

Viewpoint

Pendulum-SGA consortium

Spring is in the air, the grass gets its fresh coat of paint, the flowers are replanted weekly and... what was that other thing?

Oh yeah, how could I forget about all those SGA candidates running around like monkeys, trying to make sure their fat, jovial faces get onto every page of our beloved *Pendulum*? Why do they bother? As far as we can guess the only reason for SGA's existence is to fill up our empty pages.

Everyone knows SGA is a secret elite organization hell-bent upon never having a clue as to the wants and needs of real students. Sure, occasionally one of our editors gets lucky... and cons our local SGA informant, *The Pendulum's* own private Deep Throat, into writing a column and revealing a secret here and there.

Those vile SGA friends have even brainwashed our beloved Editor in Chief into extending their deadline. This "Super-Secret SGA Deadline" comes about 24 hours or so after my deadline. Figures.

We were fine with this quiet, darkroom-worthy consortium. The SGA-*Pendulum* relationship has long been a symbiotic one, SGA uses us for our women and our free publicity and we... wait, we don't get anything out of this, or at least most of us don't. Some relationship this is.

Seriously, our neighborly relationship has been a good one. However, this alliance has been under considerable stress as of late due to the massive influx of flocking SGA-liens.

Yes, you know who I am talking about. "Hi my name is _____ You have no clue who I am or what I stand for, but will you sign my sheet so I can run your life from behind a curtain like 'The Wizard of Oz'?"

This year, thanks to the ever benevolent editorial staff here at *The Pendulum*, things are different.

Now they can come up to you naive, unsuspecting little innocents like the vultures they are and say something along the lines of: "Hi, my name is _____. You remember me from page such-and-such of *The Pendulum* last week?"

"Yeah, great, now sign my sheet or you will suffer the consequences because Big Brother SGA is watching you."

• **Chris Rash** Opinions Editor

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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Elections: Hurwitt endorses...

Well, it appears that my last column went over so well that I've been invited back.

This week's topic, boys and girls, is the SGA Elections happening on a campus near you Feb. 22 and 23.

Now I could use this opportunity to tell you how important it is to vote, to participate, etc., but hey, you've heard it all before.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my respect for all of the candidates running for positions in SGA at all levels and classes. After all, it does take guts to put your name out there as a candidate, to set yourself up for criticism and the possibility of defeat. Most people bitch and moan. Few put themselves on the line. These folks have courage.

Now, I turn my attention to you, the voting public. I'll be the first to admit that until I joined SGA two years ago, I did not know or care about our student government. Sure, I'd vote in the elections, usually for the people that I knew, but that was the extent of my participation.

Now, if all you want to do is cast your vote, I respect that decision. I do ask, however, that you do more than I did my first two years.

Do some research. Don't just vote for your friends, or who you

think is hot or by using a Ouija board. Find out about these candidates and what they want to do with your SGA.

If you see one of these people walking around with buttons on, ask them why they or their candidate deserves your vote.

If one of those

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friendly candidates accosts you on your way into Moseley Center, don't run away from them. Hey, if they're going to bother you, bother them back. Challenge them to explain why they are the best person for the job.

Some other helpful hints from Hurwitt's Guide to the 1999 SGA Elections:

- Don't believe any B.S. campaign promises about expanding ESTV off-campus, getting the cops off your back, paying back your student loans or reinventing the wheel. You get the point.

- If a candidate does make a promise, ask them how they plan to make it happen. Hey, we would all like to pay less tuition, but how is this candidate going to make that happen?

- A little hint: They can't!
- Take the election seriously and demand results from the candidates. How many of you realize that SGA executive officers receive a \$200 month stipend. That's right... they get paid!

- Don't talk stuff about a candidate behind their back. After all, you should have plenty of opportunities to do so to their face.

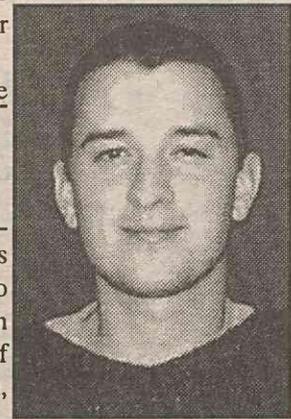
- Don't complain if you don't vote. Sorry, I had to include one admonition. (That one

was for you Dr. Zarzar)

- Congratulate every candidate whether they win or lose. There is a good chance that some quality people won't be elected into office. Hey that's politics.

- If you get the chance, thank the outgoing members of SGA for their hard work. As any member of SGA can tell you, there is a lot more to the job than an hourly weekly meeting. Who knew that the Elon College campus might be the last bastion of true public service?

- One more thing. Vote for #\$\$@!!%#. This person is definitely the best person for the job.



Speaking of ... Sorority Rush

How do you feel about the current sorority rush process?



Lynn Chheang, freshman:

I think it was really well organized. The older members did a really good job in their preparation. I felt that the adding of an additional round helped the process along. The Rho Chi's were always there to help.



Marianne Smith, sophomore:

It's a lot different being on the other side this year. The rewards have really been worth it.

John Macleod, sophomore:

It's kind of stupid to have to pay all that money for a group of friends when you have no choice as to its members.



Amber McCafferty, freshman:

I really enjoyed the whole experience. All the girls were nice and did a great job of coordinating things. All in all I'd say I had a lot of fun.

Shaw Hargett, freshman:

I think it's stupid. It misrepresents the Elon College environment as a whole.

compiled and photographed by Chris Rash