

Viewpoint

Unfortunately, I've always been a person who is very quick to criticize and slow to compliment. Sometimes that's rather apparent in the editorials I write, but I've been trying to change that. I know some people might find this hard to believe, but there are some things about Elon which I actually like.

There are some organizations on campus that plan activities once a year or every once-in-a-while. Most of the time they hold events because they're required to. There are also some organizations that are constantly at work. They hold events and dedicate their time because they WANT TO. I'd like to talk about one of those organizations this week; Elon Volunteers!

EV! is one of Elon's gems on campus. I don't think there is a person on campus who hasn't heard of EV! or hasn't gotten something from them in their mailbox. Its mission statement reads, "To provide all members of the Elon College campus the opportunity to develop an ethic of service by connecting campus and community through volunteer experiences." I believe it has held true to this mission. They offer enough programs and sponsor enough events to let people with all different kinds of talents and interests to help out. They run programs and events from Adopt-a-Grandparent to blood drives and the Special Olympics.

EV! has a staff of about 60 students and about 600 students have volunteered to date. Its goal is to have half the student body do some kind of service this year. EV! also tries to build partnerships with service organizations such as Safe Rides and Habitat for Humanity.

I just wanted to take some time to say congratulations and compliment all the staff of EV! for their hard work and dedication to making a difference. I also want to congratulate all the students who volunteer their time and effort. Your hard work is appreciated.

■ Robert Mancuso
Editor in Chief

Off The Record

"I could never sleep my way to the top. My alarm clock always wakes me right up."

- They Might Be Giants

"Hey Mr. DJ I Thought You Said We Had a Deal"

THE PENDULUM

Informing the Elon College Community

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Negativity? Not this week, baby!

The Pendulum has been accused of printing nothing but negativity. People think that there is absolutely no reason to print bad news or bad reviews. I disagree. One reason for printing SOME amount of negativity is to spur a change; to make people aware of a problem. Another reason to print negativity is that it is a lot easier to write than happy columns about sunny weather and the paradise that we live in. Everyone knows about that stuff. But this week I want to let you know that I have something to be happy about. Something we can all be happy about: Harden Dining Hall.

Monday evening I entered the new and instantly popular Harden dining hall for dinner. This was to be a surprising experience within minutes of sitting down.

One thing I noticed different were the candles on the tables - lit candles, no less! That was the first clue that something strange was afoot.

The next clue walked in the door a few minutes later: Four hispanic gentleman carrying musical instruments, wearing sombreros and tight-fitting mariachi tuxes. (Definitely not typical Elon students coming in for their evening meal.)



Tracey Stark

The band played popular mariachi/Mexican music and moved around the dining room for about an hour. They even played and sang "Happy Birthday" to a student. La Bamba, La Cucaracha... all our favorites!

Jeff Gazda, the manager of Harden was standing in the midst of it all with a big grin on his face. I asked him if this was his idea and he responded, "Yes it was. Do you like it?" He knew I was a Pendulum writer and was instantly curious (or worried) about what I thought.

Here is what I thought: It was a great morale builder and everyone was entertained by it. I think that the improved quality and look of the facility has even made the staff happier. There is a certain enthusiasm you can feel among its employees. They seem to enjoy working there more than they did with the old Harden or even the current McEwen.

The mariachi band only added

to the atmosphere. Gazda and Amy Carter, managers at Harden, plan to use the "Mariachi- Mexico 2000" band again this year as well as other possible entertainment.

When I was a waiter for those five wonderful years there was a saying that was used by restaurant managers to get the employees to work and that is, "A clean restaurant is a happy restaurant." It is a clean restaurant. So I assume it is a happy restaurant as well.

Harden has helped Elon College dining services enter the 20th century; from its neat little tray-to-dishwasher-track to the more than a million choices of things to eat and drink. To all those who made this possible, pat yourselves and each other on the back. Harden works. There are bugs to work out of it, but everything of this magnitude has minor problems.

This is for the critics who think I'm too negative:

The other day I took my tray outside and ate at one of the patio tables. I had a chicken sandwich and some grapes. I drank Mr. Pibb. It was sunny and the ducks were quacking. Lake Mary Nell was peaceful and the fountains were on. It was an ARAMark created paradise.

Speaking of...

This Week:

Harden Cafeteria ..

Harden Cafeteria opened last Tuesday. What do you think of the improvements?



Rocky Yost, freshman: "It's a hell of a lot better than McEwen. It's cleaner, the food is better. And I like the fact that you can go from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. It's a lot more convenient."



Stacey Draper, sophomore: "I think the presentation makes it a lot better. The presentation of the food and the cleanliness of the cafeteria makes it much better."



Franklin Stinson, freshman: "It's definitely much better than the food at McEwen or McKinnon...much better seating; there's more room and you can eat outside."

Mark McGinnis, sophomore: "I think Harden is a great place...but they really need to do something about the dish washing service. It's a good addition."

Alexis Turrentine, freshman: "It's a lot less boring. More variety. Tastier."

Amy Wynkoop, sophomore: "I love it...it's really good. The food tastes more like home cooked. The thing is the mass chaos during busy times."

Molly Kingsley-Ibeh, senior: "I don't like it. It could have been better... The pizza could have been thicker and you could get more than one slice as small as it is... It is pretty. It looks good."

Chuck Buckley, freshman: "It's definitely an improvement. I'm not just saying it because ANYTHING would have been an improvement. Seeing as how it's got a lot more variety than McEwen. The inside? They couldn't have done better."

Compiled by Tracey Stark