

Letters

To The Editor

March was a successful return to empowerment

To the Editor:

I just returned from the Second Annual "Take Back the Night" March. I think it was one of the most powerful experiences I've ever had. I'll admit, I was hesitant about going at all. I've never really thought of myself as a protester. I've always been the good, quiet one who sits back and takes it. But I found myself in the middle of the crowd, with my arm band on, and even carrying a poster. And I wasn't just chanting. I was yelling. All of a sudden, I realized that I couldn't just sit back and take it this time.

I hear the attitudes from other guys around school. They say that women who are raped ask for it, or that there comes a certain point when they can't stop. These aren't random quotes. They are from people who I see everyday, who look just like you and me. They are the guys who made comments about what a

"bunch of crap" the march was. They were the guy that were there only because of their girlfriends, or because it made them "look good."

It is not all men. I am not afraid of men. In fact, many of my best friends are men. I am afraid of the select few people who think that they are so superior to others, particularly women, that they have the right to treat us as objects, and take from us what they will.

Rape is real. It can happen anywhere, to anyone.

I work in the Fine Arts building until late at night sometimes. I don't walk alone because I'm scared to. I'm afraid of the night. And for good reason. It's been taken away and destroyed. So tonight, with the help of the Elon College Community, I took back the night.

Brenda Pavlik

Letter stating campaign intentions objectionable

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to Larry Williams's blatant campaign letter that must have "accidentally" found its way into editorial section of your paper. After reading other newspapers, magazines, etc.. I have come to the conclusion that the Editorial section is reserved for readers who have comments about certain issues in the community or have some sort of opinion that they wish to express dealing with something they have read.

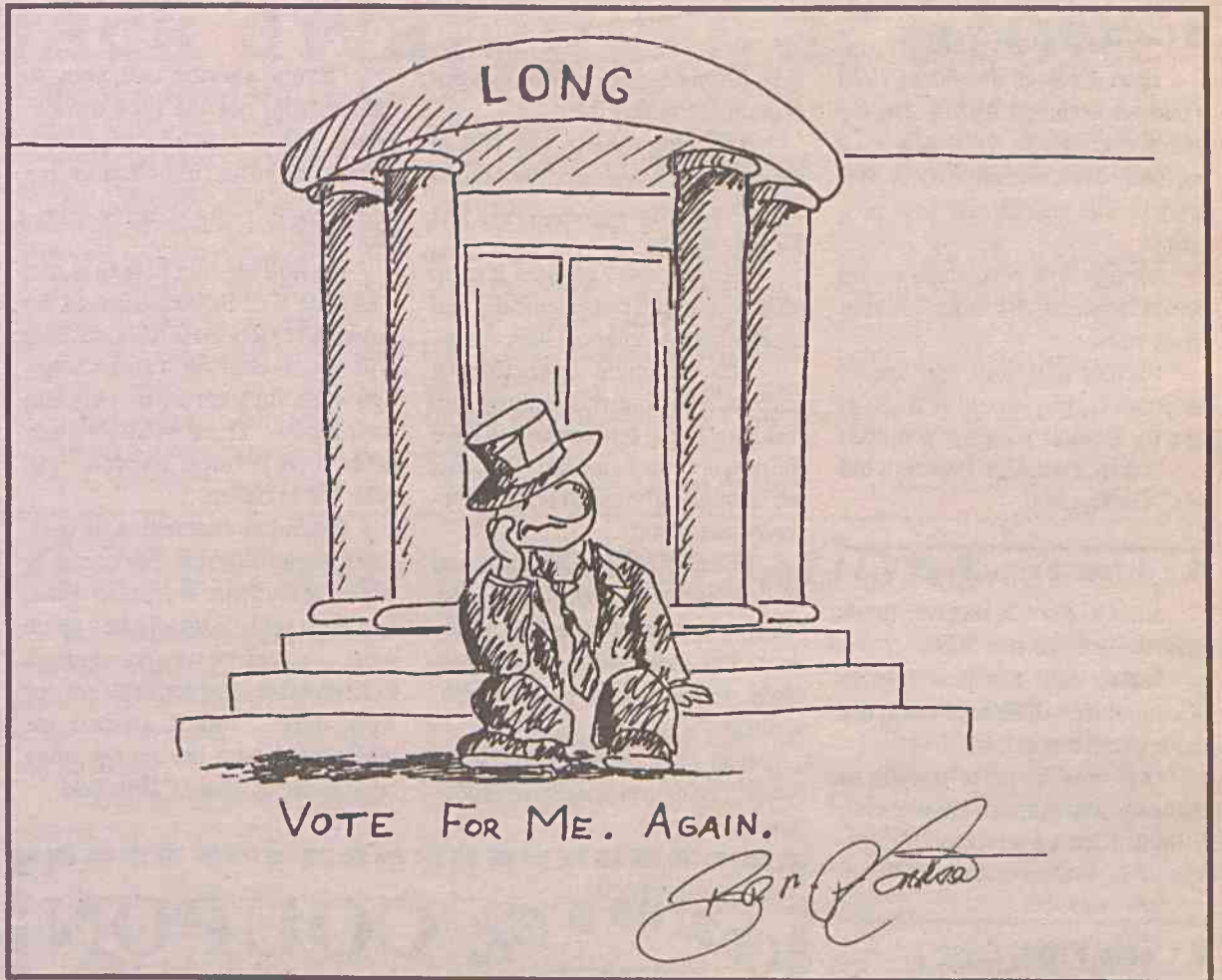
The only excuse that I can think of that could legitimize this error was that your reviewing staff was fooled by Mr. Williams's clever opening paragraph. The paragraph starts off by explaining to the readers why a SGA re-election is being held and why he is upset. The reason being: Mr. Williams did not win by a majority vote.

Now if this was to be the only context of the letter, I would have

no problem. But the paragraphs that follow his opening statements are nothing more than an obnoxious, cliché of a "Hi I'm Mr. Joe Politician and I'm the best man for the job" speech. This reminds me ohh too much of those ridiculous, adolescent student government speeches I was forced to attend in highschool.

In a college paper that reserves one page for the Editorials and holds an average of four letters a week, I think the review staff should not waste this needed space on such useless advertisement. In the future if Mr. Williams and his political colleagues wish to spray their needless political promises, I suggest that you charge them an advertisement fee and put them next to the Subway coupon for half off on your next sub, where it belongs.

Jimmy Scalise



SGA presidential candidate makes case

To the Editor:

My name is Floyd Barret and I am running for SGA President. I am running for President because I believe that there are some things that are fundamentally wrong with the SGA and that these things will never be changed if either of my opponents get elected.

The first problem with the SGA is the One-Year Clause. For those of you who still do not know what the dreaded clause is, it is an SGA act that states that anyone who wants to run for an SGA Executive Office must have served at least one term in the SGA. This act is a travesty of justice and a blatant violation of student rights. And if you look at the way American government works, you'll see it works very much on the same principle. American history, from George Washington in 1788 all the way down to John Anderson in 1980 and Michael Dukakis in 1988, is filled with examples of presidential candidates like Clinton and Perot. The SGA should not break with American tradition in this case, because doing so makes the SGA more like a dictatorship or an elitist government and less like a democracy.

The second problem is a

communications problem. The lines of communication between the SGA and the student body in desperate need of repair. No, students are not apathetic on this campus. The SGA is not a worthless body of students who do absolutely nothing to make life better for students. Committees such as the Campus Dining, Facilities, and Diversity Committees have had a profound positive impact on student life. The problem is that the SGA is out of touch with how the student body feels and the student body is out of touch with what the SGA does.

The final problem with the SGA is its lack of interactivity. Simply put, the SGA does not interact enough with the various organizations on campus, or anybody else on campus. Too many times, students have complained about lack of participation at certain organizational events. This support system would include but would not be limited to the following:

1. The attendance of at least one SGA member at the meetings of each organization of campus, unless otherwise objected to by that organization.
2. The attendance of at least

one SGA member at residence hall meetings, unless otherwise objected to by the residence hall.

3. Requiring the SGA President to address the concerns of the student body via monthly forums and other SGA events designed to improve SGA-student body relations.

4. SGA sponsorship of an independent week, a week that would give non-Greek organizations and other groups of students an opportunity to enjoy themselves at events that are just for them.

In closing, I would like to implore the student body to vote for Floyd Barrett for SGA President. Unlike both of my opponents, I have a real plan to improve student life.

Floyd Barrett

Editor's note: This letter has been edited because of length.

The Pendulum is not responsible for spelling or grammatical mistakes in Letters to the Editor

Corrections:

The Pendulum strives to report the news accurately and will correct errors that come to its attention.