

Viewpoint

As most of you are aware, Student Government Association elections are here once again. Soon it will be time to say goodbye to the current SGA officers and welcome in the new crew; however, before that time comes Elon must become aware of how important their vote is to the organization.

The SGA funds our organizations, organizes events such as Homecoming and last fall's alcohol forums and continually represents our school; however, last year only about one-sixth of the Elon College student body cast its votes for their new executive committee and class officers.

If you glanced at the front page, you will have noticed that the current SGA executive committee, along with SGA adviser Barb Carlton, decided to postpone the SGA elections. The reason the elections were postponed — nobody was running contested.

Do we really want one of the only voices we, the students, have on campus to be run by people who won by default? We know that many of the candidates, for example SGA Executive President candidate Mark Richter, are very qualified, but shouldn't we at least make sure there's a little competition and make sure the best people are truly representing us.

If the issue is that most students do not care about these elections then something is very wrong.

Most students complain that they do not have a say in the future of their school and yet they then ignore an opportunity to make a decision concerning the future of Elon. Our SGA representatives have a voice that few students ever really get. But we need to choose who's going to speak for us. If we don't do it now, why are we going to do it after we've left the bubble of Elon and entered the "real world."

If you voted last year or are planning to vote this year, good for you. Because of your vote, Ashton, Jen, Mark and Kelli represented and served us well. You can honestly say that you did your part.

However, for those of you who will choose to ignore the upcoming elections, you are throwing away your right to exercise your opinions concerning student affairs at Elon.

So as you are tashing by the voting table next week, don't forget to quickly fill out a ballot. You'll thank yourself later.

• *The Pendulum* editorial staff

El Nino: More rain, more insanity

The weather phenomenon runs amok at Elon

There is something magical about the Weather Channel.

The steely-eyed composure of the anchors as they elegantly sweep their hands across the breadth of the United States in an attempt to describe to us puny mortals the majesty of the latest low pressure system to ravage the Pacific Northwest and the soothing strains of the Musak that accompanies the local forecast are enough to make you consider a switch to a meteorology major.

Well, okay, so maybe you'll stick to a business major. Nevertheless, the Weather Channel is still pretty fun to watch on Sunday afternoons when you are still in your pajamas, there's nothing to eat but whatever is left in that month-old box of Lucky Charms and "Xena: Warrior Princess" won't be on for another hour.

I will be the first to admit that I do occasionally partake in the guilty pleasure of watching atmospheric disturbances run amok. After a long day of classes and homework, it can be kind of fun and, dare I say it, *relaxing* to watch a tornado hauling serious weather phenomena butt across the Midwest. It sort of puts the day in perspective.

The only downside to watching the Weather Channel so frequently is the fact that you very quickly

develop a complex. Precipitation paranoia and isobar insomnia notwithstanding, by far the worst condition is Elninophobia.

As my beloved Weather Channel has taught me well, I will share a little background about the evil El Nino.

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El Nino is also known as El Nino-Southern Oscillation, which is a fancy way of saying "hot water make the air all funny."

A dwindling or reversal or trade winds occurs during an El Nino, which means winds at the equator blow from west to east. As the winds carry warmer water from the tropical regions of the Pacific Ocean to the western coasts of North and South America, the result is increased rainfall and flooding (sound familiar?) in the Americas, drought in Indonesia and Australia, a jet stream gone haywire, major snafus in global weather patterns and enough atmospheric wackiness to scare the bejesus out of Willard Scott.

Whew! Didn't think you'd learn anything by reading the edi-

torial page, did you?

In addition to the meteorological mayhem instigated by El Nino, there is a corresponding insanity in the human population of Mother Earth as well.

Perhaps it is all the rain that was dumped on Elon over the past two months. Or maybe it is the irritation of a vitamin D deficiency due to Mr. Sun's month-and-a-half sabbatical.

Whatever the reason, the face of the stalwart stu-

dent as he or she strides bravely through the brick canals of scenic Lake Elon College is looking increasingly maniacal. The fault of the Machiavellian meteorologic misfit El Nino? Judge for yourself.

Take last weekend for example: Friday the 13th followed by Valentine's Day? That sort of curse on the human race (particularly the singles) can only be the handiwork of a diabolical oceanic warming pattern, and probably one that is in league with the good people at Hallmark Cards.

Never fear, oh waterlogged readers. The Weather Channel says that El Nino should spin itself out by the summer, and a channel that plays Musak won't lie.



THE PENDULUM

Informing the Elon College Community

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Speaking of ...

Student Government

What do you think is the reason for Elon students' lack of participation in student government?

Erin McEwan, sophomore: I don't think people really know what SGA does for Elon and does for the students. I don't think they realize the impact that it has on the students themselves and that's why people don't go out to elect the SGA or want to run.

Julie Paynter, freshman: Probably because students don't think they can make that much of a difference and they don't care. There's a lot of apathy.

Don Cambell, freshman: I think the reason why people don't get involved in SGA is because no one actually sees what SGA does. I don't think they do a good job of publicizing any of the good that they do on campus. They do a lot within their organization, but I don't think anybody on campus gets to hear about the good or the bad that they do, and so therefore no one wants to become a part of that organization.

Austin Thomas, senior: People are not into politics. Maybe they will be interested in politics later on, but right now in college people just aren't that interested.

April Hagins, sophomore: It's not like the people who are in SGA have any say in anything. I don't feel that student government bodies have any say in anything that happens, so what's the point of getting involved? Also, I don't care about politics anyway.

Charlie Cooper, freshman: People are just so seperated from politics. Through the media and whatnot over the course of the years politics in general have been given a bad rap. People get disassociated from politics, no one wants to get involved. Plus, most of us have no idea what's going on with SGA anyway.

compiled by Carrie Lancos