

The Pendulum

Serving the Elon College community

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The Pendulum, founded in 1974, is published by Elon College students each Thursday during regular school terms. The Pendulum welcomes your opinions, with letters limited to about 250 words if possible. Letters must be signed and a phone number given for verification. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. Monday.

Survey results are not very shocking -- that's disturbing

Almost two-thirds of the student body has experimented with illegal drugs. One in every five students has tried cocaine. Only one percent -- just 33 people -- have never used alcohol.

Shocking? No. And that's the most disturbing part of all this. Look at the statistics and you're not surprised. In fact, you might have thought the numbers would be higher.

Drugs used to be a rarity. Now they are reality. Everyone on this campus has met a student who has used or is currently using drugs. You probably can count the number of people you know who do not drink alcohol on one hand.

Yet students say they are not using drugs "to fit in." They get drugs from their friends, but they use them to celebrate and relieve boredom. Is this a comment about Elon or about society in general? That's what the administration, faculty and some students are trying to determine.

The statistics were not shocking. Instead, they were expected. But shouldn't we be concerned that, in compiling the stories, photos and graphs about the drug issue for this edition, our reporters and photographers didn't have to search very far -- maybe in the next room, maybe down the hall, maybe the person who sits beside them in class -- to find students who were using drugs.

A 'coke' addict Habit returns during fall semester

I am a "coke" addict. Not cocaine, but Coca-Cola.

Last spring semester I was drinking between four and six Cokes a day. I'd drink one to wake up in the morning, two with lunch, one in the afternoon to give me a little "pick me up" and then one or two with dinner. Of course, if I had to stay up late to study (especially during midterms and finals), I'd drink a few more.

The problem was that Coke was the easiest thing to drink. It was free and unlimited in the cafeterias, the Pantry was a short walk from my room and convenient Coke machines were located all around campus. Basically, I could get a Coke as easily as a drink of water.

Holly Sniffen



Then I spent the summer working in a resort town and the Cokes there cost 75 cents a can. So, disgusted with both my addiction and the price, I quit cold-turkey. It was hard but I remained Coke-free all summer.

In the fall, I returned to Elon determined not to slide back into my addiction. I am now living in an apartment far from the Pantry and have no meal plan, so

I never go to the cafeterias. When shopping for groceries, I used to completely avoid the soda aisle and instead headed for the juices.

However, juice is expensive; and as the semester moved on, I often find myself in need of a "pick me up" before my 8 o'clock class or while studying at night. Now a bottle of Coke is always present in my refrigerator.

I know that caffeine is a drug. I also realize that I am addicted. I look at it this way, everyone has a vice. For some it is smoking, chewing tobacco, or drinking coffee; for me it is Coca-Cola.

Besides, I can quit anytime I want to.

Drug problem even reaches peaceful areas

To the Editor:

Picture this: a family of four goes to the park for a picnic. The mother and father set the table while the kids run around chasing squirrels.

The youngest of the two children sees a strange object on the ground, unknown to him. Curious, he picks it up and studies it. Little does he know that the object is a syringe that was just thrown to the ground.

The father walks over to his son and sees that he is playing with the needle, but before he can run over and get it out of his hands, the little boy pierces his skin and blood begins to emerge.

This is what I imagined when, to my disgust, I saw a syringe on the ground in the park a few days ago.

It began as one of those days where you just had to be outside. The sun was shining, it was cool (but not too cold), and the sky was full of clouds. Two friends and I decided to eat our lunch in the park that day.

We got our lunches, drove to a picnic area, got out of the car and proceeded to a table in the middle of the park. We were having so much fun, joking and laughing about everything.

Then, just before we reached the table, one of my friends says,

Letters

"Oh, my God, look what's on the ground over here!" We went over to see what the big deal was. I couldn't believe my eyes. There, lying about eight feet from our picnic table, was a syringe!

Suddenly the park seemed cold. The needle looked deadly. All I could think of was how this nice, peaceful park was ruined by this disgusting "needle."

One of my friends thought there may have been a cub scout or girl scout who was a diabetic and had to take his/her shot. Yet, we knew that wasn't the case, because a careful diabetic would have disposed of the needle.

I live in the Washington, D.C. area where the drug war is a continual battle. On the local news, they show people getting killed or being hurt because of drugs.

Yet, to me, this needle made me more mad and upset than ever! How could this problem be so out of hand? What is next? Better yet, is enough being done to try and eliminate this horrific problem?

It seems unfortunate to one that this so-called "big city" problem is now invading even

the most peaceful areas of our world.

Bob Drury

Fast planned to help millions of hungry

To the Editor:

Millions of people go hungry every day. They need your help, and Oxfam America needs your help to help them. Oxfam, a national organization, is trying to help those who are less fortunate than us. They not only give to the hungry, but they emphasize self-development.

On Wednesday, November 15, Elon Students for Peace and Justice is sponsoring our own fast in representation of the world's hungry. We will break this fast on Thursday, November 16.

In order to help Oxfam raise money, we are suggesting the students BRING \$1 TO DINNER! The money will go directly to Oxfam America and in turn be used especially for needy people.

Sincerely,
Denise Adams
Elon Students for
Peace and Justice