

Editorials

The Pendulum

Serving the Elon College community

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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.

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Candidate's standings on key issues

To The Editor

Amber Close did an excellent job in her overview of the presidential candidates (March 2). I recently received a candidate survey published by the National Organization of Women, which capsules how the candidates stand on a few key issues. I hope Elon voters will consider these issues when they decide which candidate to support.

Dukakis: Strong supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment; supported extension of time for the ERA ratification deadline; is pro-choice on legalized abortions; opposes aid to the Nicaraguan contras; opposes MX missiles and Star Wars.

Gephardt: Supports ERA; voted against extension of ERA ratification deadline but opposed allowing states to rescind ratification; previously sponsored anti-abortion amendments, then said he would not support an amendment. Opposes Medicare funding of abortions, but supports states rights to pay for abortions; voted

against Contra aid and against Star Wars.

Gore: Supports ERA, voted against ratification extension and against states' rights to rescind ERA ratification; voted against a constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion; supports the MX missile; opposes aid to the Contras.

Jackson: Supports ERA; opposes any law to limit or outlaw abortion rights; against Star Wars, MX missile and Contra Aid.

Hart: Was not a candidate when the NOW survey was compiled.

favor of the MX missile); supports Star Wars and aid to the Contras.

Dole: Supported ERA, but voted against the extension time to ratify; refused to co-sponsor the ERA in 1987; voted for constitutional amendments to prohibit abortion; supports the MX missile, Star Wars and Contra aid.

Robertson: Opposes ERA; opposes all abortion rights; supports Star Wars and the MX missile.

Kemp: Opposes ERA, opposes all abortion rights; supports Star Wars, the MX missile, and aid to the Contras.



Bush: Has changed his position on ERA-now opposes it; formerly pro-choice; in favor of the MX missile (as Vice President, cast the tie-breaking Senate vote in

Granted, there are many other important issues. I urge voters to learn how the candidates stand on the issues that concern them.

Sincerely,
Lauren Schepker
Office of Student Activities

Retention statistics questioned

To The Editor

Scott Wood's article "50/50 Chance of Graduating" in the March 2nd issue of *The Pendulum* raises some interesting problems in current retention studies.

How do you determine retention graduation statistics? Mr. Wood said that 672 students were

admitted to Elon in the fall of 1982 and that four years later 377 students graduated.

Does the 672 students admitted in the fall of '82 include only first semester freshmen, or does this number include upperclass transfer students?

How many of the 377 students who graduated in 1986 were in the

original 672 admitted students? Does the 377 include any transfer students?

If a student enrolls at Elon, planning to transfer to a four year public institution for the last two years and, in fact, does transfer and graduates from this other school, is this student considered a casualty or a drop out at Elon?

Valid retention statistics are very difficult to generate. The best way to know the facts is to track the 672 students for a five to 10 year period.

A recent national 20-year longitudinal study indicates that over 80 percent of those students who entered college in 1961 graduated by 1981. This study was based on information gathered by tracking students.

Maybe Mr. Wood's article will generate some interest in longitudinal study for Elon College.

Sincerely,
Lela Faye Rich
Director of Pre-Major Advising



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Dear ASA Sorority:

We would like to thank you for your involvement with the February birthday party for our residents here at Elon Home for Children. Your assistance with the party and baking of the cakes is greatly appreciated.

It is always a joy to know that there are individuals and business

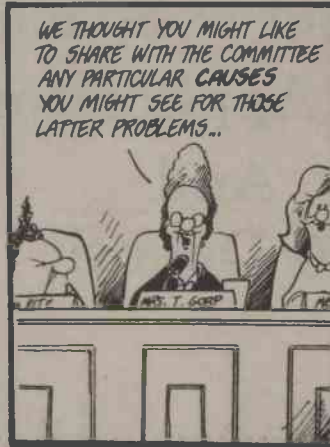
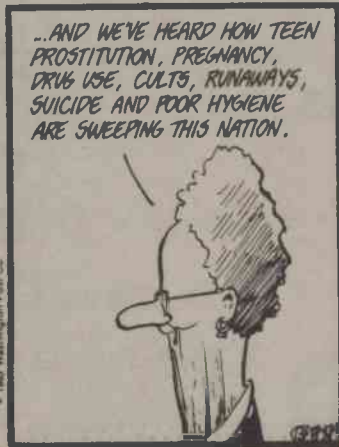
who are willing to give their time and talents to help the young people in our care.

Our best to you always.

Sincerely,
Dominique Ireland
Coordinator of Support Services

Billy Sipe
Activity Aide
Sarah Medlin, ACSW
Director of Elon Campus

BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed