

Viewpoint

Thanksgiving. The only holiday that has not been truly twisted into a demented marketing ploy. No talking animals pushing sweet-tooth addictions, no super expensive roses and no trip to the mall for little Timmy's robotransformer.

For too many students, it is the week in which they get to escape academics and try to rescue themselves from an end of the semester breakdown.

To others it is the promise of seeing family and friends for the first time in months. Gatherings will be full of good conversation, the Macy's Day Parade, football and tables overflowing with food.

When you're away from Elon, try to reflect on the good of this year. It could be something as simple or material as good grades or a new possession you were able to acquire or as meaningful as finding true love.

Have you ever thought about being thankful for something not happening to you?

We at Elon are fortunate. All along the coast of North Carolina, students lost all they owned in Hurricane Floyd and were forced to start again. More than a dozen high schools faced devastating violence caused by their own students. In both situations student realized something good... they were alive. That was reason enough to carry on.

The simple fact that we are all alive and well is reason enough to give thanks. Every day that we have is a gift.

We should give thanks for a the little things in life. If we take joy from the details in our life, the big problems won't seem to be so daunting. Things like having friends that you can count on and people who care about your well being are the most precious commodities.

With the end of the semester coming up, many professors are making exceptional demands on students time and energy. It's beginning to seem to many that there is a test or a paper due every single day. All we can say is to try and take a few moments for yourself and realize that you are going to get through this.

Too often people on this campus get caught up in trying to make it through the day and forget the reasons to do so. Take this break and make the most of it.

Find some piece of happiness and joy to carry with you. Return to Elon recharged and thankful; thankful for your life, good and bad.

• *The Pendulum* Editorial Staff

Help campus security: Use common sense to stay safe

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Guest Columnist

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As of late, the campus of Elon College is not a safe one! The violence has continued to escalate over the last couple of weeks, including both as I see it- reported and unreported events by the college. Just in the last month Elon has seen two "physical" assaults and a sexual assault. Rumors and stories have it that a person was assaulted when crossing the field between the Danieley Center and the Science Center parking lot; while another incident saw a person being attacked in a stairwell and dragged to the baseball field.

Students seem to have two main concerns on campus. The first is the lack of security phones. Carrie Johnson, a sophomore, believes that "there should be more on the path to Danieley Center, because currently there is only one." Lauren Smith, a senior, believes that "they are not in the best places on campus. If the college increased the number of these phones they would be more likely to be used in hopes to decrease violence."

The other issue is the lighting on campus. While I believe it to have improved somewhat, it needs to be brighter at night so that students can feel comfortable walking around. Certainly, we wouldn't want to have to tell our evening professors that we couldn't make our night classes because we were afraid to walk to them.

I will say, however, that it appears to me as though both the town police and campus security are cracking down. How do I know this? I learned this past weekend from personal experience.

What person experience, you may be asking? Early Sunday morning I drove back from a friend's apartment. I parked my car in the Science Center parking lot, and started to walk towards the McMichael Science Center when a campus police car pulled up. The officer asked me to come over to the car. When I did, he asked that I put my hands on the hood of his car and spread my legs. He told me that I matched the description of a person, reported earlier in the evening to be armed, at which point he searched my entire person.

He called it in and said that he would have to detain me in handcuffs (was that really necessary?) until other officers arrived. While we waited, he asked if he could search my car, I agreed knowing full well that there was nothing to hide in my car. Finally, two other officers arrived and after asking me a number of questions and detaining me for what seemed like forever, they took the handcuffs off, quickly apologized for the inconvenience, and let me go. (By the way, I didn't do it)

While still irate and feeling very violated, I have thought more about it and can put the incident into context. It was 5 a.m. and I was simply walking on campus from what appeared to be Sheridan, where the incident was re-

ported (the officer did not see me park or leave from my car). The officers acted both efficiently and professionally. Even though the handcuffing and marching me around the parking lot was psychologically embarrassing, it's nice to know they are doing their jobs- even if they are going after the wrong people.

I am, however, still waiting for an official apology from the office of campus security for what I think to be a violation of my personal rights. I still think that the handcuffs were a bit much.

Even so, I encourage you to participate in the following safety practices while on campus:

1. If you see someone suspicious on campus, please report him or her to campus police at ext. 2407. Even if it is a mistaken identity, it is important to be better safe than sorry.

2. Walk in groups, pairs, or at the very least when going somewhere, let someone at your destination know you are coming.

3. Use and volunteer for Safe Rides. Their hours are Thursdays, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. and Fridays and Saturdays, 10:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

4. Take advantage of Elon's escort service- this is a service provided by the college that runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Again, this can be done by dialing security.

5. Lock your car and your door whenever you are not around. This can limit both theft and damage.



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EYE ON ELON



A Presidential Chat

Elon College president Leo Lambert (center) spends time discussing issues and concerns with residents of the West Area in the West Parlor during Tasty Tuesday Topics.

photo by Alan Medeiros