

Editorials

The Pendulum

Serving the Elon College community

KATHY MEADOWS
Editor

TOM COZART
Managing 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 3:00 p.m. Monday. The Pendulum, founded in 1974, is published by Elon College students each Thursday during regular school terms.

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Letters

to the Editor



Minority enrollment an embarrassment

Dear Editor,

This letter is in reference to the article on the decline of minority enrollment at Elon College. First of all, I would like to say that I'm glad to see an article in *The Pendulum* pertaining to this topic.

The minority enrollment at Elon is embarrassing. It seems like the faculty and administration here are only making excuses for the lack of minority students at this college. They are not making a honest attempt to attract minority students.

Yes, the Elon Gospel Choir could be viewed as an attempt to recruit minority students, but I see this as a weak effort. Elon is just too reluctant to hire a minority recruiter to attract minorities who'll meet their standards.

How does this school or any other institution of higher education expect to increase their minority enrollment unless they put forth

greater efforts to do so? Tell me, what has happened to the educational system? Has the emphasis gone from educating students to making/raising money? I feel like this is exactly what has happened at Elon and I think it is a shame!

Raising the SAT scores would not decrease the number of minority enrollment. I know that there are many minority students who have SAT scores that would enable them to attend this school, but evidently Elon does not want them.

I know this college could admit some minorities whose scores are slightly below the school's standards, just as they admit non-minority students who are "slightly" below the standards of this "great" institution. Giving financial aid to those minority students who need it instead of non-minorities who do not would help also.

If Elon keeps raising its tuition and standards, eventually there will no longer be a minority problem, because there will be no minorities here. This would probably make most of the faculty and administration of Elon College happy. Their wish would be granted, for they would have a college for only the rich and the white. The only blacks they would see would be those who keep their halls and offices clean.

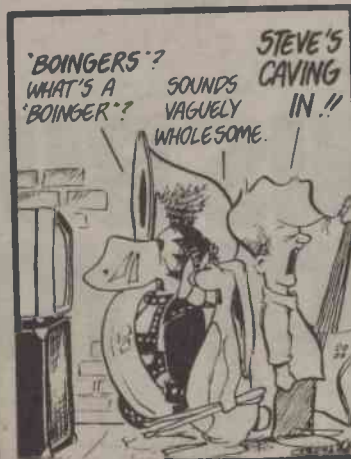
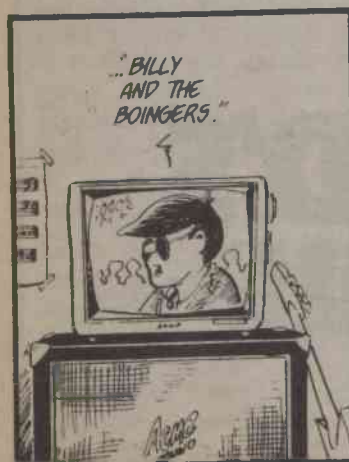
To the faculty and administration of Elon College: I pray that this will never happen. I ask the students of this school, especially the minorities, to wake up and take a good, hard look around you. Some changes must take place. We must stop sitting around being passive. We must come together as one and work together towards a solution to this problem.

Marie Gaddy

BLOOM COUNTY



by Berke Breathed



AIDS: it can happen to you too

The most difficult moment of Rock Hudson's successful life probably was the day when he admitted through a spokesperson that he had AIDS.

Scary thought, huh? But it could never happen to you, right? Do you think Rock Hudson expected it to happen to him? Do you think the estimated 1.5 million people in the United States who have already contracted AIDS ever thought it would happen to them?

It was frightening enough when AIDS was thought to be only a homosexual disease. Although homosexuals make up 66 percent of all AIDS cases in the country, that doesn't account for the other 34 percent who happen to be heterosexual.

True, 34 percent may not sound like such a high percentage, but think about this: some 57,000 people have become infected with AIDS through heterosexual intercourse.

By 1991, 279,000 people are expected to contract AIDS, and 3,000 of those will be infants and children under 13 years of age.

With proper information and education, 12,000 to 14,000 could possibly be saved, and where is most education found? It's found in the schools - both grade school and college.

One suggestion that has been made in the past is for high school and college infirmaries to make condoms available to the students. Many people shot down the idea saying that it would only encourage promiscuous sex.

To a certain extent, this may be true. However, by looking at statistics on teenage pregnancies over the past years, it doesn't seem that "discouragement" has done a whole lot of good. Whether or not parents like it, if their children want to become sexually active, they will more than likely do so.

The fact is that doctors have found condoms to be the best prevention from contracting AIDS. Now for the big question: should today's young people be encouraged to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies as well as AIDS, or do they continue being uneducated about AIDS and risk themselves, and possibly an unwanted child, contracting a virus that will eventually lead to their demise?

-Kathy Meadows
Editor