

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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Finding a cure

Epidemic strikes campus

When the holiday season hits, many people find themselves hit with colds or the flu. A few antibiotics will take care of that, and everything's back to normal. But doctors have yet to come up with a cure for the epidemic that's infected much of Elon. It's that dreaded sickness called procrastination.

Once you fall victim to it, it's hard to shake off. Students and professors both seem to have been struck. Papers assigned a month or two ago have somehow been tossed aside, conveniently forgotten about (of course, it's not so convenient anymore!).

Then, with exams quickly approaching in just one short week, all the reading that "can just be done tomorrow" suddenly has piled up. Sometimes tomorrow just never comes, or at least not quickly enough, huh?

But students aren't the only ones who wait until the last minute to do things. It seems like professors sometimes put off due dates for assignments (especially long ones) until the last week or so of classes. But we can't really blame them, can we? They probably don't want to grade these projects any more than their students want to exert the effort to do them. Of course, there is a compromise to this. Since everything is due at the same time, everyone realizes that nothing will get half the attention it actually requires.

Then on a slightly different note, there are those projects that forget to be assigned until right before exams. Naturally, they're due within a few days' time. Why should one class be left out of the fun of a last minute frenzy? What's 400 more pages of reading or a simple extra project tacked on to everything else? Only five or so more hours that someone forgot to add to a mere 24 hour day.

So, what's the cure to this infectious disease? Since the wonderful world of medicine probably won't invent a wonder drug for procrastination any time in the near future, maybe we need to adopt a new philosophy and forget about the fabled person who so intelligently said, "Don't do anything today that you can put off until tomorrow, because if tomorrow never comes, you don't have to do it."

-Kathy Meadows
Editor



Letters

to the

Edito

CIA: an American protector or terrorist organization?

To the editor:

No, there probably won't be any protest surrounding the CIA recruitment call at Elon, as your recent article suggested. Should we attribute this to loyal patriotism or ignorance?

Does our student body know the CIA from TCBY? Frankly, as a college student I wasn't that well informed about the Central Intelligence Agency either; I'm sure I assumed that any organization representing America would be doing good things. Now I count those who work to monitor and limit the actions of the CIA.

Why?

When blacks in Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, were struggling for independence, the CIA paid mercenaries to fight for the white minority regime.

The CIA has been involved in attempts to kill leaders of foreign governments like Fidel Castro and President Salvador Allende in Chile.

The CIA led the overthrow of the Iran Premier Mohammed Mossadegh in 1953 which led to the installation of the Shah of Iran who kept power through American military aid and whose repressive regime impoverished Iranians for three decades. (Remember how surprised Americans were when the Shah was overthrown and the hostages were taken to find that we were very unpopular in Iran?)

The CIA did not deny writing and circulating a manual of instructions on how to 'neutralize' Nicaraguan leaders which was uncovered in 1983.

Between 1967-1973, the CIA was heavily engaged in spying on American citizens whose crimes were protesting the Vietnam War and supporting the Civil Rights Movement. Such internal spying is clearly forbidden by its charter.

The CIA does not deny that they were responsible for the illegal mining of the Nicaraguan harbors. This resulted in the U.S.'s shameful

boycotting of the World Court when the illegal mining was brought before that body for justice.

Is the CIA protecting America or is it our own terrorist organization that does no more to bring about justice and security than any other terrorist group?

The usual excuse for an act of this kind is that we had to do it because in this evil world, the ends justify the means, and so on But look at these actions? Were any of them in any way in America's best interest? even in the short term?

Rather these secret actions and the covert foreign policy carried out by the CIA put a real dent in our democracy. Do we have government by the people if the CIA acts secretly in these illegal ways?

To feel the full horror of what

was done by the CIA, maybe we have to step into the other countries' shoes and look at these actions from their perspective. What would we do if another country bumped off George Bush because they thought another candidate would be less of a threat to the country? What would our reaction be if Nicaragua mined New York harbor?

If we care about our country, can't just let inertia or blind obedience be confused with patriotism. It is patriotism, in American values, that has people on other campuses to test CIA recruitment. I hope students will think hard about whether the CIA is involved in before we get involved with it.

Anne Cassebo
Director, Academic Development

Gilmore thankful for election support

To the editor:

The election is over. The people have spoken. I congratulate Howard Coble on his re-election.

I ran for Congress because I deeply believe that a greatness of a Society is best measured by the concern of one generation for the next.

As a father of 3 and a grandfather of 3, I was and am still deeply concerned about our huge National debt, our trade imbalance, the need

to improve our Public Schools, the urgent need to protect our environment, the increasing cost of health care, the Textile problems, Japanese and other foreigners buying up America, and many other problems.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank those who supported our candidacy. I hope you will continue to be involved in working for a better America.

Tom Gilmore

Classified advertisement out of place doesn't promote "dignity, respect"

To the editor:

In reference to the classified advertisements in your November 17, 1988 edition: what is an advertisement for topless dancers doing in Elon's school newspaper?

One of the values that we are trying to teach here is a respect for the dignity of all people, male and

female. It is hard to reconcile an advertisement with this value.

Jeffrey C.
Mathematics Department

(Editor's note: After discussing the situation, the editors decided that topless dancers have first amendment rights too, and that is to be protected.