

# Editorials

## The Pendulum

Serving the Elon College community

KATHY MEADOWS TOM COZART

Editor

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 5:00 p.m. Monday. The Pendulum, founded in 1974, is published by Elon College students each Thursday during regular school terms.

## The new trivial pursuit

Once again, it's time for us to start thinking about the Tuesday in November when we will, again, decide who we want to take over the reins as president and vice president of the United States. And once again, the important aspects of the candidates have taken a back seat to more trivial matters.

Is it really so detrimental that vice-presidential candidate Dan Quayle spent the late 1960's-early '70's in the National Guard instead of trudging through the bug-infested swamps of Vietnam? Will it make a substantial difference in how he serves his country as vice-president, if elected?

The answer to these questions is less complicated than the public has been led to believe. For starters, a man's military record, or lack thereof, should not influence the voters' decision. We cannot criticize Quayle for enlisting in the National Guard, even if it was to avoid combat. Would he be a better man if he had gone to Vietnam and needlessly killed men, women, and children?

If this is true, then we're saying that the National Guard is not a sufficient way to serve our country. Somehow I think this might insult all the men and women who have spent time serving the United States in that manner.

And if it wasn't enough to criticize Quayle's choice of military branches, there is now debate over whether or not he pulled strings to do so. This whole argument can be summed up in two words - "so what."

When opportunity arises, those who can pull strings do so. It may not seem fair, but it constantly happens. Everybody in our society has been taught to "look out for number one," and that is one way of doing it. So, it's hard to blame a man for making decisions that, more than likely, prolonged his life and that we ourselves would probably have made too.

But does it stop here? No. Instead of just presenting the question to the public and asking Quayle to address it once, the media found it necessary to dwell on it for at least a week. And if anyone cared in the first place, they were sick of the whole issue when it did finally quiet down a little.

Now would be a good time to stop quibbling over matters of little or no consequence and start looking at the man's politics. Why should the American voting contingent be made to feel as if they aren't smart enough to hear the real issues?

By ignoring the important issues and inflating the small ones, it would appear that the American intelligence level is being insulted. If Americans can't handle discussions about real politics, then what use is the privilege to vote? A candidate should be voted on for his stand on issues like foreign affairs, taxes, education, and military spending instead of petty deeds that won't really affect how a man runs his country. If such needless arguments continue, the next question may be, "From which side does the candidate let his toilet paper roll - the top or the bottom?"

Kathy Meadows - Editor  
Tom Cozart - Managing Editor



by Darren Cubell

### DO NOT STOP ON THE TRACKS.

That is what I find myself seeing every time I drive through the newly remodeled triple intersection by the post office in Elon College.

The intersection of Williamson Avenue, by Trollinger Avenue, train tracks, and Lebanon Avenue sounds bad enough, but when you consider that this takes place in an area of less than 40 feet, you start to get a feel for the problem.

To be more specific, the trouble is with: 1) The lack of options besides stopping on the tracks. 2) The confusion. For example, if you are driving south on Williamson Avenue headed towards the central business district, you will notice several problems.

The first is that you must change lanes toward the left in order to go straight. That's fine if you are going left. However, in normal traffic intersections you stay to the right to go straight or to turn right.

## Letters to the Editor

### Warning: don't believe the famous lies

An open letter to Elon students:

At some point during this academic year, someone will tell you a lie. God forbid, you might even pass along the lie.

It's a lie that is told every year - not just at Elon, but on the campuses of large universities and small colleges across the country. The lie is "there's nothing to do around here."

At Elon, organizations such as the Student Union Board, the

## Of this and that...

### Train tracks pose trouble for reader

This problem might be alleviated by showing the proper lanes in the form of overhead signs.

According to Don Wagoner of the Elon College Public Works Department, the N.C. DOT did an extensive survey and found that a much larger percent of the vehicles were either continuing north on Williamson Avenue or turning right on to E. Trollinger Avenue.

Therefore, it was considered acceptable to inflict the inconvenience upon the people going north on Williamson Avenue when a vehicle makes the infrequent left on to W. Trollinger Avenue.

If you have made it that far without colliding with another car, just be careful that the signal light does not change red while ascending the railroad tracks. If it does and you find another car in front of you stopped at the second light along Lebanon Avenue, then you are expected to remain 12 feet in front of the tracks, hence we get the DO NOT STOP ON TRACKS sign. The theory behind this is in the event that a train does come

through, you won't find yourself 100 yards down the track.

But don't worry, if you are driving the 20 MPH speed limit and it is not raining, you should see the stop line.

In the interest of safety for vehicles either traveling west on Trollinger Avenue or east on Lebanon Avenue, if there is a train approaching you will notice an illuminated sign overhead which reads: NO RIGHT TURN, TRAIN.

The same is true when traveling in opposite directions along these streets, but reading: NO LEFT TURN, TRAIN.

So far the new signals have done their job well, allowing traffic to enter Williamson Avenue, as well as slow vehicles down when approaching the central business district from the south along Williamson Avenue.

Ironically, the school was built to face the train tracks, now it faces the highway.

I guess some of us were used to things the way they were, and don't accept change as rapidly as others.



Liberal Arts Forum and the Resident Hall Association work hard to provide a variety of recreational and cultural activities. The Office of Campus Activities and the Cultural Programs Office both work full time coordination events which will complement your academic experience at Elon.

This fall's activities calendar is fuller and more diverse than ever, including films, concerts, plays, comedians and magicians. Centennial events add even more activities.

Elon has nearly 60 organizations which cater to religious, political recreational and social interests.

Student leaders who have become involved will tell you there is no excuse for being bored at Elon. They will say there are not enough hours in the day to take advantage of all that is offered on campus.

Don't listen to the lie. Be a living example of the opportunities offered at Elon. Get involved!

Sincerely  
Lauren Schepke  
Office of Campus Activities