

Viewpoint

It seems as though Elon is in the middle of a bad luck rut. The library is not finished, parking for students and faculty is a hassle and Hurricane Floyd rained on inauguration. Who said bad things come in threes?

Students here also seem to be in the middle of a run of bad luck. I have heard more complaints about broken cars, broken phones and broken bones this semester than I have ever heard before. Why is this happening? Does the Elon Bubble have a hole in it?

To get rid of all this bad luck, we need a do-over, a second chance, a new start to this semester. We need to take a few seconds to figure out what is important to us and to Elon. Remember back in elementary school when we were able to get a do-over every time we messed up? Don't you wish we could get a do-over for this semester? I don't know why it seems as though everyone is unhappy, but wouldn't it be nice to get a second chance, just like during elementary school gym, to fix it all?

Could part of the problem be that students are having a hard time finding a balance between themselves and the needs of those around them? Or is it a balance between academics, leadership positions and social life? All three are stressed by Elon to be important to the development of students. Is it necessary to eliminate one thing in order to participate in the other?

Unfortunately, this is not elementary school and we can't get a do-over. This is college, real life (as seen through the Elon Bubble), and in real life you don't get do-overs. What we do get is a chance to get a first rate education at a place that is constantly working to better the lives of its students, a chance to make friends we will have for a lifetime and a chance to influence people we don't even know.

Life is not a game, like capture the flag in elementary school, nor is it something we should take too seriously. It is something that we should cherish. We should recognize the opportunities here, the friends here and the lives here.

As for the run of bad luck, well, someone said bad things come in threes and I think we have had our three things for this semester. It is time to move away from all the negativity surrounding our campus and look on the bright side of things. It is time to find that balance we are looking for and learn that we need to care for each other. I only wish I could heed my own advice.

• Emily MacDonnell Photo Editor

Clinton's proposed gun buyback program: Is it a waste of money?

President Clinton has proposed a \$15 million gun buyback program, which he says, will help get guns off the streets and make our neighborhoods safer. However, evidence shows that it will have zero impact on crime.

Criminals will be the major benefactors from this program, followed in a close second by politicians.

Criminals love the program because of the fact it takes more guns out of the hands of law-abiding citizens than it does "their own."

As Libertarian Party Nation Director Steve Dasbach says, "Even dumb criminals are too smart to give up their guns."

In recent local gun buybacks, a majority of sellers were women and senior citizens who explained that they're afraid of guns and wanted to get them out of the house. In other words, these are the people least likely to use them for criminal purposes.

Buybacks also disarm future crime victims. While the program is voluntary, the government is putting a wave of "re-assurance" over Americans to make them think that this is "the thing to do." In reality, it makes the innocent citizens who take part much more vulnerable to murderers, rapists and thieves.

Most importantly, gun buybacks encourage criminals to steal guns. Since this is a "no-questions-asked" program, street thugs are actually given incentive to steal guns and sell them back to the program.

Dasbach adds, "...this buyback program will help criminals profit, while turning local police departments into fencing operations."

Even the federal gov-

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ernment has shown that it questions the usefulness of this program. Of the \$15 million set aside for the program, \$1 million is going to

be used to study the effectiveness. Australia recently had a \$500 million gun buyback program - it failed. Inspector John McCoomb, a police weapons expert, says gun laws introduced after the 1996 Port Arthur massacre have sent the trade underground. "Once they're on the black market, they're there for anyone to buy," he said. "With the right contacts," it was still possible to buy semi-automatic weapons..."

And perhaps our government could save the \$1 million in extra

spending by looking at research by Florida State University criminologist Gary Kleck, who found that buyback programs "have no demonstrable impact on crime" - but do yield "real political benefits."

With the evidence stacked against any benefit of a gun buyback program, the next move to save the money would be to cancel the entire program - saving \$14 million more.

Quote of the Week:

"What happens when China decides some future



Branch Davidians are being oppressed by the American government?

On what moral basis could you argue that China has no right to rain bombs on innocent people in Texas, in order to make our "mad dog government" pay a price?" - Harry Brown - Libertarian Candidate for U.S. President (Source WorldNetDaily "Murdering for Morality")

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EYE IN ELON



Can We Drink It?

Students in an Environmental Studies class test the water quality of Lake Mary Nell Tuesday afternoon.

photo by Emily MacDonnell