

Viewpoint

Who isn't sick, raise your hand? One, two, three... There is a plague spreading throughout Elon College and it comes in several forms: There is the dry, hacking cough. The lost voice. The aches and pains. And the worst one of all: The "I don't feel like going to class today, so I'll sleep till noon."

I can tell you which ones have afflicted the staff of the Pendulum. We have one 'lost voice', two 'coughs', one 'aches and pains', and three 'I don't feel like going to class....'

Of those illnesses, the last is the most detrimental to your life. You will almost always get your voice back (except in some very extreme cases), coughs come and go, and aches and pains really keep you awake at night, but 'I don't feel like going to class today, so I'll sleep till noon' will cost you more than a few days of pain and suffering. It's often called "Senioritis", but all students are susceptible to it, so Spring Fever is a more applicable term.

Miss those classes and suffer the consequences. (Some instructors/professors on this campus actually take the attendance policy seriously.)

Along with the missing of classes comes apathy toward life in general: "I'll send out those resumes later. I'll file my taxes and do my financial aid forms later. I'll renew my license after the next ticket."

Apathy leads to playing a lot of pool...and that starts with "P" and that rhymes with "T" and that stands for "Trouble." (Excuse that last reference. I'm suffering from "I've lost my mind.")

So for all of those with the physical ailments, such as a cough, cold, flu, appendicitis, or whatever, I wish you well and hope for sunny days. For those poor souls with Spring Fever, I can only think of one thing that will cure you: bad weather.

(Now if only I could find a way to get all those Spring Fever sufferers to move.)

Tracey Stark
Managing Editor

Off The Record

"I think I've reached that point where giving up and going on are both the same dead end to me."

-Cure
"End"

THE PENDULUM

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The Pendulum, founded in 1974, is published by Elon students.

Single copies of The Pendulum are free. If extra copies are needed, they can be purchased at The Pendulum office in Moseley Center.

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Abortion destroys life, diminishes the soul

A while back, I came across something by Mother Teresa. Receiving her Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, she commented, "the greatest destroyer of peace is abortion because if a mother can kill her own child, what is left? For me to kill you and you to kill me? There is nothing between."

Lately, I've been giving thought to what Mother Teresa meant by these words. A few months ago, two young boys threw a four-year old boy to his death from atop an apartment building. They said they didn't know why they did it, they just "did it." Susan Smith drowned her two young children out of a selfish desire. I could go on, but I like to think that I'm a man of good cheer.

How can this happen in America where we claim to value human life? Has our soul been diminished to this depth?

I would contend that if America, and the world, is to progress with any value of human life, it cannot do so while allowing the abortion of unborn children, except to save the life of the mother. To do otherwise denigrates the worth of the soul.

What is the soul? It cannot be created by man, nor studied in the laboratory. It has no mass or weight. But it's there; it's the living essence of you and me. The soul is



Chris Knight

the most precious thing we have. It not only is the spark of life, but it also hints at something bigger than man. The soul is a gift from God.

I won't go into a religious debate here, but America has long prospered because of this belief in something higher than man. This belief has provided the concrete foundations of our morality. Our fortitude and desire for justice are all derived from our reverence for the soul. Without this respect of something larger than ourselves, morality and law doesn't mean anything: it's like a dollar without gold backing it. Our holding the soul as holy has made us respected in the eyes of the world.

What happens when the soul becomes cheapened by a society that permits the killing of unborn innocents for any reason beyond the well being of the mother? Since *Roe v. Wade*, over 30 million have perished before seeing the light of day. These are human lives we're dealing with, each with a beating heart and brain activity. That's

why I believe the pro-abortion argument that a fetus is a "non-viable tissue mass" is wrong; that an abortion should be no different from an appendectomy. Sorry, but I've never met an appendix that could bring world peace or cure AIDS, which is the potential that exists in an unborn child.

Our culture is now making decisions on who lives and dies based on the convenience of the living who can speak out at the time. When that happens, the sanctity of life is destroyed. And ever since abortion became legalized, society has become accustomed to what was once considered abomination. How many Susan Smiths were there before *Roe*? Since 1973, all violent crimes rates have risen. Teenage promiscuity and unwed pregnancies have skyrocketed since the mid-'70s. Despite efforts in the '80s, drug use is back up.

Diminish the value of the soul, and our culture is diminished as well.

America is losing possession of its national soul because its value is being eroded away through the neglect and callous disregard of human life. And if we cannot have the same regard for the lives of innocent, unborn children, we stand little chance of respecting the lives of those we see every day.

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Speaking of...

This Week:

Graduation

How do you feel about graduation?



Jeanine Navarro, Senior: "I'm anxious. Elon has provided so many opportunities. I've changed over the four years accredited to Elon. Elon has given me the strength to leave but it's hard to do so because it's been the four most influential and fun years of my life."

Cary Wolf, Senior: "After four years here, I'm ready to get out, get a job, start a family and get on with my life. I've had my share of fun here. It's time to get on and make some money."



Kevin McCabe, Senior: "I'm looking forward to it because I've got post-graduation plans to attend medical school. I'm looking forward to doing something new."

Mandy Allen, Senior: "I'm scared and excited because you have to live in the real world. It means more independence. You leave your securities behind. I'm excited because I don't have to go to class and because it's an adventure."



John Wolford, Junior: "I'm not scared because I have my mind set on what I want to do, teach, and if you want something bad enough you can get it. It's just a matter of who wants it more."

Brenda Pavlik, Senior: "I'd feel a lot better about it if I knew what I was doing after graduation. It's exciting, just kind of scary."

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