another strike against the last - letter person.

## BLOOM COUNTY



## by Berke Breathed

## Acid Rain Damage Increasing In N.C.

by Millie Buchanan  
Special to the Pendulum

Acid rain represents a growing hazard to North Carolina, says an environmentalist who recently co-authored a report on the subject.

"The rain falling on North Carolina is five to 16 times more acidic than normal rain, with episodes in the Raleigh area up to 200 times as acidic," said Millie Buchanan. "Two North Carolina's readings were in the country's worst 20."

Ozone levels in the state's metropolitan areas are frequently high enough to endanger human health, added Buchanan, a staff member of the Clean Water Fund of North Carolina. The Carolinas have the second-highest peak values for ozone in the country, she said, second only to the Los Angeles basin. In the summer, Charlotte residents consistently breath air with unhealthy ozone levels, added Buchanan.

Nor is that all the bad news about the adverse health effects from acid rain in the Tar Heel state, she said. Raleigh's 1986 carbon monoxide levels were the 10th worst in the nation. North Carolina is among the 15 states whose citizens are at highest risk

from exposure to sulfate and the federal Office of Technology Assessment.

Human health problems are not the only consequence of acid rain in North Carolina, said Buchanan. Ozone levels known to damage vegetation are common in rural areas. Estimated losses to North Carolina farmers due to excess ozone in 1978 were \$1 million in wheat crops, \$10 million in corn, \$48 million in soybeans, and \$34 million in peanuts, she noted.

Recent studies by scientists of dead and dying trees on the slopes of Mt. Mitchell strongly suggests that acid rain contamination of North Carolina's soil is acceleration, said Buchanan.

"Certainly we need more scientific study," said the environmentalist. "We don't know enough about the effects of the mix of pollutants we pour into the air, or about how air pollution and acid rain injure and kill."

But she said that knowing what they do is enough to justify action by both state and federal governments to control the pollution.

Millie Buchanan, 45, is a staff member of the Clean Water Fund of North Carolina. She is co-author of a report on acid rain's impact on North Carolina published by the Clean Water Fund and the N.C. Chapter of the Sierra Club. She received an environmental journalism degree from the University of North Carolina at Asheville.



## Sanford: Erwin Denim Plant Another Casuality Of Reckless takeover

The sale of Burlington Industries' Erwin denim plant, one of North Carolina's most historic textile operations, to a Canadian textile firm is another unfortunate result of the undisciplined corporate takeovers allowed by current U.S. law, Senator Terry Sanford said.

"If our laws, and or Securities and Exchange Commission, were tougher on irresponsible takeovers, we wouldn't have to watch important American manufacturing plants be sold to interests outside the United States," Sanford said.

After fighting off a takeover attempt by Dominion Textiles of Canada last spring and summer, Burlington was left with billions dollars of debt.

**"Irresponsible takeovers are harmful even when they don't succeed."**

Terry Sanford

Proceeds from the sale of the Erwin plant will be used to help retire that debt. In announcing the sale, Burlington officials stressed that they expected no disruption in the operations of the plant, which employs nearly 1,200 people.

Sanford this summer introduced legislation that would regulate what he called "the rash of debt-financed, buy-them-up and break-them-up takeovers."

"Irresponsible takeovers are harmful even when they don't succeed," Sanford said today. "Even though Burlington managed to fight off the corporate raiders, Burlington was left saddled with debt and faced with the painful decision of selling off productive assets."

In today's volatile stock market, the huge amount of debt so many corporations have been forced to take on will drag these corporations down, forcing even more sales of assets at even lower prices.

"It's time to regulate this kind of activity, and stop these highly-leveraged, finance-driven takeovers that leave or corporations so heavily in debt," Sanford said.