

Viewpoint

Once again, the Student Government Association has fumbled the ball during an important play of the game.

SGA officials delayed the upcoming elections because students are busy this time of the year and SGA wanted to give them more time to turn in petitions.

Hello, everyone is busy. Big deal. If students aren't responsible enough to turn in an election form on time, then they have no business running for a position on the SGA. If they can't balance a class load and getting signatures, how will they balance a class load and being a member of SGA.

Because SGA officials decided to delay the petitions, students won't be able to read about the possible candidates and learn about their qualifications, goals and expectations for next year.

The Pendulum is printed on Wednesday mornings and distributed on Thursdays, making it impossible to publicize the candidates. Also, the SGA elections are being held next Tuesday and Wednesday, making it impossible for us to also publicize the election results.

In past years, there has been criticism of election turnouts. With virtually no publicity on the candidates, do you think there will be any improvement in the turnout? But who will the SGA blame for the poor turnout? Lack of publicity? Lack of student involvement? These might be the excuses, but the answer is lack of planning on the part of the SGA.

The SGA needs to start taking into account other organizations besides themselves. They need to realize their decisions and actions effect other people besides themselves. Changing a deadline might have seemed like a good idea at the time, but how many more people do you think are going to turn in their petitions at the later date. And also, what effect is it going to have on the publicity surrounding the elections?

Off The Record

"This town rips the bones from your back. It's a death trap, a suicide rap. We've got to get out while we're young, cause tramps like us, baby, we were born to run."

- Bruce Springsteen
"Born to Run"

THE PENDULUM

Informing the Elon College Community

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The scourge of pessimism on society

I wish I had a normal vice. An addiction to pornography, sex, rock and roll or smoking would be fine, even desired.

I don't do drugs. I have only gotten drunk twice in my life at two moments of extreme personal weakness.

I have a problem that is even worse in this world. I am an optimist.

I believe in things. It is entirely the hip thing to be a pessimist today. About everything. From the existence of the CIA to Elon's motives in making the campus look beautiful, it seems as if though everyone has to doubt and question.

I think that it is a societal thing. Ever since Vietnam, journalists, moviemakers and average citizens have made themselves a name by questioning "the man."

It does not matter whether "the man" is the aforementioned CIA or anyone in authority, it is done all too frequently.

A New Jersey congressman can accuse the CIA of complicity in the killings of American citizens in Guatemala with no evidence and shape national policy. Oliver Stone can make JFK and have thousands believe his egregious assault on the truth. Ross Perot can accuse President Bush of making a deal with Saddam Hussein to take part of Kuwait on a nationally televised debate and still get 20 percent of



Scott Miller

the vote.

To always seek the truth is a fine endeavor. But when the truth seeking starts from a faulty assumption, such as the belief that every move in US foreign policy is driven by business interests, it erodes the firm moral fabric that our society sits on.

I'm talking about people who lose sleep about the CIA getting involved in a rightest coup in 1956. I'm talking about people who spend there lives ascertaining the certainty of the second shooter at the grassy knoll.

The outlandish theories that individuals have about our government institutions and national establishments would be material for the tabloids if it were the entertainment industry.

However, since they are going after the "man," the pessimists gain legitimacy in the eyes of our society.

In the United States we are not bound by ethnicity, religion or race. Our binding experience is the common culture of life, liberty and the

pursuit of happiness that we, as Americans... not African-Americans or Mexican Americans, but Americans.

The same individuals who seek to Balkanize our society through the curse of political correctness also improperly attack the institutions that define, as well as affect us.

Spiro Agnew called them, rattling nabobs of negativity. They are still around today. They permeate every facet of the collar society, not just the journalistic field that Vice-President Agnew was talking about 25 years ago. If we begin anew and seek toward a brighter future by seeking a unifying experience, and celebrate, rather than denigrate it, we may find many of our societal problems sliding away.

The religious right would like our experience to be religion. It does not have to be that. It could be a national disaster. It could be a war on declared in every street, village, hood in the country, by the people themselves. It does not matter what will come.

No doubt there will be people there pointing out the racial order inequality inherent in the movement. There will be people who will always doubt the greatness what we could become in this country.

Why? I'll never know.

Out of the Closet and into the Stonewall Cafe

Cybill Shepherd
Guest Columnist

"The Stonewall Cafe" is honored to submit the following letter in its entirety. It is inspiring as well as strengthening for all of us gays and bisexuals, who have come out or cannot and for heterosexuals who want to understand.

For those of you who have clipped these articles to keep you strong and to see you through your journey of acceptance and self-love, do not forget this one, because there is a light at the end of the tunnel. You will reach it.

"The Coming Out of Humanity" by Bill Walker

"I am a gay male. And while I gain new wisdom and new insights everyday, I am sure of and comfortable with who I am.

The problem is this: an unfortunate majority of Americans, gay and straight, are neither comfortable with themselves nor with me. They do not wish to know the persona that exists in the mind, body

and spirit.

Why? There is no logical reason, only a similar prejudice people of African-American descent have fought to release themselves and society from for centuries. And for the greatest part, prejudice is based on stereotypes, stigmas, misconceptions and, above all, fear. But by being afraid of sexuality, or skin color, or any other dislike of fellow humans, we exhibit a fear of ourselves, of who we are by nature and nurture.

As it is, people are a lot like snowflakes. No two are ever the same, yet the two cover the Earth. Both are drifters, though snowflakes do not have the unique ability to change direction by sheer force of will. But the snowflakes do possess one advantage; they blend, forming natural, unequalled beauty. We, as humans, should strive to be more like snowflakes, to share our cultures, our spirits, our own individual and collective beauties. But for us it takes will. It takes desire. It takes effort.

Societal harmony is achieved passively, and not without recognizing and respecting similarities, as well as our differences.

My own coming out has been direct, because I am a person of honesty, compassion and ambition. But it has, at times, been a uphill struggle. Unless faced by hardship or revelation, most heterosexual people never brave a struggle because they are not forced to explore and evaluate every single facet of their being. Because I have, I want to share what I have learned, not out of concern but out of concern for my community.

The future of our nation and our being always exist in a state of uncertainty. But the outcome is both for us to decide and to endure. If each of us invests in learning who we are, we will be empowered to dispel our fears and the answer to our collective uncertainties will become much clearer."