

Viewpoint

Vandalism is violence

When an act of vandalism occurs, most reactions to it are - "no one was hurt, so it is no big deal." That reaction is improper because vandalism is a big deal. Vandalism is a form of violence.

Vandalism is defined in the American Heritage Dictionary as "The willful or malicious destruction of public or private property." The key word here is malicious, an intent to harm.

Last week Elon College's own vandals were at work toppling artwork at the Fine Arts Center, stealing a statue of a horse from a local resident's lawn and putting a pillow in a microwave at Jordan Center.

The bust of Isabella Cannon was stolen and missing for weeks in 1989. It was found in a rock quarry. The year before some artwork was found in Lake Mary Nell. Last year vandalism in the library was the subject of a front page article.

We all pay for vandalism in increased tuition and a lessening of freedom. It is expensive to hire a crane to raise a 1500 pound piece of art back to its upright position. It is expensive to hire divers to search Lake Mary Nell. It is expensive to replace stolen or torn magazines and books in the library.

What is the answer? Should there be a curfew? Should we perform full body searches as people leave the library? Perhaps install the X-ray machines airports use to keep guns off of planes? Should we lock students up in their dorm rooms?

Or should we change our reaction to acts of vandalism. Instead of, "that's cool," or "no big deal," our reaction should be: "You're in college now. You're considered an adult. You left high school behind, leave the antics there as well."

Toppling artwork and stealing statues of horses are acts of high school students, not college students. It is time to contribute to society not contribute to its problems.

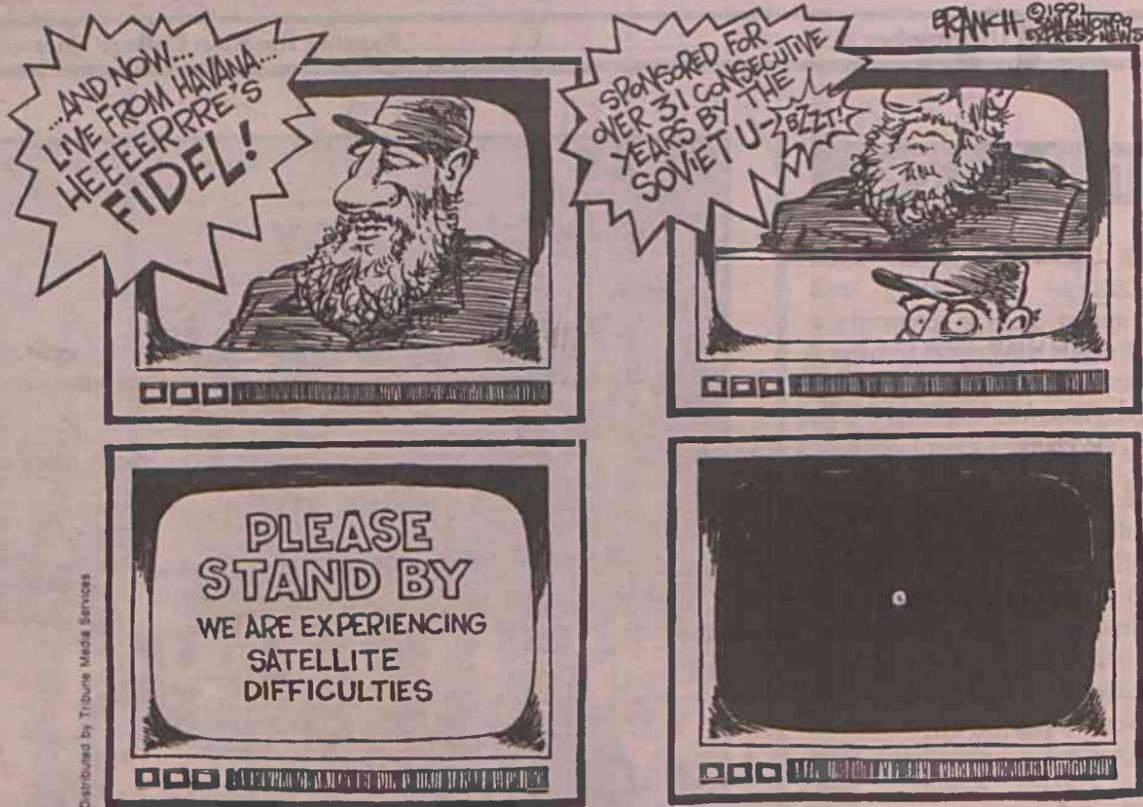
Vandalism is violence. If it is condoned, what else are we condoning?

The Pendulum

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Professor stays until the fat lady sings

I have never cared much for either liver or opera. For some reason, they don't suit my tastes. But when my new bride (some 18 years ago) cooked it for me, I did my best to eat. And when I went to the opera, I always saw it through to the bitter end.

Perhaps I should not be upset that some in the audience on Monday night talked and laughed while Dr. Pollitt from UNC-CH spoke. Nor should I be surprised that they left after about thirty-five minutes. He was your typical graduate school lecturer—not dynamic, but knowledgeable, if you were seeking knowledge.

I should not be upset, for

LETTERS

To The Editor

they were, after all, "watching television." We talk while we watch TV; we change channels; we get up and leave the room. At home, this behavior is not considered rude; however, in a lecture hall or theatre, it is at least an admission of ignorance and at worst a wanton disregard for the feelings of others.

I should not be upset that Tuesday night twelve people left at the same moment. And I

guess I should not be surprised that in less than one hour Mr. DeCurtis's overflowing theatre had become less than half filled. Some people leave the opera as soon as they hear a note they don't like.

I've never learned to like liver, but I have heard the fat lady sing. And as the senior editor of *Rolling Stone* said to those who did remain, "even if you end up not liking it, at least you know what it is."

Gerald M. Gibson
 Assistant Professor of Journalism and Communications

Anybody remember Fresca?

An old favorite makes a comeback

I always seem to like things that don't last. I was a big fan of Men at Work, for instance. But they broke up and I doubt that they are ever coming back. However, an old favorite of mine is coming back.

Anybody remember a product called Fresca? Well its back on the market and it tastes just the same. If you ever had a Fresca, you either loved it or hated it. Are you still clueless? The only way I know how to describe it is



Rob Whiteside

by calling it a grapefruit/citrus diet beverage, with a kicker of an after taste.

The Coca Cola company was forced to pull it from the shelves

in the late 70's when reports of saccharine causing cancer sprung up.

The new format of this soda classic is packed with the power of nutrasweet and boasts a killer new graphic layout on the bottle. So try a Fresca. If you're sick of Diet cola, it's a welcome change.

Anybody remember Caddyshack? When Ted Knight turns to the protagonist and utters, "Hey Danny, how 'bout a Freaca?" I didn't think so.