

Viewpoint

Spring fever hits nearly every person in America at some point or another. It seems that for Elon students it has started earlier than usual. After the cold, snowy winter Elon has seen, everyone's ready to enjoy the 75 degree weather that's been around for the past few days.

It seems like the entire campus came out of the woodwork. People were rollerblading, walking, playing ball and relaxing underneath the rays of the sun. Most have felt cooped up and restricted in the harsh winter months. Now students, in shorts and T-shirts, can be seen making their way to class.

Will this wonderful spring-like weather last? According to The Weather Channel, a polar mass (which means some very cold air and maybe some cold precipitation) will be sweeping across the country over the next couple of days. It's a shame that they are predicting an end to the sunny, warm weather.

Can people really handle such a drastic change in the weather? It not only crushes one's spirit, it makes one physically ill. Fluctuating temperatures are disheartening. Everyone wants to enjoy the weather. It's time to get some sun. Enough of the cold!

This time of year students get stressed. There's a lot of work that needs to be done, whether for class, for an organization or whatever. Spring brings hope, and with that, a new sense of purpose. It makes people want to accomplish things. Some would disagree, and say that people get distracted and don't concentrate on anything. That is true to some degree.

Once people get used to the nice weather, there's no stopping them. It helps rejuvenate them. It's a sudden burst of energy, like drinking coffee.

With any luck, winter will finally leave Elon alone, and the spring will come and cheer us up.

Taking 'PC' too far

Recently, I was given an assignment to show the difference between handicapped and the new politically correct 'disabled'. In the American Heritage Dictionary, handicapped is defined as being disabled. Aaagh...The joys of politically correct language.

The ideas of politically correct language go back as far as the 1930s. However, during the era of McCarthyism is when it began to take shape. One was considered politically correct if he/she was an opponent of McCarthy. Today, however, it's defined as the suppression of anything that gives offense on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, age or handicap.

If I've said this once, I've said it a thousand times: Good theory. Unfortunately, it doesn't work! The issue of what to call a person of color is a great example. I'm not the only one with this problem. In Nadine Strossens's "The Controversy of Politically Correct Language," she sites that "four-fifths of blacks prefer to be referred to as such, while one-fifths prefer the term African-American." Hey, great, but good luck figuring out who prefers what because the preferred term changes according to certain areas, occupations, and incomes.

Language do-gooders are so

Karyn Howard



concerned about what's correct that they've changed names and titles everywhere. The question is, are they really do-gooders? Ask the Chiefs of all Virginia's resident Indian communities and they'll tell you no (Leo 22). Students of William and Mary started a movement to change the sports teams' names from Tribe to something "less offensive." One glitch in the movement: Chiefs told reporters that they liked the team.

Do these language revision maniacs really care about people's feelings? My guess is that a bunch of people like to sit around and think up new ways to stir up trouble and create ethical questions such as, "is the abolition of politically incorrect language a violation of the First Amendment?"

The government is ruling at this point that those of us who think politically correct language is stupid are still protected by the First Amendment. Here's the fun part. Most colleges don't abide by the First Amendment. A dean of Politi-

cal Correctness argues that non-PC faculty shouldn't be able to receive tenure (Baron, 105). A crowd of students was reprimanded for taunting some Arab students during the Gulf-War rally. All of them were except one, because he was black. According to the official administration handbook, only whites can be racist (Leo, 22). At the University of Washington, a student was threatened with expulsion because he questioned a women's studies professor who said lesbians make better mothers (Dority 31). Nice.

Hey. I'm right there with the next person when it comes to altering my speech to protect the feelings of others. That's called common courtesy, which is a dying idea.

But isn't this a bit extreme? Some people were upset when Elon's Residence Life decided to go from dorms to resident's halls. Okay, a need for little concern. It scares me, though, that at other colleges students are kicked out if they don't use the correct language. It's something to think about next time you use this new language. leave you with some of my favorite terms changed, as John Leo sees fit: Corpse: non-living person.

Death: a negative patient care outcome.

Dallas Cowboys: Dallas Brave Persons.

Off The Record

"Wasting years at alarming rates, I can't just leave my life to fate."

-Deep Blue Something "A Song To Make Love To"

THE PENDULUM

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Speaking of...

This Week: SGA Elections

Can your vote make a difference?



Emily Halpern, Sophomore: "My vote is important because I care who's going to be heading our student body, making decisions that concern and affect us."

Terrance Copling, Sophomore: "I figure that every vote will make a small difference. It might be the tie-breaking vote. A vote is an expression of your opinion."

John Greene, Junior: "No. I don't think enough people participate. I don't think enough people know about it or really care."



Sandy Mummy, Sophomore: "My vote can make a difference because all it takes is one vote. It's like the snowflake theory. If there's a lot of snow on a branch, it could take just one more snowflake to make it all fall."

Garrett Koke, Junior: "Why does any vote make a difference? If you want something done or if you want to make your point, you've got to vote."



Bill Drew, Senior: "My vote isn't important. I think that the people who vote are into politics. In high school it (student elections) was a popularity contest. Now, it's just guys trying to get in on the political scene. I'm not into the S.G.A. thing, just as long as they don't interfere with my own agenda and what's right in this world."

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