

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 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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by Chery Kern
Staff Writer

North Carolina, with its rolling green pastures, high tree tops and southern hospitality, has a plain grey squirrel as its state animal. This wire-haired animal could also qualify for the Elon College mascot.

Actually, this furry creature is friendly, but not when it is seen

Of this and that...

running up and down the halls in your dorm. Whether or not Elon knows this, last spring there were five baby squirrels growing up on the second floor of West.

It was not an uncommon occurrence to see a grey blur run by followed by a high pitched scream. People tend to panic when they see beady, black eyes staring at them when they are on their way to the shower.

Trapping these fuzz-balls is not easy. It is definitely an art. Step one in achieving your minor in squirrel trapping is to get everyone to stop screaming. Step two, grab the nearest garbage pail and throw it on

top of the squirrel, making sure you do not get bitten. Once the little bugger is caught, take it outside and dispose of it.

Squirrels have sharp teeth and can cause a lot of damage to personal items. Once a squirrel gets into a frenzy, it could destroy anything in its path. Some squirrels are even rabid. If you get bitten, you will have to go through the same procedures as a dog bite.

The reason I write about our "friend" is to inform the unsuspecting people of West dormitory. If you get waken in the middle of the night with a chewing sound or something scampering around, do not be alarmed, just arm yourself.

To build or not to build

Would you spend money to remodel a room of your home unnecessarily when you knew you were going to build another home in three to five years?

If you had millions upon millions of dollars, I guess it would be fine. Also you'd be spending your own income.

Well once again, Elon has decided to waste money to expand the campus shop. Not that such a change wouldn't be nice, but why go to the trouble and spend the time and the students' money when the school is already planning to construct an entirely new building in just a few more years?

If there had been extenuating circumstances such as Long Student Center being demolished in a volcanic eruption, then one might see a little bit of reasoning behind it. However, the Campus Shop as it now exists is perfectly useable.

Reconstruction and expansion will be a very nice asset to the students, but if a new building can wait three to five years, so can the sheer luxury of a bigger space.

Now, students can get an idea of just how the college spends their money. It doesn't just go out with the dug-up flowers, it also goes down with the destruction of unnecessary walls.

—Kathy Meadows
Editor



Taking action for all to see

At no time is a newspaper more in tune with its readership than when it grabs up legitimate concerns, shakes them out vigorously and hangs them out for all to see.

That is often the first step along a journey of discussion, reaction and, if people are sincere, action. Newspapers do much less to influence policy than they do to convey the opposing views that ultimately shape policy. A newspaper, at its best, provides the level of discourse.

Thus it is that *The Pendulum* has begun public examination of the question of minority enrollment. In the April 7 edition, editor John Hoyle, using statistics provided by the administration, wrote about the fact that black enrollment is about half of what it was five years ago and is the lowest in 12 years.

Administration representatives, sensitive to important distinctions

in an important issue, took pains to stress in a later edition, April 21, that minority students will not be excluded for narrow reasons, like generally rising SAT scores.

Editor Hoyle followed the story, pointing out that Elon's situation is like that of other colleges in the state and the nation. In the process, he helped *The Pendulum* serve its purpose as a conduit for discussion.

Indeed, members of the English faculty raised their level of reading from Chaucer long enough to read, discuss and, in department assembled, resolve that they favor "diversity" among the student body. They do not want that thrust toward diversity threatened by admission requirements, they say.

The stage would seem to be set, then, for action. While it is admirable to support diversity, it

would be of more help to the administration to suggest, perhaps with the help of other departments, a plan. That plan would encompass identification of funds for scholarships, design of a method for enhanced minority recruitment, and, finally, recognition of the curricular and extracurricular needs of minority students once they are here.

The alternative is taking refuge behind national statistics or hiding one's head in the sand of scholarship, while real problems go abegging.

Like a pendulum, a newspaper might swing the discussion toward a topic. But beyond that point more is needed. Action requires strength of purpose.

—Jerry Adams
Pendulum Advisor

BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed

