

# 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 5:00 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

### Resident approves Palestinian presentation

**To the editor:**

The Rev. Richard McBride, Chaplain, and Dr. Rudolph T. Zazar, Professor of Political Science, who planned the forthcoming symposium at Elon College deserve our gratitude.

Elon College is performing an outstanding public service in presenting The Palestinian People: Tragedy and Hope.

Each evening at 8:00, Sept. 25 through 28, and 4:00 p.m. on Sept. 27 and 28, Elon offers to us, free of charge, a rare learning opportunity in the new Fine Arts Theater.

The opening program is of music and dance. The series of lectures, presented by carefully chosen speakers (most of them nationally

know), offer us broadened horizons and insight.

Malcolm Kerr was a political science professor at UCLA.

In the Los Angeles area, through the media and by other means, Kerr worked to correct widely held misconceptions about the Middle East.

He was greatly harassed for his efforts to inject light into a contrived darkness.

This darkness has been very costly to American taxpayers and to basic freedoms (including our own) in that part of the world.

Kerr was born in Lebanon of American parents who were missionaries.

He grew up learning both Arabic and English, nurturing a deep respect

and abiding love for Middle Easterners.

When he was murdered, he was president of the American University in Beirut.

His legacy for us includes these words: Our perceptions of the world are distorted by the incompleteness of our information.

Jane Alford  
Burlington

### Sifting through the muck...

## What did they really say?

Presidential debates are designed to give candidates an opportunity to win the support of voters, especially those who are uncertain as to which party to support. A successful debate will not only help the unsettled minds to make a decision, but also persuade some voters to change their minds.

Sunday night's debate just didn't succeed too well in that area. If there ever was a dull debate, it had to have been this one. Unlike the "Where's the beef" of the Reagan/Mondale debate, this one just didn't have much life.

Each candidate's dislike for the other was evident, but there were no surprises. Both Bush and Dukakis stuck to old questions, which isn't unusual since one of the rules prohibits the candidates from raising new issues. However, these guys couldn't come up with any new attacks. Bush continued to focus on Dukakis being a "card-carrying" member of the ACLU, and Dukakis dwelled on the tired Iran-contra affair.

As for visual effects, both men wore the traditional blue suit, white shirt, and red tie. How patriotic since Dukakis insisted his opponent was questioning his patriotism (of course, did anyone notice that the Duke's tie was a bit crooked?). Bush looked somewhat calm as he cracked a few jokes, and Dukakis managed to maintain his usual cocky "I'm a cool know-it-all" smirk for most of the evening.

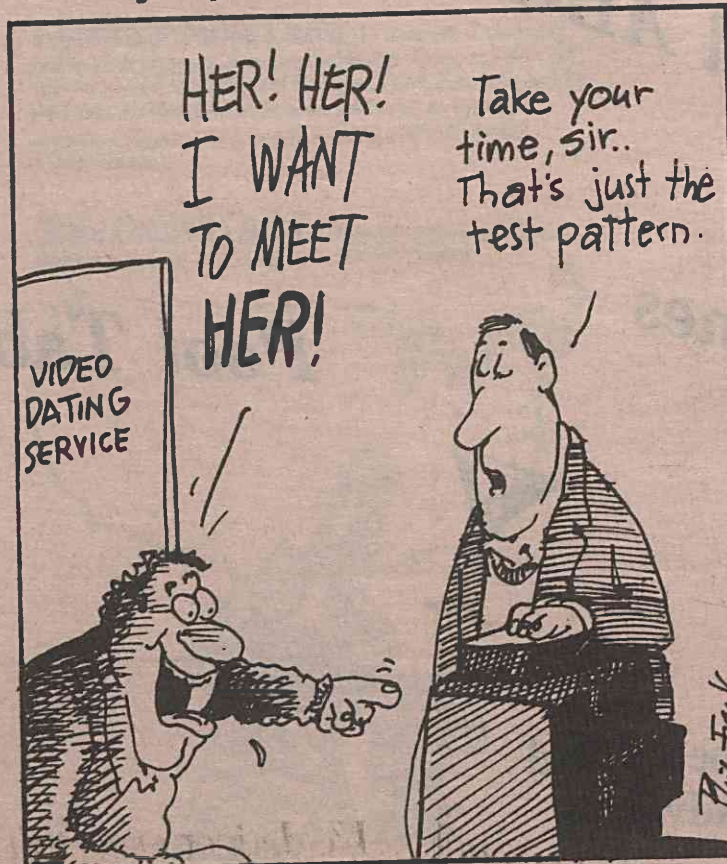
But back to the idea of patriotism, the only touchy event of the evening came with the mention of this word. Bush said he wasn't questioning Dukakis' loyalty to his country, but the Massachusetts Governor called his opponent's bluff on that. As for Bush, his best came in suggesting that he hitch a ride home in Dukakis' tank.

But despite all of this, one question still remains - who won? If you support Bush, you probably feel he won; if you're a Dukakis fan, you think he's the winner. And for those who don't support either, maybe you can create your own ticket. How about Dr. Ruth and Rambo?

- Kathy Meadows  
Editor

### Frankly Speaking

by Phil Frank



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### Reader gives tips on being informed

**To the Editor:**

Last Thursday, I attended Joe McCutcheon's lecture on Nicaragua. During the question-answer session a student asked how our government could be so misinformed about what is going on in Latin America?

One way people can become more accurately informed is to gather first hand information. Students who are willing to use their winter term travel to Latin America can discover for themselves what our neighboring countries are like. Elon provides opportunities this January.

Sign up today in Alamance 101 to participate in a work/study on Mexican border with Professors Larsen and Rodriguez, or travel to Costa Rica with Professors Lunsford and Brumbaugh. There is no substitute for seeing with your own eyes.

Lela Faye  
Alamance

(Editor's note: Brochures for these programs list costs of, respectively, \$100 for Costa Rica, \$600 for Mexico