

For the past month, *The Pendulum* has published a bi-monthly column for homosexual students and faculty to express their concerns and answer any questions.

The newspaper staff believes in free speech and free expression and hopes the editorial will give people a chance to feel comfortable about themselves.

However, it's occurred to the editorial staff that there are a lot of people on campus who feel isolated. It's not just the homosexual walking to and from class who may feel like they don't belong.

Many individuals at Elon, even the world, feel stuck "in the closet." What about the girl with the nose ring and combat boots? Do you think she feels comfortable on this campus? What if a student walked around with a Bible in hand, preaching the Word to all the non-believers passing by? Would he feel at home at Elon? What about the black student, being taught by white professors? What about the interracial couple holding hands taking stares by every person that passes?

There are a lot of groups on this campus who don't fall into white, upper-middle class society. There are even some who are in that category, yet choose to stand up for themselves.

If you can't stand up for who you are and what you believe, you have no right to complain that you do not feel comfortable. Learn who you are, and be proud of it.

At Elon we are supposed to be tomorrow's leaders. In every segment of society, it is the leaders who stand up and say with pride, "I am who I am." Tomorrow's leaders will not be hiding "in the closet," no matter how different they are.

Off The Record

"He wants a shoehorn, the kind with teeth. People should get beat up for stating their beliefs. He wants a shoehorn, the kind with teeth, because he knows there is no such thing."

- They Might Be Giants
"Shoehorn with Teeth"

THE PENDULUM

Informing the Elon College Community

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The sacking of Newt Gingrich

I have a slight confession to make.

I have been under the serious influence of acid in the past. I, for a little while, was leaning towards the irrationally liberal.

Let's take the example of Newt Gingrich. I thought, because of a few soundbites and the very vocal opinions of some other individuals, that Newt was actually a bad man.

The other day I was walking down the hallway and C-Span was on. I was kind of tired of the book I was reading, "Why Gorbachev Happened," so I sat down and watched. Newt Gingrich was speaking.

He spoke about the crisis of urban America. He discussed the concept that there was an impoverishment of value and morality throughout this nation. He did not spout off about a religious war. He said very simply that there was a dearth of values in the country.

He suggested that we use shame to try and get people to conform. Common sense stuff, not anything based on biblical verse and chapter. Simply put, "don't get drunk and beat your wife, don't smoke crack and contribute to violence, and don't cheat on you partner." People who are deviant should not be coddled by society.

Sure, take care of individuals who have fallen upon hard times. But forgiving people who screw around by saying that it's OK if you wrap



Scott Miller

it up in latex is simply wrong. It's not Christian thought that says that. It is not some moralistic prude on some talk show. It is common sense.

That's what Gingrich has been advocating. A return to common sense. He advocates tolerance for homosexuals. He said that he had concerns about the raise in the minimum wage, "because it might cost minority teenagers in the inner-city jobs."

Ooh, what a cold-hearted bastard!

There is a reason for this mislabeling of Mr. Gingrich. Liberals, in the political sense that we use today, want to paint every member of the Republican Party as being a Jesse Helms or Pat Buchanan clone.

It is simply not true. Liberals have been moaning and groaning about how the Republican Party is controlled by racist, sexist and generally intolerant individuals.

Let's look at the best example of that in the GOP. Pat Buchanan is the farthest right out of any of the

potential presidential candidates. In New Hampshire, he will get no more than 10 percent of the vote in the opening primary.

Control? Hell no. Here is a candidate who exemplifies intolerance of every sort and every poll indicates that my 10 percent figure will hold up.

The only reason that Phil Gramm, the next man on the rightward scale, will get more than 10 percent is because of his enormous war chest. Between Buchanan and Gramm, they might get 30 percent.

The better that Lamar Alexander does in getting out his federalist principles, the more Gramm's support will wane.

The fact of the matter is that that segment of the party controls things in the Carolinas, Texas and nowhere else. They are an influence, but most definitely not in control. Liberals try to make everyone on the right appear to be evil right wingers.

In achieving that goal, they make themselves look moderate and reasonable. Sorry Mr. Gingrich, I guess that if everyone would just sit down and listen to the facts you would not be as demonized. My apologies for contributing to that misconception.

In the case of facts versus emotion, the mistake is to not know your enemy. If you get to know him/her, they might turn out to be your friend.

Buchanan: Right-wing fossil or...

E. Neil Callis
Guest Columnist

On Monday, the political cloud around the 1996 Presidential race reached a new level of darkness as Patrick Buchanan, conservative commentator and columnist, officially entered the fray for the Republican nomination.

Buchanan is best known to my generation as the intellectual right-winger on the CNN show "Crossfire." Mr. Buchanan was an adviser to Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Reagan. It is his stance on foreign policy that concerns me today.

Actually it should be termed a lack of foreign policy, but out of deference to Mr. Buchanan I will frame the debate as he would.

Mr. Buchanan tells us that he wants to make America great again; his slogan is "Take Back America", one he trumpets on "Crossfire" week after week. He wants to put

America and American interests at home above all else. He is radically opposed to any kind of foreign intervention, whether under the auspices of the United Nations or not.

He is, rather he defines, isolationist. The danger in isolationism is inherent, and we have seen the results time after time after time in our century. If Mr. Buchanan were to be elected to the Presidency it would be a disaster for our country and the world.

It was the isolationists, specifically the Republicans, who opposed the League of Nations that President Wilson proposed and that the rest of the world ratified. It was the isolationists who kept our country out of Europe in World War II; they turned public sentiment against participation in the war, and millions in Europe suffered because of it. It took the destruction of the world's most powerful naval surface fleet at Pearl Harbor to galvanize the country to war. Indeed,

had it not been for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, our country might never have intervened.

What of the Jewish Holocaust? When Allied troops arrived at the death camps in Europe, they were shocked at what had taken place! Why? That was not in their mission description. They were there to "liberate" Europe, not to stop the senseless Holocaust which consumed 6 million Jews. Our government COULD have stopped it, SHOULD have stopped it, but we did not because sentiment was against involvement early in the war.

Isolationism has been the cause of countless deaths in history, and we are about to make the same mistake again in former Yugoslavia.

Radicals like Mr. Buchanan should be kept away from any office. Right-wing isolationist attitudes have caused nothing but suffering in the 20th Century; it's time to learn from their mistakes.