

Viewpoint

The tearful good-bye and sappy send-off (or not)

Here it is. The big sappy send-off, the column that leaves you rushing for the Kleenex box as you reflect on the watercolor memories that were 1992-93... Or maybe not.

Yes, our collective daytimers have been riddled with unforgettable experiences after this year's events. We've seen presidents, past and present, on our campus. We've shaken their hands. We've marched for women's rights. We've mourned the death of a classmate. We've dodged construction sites and bullets at the local grocery store.

But this year's experiences have forced us as a newspaper staff to grow and stretch and be challenged in ways we never thought possible. As someone once said, "All newspaper editorial writers ever do is come down from the hills after the battle is over and shoot the wounded." So here goes.

Thanks go out to those who understood our limitations as a staff, to those who still supported our efforts and offered words of encouragement or a pat on the back for a job well done.

Thanks also go out to those who wrote letters, who held us accountable, who challenged and criticized what they read in these pages. Even though you may have ended up on the office dashboard, you made us better by making us grapple for the truth and inciting us to prove you wrong or serve you better.

Through hazy stares at a computer screen at 3 a.m., through countless hours armed with only an X-acto knife, a Biggie Coke and a thesaurus, through small numbers and a constantly changing staff, we have attempted to serve the Elon community the best we could with what we had. Mistakes were made, toes were stepped on, coverage was sometimes lacking.

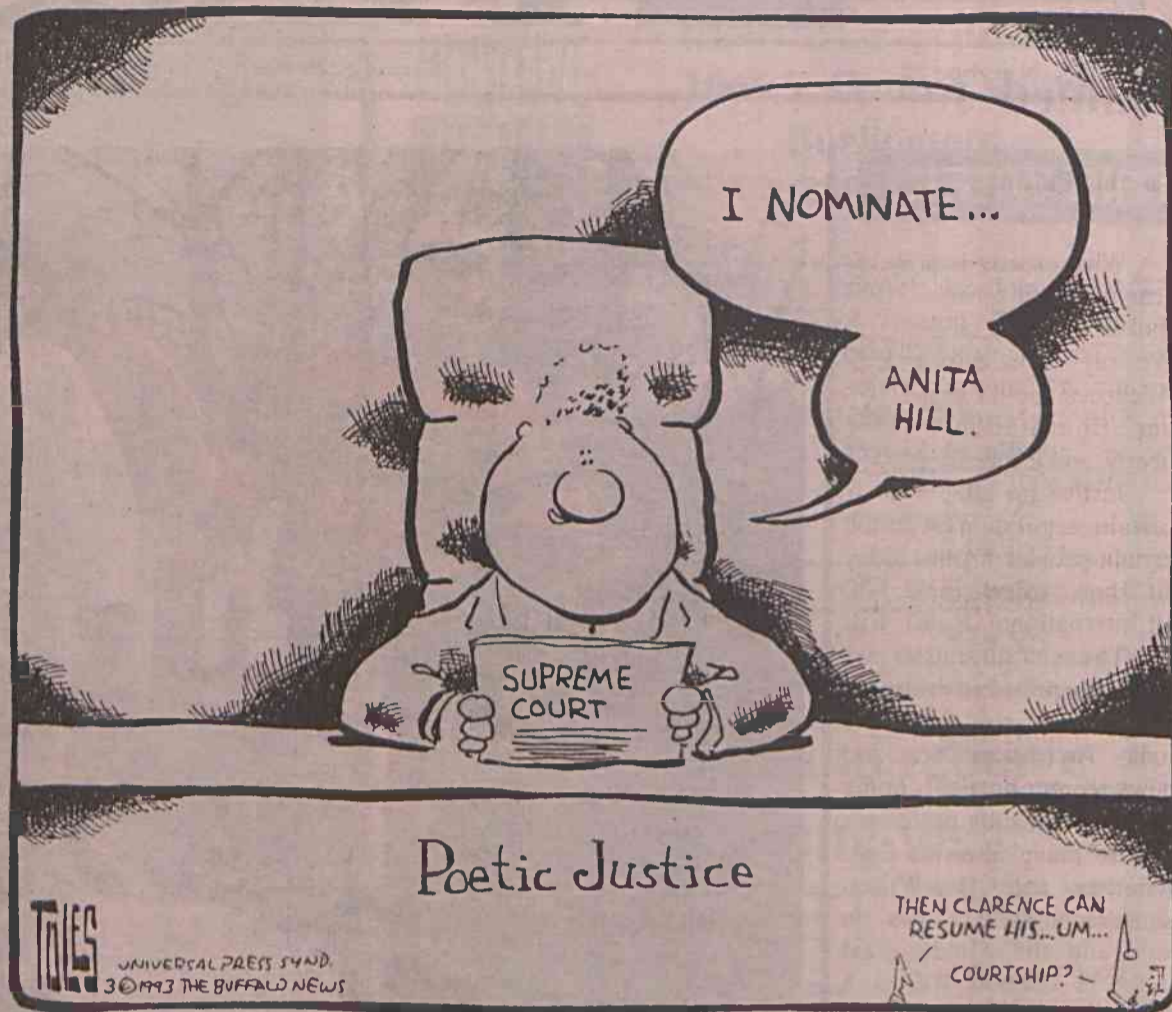
But we're not *The New York Times*, not a finely tuned media machine. This is a training ground for journalism students where we have certainly learned a thing or two. We hope you did as well.

The Pendulum

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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.



Charge to the students

The column you thought I'd never write

Well, this is it. My last editorial.

What to say? Should I wax sappy -- not my style; should I reflect -- it's been done; should I preach... hell, yes! It's paid the bills so far.

And besides, reader, you need me to tell it like it is -- I know this for fact. I've even gotten reports, for instance, about how Fred Young quit seeing his astrologer because my columns were so eerily insightful. They say he ponders them for hours every night, pausing only to refill his Coleman R-9 lantern with Zippo lighter fluid.

So you can imagine the kind of stress I've been under.

But on a lighter note, last week I charged the teachers with making the four-hour class format work. Now, students, it's your turn to be addressed.

By choosing to attend Elon (or any other college) you have taken on an obligation. An obligation to be something better when you leave than when you came. How you go about doing this is your own business.

Jack Duval



“ This is not some heavy trip... just a reminder (or a wakeup) for the masses. ”

Now, this is not some heavy trip I'm laying on you, just a reminder (or a wakeup call) for the masses. And if you'll think about it, it makes sense. Because if you spend four years of your life doing something as lofty as getting an education (whatever that may be) and you haven't grown, then you've not only wasted your time

and money but also the time and money of your fellow students. This is simply because college is a collaborative affair.

Have you ever been to a "big party" where only a few people showed up? You left, right? Well, college is the same way - the more people who "show up," the better it is for everyone.

Note: "showing up" isn't just going through the motions.

Deep, huh?

Weren't ready for that were ya? Probably thought I was gonna lay down one of those hipped-out, slash and burn, to-the-hilt, word-as-weapon, purple-hazed, red-scare, blue-light-in-my-rearview, verbal blitzkriegs that leaves you with that think-I'm-gonna-puke, too-tired-to-fight-about-it, did-you-read-what-that-cat-wrote look on your face.

Well, I didn't.

I will leave you with this thought though: next time you watch your roommate puke malt liquor for distance, remember that you're viewing the future of America.