

## Viewpoint

Death is a part of life. It's not an easy part, but it's one that we have to deal with.

In my four years at *The Pendulum* has run five obituaries about Elon students. I have had the displeasure of writing three of those.

They were not easy stories to write. Calling friends and family members who have lost someone close to them is hard to do, but it helps readers understand what the world has lost. It is also hard to write stories about people you know or see on a daily basis.

Until now I didn't know any of the students who died.

Former Elon student Floyd Barrett died Friday, after being involved in a car crash Thursday. This was a shock to me. I hadn't seen him on campus this year, but like most people I was too busy with my own life to wonder about some else's.

When I heard he was dead, it was hard to believe. I wasn't close to Floyd, but I still feel like he was a friend.

He always had a smile on his face. Yes, it may sound cliché, but it was true. Floyd was the most sincere student I knew. He seemed content with life. He was happy being here and saying "Hi" to people as they passed by him on campus.

I even voted for him for SGA President last year. He may not have been as popular or as experienced as the other candidates, but he wanted to make a difference and I admired him for that. Instead of waiting for someone else to do something, Floyd was willing to make his own changes.

"Too many times students have complained that their organizations are not being supported by the student body and SGA," Floyd told *The Pendulum* before last spring's presidential election. "SGA has not been the leader of this support and they should be."

Floyd was a genuine human being and a true person, who will be missed by everyone.

■ Erick Gill  
Editor in Chief

## Off The Record

"Round here we talk just like lions.  
But we sacrifice like lambs."

- Counting Crows  
"Round Here"

## THE PENDULUM

Informing the Elon College Community

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## Individualism: A last, best hope

Few of us know evil in the strictest sense.

Sure, you might consider the Republicans in Congress to be evil. But that's only because you're ignorant.

I'm talking about evil in the Stalinesque sense of it. Kill 10 million folks for the sake of an economic system. I'm talking about evil in the sense of Hitler, killing millions because of a slightly different religious belief.

I can unequivocally state that evil will be gone by the time I reach my death bed in (hopefully) 60 or 70 years.

I'll tell you why.

In the United States, our concept of individualism, as enumerated in the ideas of the founding fathers, will choke off evil at its roots.

There will always be some ignorant clucks who don't like "them blacks or Homo-sexuals." However, that's simple ignorance, not a widespread dispersion of evil.

Individuals prevent evil from happening. Some would suggest we need to prevent the spread of individualism so we can imprint a system of collective security on the international consciousness.

The collective mentality comes under many names. Socialism, communism, and idealism all rely on the idea that the individual must be subordinate to the greater good.



Scott Miller

However, we find that throughout history, those collective mentalities are responsible for the greatest evil that has come upon this earth.

In Munich, prior to WWII an idealist mentality led to Hitler's rape and pillage of Europe. They all thought that working together with Adolf was going to work. No individual stood up to stop him.

When the proletarian revolution swept through Russia in the '20s and '30s millions were killed. People who dared to be individual and stand up to it were slaughtered wholesale.

The fact of the matter is that the United States must lead the world. At first, if necessary, it must be done individually. When other nations are willing to measure up and do the hard work of democracy and righteousness, they are welcome to come along. Utopia will be reached as individual nations working together, not a group of nations afraid to take the lead.

A prime example of this phe-

nomenon is the situation in Bosnia. People, including former President Jimmy Carter, have been working for months to get the two sides talking. The genocide continues.

In fact, the few situations where injustice has been successfully rectified over the last few years when the United States takes the lead. In Panama, Iraq, Haiti, Somalia things were made right with US leadership. In fact, the only reason for the eventual failure in Somalia was the turning over of authority to the UN.

President Clinton, with the exception of Haiti, has behaved as though he is the Commander in Chief of ONE of the most powerful nations in the world. When he was removed from office in 1996, the United States will retake its position as the world leader.

There is no problem with the United States saying what is right and what is wrong. If we sit back on our heels like the Clinton administration has done, we will fail forever.

Evil will win the day. However, we have the ability to stop it if we adopt a perspective similar to the "manifest destiny" of the 1800s. It is our obligation to spread Western democracy and human rights throughout the world.

## Out of the closet, into the Stonewall Cafe

Cybill Shepherd  
Guest Columnist

"In the beginning there was Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve!"

"God loves the Homosexual but hates Homosexuality."

"Fudgepackers!"

"If it weren't for the fags, dykes, and niggers we'd have prayer in schools!"

"AIDS is God's way of punishing fags!"

You might have recognized some of these statements on signs at a protest, or heard them from a concerned citizen voicing their rightful opinion, or know them to be associated with pornography.

But "isolated" bursts of hate or misunderstandings from lack of communication are nothing to laugh or snob at. They are bred out of an environment that seeks not to open up an interactive dialogue to dispel myths and untruths, but rather one that is righteous in its indignation, fear and hatred.

In an environment that has been

fostered by statements such as these, it is no wonder that the gay community on Elon's campus are hesitant to take a stand and speak out against homophobia and safely converse with those who might want to understand and listen.

Fear for one's job, tenure, academic standing and even physical well-being, are all realized outcomes in either disclosing a non-heterosexual orientation and/or showing support for the gay community. But, for this reason, we have created "The Stonewall Cafe," a bi-monthly column in *The Pendulum* where you can converse openly with others concerning these issues. "The Stonewall Cafe" is a safe place where Elon's students, faculty and staff can anonymously ask questions and voice their opinions. Even for those who are in the closet to step out for a "Stonewall Espresso" and safely speak from their side of the "door" to help dispel the myths about homosexuality. Through articles and letters we hope to take one small step towards combating homophobia

and even isolation for those who are closeted and/or questioning their sexual orientation on this campus.

We chose to name this column "The Stonewall Cafe" in honor of the beginning of the gay rights movement. On June 28, 1969, the police raided Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City's Greenwich Village.

Tired of the constant raids and brutality, the Stonewall Inn customers that night fought back. This rebellion received national attention and marked the beginning of the gay rights movement.

Although we do not believe that violence is the way to solve problems on this campus, we do believe this column to be our own Stonewall Inn rebellion.

All issues in regard to homosexuality, bisexuality and transgendered are open to address within this column. You may send your anonymous letters to Campus Box 2800. Be sure to address them to "The Stonewall Cafe."