

Viewpoint

I have to admit, I am not thrilled with the idea that Rex Waters, associate dean of Student Affairs, advised both the SGA and the Media Board. Since the Media Board asks the Student Government Association for funding, I think it is a clear a conflict of interest.

I was relieved to find out that a new adviser for SGA would be taking Waters's place.

However, when I found out that Barb Hanke, director of Student Affairs, was going to be the new adviser of SGA and remain the adviser of the Student Union Board, I was baffled.

Why did Waters even bother to step down as SGA adviser? Isn't Hanke becoming the SGA adviser creating the same conflict of interest that Waters went through this year?

Hanke told a *Pendulum* reporter she doesn't see a conflict of interest. Hanke said only "students who are not mature enough" may see that as a conflict.

Well call me "immature." I don't see how Hanke believes that being the adviser of SGA and SUB is not a conflict of interest.

If Waters stepped down as the adviser of the SGA because he finds it "awkward to advise both the SGA and the Media Board," then why wouldn't Hanke feel the same way?

Waters said the Office of Student Affairs is doing some realignment of responsibilities to get "a better balance between positions." How is this better balanced?

Hanke will now be adviser for both groups, one which asks the other for funding. Yet, this is not a conflict of interest?

I understand that the students make the actual decisions on the budget hearings, but how can Hanke give unbiased advice on what decisions to make concerning the two groups?

The same situation would occur if I was the president of another organization on campus. How could I, as editor of *The Pendulum*, give my reporters unbiased advice on covering the organization I was president of? I couldn't. And I don't think anyone else could either.

Erick Gill,
Editor-in-Chief

THE PENDULUM

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An open letter to a friend

History is the most important subject to study. If one does not have a good grasp of historical events, the material that is learned in other disciplines is useless. Unfortunately, many of the members of my generation do not seem to understand that simple idea.

In Bosnia, the ethnic cleansing the Serbian onslaught produced has made the cry of, "Never again" seem soft and conceited. The leaders of the world seem to have forgotten the lesson that had been taught to them by the horror of Auschwitz and Cambodia.

In another fifty years, another movie will be made, about another Schindler. His name will be different, but the story of raw courage to help his fellow man will be the same. This time it will be the Topic Bosnians, instead of the Schindler Jews.

At a recent class of mine, the professor asked who thought that the UN should intervene on a massive scale, in a Persian Gulf type response to the carnage in the former Yugoslavia. I was the only one to raise my hand, and even my affirmation was conditional. I would only give my approval if other historical lessons were applied to our intervention. Not one individual other than myself responded positively. I'm sure that the lessons of the past have begun to fade away into the night. Kim Sung is taking notes as we speak.

Scott Miller



"Auf wiedersehen Professor Lansen, Elon will miss you."

The economic isolationism of Smoot and Hawley is returning in the form of Ross Perot. The total isolationism of Senator Robert Taft is returning in the form of Patrick Buchanan. Their support runs strong and deep, way to deep. Indeed, we are repeating the past by our simple ignorance of it.

At this institution, which is probably the mirror image of most of America, history for many is simply another requirement on the road to the degree. Complaining of papers, heavy reading and hangovers many students stumble through history like it was a morning chore.

This is where your incredible talents come in. There is not a bad professor in the Elon College history department. However, the difference between a good

professor and a great professor in the study of history is in the way they approach the classroom. Some professors use the Dragnet approach to teaching, "Just the facts Ma'am." There is nothing wrong with that for students who are into history. However, most students are not into history, so there needs to be another way.

You are the best at motivating your students to do what is most important, learning to use history as a blueprint for what makes the world tick. If there is to be hope for the future of our generation, Generation X, it will only be because you, and hundreds of others like you, drag us kicking and screaming into the 21st century with the lessons of the past firmly implanted in our minds.

The service that you perform to your school, the country and the future is monumental when you consider how many you have affected during your time at Elon.

Oscar, the reason that you have been so popular is not because you were "easy." Over the past three years that I have been attending this institution I have heard hundreds of comments about your teaching style. They have been all positive. Not because you were "laid back," but because you challenged our minds in a creative and provocative way. That is the true mark of greatness.

Auf Wiedersehen Professor Lansen, Elon will miss you.

Was it male-bashing at the march?

The second annual Take Back The Night March was held April 14, 1994. By all accounts it was a success. Women and men of our community gathered together to protest rape, violence against women, and the general fear of violence all of us must live with every day. In this weeks article, I was invited to discuss the idea that events such as "Take Back The Night" are forums for male-bashing.

Did some men stay away from this event because they feared being bashed? Probably. Did some men (and women) attending the march feel there were "male-bashing" statements made? Possibly. It is an acceptable response to feel uncomfortable with new ideas. One's discomfort may take the form of anger, defensiveness, and even "shutting down", ignoring and rejecting the idea being presented. But, as with any other new idea,

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one must be willing to move beyond one's own reaction to the idea; one must make effort to develop a "greater understanding" of the information being presented. Such is the case with rape and sexual violence.

In most cases of sexual violence, a male is the perpetrator and a female is the victim. This is a simple fact. From this fact, one can make the statement, "men rape." But one can take the statement further to say "men can stop rape." Both statements are factual. One places the responsibility on men for rape.

The second statement empowers men to take the responsibility to stop rape, to stop behaviors that lead to rape.

If you find yourself feeling bashed by some statements made about rape, stop. Listen. First, listen to your feelings and try to understand what they are telling you. Second, listen to the statements you find are "bashing." Try to understand what the statement is really saying. Third, remember that RAPE is real. It happens every day.

Historically, women have greatly outnumbered men in the fight to stop sexual violence and rape. Men must be able to move beyond feeling bashed to do anything positive about rape, sexual violence, and violence in general. It will take men and women working together to stop rape.

Brad Cokendolpher