

# Letters

## To The Editor

### Student dismisses racism

To the Editor:

Inequality is not limited to Jewish and black people. Everyone, in some way, is a victim of inequality. Females face it in the work force; males are victims of many feminists; you cannot escape inequality.

In response to Terri Fletcher: you should be angry - with yourself - for your ignorance and bad attitude.

In my experience, Elon College has been far more equal than most schools in the south. There are

plenty of cultural events to reflect that. In my opinion, Elon College is far too "equal."

People that carry the same attitude as Terri Fletcher are trying to fight a force much bigger than they will ever be able to conquer. The sooner they accept that inequality is just something that will always exist, in every walk of life, the sooner a better life and better attitude towards them will occur.

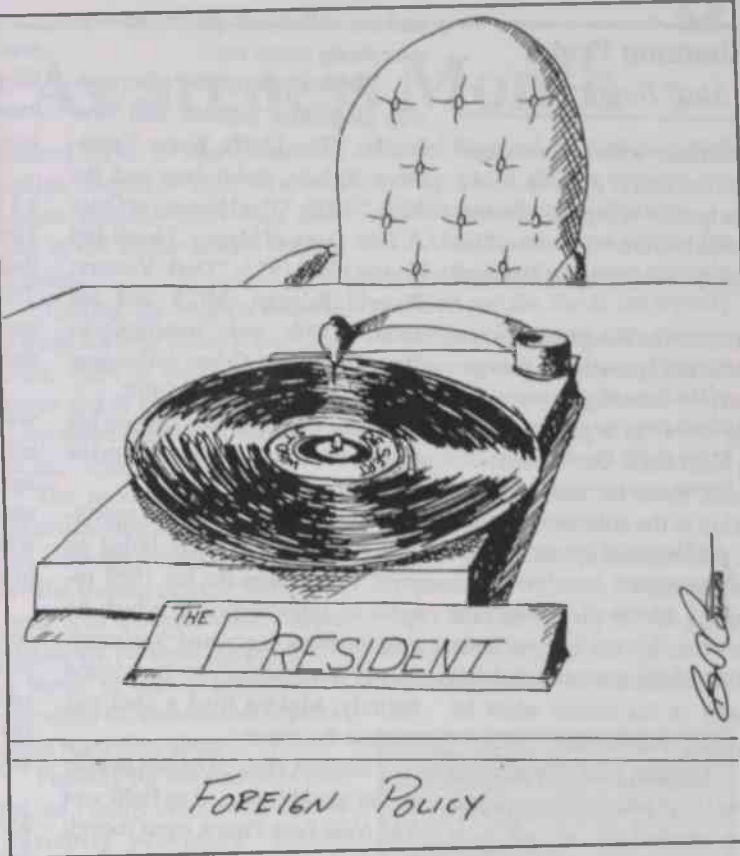
Karyn Howard

### Professor discusses life since "coming out"

To the Editor:

With National Coming Out Day set for 11 October 1994, I thought I would take this opportunity to bring the Elon community up to date with how that process has progressed in my life. As many of you recall, I formally "came out" at a faculty meeting on 1 October 1993 and subsequently came out to the campus in an article in the following Thursday's Pendulum. The event changed my life at Elon primarily because I no longer had to try to portray two separate personas (one on-campus and the other, off-campus) or monitor my speech. I could finally be just who I am, not someone else's idea of who I should be. I have found that the emotional benefits have far outweighed any or all costs, be they emotional or economic.

This past summer I took two additional steps forward in this process. Since I was unable to return to Wisconsin to attend my 25th high school reunion, I wrote a long coming out letter addressed to "The Class of '69" and fed-exed it to the woman who was organizing the event. She was someone I didn't really know well in high school, so I really had no idea what her reaction would be. I asked her to take the letter to the reunion and invite any classmates who were interested to read it. Once I mailed the package, I let it go. Although I wanted to call her on the day of the reunion to follow-up, something told me to let go. About one week later I received a phone call from a high school friend I hadn't heard from in



5 years. She told me the story of what happened. The woman who received my letter was so disgusted that she couldn't finish reading my letter. She did not take the letter to the reunion. When my friend asked her, at the reunion, if she had heard from anyone who couldn't attend, she was told about my letter. The organizer said to my friend, "did you know she was a lesbian?" Another classmate, overhearing, was reported to have said, "I don't care if she is a lesbian, I liked her!"

When I spent a few days in my Wisconsin in August, I stopped to meet the woman who received my letter and thank her for passing it on to my friend (who then passed it on to other classmates). We spent about 20 minutes talking and she ended up saying she hoped I'd be able to come to the next reunion. I learned from this experience that things don't always work out the exact way that we think that they ought to, but sometimes they work out the way that they need to.

I also finally came out to friends of our family in my hometown as well as to members of my extended family at a family reunion. I was

the most amazed at the support I received from the couple who have lived next-door to my family since 1959 (both are devout Catholics and about 80 years old). They even asked me questions about things that they didn't understand, something my mother still finds difficult to do.

At the reunion, my extended family members who live in DC and Denver said what they couldn't understand was why I would choose to live in North Carolina! Of course the answer to that is that I came to NC to work, at Elon College. But, more importantly, I have discovered that I can't solve a problem by running away from it (moving to a different state or city). While I may be different in some ways from other people (like most of us), I'm similar in many ways (also like many of us). And the more I love and appreciate my own differences and uniqueness, the more I can love and appreciate YOUR difference and uniqueness, wherever I am. Each one of us is making a difference whenever we are honest enough to simply be who we are.

Kathryn Larson

### Housing not living up to expectations

To the Editor:

About a year ago, I moved into East Campus Apartments. Since that time, I have paid rent, like every good tenant should. The services I should receive in return for this outrageous sum have remained scant at best, and nonexistent at worst. Exactly what do I mean? Well, maintenance requests that take up to three weeks and four or five weeks to get fixed! Naturally, as a student taking eighteen semester hours I have plenty of time to spend on the phone repeatedly calling the housing office with the same problem.

Most recently, my building has had furniture piled in the common area. Has the housing assistant been called? Yes, two or three weeks ago. Has the furniture been removed? No. First of all, the residents of this building should be responsible enough to take care of their own garbage. That's how the real world works, boys and girls. secondly, since I pay my rent on time, my maintenance problems should be fixed, promptly. That's the way the real world works, land lords. Of course, as a student, I have no way of seeking retribution for this lack of service. I wish the Administration would acknowledge this continuing lack of service and attempt to do something to fix the problem. While we're talking about the Administration,

I have a few more problems that I would like to discuss. I am a member of ESA International, the service sorority. This semester we've held several fundraisers for different philanthropies. The first was for breast cancer. We followed the correct channels for gaining permission, etc. Then at the last minute, we were told we could not do this because another sorority was raising money at the same location. We re-vamped our plans, and raised the money anyway. Most recently, we sold tickets for another philanthropic event, only to find another sorority at the same location. This illustrates the double standard of the Administration.

Elon, an institution of higher learning, therefore, is reflecting the same standards as society. Those groups with more "power" are allowed to usurp the rules. Meanwhile, those of us with less "power" who are trying to do something constructive, run into road blocks all along the way. In addition, the bureaucratic process is ridiculously complicated. Need we ask why Congress seems to have difficulty accomplishing anything? The Administration needs to wake up and start practicing what it is taught in the classroom. Let's do better than society, not just reinforce the status quo!

Charity Self

## Got any complaints!?

### Write a Letter to the Editor!

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. 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. Shannon Currin's home state was incorrectly stated in the Oct. 6 edition. She is from New Hampshire.