

## Viewpoint

All right, that's it. We can't take this crap one minute longer.

If we hear one more word about President Clinton, Monica Lewinsky or Kenneth Starr, we will collectively wet ourselves.

The majority of *The Pendulum* staff is made up of journalism and communications majors. Some of us are political science, history or international studies majors or minors as well.

This means that the Clinton Affair is the *only* thing we have discussed in our classes over the last few weeks.

Now that the smutty reject Danielle Steele novel they've been trying to pass off as the Starr Report went public, and the President's little televised squirm-fest aired on Monday, can't it just end?

Bill Clinton has suffered enough, Hillary Rodham Clinton has suffered enough, Chelsea Clinton has suffered enough, and by God, the American public has suffered enough.

At this point, we don't care if the President gets impeached. We don't care if he gets censured. Hell, we don't care if they shake his hand, toss him a can of Henie and laud him for scoring. Isn't getting nookie part of the American dream anyway?

So he cheated on his wife and lied about it; that is not excusable. However, it is a matter for him to settle with his family now. It's not something in which some nosy independent counsel or a couple hundred million Americans should be involved.

The whole world is laughing at us right now. The simple fact that we can't deal with a public official who's been gettin' some is hysterical to the press and governments of other countries.

Among those watching the President's testimony on Monday morning, the most prevalent feeling was not anger or indignation, but rather embarrassment.

Here we are, the next generation of leaders for our country, watching our President sweat, fidget and fumble with papers while questions, which seemed apropos of the frat house on a bad night, poured from the mouths of the independent counsel.

Yet we the American people, for all our supposed apathy over the situation, still titter over suggestive cigar jokes and roll our eyes at the media's hyper-analysis. It is perhaps our quiet judgment of the man and his actions which is really making him sweat.

• *The Pendulum* editorial staff

## Presidential search no easy task

Anytime change occurs, people tend to get nervous, ask lots of questions and start thinking about their future.

This is no more apparent than when there is a change in the Chief Executive, in our case, the college president.

On Dec. 31, 1998, Dr. Fred Young will retire. As much as we love him, it's time for him to step down after twenty-five years of service. Then, Leo Lambert or Thomas Flynn will be named the eighth president of Elon College.

Believe it or not, the Presidential Search Committee, which helped to bring these two candidates to Elon, worked diligently, made many tough decisions and still got criticized.

Can you believe people got mad when we wouldn't tell them who applied? Can you believe people wondered why these gentlemen came from Millikin University and University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and not from Harvard and Princeton?

It is amazing when you hear people discuss their own conspiracy theories about the search.

Let me give you a little insight into the makeup of the committee. Trustees, staff, parents, faculty, alumni and of course me, a student.

A diverse crowd with one common bond: The love for Elon College.

Not one person had their personal agenda. Nobody dictated who would be the new president, and most shocking of all, I even got to be a fully participating member of the committee.

## Mark Richter

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At first I thought, "What do these Trustees care about Elon College?" Boy was I wrong!

I have never seen a collective body of people who cared so much for Elon College.

Noel Allen brought the group together in a way where everyone had equal input. Mel Palmer and John Sullivan brought great wisdom to the group when we thought a decision was never going to be reached.

Don Lopes, who helped with another search committee at Bryant College, gave valuable advice. Nan Perkins, Gerald Whittington and Nancy Midgette brought a wide array of insight from their collective years in higher education.

The bottom line is that this

committee has done an outstanding job. The next time you see Gerald, Nancy, Nan or John or one of the Trustees on campus, thank them for all the hard work they have done because, believe me, it's something you would not want to take on by yourself.

January 1, 1999 will mark a new beginning for Elon College. Although it will be a new beginning, please remind Dr. Flynn and Dr. Lambert of what makes Elon a special place.

Please do not criticize these gentlemen until you have a chance to meet them when they come to Elon next week. They are wonderful individuals.

I was reminded of something last week by a professor I once had.

She told me, "Mark, it doesn't matter if in the end these people turn out to be the wrong choices for Elon College, just so long as the process was fair, honest and open."

That made me think that even if we made the wrong choice (which I suspect we didn't), the process that we used to select these individuals was right.

I know Dr. Lambert and Dr. Flynn will be reading this, so I'd like to extend a warm welcome to them from the Elon College community. We hope you like it here.

## THE PENDULUM

Informing the Elon College Community

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The purpose of *The Pendulum* shall be to inform and entertain the Elon College community. *The Pendulum* shall be a forum where all members of the college community are able to express their ideas and opinions.

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## Speaking of ... Presidential Search

What characteristics would you like Elon's new president to have?



Stacey Henderson, senior:

I think she should be someone who listens to the students, one who pays attention to what needs to be done around campus and one who will keep the Vision going. We need someone who will carry it on and not let it go to pieces.



Travis Morrow, sophomore:

The new president should look to keep the vision that we have now and look to strengthen it as we come into the new millenium. And he should be a nice guy.



Burton Kesler, sophomore:

He has to be interested in the progress of the school, he has to be able to interact with the students and he has to be friendly, of course.

**Andrea Henderson, freshman:** It should be someone who is sincere and someone who means what they say. Someone who will bring some life into Elon College. It should be someone who is interested in our social life, not just academics.

**Cris Montalvo, freshman:** They would have to be approachable, somebody you can talk to and someone who gets out there among the students.

compiled by Carrie Lancos with photos by Kristy Wolfgang