

# Viewpoint

Some of our readers may be confused and wonder why there are two front pages. Well, the four inside pages are designed for *The Pendulum's* 20th Anniversary pull-out edition.

The front page has a couple of the top stories from the Oct. 14, 1974 issue. We tried to recreate the issue and show our readers how the paper has changed over the past two decades.

We spent the past few weeks interviewing people who were around in 1974: President Fred Young; Mary Ellen Priestley, the first adviser; and Debbie Cochran and Patsy Lynch, the first editors.

Besides interviews, *The Pendulum* staff has been digging through archives and flipping through old *Pendulums* looking for the right information.

We laughed at the out-of-date photos with funky hair styles and '70s bell bottoms. We wish we could have fit everything in this issue but we only had so much space.

We hope you enjoy your trip back in time as much as we did.

## An Open Letter To the Student Body and Faculty

We the editors of *The Pendulum* wish to extend an open invitation to you to join the production of the newspaper. We are hoping to establish a paper which will both serve the needs of the students and the faculty as well as develop a closer rapport with the greater community.

We intend to report events which are important to both the students and the faculty, to develop a channel by which students and faculty members voice their opinions, to dispel rumors by gathering all the facts and to insure their validity before the article is printed.

It is our hope that this paper will evoke a response from those who who read it. We welcome editorials, news articles, features and literary work-any contributions that you as students and faculty members wish to send in. However, we do reserve the right to edit all work to insure a high quality of journalistic writing.

Please address all correspondence to P.O. Box 5272. Again, we wish to extend you a welcome to the Elon College community and hope that you have a pleasant and successful year.

Yours truly,  
Patsy Lynch and Debbie Cochran  
Co-Editors

## The Pendulum

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Box 5272  
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# First co-editors speak their mind

by Amy Logerwell

For the past 20 years, Elon students have known what it is like to have a college newspaper.

But for Elon alumnae Patsy Lynch and Debbie Cochran, they have a few different memories.

"We believed that every campus should have a newspaper and didn't understand why we didn't," said Lynch, a 1975 graduate. "I thought people were doing interesting things and people needed to know."

"The main reason I wanted to start a paper was because this school needed one," Cochran said. "People needed to read something to know what was going on."

Lynch said her and Cochran were acquaintances and decided to start a campus newspaper.

"I wanted us to be co-editors because I thought just in case this things bombs I wanted both of us to be at fault," Cochran said.

Cochran recalled the administration asking her if they were going to be printing the truth. She said she told them "yes" and "it wasn't her intention to create any problems."

"We were told not to rock the boat or make anyone mad," Lynch said.

"Debbie was by the rules, but we acted as each other's counterpoint and wanted to work well together," Lynch said.

Cochran agreed and said that Lynch was much more radical than she was.

"We really thought we could better the school by telling everyone what was going on, because we weren't sure if anyone cared," Lynch said.

"There really wasn't much enthusiasm for a paper," Cochran said.

Lynch said that about four or five people got together to form the newspaper. They were told they needed an adviser and that Mary Ellen Priestley might be a candidate.

Lynch said that from the time they approached the administration until the paper came out that it took four months.

"It was kind of ragtag and we never knew what was going to happen whether the stories were going to be written or photos would be shot," Lynch said. "We always assigned stories and sometimes they were done and sometimes they weren't."

Lynch said that photos weren't being taken so she started taking them.

Lynch said she doesn't remember a lot of the stories or issues that they had to face. She does, however, remember writing about interracial dating and drugs on campus.

Lynch said the administration wanted to tell them what they should print. "Mary Ellen stuck up for us. She told us to stick with it and fight for what we wanted," Cochran said.

"If it hadn't been for her (Priestley) we would have quit," Lynch said.

"Mary Ellen got nasty with us if things weren't done on time," Cochran said.

"I think we were really lucky to get it started," Cochran said. "We were more into survival than creative ideas."

"I really just wanted it to be fun and make it like a recreational activity," Cochran said. "We had 'Pendulum Parties' with kegs whenever the time was good," Cochran said. "Dr. Priestley would have us over to her house and it was a lot of fun," Cochran said.

Cochran recalled how life was at Elon during the '70s.

"We were forced to study and couldn't leave our rooms unless we had to go to the bathroom. We had these dorm mothers that enforced curfews. They were little hags that were overly religious," Cochran said.



Photo Courtesy of Phi Psi Cli

Debbie Cochran

"I remember we couldn't go to the boys dorms and if we were caught the Dean of Women would reprimand us."

"Things were very regressive with women's rights. We were suppose to stay in our dorms all the time," Lynch said.

Both Cochran and Lynch said that when they attended Elon, some prominent people and musicians were visiting the campus. This added to their reasoning behind starting a newspaper.

"At the time, the war was ending, writers were coming to the campus. Stevie Wonder showed up one day," Lynch said.

Cochran said Linda Ronstadt, Miles Davis, Jimmy Buffett, the Eagles, the Doobie Brothers and Emmylou Harris came to Elon.

"A student was involved with a booking company and he would help to bring people to campus during their scheduled tours," Cochran said.

Cochran said she remembers an attorney coming to campus and smoking marijuana with some of the students. She also recalls writer James Dickey bringing his mistress when he spoke on campus.

"I remember him reading a poem in Whitley and a lot of the professors leaving because they were disgusted and thought he was obscene. Dickey was making passes at all the female students," Cochran said.

Lynch, 41, graduated from Elon in 1975 with a degree in English. She received her masters in counseling from Gallaudet University in Washington in 1981 and is now a year short of finishing her doctorate.

She is working as a freelance photojournalist in Washington D.C. She has worked for such magazines as *U.S. News and World Report* and *Time*. She has also worked for the wire service United Press International for five-and-a-half years and occasionally Associated Press has used her photos. Her photos can be seen in national newspapers such as *USA Today*.

Cochran, 40, graduated from Elon with a degree in social science. She is a catering director at Hotel Washington in Washington, D.C. She said the only thing she does now dealing with journalism is a hotel newsletter.

She and her husband, Walter, live with their child in Vienna, Va.

"I love what I do and I don't regret going to Elon, but I wish that when I was there that there was more offered to English and journalism students," Lynch said.