

Viewpoint

VCR Alert, Dan: *Murphy Brown* premieres Monday

I am a die-hard *Murphy Brown* fan.

I have followed the show since its very first episode, long before the entire nation became inundated with the "family values" battlecry that the show's plot invoked.

When the scandalbite that shook the entertainment industry first burst on the scene, with Dan Quayle using *Murphy's* pregnancy out of wedlock as an example of the breakdown of the American family, I was initially upset. Let's face it. He hadn't even seen the show before.

Murphy opted to raise her child, rather than abort. As a prominent anchorwoman, she certainly had the money to support a child on her own. And she was surrounded by a loving group of friends.

Besides, being a single parent was not her plan; her ex-husband was the one who ditched her with the unexpected pregnancy and flew off to South America or someplace.

Yes, Quayle was probably barking up the wrong tree by picking on *Murphy*, who has it made compared to most single parents.

However, it is true that the American family has changed dramatically in the past generation and the popular show represents that change. No one can deny that the absence of fathers in our inner cities is a major social problem that manifests itself in many areas, including teen pregnancy, poverty and juvenile delinquency. And few can dispute that television has a powerful impact on the national psyche, especially when more than 38 million viewers tuned in for last season's cliff hanger.

I guess in some ways it is disturbing that Ward and June are no longer the norm, when most of heartland America still believes in the ideal two-parent family. I still believe in that too. That's what I want for my future and I have to respect Quayle for taking a stand for that value. But in today's world, our families bear little resemblance to the Cleavers and Quayle cannot expect the television industry to live in a bubble and pretend these situations don't exist.

I know my VCR will be rolling Monday night when the season opener of *Murphy Brown* premieres. I bet Quayle's will too.

The Pendulum

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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.



Elon vs Carson-Newman Get some smash-mouth religion

The football game is as close as a college community can get to religion without tithing seriously or delving into the netherworld of heavy hallucinogen intake.

Think about it.

The combatants leave Elon early in the morning to fast and meditate before the struggle, while the rest of the village enjoys a huge orgy of food and drink on the outskirts of the combat pit.

After the traditional overindulgence, the horde moves into position around the proving grounds, sneaking more drink past the tribe elders. The warriors have donned the armor, which bears the tribal markings, and are performing holy rituals around projectiles made from slaughtered animal skin.

Drums beat hypnotic rhythms into the ground, prompting many into ecstatic dervishes.

Suddenly, the warriors leave the grounds, the drums stop, and silence crowds the air. A group of carefully chosen devotees march to the center of the arena, brandishing the sacred colors of the holy union. Everyone chants the mantra of unity.

Like rolling thunder, the voice of the medicine man rings through the air - its magic. He asks the gods of speed and strength and courage to smile upon us.

Jack Duval



The prayer ends as suddenly as it began. And terrible screams break the silence, taunting the enemy and calling the names of favorite warriors, who have gathered under one of the tribes totem poles.

Fertility maidens (first coined by Dr. Sullivan) rush out to meet the warriors and form a symbolic tunnel for them to run through.

The combatants encircle an ancient warrior, who gives them the guidance of maturity - they reach instant satori and burst through the tunnel of maidens.

The crowd, feeling the drink and drums, is driven into a wanton frenzy - some fall and are carried away.

A Call To Arms

This Saturday, number three ranked Carson-Newman will roll into Burlington Memorial Stadium with one thing on its collective mind - to get a win and get out.

But in the back of that number three ranked mind, there will be a voice, softly talking to itself. It will be whispering "two close wins against weak teams," "we're untested," "road game,"

"this team beat Wofford."

Anyone who's played sports knows that such whispers are not desirable to have rattling around your head when playing the seventh ranked team in the nation (which Elon currently is.) They have a nasty tendency to turn into frenzied roars. Which is where you come in.

It is impossible to have a home field advantage without fan support!

This match-up is one of mythic proportions: the number three and number seven teams in the nation will be battling for the SAC-8 conference title in week three of the season. It doesn't get any better than that.

So get some religion and help your team crank a football down Carson-Newman's throat!

