

Viewpoint

To assess the values and opinions of Elon students and faculty, the school sponsored a forum this past Saturday.

Presented at the forum were the results of a survey covering many topics: the confidence levels of students, various ethical practices, and the degree of academic challenge here at Elon, amongst others.

Specifically, pollsters were asked whether they felt their peers and professors "stimulated" them intellectually.

This question was based on a recent series of comments made by students about the ease of their respective scholastic loads.

Central to this argument are both fact and opinion.

Elon advertises itself as a college for mid-range students from affluent families. Therefore, an A student's expectations of strict academic rigor in preparation for the "real world" may be categorized as a pipe dream here at Elon.

This certainly would support many of the stereotypes surrounding Elon's image that students pay for their grades.

On the other hand, many say the collegiate experience is what one makes of it: that by only fulfilling requirements, one may expect to be dumfounded when entering the workplace.

To quote Dennis Miller, "High school students are entering the job market with an education that barely qualifies them to run the tilt-a-whirl at the travelling carnival."

Should we, as those who will put nearly \$50,000 towards our education, then not expect a more formidable collegiate atmosphere?

Sure many may throw out that old adage that these are "the best years of our lives." Many support a whimsical "floating on through the pool of life" approach to higher education.

A great number of sociologists will defend one's need for social and spiritual development over mental expansion.

The fact of the matter, however, is that the "working world" is searching for dedicated, responsible, hard-working qualified employees who will, as JFK put it, "dream of things that never were."

Success in accomplishment lies within confidence. Do you believe that Elon is preparing you for what's ahead?

• The Pendulum editorial staff

Blahbidy Blahbidy Blah!

This is my final column. Whew. I finally said it. With these words I bring to a close my two year long journey through the pages of *The Pendulum*.

Right now it feels like the validity of the last 50+ columns I've written ride on this one last article. Geez, talk about pressure.

What do I want to say? What is it that I want all of you to remember from my columns? Essentially, what is my point? I have absolutely no idea.

Let me start off by giving a great big thank you to everybody that picked up the paper and read my column. Let me also say thanks to everyone who responded to my opinions, be it positive or negative.

The one thing that I will definitely miss about this column is the response I get from all of you.

I know that there are a lot of people out there who disagree with what I say, and I know there are people that don't like me because of my opinions, and I accept and understand that.

I remember after my second column last year, I was stopped in Ashely Oaks by an extremely intoxicated young woman who, upon finding out that I was indeed Chuck Buckley, proceeded to call me a chauvinistic bastard pervert. I respect that and I thank her for her

input.

Another thing that I'm going to miss terribly is the fact I'm recognized where ever I go. I know it's arrogant to say this, but I love being known.

My last column. I don't know if I'm going to be happy to leave or if I'm going to miss it.

How should I end this series? This page 2 column has been my baby for

Chuck Buckley
A&E Editor

bucka5c0@numen.elon.edu

the last two years. Now like any good father, I'm going to have to kill it because it's taking up too much time.

Honestly, the real reason I'm quitting is that I'm going to England next semester and I've always wanted to make a big stink when I left this rag.

When I go I want you to remember me. I would love to have some impact on all of your lives, be it a positive, warm-fuzzy effect, or a horrible descent into some kind of psychotic episode.

If you've gained any kind of life lessons from my columns, I hope that it would be these three things

1) A sense of humor can be the

greatest thing in the world. It heals wounds, it eases tension and it makes the world a better place. You can do and survive anything if you always have your sense of humor.

2) Always question the world around you. Don't accept things just because that is what everybody around you believes. You must carve out your own ideas and opinions.

I don't want everyone to go around not trusting your friends, but remember trust is something that must be earned.

Just keep in mind that everything, including people are covered by a thin film of B.S.

3) Blahbidy, Blahbidy, Blah! That is what it all comes down to really. I can't tell you what to do with yourself, no one can. Only you can decide what fate has in store for you. You are the only one you need to feel responsible too.

All of us are on the beginning of a journey that will last the rest of our lives. Every step we take now is a step forward. I wish you all of you the best of luck in the years to come.



Chuck Buckley

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THE PENDULUM

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Ethan Pell
John Turlington

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

Address all correspondence to:
The Pendulum
7012 Campus Box
Elon College, N.C.
27244.

Phone: (336) 584-2331
Fax: (336) 584-2467
E-mail:
pendulum@numen.elon.edu
Web page:
http://www.elon.edu/users/o/pendulum



Speaking of ...

Cadbury Cream Eggs vs. Jellybeans

What is your favorite Easter candy and why?



Benjamin Webb, freshman: Those Cadbury Eggs, they're the best. I don't like too much chocolate and besides, the creamy filling is the best.



Beth Murphy and Sarah Shelton, sophomores: Cadbury cream eggs! They're so fattening but they're so good. The sugar gives an extra boost. They're just yummy.



Kimmy Avis, freshman: Definitely Cadbury Eggs because they're the bomb, especially the cream filling.

Khadijah Jefferson, sophomore: Jellybeans because they're sweet and chewy.

Rachel Biskey, freshman: Black jellybeans. I like licorice. Everybody hates them but me, so everyone gives them to me. That's why I'm in heaven during Easter.

compiled by Carrie Lancos with photos by Andrew Brickey