

Viewpoint

Every week a dedicated staff of eight editors and 15 reporters do their best to cover the news and events of the Elon College campus.

That's a grand total of 23 people (plus or minus a few depending on the week) covering the lives and events of 3500 students, plus faculty and staff.

Every week we work over 120 hours (and that's just the editors!) to put together the best newspaper we can. And what thanks do we get? Very little, as far as we can tell.

Every week we sit in class and listen to professors and students complain about the lack of quality and coverage in *The Pendulum*.

People complain that we don't cover their organization or that we cover some organizations too much. They wonder why we don't discuss politics, or cover every organization in every issue.

Professors want to know why we don't feature every department in every issue. And there is always the constant demand for *The Pendulum* to be controversial.

In response to all of our "loyal" readers, all we have to say is... KISS OURS!

For starters, *The Pendulum* is not a organizational or departmental newsletter... it is a newspaper. The purpose of a newspaper is to report newsworthy and important events of a general interest and to entertain its readers.

Second, it is not our job as a newspaper to cause controversy — it is instead our job to report the existing controversies on campus.

Which brings us to another topic. We are only 23 people. We can not know what happens in every classroom, in every organization and at every meeting. We are only a microcosm of the Elon College population and we do what we can.

We can't read minds and we don't know everything that happens on campus — we will be the first to admit to that.

If you think we aren't covering something that we should, join the staff and make sure it gets coverage. If you know of a controversy or feel a topic is important to the community, tell us and we will report it.

The Pendulum office is located in Moseley 233. There is one issue left this year and you are all welcome to help us with it.

• *The Pendulum* editorial staff

Alcatraz College vs. the Real World

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Lately I have been thinking about all the seniors who will be graduating in a month.

Some will begin working, some will continue their education and some will move home so they can sit on the couch and wonder why "Ryan's Hope" ever went off the air.

Either way, the matter that concerns me is the group of college upperclassmen who can't wait to get out of here.

There are people among us who think Elon is like Alcatraz and they are prepared to jump into the choppy, shark-infested waters of the real world, no matter the cost.

I argue that these same people are the ones who think Jerry Springer is quality programming.

Why anyone would ever want to leave this fantasy world called college I'll never know.

Just think how sweet of a deal you have. You are constantly surrounded by friends, have infinite opportunities to have fun, relax, get involved and maybe learn a thing or two along the way.

Where else do you think that you can find all of these treasures? Outside school? You obviously have inhaled too much of the library's

asbestos.

Just think, everyone is friendly and there are people who will bend over backwards to help you. Do you think that these resources will be available to you in the real world? Shaaa!

"But John," you say, "I'm just so damn tired of being in this place; I think I'll be happier in the real world."

Think again, partner. If you really have a hankering for 80 hour work weeks, business suits and think that serfdom is a pretty cool concept, maybe it is for you.

But for the rest of us, this leaves the bitter taste in our mouth of a 24-hour all-Wham! station.

So why not stay in school for absolutely as long as possible and exist in this Biosphere of non-reality?

Then, God forbid, you graduate, back to school you should go.

Graduate school, law school, it really doesn't matter as long as the word "school" is in the title, and it is located on some campus.

School life has been pretty good to me for many years now, so why would I want to make any drastic changes. It would be like taking B.A. Baracus off of the A-Team; it would be doomed from the start.

So after graduation, it is my

sound advice that you get a master's, or some other degree. The actual degree is of little consequence, for as long as you maintain your lifestyle, all is kosher.

The next phase is a Ph.D.. Not only does this step require more schooling, but anyone with a Dr. attached to their name becomes instantly cooler, and thus gets more chicks.

Anyway, it is at this point when you can go no further in school and you are in the 30ish range that you are possibly ready to leave the school environment.

However, there are those among us who have never been able to bridge the gap and make a successful transition; these folk are called college professors.

These people have made the clearly correct decision to stay in school forever. Still, it will only be the cream of the crop who attain this Valhalla.

For the rest of us who dare to dream and hope that this fate will lie on our path, buck up, for time will tell.

It is the seniors who have to dive in head first, and hope that there will be a lifeboat waiting for them.

So good luck, and remember, there will always be room for one more on Alcatraz.



THE PENDULUM

Informing the Elon College Community

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Speaking of ...

The Ideal Class

If you could create your ideal class at Elon, what would it be?



Kim Johnson, freshman: How to be a good citizen. You don't really learn how to do that otherwise.

Ebon C. Freeman, sophomore: The class would be an open forum and discussion where the administration and students could meet. All of our questions could be answered and all of our ideas could be heard. We would be able to discuss things like what the perception of Elon is, how we could change it and how we could make it better.



Myk Lunney, sophomore: The ideal class would be where all the students interact and participate and really create their own education. They tell the professor what they'd really like to learn and the professor fulfills that for them. I guess the ideal class would be one in which the students actually give a care.

Melissa Anderson, freshman: How about a class where you watch episodes of "Seinfeld" and analyze them?



Jamie Crotts, senior: How about Elon 201: How to avoid sprinklers, ducks, squirrels and lawnmowers.

Amber Huening, freshman: How about a nap class? If I had a class on sleep, I would love it, because I'm a really good sleeper. I consider myself a professional on sleep and I think I would get all "A"s! Either that or a class on quilting.

compiled by Carrie Lancos with photos by Crystal Pape