

Viewpoint

This past weekend, most of *The Pendulum* staff had the pleasure of attending the 75th Associated Collegiate Press (ACP) Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. While we were there one major legal point was repeatedly driven home: Student journalists at a private school, like Elon, do not have any fundamental First Amendment rights.

It's true. Leo Lambert or any other high-ranking member of the administrative machine can come into this office and, not ask, but tell the editor in chief that they are going to read the entire paper before it goes to press and change anything that they feel doesn't paint the college in a positive light. They can even abort a story because of bad grammar or spelling mistakes.

On top of that, if any staff member goes against a decision that the administration has made, they can be punished. They can lose the privilege of writing for the paper or even be suspended from the school. As private school journalists we need to recognize that it could happen at anytime.

Throughout the entire convention, we heard horror stories about how student journalist, at private schools had to face censorship and prior restraint on a daily basis. It was so bad that their news stories were essentially, "On Saturday, between the hours of 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. something happened to someone somewhere on campus. Nobody has any comments." They would consider that a major scoop.

It was then that we realized how lucky we are to have the administration that we do. The staff here is given virtually free reign to write and print anything it pleases and suffer no repercussions. Elon is a private school that chooses not to exercise its legal right to control the products of the campus media. That is extremely rare in this world of public image.

We have written things that would have gotten us expelled at other private schools, but we're still here and still writing. Why is that?

Elon is obviously committed to integrity in journalism and truth in reporting. It is dedicated to its students and the programs in which they are involved. For all student journalists everywhere, we would like to thank the Board of Trustees and the administration for being supportive of campus media. You hold the ultimate power of censorship, but do not use it. Thank you for your integrity.

• *The Pendulum* Editorial Staff

New millennium calls for new kind of presidential candidate

Next year, we as a nation will decide who leads us into the next millennium. The candidates we have are all fine politicians, or at least as fine as they come.

The trouble with them is we've already had their kind. How many old white men do we have to have running this country before we hand the reigns over to someone else?

Variety is the spice of life, kids. Sadly, I much regret Elizabeth Dole dropping out. I know it seems gimmicky, but how cool would it have been to have a woman leading us into the next millennium?

Just don't let her drive the presidential car, for God's sake, she is a woman at heart. (Note: That last sentence was written so I could win a bet I made this weekend. Susan, pay me, vile woman!)

I think there are many people who could be stronger candidates than who will probably run. How about Judge Mills Lane? The man is a complete beast in the courtroom, he's all of 5-foot-nothing, but he'll still give you a verbal lashing like your daddy never did. Mills would get stuff together.

Steve, the crocodile hunter, aside from probably not having his

citizenship, would be just what we need. Simply put, the man is a crazy, crazy bastard and just does not care. He'd be excited to be our president, but then again, he gets excited feeling wallaby genitals.

If you want a candidate that tells it like it is, then Chris Rock is the an-

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swer. He's the only person who can successfully make fun of every celebrity at the MTV Music Awards. You can't win with Chris.

I'm sure "Stone Cold" Steve Austin would have the South's vote for presidency. It'd be worth it to see him at a UN meeting badgering some foreign leader, get pissed off, deliver a couple Stone Cold Stunners, and flick the "sumbitch" off. Drinking on the job and his theme music instead of Hail the Chief... gives ya goosebumps, don't it, kids?

If you have to have someone who's held office and has political background, I'd go for former mayor of Cincinnati, Jerry Springer. This is definitely a businessman and he knows what people go for: Crap.

I guarantee if the Lewinski

scandal had happened with Springer in office, there would have been no lie to cover up a lie, he would have come clean. There's no shame in Jerry's game.

Internet amateur and frequent

Color Me Naughty guest, Natasha, could run this country.

All I'm going to say about her is that we need someone who's not afraid to bare all and do so in an uninhib-

ited fashion.

Okay, maybe Natasha's a bit unnecessary, but so is this column. If not her, then our own Elon College student who got busted in New York recently. She seems to have the same qualities Natasha possesses, but she'll do it in public. Now that's a woman.

It's never too late to convince these, or any other celebrity to run for office. If Jesse "The Mind" Ventura can do it, that's pretty much open game for anyone else. If I were eligible, I'd appoint the Spice Girls... they already keep their cookies on the top shelf, why not put them in the cabinet?



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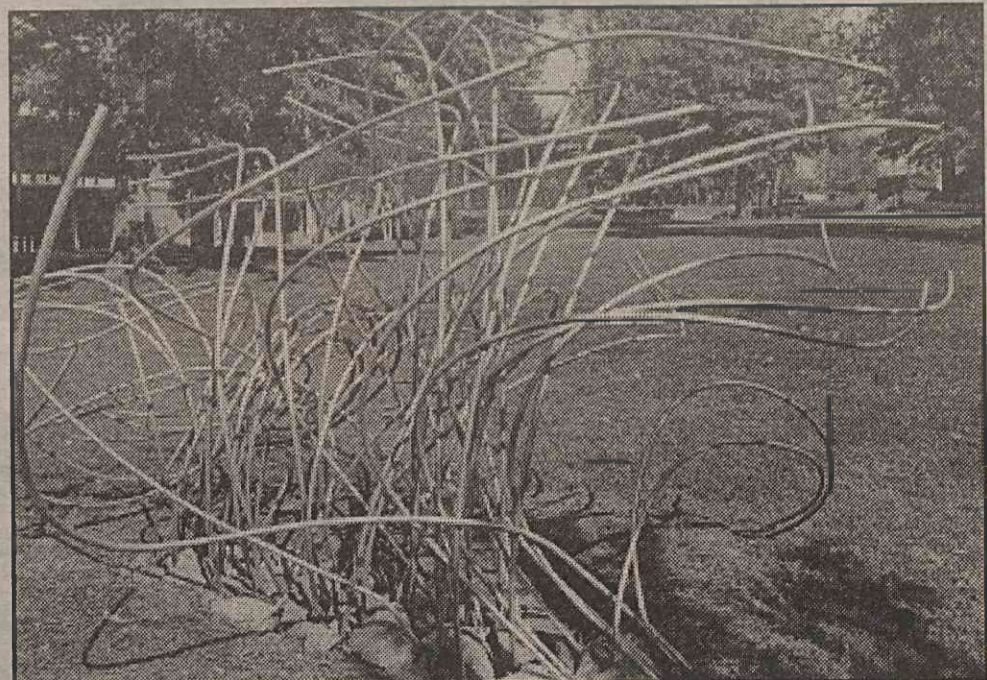
The purpose of *The Pendulum* shall be to inform and entertain the Elon College community. *The Pendulum* shall be a forum where all members of the college community are able to express their ideas and opinions.

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EYE IN ELON



Liberal Art?

Prairie, a sculpture in between Koury Center and Model Center, is one of the many new pieces of art decorating campus.

photo by Emily MacDonnell