

Viewpoint

SGA? What's that?

There are many organizations on this campus. There are also many people on this campus. Why is it then, that there is lack of communication among these organizations and the student body. Is it completely the organization's fault? Or is it lack of caring on the part of the student body.

For instance, how many students know when SGA elections are? How many even know what SGA stands for? It means Student Government Association. The key word is *student*. Not everyone is a senator; however, every student on this campus is a member of the SGA. The entire purpose of the organization is to hear students' ideas and make them known to administration.

How can SGA make the students' ideas known, when they can't get any feedback from them. The SGA held a forum on the quality of residence halls last week. The forum was open to any student, but only a handful showed up.

It's disappointing to know the students' don't care as much as they should.

SGA elections are coming up on Tuesday and Wednesday. How many students will actually vote? Last spring, 929 out of about 3,000 people voted.

The amazing thing is, it was the largest voting turnout for an SGA election in the past four years. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see 2,000 out of about 3,500 students turn out to vote.

If the majority of the student body voted, it would show SGA that they care. It would show that they do read the articles in *The Pendulum*.

Instead of complaining how bad the food is, tell your SGA representative. Let them know. That's what they are here for.

Off The Record

"I've learned not to say never or else I'll seem the fool."

-Gin Blossoms '29"

THE PENDULUM

Informing the Elon College Community

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



Speech: our greatest freedom

In recent weeks, *The Pendulum* has printed the ideas of people with opposing views. A man named Darden Nicks wrote a letter protesting the celebration of the M. L. King holiday on the basis of the winter semester being too short to have any days off and the fact that he saw King as a man who had made errors in his life too great to warrant a holiday. "We did not need a day off... to celebrate a person who cheated his way to his doctoral dissertation....," Nicks said.

This stirred up a whole hornet's nest of debate, which we also published in our "Letters" section.

In one letter in particular, the author, Rob Bagwell stated that the letter was published "to create a bit of controversy" and that he was "surprised it was allowed to be printed." Let me educate those who may share in this opinion on a great thing called the First Amendment. It is as follows:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

When this was written, the words were considered absolute. This prevents the total sanitizing of

Tracey Stark
Manag.
Editor



society, where those germs known as ideas cannot grow. As a journalist, writer, columnist, editor, or whatever I may be classified as, I could not live without the right to express and share my ideas freely. And by using that right as often as I do, I have a strong respect for it.

This is not to say that I agree with everything that Nicks said or that I disagree with everything that Bagwell wrote. I respect and appreciate where they both may be coming from. The writings of Nietzsche, Plato, Socrates, Hitler, Lenin, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all offer us a variety of opinions and ideas to learn from. Without such diverse thoughts, we would never have made the social and technological progress that we've made to this point.

It is the basis of every institution of higher learning; the expression of ideas and the developing of minds. With suppres-

sion of ideas comes a stunting of society's growth and an inability to adjust to change. If one may not share his views because they are radical, we are then saying that the First Amendment applies only to some members of society.

Thurgood Marshall, an African-American Supreme Court justice respected the First Amendment. He wrote "... the right to receive information and ideas, regardless of their social worth, is fundamental to our free society." Marshall ruled in favor of this amendment often, even when the ruling threatened to provoke violence. Marshall saw the broad picture where the First Amendment was involved. If these rights were threatened or even removed in one state, city or school, then nothing could prevent them from being removed anywhere else in this great country.

If free speech provokes thought or causes offense, the best thing to combat it with is more free speech.

I would like to applaud all of those who have written and exercised their First Amendment rights.

Voltaire once said, "I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

e-mail: start4s0@numen.elon.edu

Speaking of...

This Week:

Rush

How do you feel about rush?



Heather Lablacki, Freshman: "I think it's fun. You meet a lot of people. I don't think it's anything I would want to do because I would have too much on my mind with college to spend my time trying to get into a group of people."



Ryan Pliss, Freshman: "It's a good way to meet a lot of people and to get out. If you get a bid you get to go to things like mixers, parties and community activities."



Tamara LaMassa, Sophomore: "I didn't like it. It was too formal. Everything was so planned out and timed. It's crazy and really exhausting."

Emily Bell, Sophomore: "I think it needs to be more relaxed. I think we should be able to have open house parties over a longer period of time with less structure, rules and regulations."

Stan Zeigler, Senior: "It's tedious. I think when you want to be a part of an organization you should be able to join any organization despite the number of people an organization can take or if someone doesn't like you. If you like what an organization stands for you should be able to join if you have the qualifications."

Compiled by Tonya Hubart