

Viewpoint

The Pendulum is tired of being a media whore. That's right, a media whore. Everyone on campus thinks they can use and abuse the newspaper.

The staff has noticed in the past year how quickly students talk bad about *The Pendulum*, yet when they need information or want something covered, where is the first place they run? *The Pendulum* office, of course.

Several students have had the nerve to walk into the office and ask for this week's sports scores and other news information (before it even gets into Thursday's paper). When asked why they need them, they say because they are doing a video show for ECTV or for a JC class and they need the information to do their broadcast or news article.

Excuse me, that's not the way the real world works. Here at *The Pendulum* students have to actually attend games, events, press conferences, services and talk with the sports information director or the director of public information to get the facts.

I'm not sure, but the last time I checked, the college did have a director of sports information and a director of public relations.

Students who are in JC classes or involved with other media should learn how to do their own reporting and information gathering. Isn't that what they are here for? Isn't that what experience is?

Going to a newspaper as a source is encouraged, but that should serve only as a lead.

It's not that *The Pendulum* doesn't want to share information with the college community. That's our job. Every Thursday you can pick up a copy of the paper and read it. But don't expect to be handed information that staff members had to go out and find on their own before it is even in the newspaper.

■ Erick Gill
Editor in Chief

Off The Record

"You know I feel so dirty when they start talking cute. I want to tell her that I love her, but the point is probably moot."

- Rick Spingfield
"Jesse's Girl"

THE PENDULUM

Informing the Elon College Community

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Copy Editor Tracey Stark	
Photo Editor Tonya Hubart	

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Address: Campus Box 2800, Elon College, N.C., 27244. 584-2331.



Education hurt by cash demand

Let's face it. Most institutions of higher learning believe that making money is critical.

One only need look at the development office of any institution to see people hired for the specific purpose of raising money for the school.

It's true, money is critical for the success of a college or university. It allows for development of new facilities, procurement of the best and brightest faculty around the country and lots of really pretty shrubs.

At times, the money-making process will run in conflict with the educational process. One fine example of this is experiential learning at Elon.

Tuition costs X number of dollars per hour at Elon. In order for a student to get academic credit for that experiential learning, he has to pay half as much cash as normal tuition.

If a student had the opportunity to do a 12-hour internship, (the maximum amount allowed) it could mean the possibility of adding another minor or major and graduating in four years.

A 12-hour internship might include as academic work a journal of the twelve weeks and a fairly substantial paper. Obviously, it takes some time to establish what grade to give the student. It can't

Scott Miller



take more than three or four hours.

The school wants to charge you half as much as an entire semester. The work involved for the professor is exponentially less than in a normal course, yet the school wants nearly as much money.

For a business major, the opportunity to do an internship on Wall Street could mean a great job offer after school. Unfortunately, such internships are rarely ever paid. There is a segment of the college that has to work during the summer in order to help their parents with tuition, pay rent on the apartment and defray general expenses.

Over a couple of years, one might be able to save up a couple of thousand to pay for expenses in New York or Washington D.C. between the junior and senior years.

As you know, the "Big City" is quite expensive. It is doable to get that unpaid internship and live in the city. However, the likelihood is that many job opportunities have been hurt by the exorbitant costs

involved.

Here is an example. Last spring I went into the re-election campaign of Massachusetts Governor William Weld. I had an agreement worked out with them that I would work on the field portion of the campaign.

It would have virtually guaranteed me a job somewhere within the Massachusetts state government. Also, it would have made a double major of history and political science. Unfortunately, because of a couple of classes I screwed up sophomore year I have to drop political science to a minor.

So, without making the internship academically worthwhile my parents told me that I needed to work.

Elon needs, in this case, to slow down on the emphasis on money making.

If this school really wants to be known as a great institution, it will slide towards the academic rather than the monetary emphasis on this issue.

Great schools are able to mix business and academics. On this issue, Elon College is clearly in the realm of business too deeply. If Elon lessens the costs of doing internships for academic credit, they will reap the benefits of CEOs, congressmen and other VIPs in the ranks of future alumni.

Progress at the expense of the Planet

Tracey Stark
Guest Columnist

With the upcoming 25th anniversary celebration of Earth Day later this month, it has struck me as odd that we should celebrate our planet only one day out of the year. Seeing that this is the only home we have, wouldn't it make more sense to show our appreciation every day?

The natives of the Americas, both north and south, have a great respect for their mother, the Earth. The introduction of European man to this continent has resulted in a continual downward spiral of environmental conditions for the sake of "progress."

Progress? The natives of this hemisphere would disagree: They were all but wiped out by the diseases that the white man brought with him. The ones who survived the diseases were summarily rounded up and either killed, enslaved or introduced to alcohol, which was as good as enslavement. The white man would have greatly benefited by learning the ways of the native for a better understand-

ing of the Earth.

The continual destruction of the rainforests for the sake of temporarily rich grazing land, the depletion of underground water tables, the decrease in annual fish harvests, the desertification of formerly rich croplands, the staggering growth of landfills, and the continuing saga of the ozone layer are a few examples of the "progress" this world has made in the last several centuries.

Every year hundreds more species of this planet's flora and fauna disappear. We make no effort to protect a species until it is almost too late. Even this country's endangered species laws are insufficient because they deal with solving problems, not preventing them. How about saving all species before they are labeled "endangered"?

Humans are a perfect case in point. We place such a high value on our lives over that of any other lifeform that we will never be in danger of extinction. Or will we? The annual growth rate of this planet is 95 million people. (Over 250,000 a day.) That's nearly a billion new

mouths every coming decade! The Conference on Population in Cairo, Egypt, last September, estimated the world population in 2050 will be about 10 billion people.

Many will argue that the Earth's capacity is somewhere around 20 billion, and that won't come for at least 100 years, but I must argue that we will consume ourselves to death long before that. "It won't happen during our lifetime." Wanna make a bet? (It depends on how short a life you are planning on living.)

The big picture (the forest, not the trees) is this: We are the generation to bear the brunt of the damage done by past generations. We have to come up with the solutions. We have to start treating our "mother" with the respect she deserves.

So this year, instead of recycling a few cans and papers, and brushing your teeth with the water turned off on Earth Day, then reverting back to old habits in a week, make a conscious decision to be a permanent part of the solution and not the problem. Every little bit counts.