

Viewpoint

Monday morning dawned cold, with a steel-grey sky and a misty rain pervading throughout the better part of the day.

Fitting then that many students first found out about the death of Elon professor Al Carpenter on Monday. The gloomy weather perfectly matched the mood of students and faculty as they attended classes and went about their daily routines even as they reflected on a man who touched so many lives.

From the classrooms to the dorm rooms, from faculty offices to the dining halls, stories were told of his dedication to his work and to Elon. People remembered how he would stay at school until all hours of the night simply to help students, how he would come to games to cheer on his students and advisees when their sports teams played and how his passion for computers would rub off on anyone who took a class with him.

When a tragedy like this hits a small, close-knit community like Elon, the effects are felt deeply. The majority of *The Pendulum* staff never had Carpenter for a class, yet we feel the loss of such an active and caring member of our community just as acutely.

More than anything, however, in the wake of his passing, we begin to question our own mortality and how we live our lives.

Carpenter was only 45, an age which is not far off from the ages of many of our parents and our professors. It's scary to think that someone so young could die. It's scarier still to think that the next person to go could be our mother or father, our English professor or math teacher ...or one of us.

With this fear in mind, it becomes all the more important not only to savor every moment of our own lives, but also to always appreciate the role that others play in our lives.

Under the flag of Elon College, which has flown at half-mast for the last few days, the stream of students and faculty goes on unceasingly. We toil through our classes, we socialize with our friends, we go to work and to parties, we visit the library and the mailroom. We go on with our lives.

We just hope Professor Carpenter is smiling down on the community he left behind and the lasting impression he instilled in those whose lives he touched.

• *The Pendulum* editorial staff

Whose gym is it anyway?

Last week was Homecoming Week, a time of school spirit, seeing old friends and fun and games.

The Student Government Association sponsored many activities aimed at bringing the good out in everyone. Besides getting a few evil stares from my stalker, I'd have to say that everything went well; the fireworks, the banner competition, as well as the Skit Night contest.

Unfortunately, if it was up to the men's basketball coach, the Skit Night event would have never taken place.

The SGA, in conjunction with the director of student activities, went through the proper channels to secure the Alumni Gymnasium for the competition last Thursday evening.

Once members of the SGA, and subsequently members of the student body, showed up to the gymnasium, we were told that the basketball team would be practicing until 7:30 p.m. The skits were scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

The coach had total disregard for the several hundred students waiting outside, despite the fact that we brought with us a signed document from the athletic department giving us permission to use the facility.

Even with this, it was not until the assistant athletic director came to the gymnasium that the

coach was persuaded.

C'mon coach, lighten up. Why should several hundred members of the student body be inconvenienced for a mistake on the part of the athletic department? I thought the college aims to please, and all the factions of the

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campus are supposed to work together.

Don't get me wrong, I still support the basketball team. Anyone would

get excited about the last second shot that led to the team's victory over VMI. I just wish we could have resolved this schedule conflict with the team before Thursday night.

On a brighter note, literally, the Student Government Association sponsored a 20 minute fireworks display Thursday evening after the Skit Night competition. The fireworks display accompanied a pep rally.

The pep rally featured Elon's cheerleaders, the dance team, many members of the football team and, of course, Trip Durham, who got the crowd excited.

This was the greatest example of school spirit I have seen in a long time. Football head coach Al

Seagraves was very appreciative of our efforts to organize the fireworks display.

I would also like to congratulate coach Seagraves and the Fightin' Christians for their Homecoming victory over Samford on Saturday.

In any case, many of us agreed that this Homecoming tradition of fireworks and a pep rally needs to continue, especially once the new stadium is built... whenever that is.

The fireworks and pep rally really illustrated how the athletic department and the students can work together to accomplish something special.

Unfortunately, the night had to get off to a bad start due to the lack of cooperation. I would like to ask the coach to please remember to have some consideration for the rest of the students.

I am not trying to tell anyone that the athletic department sucks, but there was no reason why we couldn't have worked things out to make the Homecoming activities run as smoothly as possible.

Congratulations are also in order for Alpha Omicron Pi for winning the Homecoming competition, but did anyone think they'd lose?



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 ... Thanksgiving

What do you have to be thankful for?



Lucy Talvacchio, junior: My friends. It's been a rough semester and my friends have helped me a lot.

Bekah Hanlon, sophomore: I'm thankful for my good health and that I have great family and friends. I've also been very blessed with many opportunities since I've been at Elon.



Casey Spears, junior: Everything! All the great friends I have, for my family and for my wonderful teachers and the people at the library who've helped me out. And for Jessie at West End.

Kristin Torcasi, freshman: My family and my friends and everything else.



Stacie Maguire, senior: Friends and family and I'm really happy to be going home for Thanksgiving. I haven't been home all year.

Greg Lasser, junior: I'm thankful for my family and friends, to be able to go to college and get an education and to be able to see my family during the holiday season.

compiled by Carrie Lancos with photos by Emily MacDonnell