

Viewpoint

Some students said they were shocked last week because *The Pendulum* ran an article on the front page about a student being raped. (And yes, Elon College Police Chief Dan Ingle said it was a rape.)

Well I'm shocked that this sort of thing could happen on this tiny campus before 8 p.m.

And this past weekend, five people were attacked in West dorm. I suppose students don't think that should be on the front page either.

Why don't students want to know about these sorts of things? I know these are not pleasant, but I would rather inform the community about it than have to run a different article about another assault the following week. Just because it was Homecoming weekend doesn't mean the articles shouldn't have been top priority.

Students have night classes and I wouldn't want them to stroll across campus thinking that nothing bad can happen to them.

It seems this year there have been more attacks and assaults on students than in the past. Three students, including the rape, have been attacked individually. And five students were assaulted as a group.

What does the college plan to do about this? And what do students plan to do?

The college needs to decide whether or not it needs to hire more security officers, or make the move to a campus police force, or add more lights on campus, or all of the above.

The students need to take an active role in preventing these attacks. Students shouldn't walk alone, even at 7 p.m. Students should consider taking a self-defense class or carrying a personal safety device (mace, pepper gas or an alarm). Students should also take advantage of the Campus Security programs. The escort service will be more than willing to walk students across campus. The phone number for the escort service is 584-2407. Safe Rides also offers free rides to students Thursday through Saturday 10:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. The number for Safe Rides is 539-3999.

Off The Record

"All the stories that you read. Don't know what to believe. And everything that you see. Don't you see what you need."

- Sugar
"What You Want It to Be"

THE PENDULUM

Informing the Elon College Community

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Office: 102 Lebanon Ave., Elon College, N.C., 27244. 584-2331.



Fighting the truth: the Elon way

What if you were in a forest, fell down, you died, and no one were around to hear you?

OK, so I screwed up the analogy a little bit but the question remains the same. Let's say that something horrible happened to any one of you reading this.

Would anyone care? Of course, your family would always remember you. Faculty members at Elon who stay here for several years would remember you as a name. ("God, what a shame what happened to that Snufflepigas kid back in '78")

Your friends would miss you. But in 50 years, when they are looking at the yearbook (making the assumption that there is one) preparing for the reunion, would there be a catch in their throat. Would they say, "Wow, If he/she had been around, things would have been so much better for me and the world?" Maybe for one or two of your closer friends, and of course your fraternity brothers, but not many others.

In this respect, faculty have a huge advantage over the students. Each individual professor has the ability to effect a bunch of people every semester. If a professor has three classes she can have a direct effect on as many as 90 or a 100 students a semester.

Most faculty that I have had the experience of working with try to make that effort. Here at Elon, students seem to fight those efforts



Scott Miller

tooth and nail.

I had a test in one of my Tue./Thurs. classes last week. The professor had assigned reading for the next Tuesday's class the Tuesday before the test. Needless to say, no more than four out of thirty students did it. During and before the class, my colleagues had the nerve to be upset at the professor for not getting the tests done!

We had a week to get the reading done. The professor had 4 days to grade the tests. But still, students muttered under their breaths about the test not being done the very next class. (A few were even stupid enough to make overt comments to the professor.)

Is this attitude prevalent at Elon? If so, I owe an incredible apology to the faculty members for my editorial of a few weeks back. It appears that no matter how hard they work, push, cajole or swear at us to improve ourselves we sit and do not respond.

Most of the time, I'm just as guilty. Why don't we want to know?

It's much more comfortable to watch Melrose, Models Inc. or Beverly Hills 90102 then work the gray matter. Last week, the SGA president chastised the newspaper for not giving any-one any credit.

Do we deserve credit? Sure, the school's cumulative average is 2.73 or whatever, but why isn't it 2.8? And if you have a 3.2 and you are saying, "Well, it's the morons who have a 1.58 that are holding us back." Don't. It's your fault that you are satisfied with a 3.2.

Everyone that has gotten into this college is with it mentally enough to strive for perfection. It is our obligation to make sure that when a professor is lost for whatever reason, that it reverberates through the college because of the way that each and every professor, no matter how boring, was able to "motivate" their students.

Within the next few months, we should be starting conversations amongst faculty members. Jane faculty, "How do you get students to work so hard for you?" Joe faculty, "I was just going to ask you the same thing!" (i.e. We motivate ourselves. Could we handle such a concept?)

I, certainly, am the farthest from perfect of anyone at this college. However, I recognize that and am attempting to change it. Are you?

Editor's Note: If you said, "God, what an idiot, it's Beverly Hills 90210," a few paragraphs up, it just goes to prove my point."

Debunking the overpopulation myth

Marc Fox
Guest Columnist

Last week Jeff Staub offered his solution to the "problem" of population explosion: a two-child cap on family size needs to be put into law, he proposed. Let's first consider the "problem," and then take a look at Staub's solution.

The FACT is, you could take the whole population of the globe and give each person a 1,000 square-foot house to live in, every man, woman and child on the planet, and that would take up (you ready for this?)—Nebraska, Kansas, and part of South Dakota (for those who like their winters cold)!

That's right! And it would leave the rest of the United States, Canada, Mexico, South and Central America, Europe, Asia and the Australian/ South Pacific areas for food production, amusement parks, whatever — 99.7 percent of the land area of the earth, *all empty*.

And the related problem you spoke of, supply of vital natural

resources diminishing, simply cannot be substantiated with facts. The fact is, each shortage in our history has been a motivation to create a new product from existing and overlooked sources.

It was George Washington Carver who saw the devastation of the cotton crop on Alabama as an opportunity to test other crops. That 'experiment' led to a new cash crop, the peanut, and over 350 new peanut-based products! New sources for food and fuel are being discovered every day.

I wonder, though, how many of the 55 million babies that the world has considered expendable and has aborted in the last 10 years would have been destined to discover amazing new sources of food and energy? If you are interested in more, read "The Birth Dearth," by Ben Wattenberg, "Men and Marriage," by George Gilder, and "A Full Quiver," by Rick and Jan Hess.

It's ironic that your "solution" to the mythical problem of over-population would be two-child family, Mr. Staub. Since you are one of six

children yourself, there's a 66 percent chance that you just eliminated yourself from existence!

The world is facing a lot of serious problems these days, Mr. Staub, but I assure you, children are not to blame. The same people who are so quick to suggest abortion as a solution to the world's ills were outraged at the action taken by a mother last week as she sent her two sons to a watery grave in Union, S.C. Is there really any difference? Should we really be incensed at such a tragedy and not feel the slightest twinge of regret for the 1.5 million children slaughtered in abortion mills in this country every day?

The overpopulation myth has a full throttle stranglehold on many, and I shudder to think of where it will lead is unless we change our course. As Mark Twain said once, figures don't lie, but liars figure. And wrong facts lead to wrong conclusions which lead to wrong actions. In this case, the stakes are high, for the lives of millions hang in the balance. May God help us come to our senses!