

## Viewpoint

For the past, 20 years students and faculty have asked, "Why is the newspaper called *The Pendulum*?"

Sure, it's not the *Daily Christian* or the *Elon Times*, but, *The Pendulum* couldn't have been a better name. The Smithsonian Institute contacted *The Pendulum* recently because it wanted to call its newsletter *The Pendulum*. The name must have been a good choice if a museum in the nation's capital wants to use it.

The first adviser of the paper, Mary Ellen Priestley, said that Patsy Lynch, co-editor of the first issue, came up with *The Pendulum*.

Priestley said the students wanted to have an element of time tied into the name of the paper. And pendulums have something to do with time.

However, that is not why *The Pendulum* is a perfect name for the college newspaper.

Just like the pendulum on a clock, the content and attitudes of *The Pendulum* swing left to right without stopping. Every year a new batch of students spend countless hours writing articles, drawing cartoons, designing advertisements and crafting editorials.

Some years the staff may be conservative. Other years it might be liberal. One semester there might be a group of news reporters and the following semester the staff may be a group of feature writers.

Over the past 20 years, *The Pendulum* has been a lot of different things to different people. To those who have worked on it, *The Pendulum* has been an outlet for opinions, entertainment and most of all, news.

## Off The Record

"Race against race, such a foolish waste. It's like cutting off your nose to spite your face."

- Beastie Boys  
"The Update"

## THE PENDULUM

Informing the Elon College Community

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*The Pendulum*, founded in 1974, is published by Elon students.

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## It's over. The South shall not rise

As Yakov Smirnov once said in a TV commercial in that wonderfully warbling Russian voice of his, "I love this country!" There are few other countries in the world where one can be antagonistic as I am week in and week out and not face any sort of censorship or threats of physical harm. One has the right to sit on a street, with a 2.1 grade point average and a bottle of Southern Comfort in one hand, and show the President of the United States the middle digit of the other. I say again, "What a country!"

However, there is one thing that does bother me. There are certain segments of our society that believe they owe their allegiance to their heritage first, and the United States second. These people are so caught up in their heritage that they seem to try and advance their interests by ignoring scholarly work which specifically refutes the basis for their claims. They have delusions of grandeur about what their forefathers have accomplished in respect to advancement of human society. Lastly, it bothers me that they carry their morally bankrupt ideals around with them like a badge of honor upon a fallen hero's chest.

For those of you ready to read a long litany against African Americans and how we should just be white Americans and just black Americans, go read Arts & Entertainment. The segment of society that I am talking about is the proverbial Southern Gentleman.

You know the type... South shoulda—coulda—woulda won that dang war. If only Lee hadn't ordered the charge. If only every battle was like Cold Harbor. If

Scott Miller



only the South had won, we'd all be so much better off.

Yeah, I'm fully aware of the First Amendment. Even dumb things can be said. (If only intellectuals such as myself were a part of the public discourse, it would get boring really quickly.) It seems that these "Southern Gentlemen" need to practice some self-restraint.

As of now, the movement towards the far right is not that significant. It consists mainly of a few dim-witted individuals who are keep-



ing their Confederate money in the vain hope that someday they will be able to cash in. However, if some demagogue is able to mobilize the Republican Party far enough in that direction so that he can garner a presidential nomination, (e.g. Pat Buchanan) we are in trouble.

The people who carry, wear or display the Confederate battle flag insist that it is "heritage, not hate" that they are demonstrating. That just doesn't wash. Every Klan march or right wing hate group consistently displays that very symbol. No one in Germany who uses a swastika is allowed to get away with such a weak argument.

These same individuals admire Robert E. Lee because of his gentlemanly qualities, or so they say. After all, they argue, Lee didn't own slaves or believe in slavery. True, but he was willing to break his oath to defend the United States against enemies, foreign and domestic, so that his privileged brethren in the South could continue that "peculiar institution." It is fine to study him in the same manner that one might study Erwin Rommel, the Nazi general, to learn from his tactical prowess. However, the feverish admiration that some have of him is quite odd. Bradley, MacArthur and Nimitz are all Southern military figures who did not betray their God and country, why not admire them?

At the Olympic hockey games the chant goes up, "U-S-A, U-S-A, U-S-A." Not, "C-S-A, C-S-A, C-S-A." This is the greatest nation upon God's great earth. Let's stop the divisiveness and solve some problems.

## Expect great expectations in life

Dane Frederiksen  
Guest Columnist

We all know that life is short, too short. Life isn't all good but I like it. I expect that most of us want to live a complete life, a good life. We don't want to waste it. So what do we do?

We all have our own strategy for life, even if that means no strategy. We have to make plans. If we didn't we would eventually find ourselves without a home or a car or other basic needs. But when we plan out our lives we tend to forget how uncertain life is. People rarely end up where they thought that they would. Life has many roads and we can never know which one we are on or where it leads.

Still, we are pretty sure that when we go to bed we will get up in the morning. If we didn't we would be back to life with no plan, no expectations, no hope. It would seem that the best plan is to expect the unexpected; to live your life as you will but to be aware of the chaotic nature of life.

So, now the unexpected is expected. We can't just live our lives constantly looking behind our backs, we can't live like that. This leads us to a moderate strategy. In other words, don't be firm in your plans, yet, don't make no plans at all. Live for today, but within reason. We are all lost in the mix, balancing.

Moderation seems the best policy for life, not in all arenas at all times

but exercising moderation in maturation. There is a time and place for war and peace, and so on. Excess and prudence are healthy qualities, in moderation. This is logical but logic to has a time and place, and in moderation.

My point? Don't freak when life kicks in and your plans are transformed or obscured by an ever-changing reality. Expect it. The only way to survive is to make tentative plans, to be survivable. We have got to be able to handle changes in our plans. In other words, plan for change. Expect to live in moderation between things running smoothly and not going the way you thought at all. This is common sense, but still something to consider.