

Viewpoint

No cover-up. Nothing suspicious.
Just no letters to speak of. Okay?

The nerve of some people. Some random professor calls the newspaper office in a huff and insists on knowing why there were no letters in last week's edition. This man actually thought that the administration had convinced us not to put any in because of parent's weekend. We told him it had nothing to do with that, but he insisted it was somewhat suspicious.

Is he a moron? Does he really believe that we don't have 100 percent editorial control over what goes into *The Pendulum*?

Does he think that the administration would try something as stupid as what happened in November, 1989, when the newspapers were stolen from the racks because of its content: A drug survey and its findings at Elon College.

Does this professor think that we weren't going to print those letters because there were some negative comments made about the paper?

Please. We are not THAT thin-skinned.

We at *The Pendulum* write, edit, photograph, place, design and distribute the entire paper every week. Our adviser advises. He never says yes or no to the content. That is our job.

If this professor was really concerned about his class' letters making it into *The Pendulum*, he would have delivered them by hand.

Since they arrived a day after we had finished, how were we supposed to get them in? I'm sorry, but none of us have learned to perform miracles. Yet.

One final note: Keep your eyes open for a drug survey and the eating disorders survey in this and upcoming issues. Please take the time to fill them out and return them.

We appreciate all comments, no matter how inane.

Tracey Stark, Managing Editor

Sexual Harassment From a
6-Year-Old, Say It Ain't So

Chris Knight

You wouldn't think Jonathan Prevette is a Don Juan wannabe. Looking at the picture on the front page of last Thursday's *USA Today*, the blond boy from Lexington, NC, appears to be like any other first-grader. But last week Jonathan was in the news about the smooch on the cheek he gave to a female classmate; a kiss the young lass reportedly asked for.

Before you can say "Darla and Alfalfa," Jonathan's teacher sent him to the principal's office. Jonathan was sent home with a note describing his "sexual harassment" of another student. He was given in-school suspension. To add insult to injury, Jonathan was banned from an ice cream party.

Sexual harassment? When did an innocent kiss between playmates become illicit behavior? Heck, most kids at that age don't even know a good pickup line.

Remember back when you were a first-grader. If you're a guy you probably kissed more girls than you can remember. Some girls might have said "Ewww, gross!" or words to that effect, but besides the occasional slap or push you could get away with it (some guys are still getting slapped or pushed 15 years later, but I digress). Not to leave the

ladies out; you took pleasure in stealing a few kisses as well as welcoming an affectionate peck on the cheek by a male classmate. I was a first-grader in a school run by a church, and there was so much kissing going on you'd think it was a pee-wee Melrose Place. But even at that time, our teachers understood that playful pecks were always made with innocent fun and friendship.

Look at the way things have become since then.

Man, I feel so secure knowing that Jonathan Prevette, budding sexual harasser, has been caught before he can prey on other unwitting victims.

His teacher, principal and everyone who paved the way to his capture and arrest have done a great service to all. And, vicious betrayer of female trust that he is, he didn't get to go to the ice cream party. Justice prevails once again.

How did we get to this point? Most guys can't compliment a girl on how pretty she looks anymore without worrying about a lawsuit. Patricia Ireland of NOW (or National Organization of Gals... NAG, your choice) is telling us that any time a married couple makes love should be considered rape of the wife. We are told by radical feminists to treat men and women

equally alike, but when Anita Hill is caught lying before Congress, we are told to forgive her on the grounds that she is a woman.

Here's the problem: There are too many people who want to change the mainstream of society so their perversions and wacko ideas will be considered "normal." Let's imprison every guy who looks at a girl for too long. It might cause the birth rate to drop to zero and we'll go extinct, but so what? We'll have done the right thing in the end.

What's funny is that the people who have led us to this kind of gender-plex honestly believe all this and won't stop until their agenda is met, no matter how ridiculous it is.

What's not so funny, and what's downright tragic, is that a first-grader like Jonathan Prevette cannot have the innocent fun that a person will only have the chance to enjoy once in his or her life.

Let's stop expecting kids to understand what it's like to be an adult. Let's stop being so ridiculous about defining what is sexual harassment and what is not.

And let's start respecting each other as men and women, but all the while realizing we are just that: men and women, as different as night and day, not true equal, but each complementing the other beautifully.


THE PENDULUM

Informing the Elon College Community

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Speaking of...

This Week:

Family Weekend

How will the increase in minimum wage affect you?



Jill Maliszewski, sophomore: "Since I get paid minimum wage, now I will get paid more money."



Kristi Carden, junior: "Because of the minimum wage increase, my hours were reduced significantly. Companies did not budget for the increase in minimum wage and adjustments must be made for hours worked."



Mike Zampini, freshman: I don't think the increase is enough to make that much of a difference, but an increase is always good. I'm definitely not against it.

Kate Costello, sophomore: Minimum wage increase will positively affect me because as a student I need the convenience of an on campus job with their income of regular employment.

Angela Kuehn, junior: It will raise my pay here on campus, which will give me more spending money and more money to pay my bills. The job on campus does not have the budget to go above minimum wage.

Stephen Harris, freshman: It will give me more motivation to get a job.

Compiled by Amy Lerner