

## Viewpoint

Sweet mother of mercy am I ever old.

Strange for me to be saying that at the crusty old age of 20, but after watching the masterful, overheated production number that was Freshman Move-In Day on August 27, I feel like I should be sitting on the West porch emphatically shaking my cane in no particular direction and muttering dated obscenities about all the "young whippersnappers."

Wandering through my hall, I would stop in doorways and observe sweat-soaked parents heaving boxes across the room or assembling lofts while their wide-eyed progeny looked on helpfully, perused the instruction sheet and complained loudly about the heat. This was just too much for my elderly junior's bones to handle.

"Look at 'em, the punk kids," I would cackle. "My parents got my loft up in 20 minutes. These youngsters will probably still be on step two when I wake up from my afternoon nap."

At this point I would promptly forget why I came up to my hall in the first place and then decide to seek out an upperclassman Bingo game.

Despite the fact that in my mature years I can't remember where I put my car keys, much less the majority of experiences I had my freshman year, I do remember well the feelings I had my first few weeks at Elon.

I was lucky. There was no separation anxiety, very little homesickness and my roommate and I got along famously. I had no boyfriend left behind in Maryland to pine over and my pet gerbil always liked my mom better anyway. What I do remember, however, is being a wee bit overwhelmed.

Your first two weeks as an Elon College freshman (or rather, I believe the current R.C. term is "New Student") are spent having more experiences, facts, dates, places and moronic, but necessary, name games than you can shake a processed schedule at shaved down your throat. The only problem is that you never really have time to digest it all.

So my sage-like junior advice to you as you come into your third week at Elon is to make time to reflect. You've gone through a lot in a short amount of time, so you need to step back and sort out all you've seen and done. Plus you have a helluva lot of names to remember.

I can sympathize with that. I've got a class full of fantastic Elon 101 students who expect their wise TA to know all their names by now.

But at least I can plead old age.

• Carrie Lancos Editor In Chief

## New millennium, new Pendulum

## To Our Readers:

Some of you may have noticed that the first issue of *The Pendulum* did not make an appearance last Thursday. To some of you, this may have been an earth-shattering and horrific event, but for the most part, I daresay your lives went on without so much as a hiccup in your Thursday routine.

It was a bit of a different story in Moseley 233.

While most of the campus was gearing up for the soaking rain from Tropical Storm Dennis, we were cleaning up shop after our own personal Hurricane Macintosh.

The computer crashed, it is as simple as that. Wednesday morning we were preparing to print out the last bit of our final copy, when our overworked main server computer decided it had lost the will to live, promptly vomited up an error message and swallowed Sept. 2nd's issue and every issue previous in the gaping maw of a data netherworld.

The reaction to this meltdown was a series of moans, whines, hisses screechs and noisy, if ineffective, burps. And the computer wasn't being very quiet either.

I give immense credit to our adviser, Byung Lee, and to WSOE adviser and resident Mac guru Mike Foster for rescuing what little there was to save from our flame-broiled hard drive. Anyway, the option for

us then was to either redo all that we had lost or not run a paper.

The Y2K bug, typical "Crap-intosh" behavior, human stupidity, an act of God (although as to whether it was the act of merciful or wrathful God is still up for discussion in any willing Religion 134 or JCM 425 class)... call it what you will. Regardless, after 35 hours without sleep and a soliloquy of every swear word in every language I know, I made the difficult decision not to run the first issue.

After uttering more words that shouldn't be repeated in polite society, the staff decided to use what looked like a grade-A catastrophe to our advantage.

This year is *The Pendulum's* 25th anniversary. What better time to give it a much needed facelift and improve upon stuff that was not working? With most of our stock graphics gone, we had a clean slate and free reign to give *The Pendulum* a look to take it into the next millennium.

So we redesigned *The Pendulum* masthead on the front page and the Elon Sports banner on the back page. We changed the Letters to the Editor and Organization Briefs graphics to give them a more modern appearance. In coming weeks, we will add new graphics to the Focus and A&E sections. I pass the credit on to our Online Director Jeff

Sanders for actually building up these graphics and making them look so good.

In addition, we decided on one major content change. After being a Page Two staple for almost four years, "Speaking Of" was dropped from the section. In its place, we would like to present "Eye on Elon," a photo chosen each week for its ability to capture attention and tell a story. We hope that you will find this to be a welcome addition to *The Pendulum*.

We also welcome our new Sports Editor, Travis Suber. His sports expertise and positive attitude have already made him an invaluable addition to our staff.

One thing that has not changed in this newspaper is our commitment to you. We plan to enter the Year 2000 with a renewed sense of journalistic responsibility and of our importance as an open and viable forum for the discussion of ideas.

To the students, faculty and staff of Elon College as well as our subscribers and advertisers, thanks for your understanding and ongoing support. We can only hope that our next 25 years will be as fun, exciting and productive as the first.

Sincerely,  
Carrie Lancos  
Editor In Chief



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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## EYE ON ELON

## Elon piggy banks on support



Bob Orndorff, director of Career Services, treats his pig Rudy to some grapes at College Coffee Tuesday. Rudy visited campus to help kick off the United Way Fund Drive. This year's theme for the fund drive is piggy banks, which will be set up at various locations around campus.

photo by Emily MacDonnell