

## Viewpoint

Three Elon administrators have recently told *Pendulum* reporters and editors that they are being "too aggressive" in covering the news.

I have stated before that *The Pendulum* strives to run like a real newspaper. Real newspapers are aggressive.

Real newspapers don't get all their information from press releases or allow people to tell them only what they want the paper to know.

Real newspapers have to go out and find the real story behind what is going on.

This doesn't mean we are the paparazzi hiding out in bushes waiting for someone to break the law. We try to find the facts and clear up any rumors that may be floating around our small college community.

There are times when reporters are forced to call faculty and staff at home. We don't like to do this; but when officials do not return phone calls or are tied up in meetings all day, it makes it difficult to contact them.

*The Pendulum* should try and reach officials at home, rather than omit their side of a story and print that they "were not available for comment."

If a source for a story doesn't want to comment, then that is all they have to say. Once a source says, "No comment," *The Pendulum* leaves them alone. We have never "harassed" anyone for a comment.

Being "aggressive" is not a bad thing. It proves to people that this newspaper staff is motivated and is concerned about what is going on in our environment and community.

Students don't want to read something they already know. Our job is to inform them of the facts and let them decide the truth.

There is no room for a "passive" newspaper in our society today.

Erick Gill,  
Editor

## THE PENDULUM

Serving the Elon College Community

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The *Pendulum*, founded in 1974, is published by Elon students. The *Pendulum* welcomes your opinions with letters limited to 300 words. Letters must be signed with a phone number for verification. Deadline for submission is noon Monday.

Single copies of *The Pendulum* are free. If extra copies are needed, they can be purchased at *The Pendulum* office.

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## Don't blame the Tortoises

Silly Bastards. Yes, to this day it is still the Silly Bastards who make everything difficult for the rest of us.

I had planned to write this week as a continuation of last weeks column about Responsible Education and the like, as it pertains to the evil crime of rape. I have figured out in the interim that it is not only rape that is spurred on by these silly things but everything that is terrible in our world today.

This, as I named it earlier, is where The Silly Bastards come in. These are same people who have wars started on the premise of a religious word or kill because of somebody else or litter or lie or cheat or steal to ruin the free country we are in at this moment.

The current state of our society can be blamed on a number of things, but none of these things are as exciting as Giant Tortoises. Tortoises can live for over a hundred years.

Marc  
Gentile



Since it seems like they never do anything, at first glance it would appear as if these immense reptiles are bored for the majority of their lives. This, however, is not true.

In the great mind of a Tortoise thoughts travel at a incredibly slow rate of speed. This is what keeps them from being bored. Tortoises, partially Galapagos Tortoises, have fierce allergies. These allergies produce a chemical in their brain that responds very strangely to lettuce.

When a Giant Tortoise eats lettuce the reaction causes their brain to speed up to fifty times

that of a normal human being. This propels them into a massive psychedelic experience, which I'm told is a remarkable trip. So think twice before defaming any part of a Tortoises amazing life span.

This theory, although backed by minutes of research, may have been inspired by falling asleep with the Discovery Channel on after an especially long Drink and Drown at the Lighthouse.

Anyway the point I was trying to make is that everything sucks and we can all safely blame the government.

After eons of development and first rate evolution, the Human race has dissolved into a large tribe of single celled organisms that wear really expensive shoes.

From the standpoint of any higher being, your wish to extrapolate the Earth is probably really depressing. I imagine this column did not help the cause any.

## Women and Spirituality

This past weekend, several women from Elon attended a retreat about women and spirituality. Among some of the questions raised at this retreat were: What is spirituality? and What does spirituality mean to you as an individual woman? After careful discussion and thought, we came up with several different understandings of spirituality. For some of us it meant practicing organized religion. For others, it meant connecting through personal meditation or other means of expression. So, as you can see, the interpretation of spirituality constitutes a wide spectrum of understandings.

Another area of discussion which focused around spirituality was the role that "God" plays in our spirituality as women. For some, God does not play a role. For those whose spirituality does include a God, to what extent can one experience spirituality freely in a Christian society that keeps women oppressed?

Regardless of one's religious beliefs, religion has affected women (and other groups) negatively in some way or another. This is mostly due to the patriarchal interpretation of

The  
Sister  
Insider



the Bible which has affected the morals and laws of our society.

For one example, the literal interpretation of Genesis 2:4 - 2:7 states "then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man (Adham) became a living being." What can be concluded here is that man is considered the first creation of living beings. Those verses from the Bible have been used to place man superior to woman on the simple issue that God created man first. On the other hand, the word Adham which has been interpreted as "man" from the original Hebrew text, is a generic term for humankind. "Man" has been substituted here to reinforce a patriarchal society, and to keep women oppressed.

This is just one example in the Christian religion where women

are exploited through religious text. Many women have abandoned the Christian religion because of this exclusiveness. What women need to understand is that they do not have to reject their religion. Women do not have to accept existing religious structures. They have the ability to change organized religion from within to make their religious experiences more inclusive and positive - just as Catholics for Choice formed to remain Catholic, yet change old laws to fit today's realities. Women also have the option of creating their own individual spirituality. If you desire to better understand what women's role is in religion and spirituality, here are a few feminist-theologians to help you: Phyllis Trible, Mary Daly, Rosemary Radford Ruether, and Nelle Morton.

Hopefully, through a greater understanding of women's oppression in religion, we can begin to focus on making positive changes to create a society where spirituality can be inclusive for everyone.

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