

Viewpoint

Okay, look. I'll square this away right now. I didn't go to the Honors Convocation, so I won't be complaining about Steven Jay Gould. I have nothing to say about the Elon Bubble or about Residence Life, not today anyway. The Greeks haven't upped my dander in quite some time and my registration went just fine, thank you.

Yup, it's just your typical slow news week here at Elon College and I'm in no mood to stir things up. I got a bit of sleep, I had a good dinner and the paper is running smoothly this week, so I'm in a relatively pleasant mood.

When you are a perpetual cynic as I often tend to be, it gets pretty easy to lump everything in your immediate environment into the general category of "irritating." But I don't really feel like doing that this week.

See, Tuesday afternoon I was visited by a true class act, one who reinstilled my faith in the people of Elon College.

Earlier that morning I received a phone call from a young man who said he had accidentally received a piece of mail in his campus box. He asked if he might stop by and return it. I told him where I lived and within a half hour there was a knock at my door.

He was a perfect gentleman. He was very friendly and apologized for opening my letter. I thanked him for returning it so promptly, really for returning it at all, and shut the door, smiling about discovering a pocket of goodwill in what I had signed off as a disinterested, self-centered campus.

Imagine my surprise when I realized that the piece of mail contained a check from home... and a check for a fairly sizable chunk of change.

The fact that this guy took the time to look up my number, call me, walk over to my building and give the letter back strikes me as a true show of respect and caring for others, and not just because my letter had a fat check in it. Not to get all sugar-coated and preachy, but it really can be a lesson to all of us.

To the young man who returned my letter, thank you. Not only for returning it to me, but for reminding me that people can be pretty cool sometimes. I only hope I can return the favor to you some time.

Okay, I gave you all cavities with my sweetness, now get out there and try making someone's day yourselves.

• *Carrie Lancos* Editor in Chief

Elon students should value speakers, convocation as learning experience

I'm not sure how many of the Elon College population attended the speech delivered by Stephen J. Gould last week in the Alumni Gymnasium, but one thing that I am certain of is that the attendance at the end of the program was dramatically smaller than when the program began.

The reason for this large decrease in people by the end of the speech is that we have one of the rudest, most ungrateful and pathetic student bodies that I have ever seen.

Well over one hundred students walked out of the convocation, which is designed to honor students, faculty and donors of the college for their hard work and dedication.

I am not sure why this should surprise me, because it happens all of the time at speakers on campus. Once half of the speech is finished, one by one my fellow colleagues, become bored, obtain enough notes to write the two-page reflection paper and slip out the door.

Maybe they have something better to do, maybe they don't agree with what the speaker had to say, but they all had one thing in common: They paint a poor picture of the manners of Elon College students.

In a time when we are trying

to strengthen the academic climate on campus, it may do the students some good by listening to a speaker who might teach you something new. I certainly did not comprehend all the concepts that Mr. Gould was speaking about, but he certainly had many thought provoking comments.

Students don't limit their rudeness at the large convocation. The Liberal Arts Forum in-

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vites many speakers to the college who are quite relevant and entertaining.

Among these speakers who have visited over the past year are Morris Dees, Jocelyn Elders and Ralph Nader, to name a few. All of these speakers have something relevant to say, however many times it is the same story as that of the Honors Convocation; students feel the need to leave early.

For gosh sakes, most speakers only speak for an hour. Most of you listen to professors give lectures for longer than that. Or do you?

In closing I would like to make

a few suggestions:

1. Remember, these speakers, which are not cheap to bring to campus, are here for you.

2. Attend these events with the right attitude. When I was a freshman I was not always interested in listening to speakers in order to fill a class requirement, but

now I attend for my own personal benefit. Attend a cultural event, a major speaker or even a speaker you never heard of before, but appreciate it for the learning experience that it is intended to be. You will not have opportunities such as this in the

real world.

3. If you don't enjoy the selection of speakers, then do something about it. Join the Liberal Arts Forum; you might even be able to receive class credit.

4. Lastly, if you must leave a performance, with a good reason, such as cardiac arrest, please do so quietly and politely.

Many of you will not remember this, but I sat through the speech of Daniel Quinn in 1995. If I could do that, you can do anything.



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 ... Greek Week

Do you feel that Greek Week promotes separation between Greek and non-Greek organizations and students on campus?



Jessica Vitak, freshman:

I have felt tension between the Greeks and non-Greeks. I think that having a Greek Week will only further promote the animosity I have seen between the two groups.



Rashid Alexander, sophomore:

I don't feel that Greek Week promotes separation but it does create a healthy rivalry, a time in which people take pride in their particular organizations.



Courtney Wells, sophomore:

Yes. There is no opportunity for them to have an event like this either.

Joey Santorem, sophomore: I don't feel that Greek Week promotes separation between Greeks and non-Greeks on campus. I think it provides a great opportunity for Greeks to come together and showcase their organizations..

Maggie Grimes, sophomore: Not necessarily Greek Week, but Greek organizations in general, yes.

compiled and photographed by Chris Rash