

Viewpoint

Holidays: a forgotten past

If a student at Elon didn't show up for class on either Martin Luther King Day or Good Friday, would they be marked absent? Would their attendance grade fall because they used a holiday as an excuse for skipping class?

Unlike federal offices and many banking institutions, Elon College chooses to remain in operation during these two days rather than give faculty and students the opportunity to take the days off and actively study their religious heritage or appreciate an important leader who made a difference in the society that we live in.

How can the college expect students to understand cultural diversity if it does not practice what it preaches?

The ramifications from this type of business decision range from students becoming ignorant to the meaning of holidays to having faculty/staff members being forced to make special arrangements for family members who do not have to work or be in school.

In general, the problem with the holiday schedule that exists in today's society is that people are too busy to slow down and take time to celebrate an occasion. People see holidays as a way to escape the workplace. They do everything that they wish they could have done during their regular routine. For example, many of us are guilty of only spending time with our families during the holiday season while others of us take the time to go to the beach during Memorial Day weekend or make a long awaited trip to a shopping mall for the July 4th special.

In a sense, the demand for activity creates a deeper demand for people to work. Customer representatives always have to be on hand to service shoppers and restaurants always have to be staffed to cater to consumer demand.

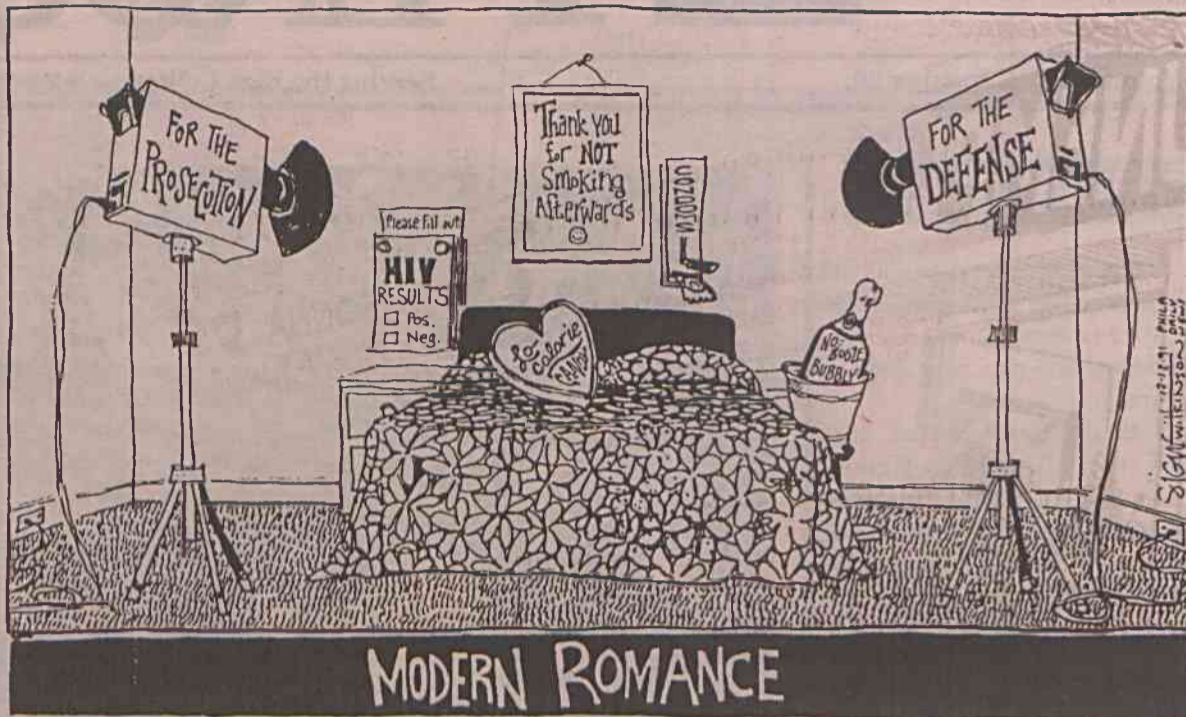
Working holidays is a trend that is likely to continue because people aren't going to slow down. They are only going to get busier!

The Pendulum

Editor: Murray Glenn
Managing Editor: Deborah Durkee
Sports Editor: Ted Toomer
Entertainment Editor: Dee Dee Carowan
Reporters: Jennifer Atkins, Kristin Blass, Allison Cooke, Jennifer Cowman, Jack Duval, Rogers Harrison, Ann Hawkins, Jennifer Hudson, Patti Peterman, Kendal Rasnake, Tricia Talbert, Keri-Ann Thomas
Copy Editors: Charity Apple, Christine Gowen
Entertainment Reporters: Brendon Hamlin, Tonya R. Taylor
Sports Reporters: Sean Farrelly, Terence Small, Russ Smith
Music Columnist: Kristen Meyer
Photography Editor: Rob Whiteside
Photographers: Erick Gill, Todd Hershey, Penny Stevenson, Mark Wheeler
Advertising Director: Christine Rudiger
Advertising Business: Hilary Rowe
Advisor: Brad Hamm

Office: 102 Williamson Ave., Elon College, N.C., 27244. News: 584-2331.

The Pendulum, founded in 1974, is published by Elon College students each Friday 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.



The Lost Generation

Where we are and how we got here

"We know what we are, but not what we may be."

- William Shakespeare

My generation... bred on war-to-go (served with a smile by CNN, MTV, and tabloid politics.) More diverse than any generation before us. Better financed, more organized, more informed, and mad as hell.

Mad because we, (as every generation), want to be better off than our parents, and it looks like we're not getting it. In fact, we're regressing.

The Plight

No generation before ours had to live in the suffocating shadow of universal destruction. (After all, we did have a president who believed he could win a nuclear war.)

And never has a generation seen the rise of a disease that has no cure and no foreseeable end. At least during the dark plagues of the Middle Ages, the people had a government which tried to do something. Ours won't even acknowledge our plague's very existence. Remember, our un-president George Bush's only course of action in response to AIDS was to get that unfortunate basketball player to be some kind of pseudo-spokesman. Bush didn't even mention AIDS in his state of the union address.

As I said before, we expect to be better off than our parents, and that's a tall order.

An order that isn't being

Jack Duval



filled. If you're not already rich, don't expect to be. We live in a country where one percent of the people control over half the wealth, and they aren't letting go. Don't expect to be middle class if you're poor either. The last year the middle class grew was in the early 60's.

The Effects

AIDS, nuclear destruction, and the simultaneous civil rights boom and governmental desecration of the constitution has done frightening things to us.

The advances made in the '60s have eroded into political correctness, which defines people instead of letting people find themselves; we're the generation of ME, not we. And now that everybody "knows" who they are, they want what is "theirs."

The John Birchers, moral majority weirdos, skin-heads, and yuppies want everybody to be white and protestant. Queer Nation wants everybody to be aware of gays. Greenpeace wants environmental awareness, as does the Sierra Club. N.O.R.M.L. wants to relegalize marijuana, and the ACLU wants to defend your

rights from hacks like Clarence Thomas. And as always, there are the freaks-of-the-free-world who hate everybody. In this group I include: Pat Buchanan, David Duke, and Louis Farrakan.

All of the above groups and people are either products of, or are supported by the ME generation - which has made hate mongering *en vogue*.

Political correctness has given birth to its own bizarre side-effects. Most noticeably how the young set have become painfully stereotypical - the very thing they were fighting against. The demand for recognition has forced them into conformity.

For example, the metal-heads wear black tour shirts, grow their hair long and hate all other types of music. Hip-hopsters sport overalls with the strap(s) undone, and wear pants low enough to show half their underwear. Many young blacks affect the defiant motif by wearing shirts bearing slogans that would be called racist if worn by whites, and compliment their outfits with Malcolm X hats and buttons. Peaceniks and deadheads wear Birkenstock sandals or go barefoot, donning tie-dyed shirts and a variety of beads and such to complete their persona.

Instead of being somebody, many become nobody - lost in the age of short-order identities

The Results
See Duval, Page 4