

## 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.

## Absence makes an impact

By now almost everyone knows that **The Pendulum** was taken off the racks last weekend by the Admissions Office.

The problem, according to the office, was that the paper portrayed a negative image of the college. Unfortunately, what the Admissions Office failed to see was the purpose behind the "drug issue" of **The Pendulum**.

The issue wasn't aimed at exposing of a major drug problem which exists only on the campus of Elon College. The issue was aimed at making people in the college community aware that there is a drug problem everywhere in America, even on Elon's beautiful campus.

This issue of **The Pendulum** had the same goal as Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" campaign: to educate. Under Nancy Reagan's plan, even five-year-olds in kindergarten classes need to be made aware of the drug problem in America.

However, according to the actions of the Admissions Office, Elon College students need not be aware of the drug problem on campus or in America. Their actions seem to give off the impression that if you can't see a problem, it doesn't exist.

To what lengths would Admissions go to perpetrate their

sparkling clean image of Elon? They've already taken and "disposed of" our newspaper. Next visitation weekend, will they require any student on campus to dress nicely and wear "we love Elon" smiles?

The way to fight the drug problem in America is through education. That was the intent of **The Pendulum** last week. What was the intent of the Admissions Office?

Holly Sniffen

First, I would like to applaud **The Pendulum's** editor, her staff and advisor, Brad Hamm, for their excellent work this semester -- and especially for their work on last week's issue, which explored the drug problems at Elon College.

As a faculty member, I am glad to see this year's paper covering more news and controversial -- but relevant -- campus issues rather than serving merely as a public relations mouthpiece for the college.

Because of this expose', the staff, advisor, journalism department, and College

community were penalized last week when copies of **The Pendulum** were ordered removed from various campus locations -- presumably because Saturday was a Visitation Day and some members of Elon's administration did not want unfavorable views of Elon presented to prospective students and their families.

Wake up, Elon! There are problems on this campus -- but by exposing them, becoming aware of them, we can finally begin to honestly confront these issues. I am appalled, saddened and infuriated by this unconscionable act. Are we at Elon immune to the rights of the First Amendment -- or perhaps only **The Pendulum** staff?

What sort of message does this send to these conscientious, hard-working, future journalists, not to mention the other students in our care?

Whoever was responsible for the decision to "pull **The Pendulum**" should issue a public apology to the staff of our paper and to the entire college community. I ask my colleagues and Elon students to support their paper and demand that this censorship not occur again.

Kathy Lyday-Lee  
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