

Viewpoint

Well, this is a bit disconcerting. One minute I'm minding my own business, monitoring finicky computers, delegating tasks to my staff, cracking the whip and generally making sure that all things Pendulum are running at a fairly good clip, when Whammo! It's all over.

Well, not quite. In theory, this "Last Viewpoint," as it is customary for the outgoing editor in chief to write on the occasion of his or her departure from this fine bastion of journalism, does not mean the end of me. For the first time we will be having a Winter Term paper, and it is my distinct honor to helm the first *Pendulum* of the new millennium. That issue will officially be my last. But, being a sucker for closure, I will be writing a final column in lieu of the Last Viewpoint. I started as a columnist, that's how I'll end. But tradition is tradition, and here I am in the grey box for the last time. And as it is also customary, I have to go through the usual assortment of ruminations and enlightened discourse on my tenure. Or thank people, whichever comes first.

First, thanks always to my staff. To my editors Alan Medeiros, Chris Rash, Lisa McChristian, Tammy Tripp, Travis Suber and Jeff Sanders; to my managers Jenna Denton and Carolyn Lampila and my adviser Byung Lee, thank you for your constant commitment to this newspaper and for your friendship. A special thanks to my partner in crime Emily MacDonnell for all of our adventures in search of the ultimate journalistic high. Thanks also to editors past, especially Jeff Wirick, Michelle Cater, Troy Adams, Julie Koch, Andrew Brickey and Sarah Voss. To my mentor and friend Chuck Buckley, what can I say? Thanks doesn't seem like nearly enough.

Thanks to media leaders BK, Leigh, Lesley and Jen for being great cross-hallers, great competition and great friends. Thanks especially to the College Relations folks, the SGA, George Padgett, Brad Hamm, everyone in the Student Life office and President Leo Lambert. You've had to put up with more from me than just about anyone but my staff and my mother. Speaking of which, thanks to my family for weathering my destressing process during the breaks. I love you guys! And thank you to everyone, and I mean everyone, who has EVER given me a quote, answered a question, written for the paper, sent a letter to the editor or read the paper at all, even just the Horoscopes. You make my job worthwhile.

Keep it real, Elon. And thanks for always being newsworthy.

• *Carrie A. Lanco* Editor In Chief

We are almost there

Oh my sweet Lord!! The end is nigh! Existence as we know it is going to come to an end!

We even know what day it's going to happen! We've always known, hell, we've been counting down the days. It's May 20, 2000! Graduation!

For all you seniors the cozy little bubble that we have grown up in is suddenly going to pop, leaving you graduates to fend for yourselves in the harsh jungle of the real world.

Just run those words over your tongue. "Real World" Brrr. It sends shivers down my spine.

In just a few short months we'll all be kicked out of school and we'll be expected to go out and be a "real" person.

What does it mean to be a real person? We are no longer under the umbrella of our parents. When we are shoved into the cold world of independence, we are going to have to deal with the fact that we are ultimately responsible for ourselves. The safety net has been removed.

We are going to have to find ourselves a job that we can live with, and a place that we can be comfortable. We are going to start to collect our "stuff." You know the great hordes of things that follow us through our life.

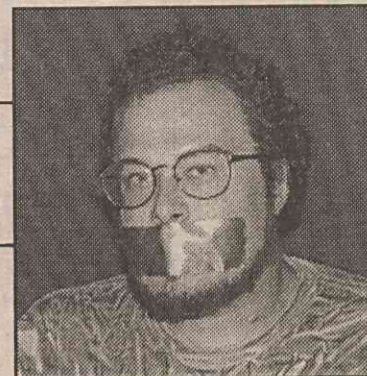
Another that we are going to

have to deal with is that the best times of our lives are coming to a close. The ultimate party train of college is pulling into the last station.

All the friends that you have now, in a few years there will only be two dozen that you can remember, and a handful that you still talk too.

The graduating

Chuck Buckley
The Pendulum



class, like so many before it, is going to be scattered to the Four Corners of the Earth, and there

they will have to start their lives anew with a fresh circle of friends.

When you go, remember these people, they are the ones that you grew up with. These are the last days of our childhood.

Supposedly the time we've spent here is going to prepare us for the harsh reality of the working world.

The truth of the matter is this; we are graduating our way into a boatload of entry-level jobs. Our starting salary is going to be joke, and we'll be happy with what ever

we get.

Change is never a good thing. It is an inevitable, destructive force. Things were always better in the past. They would be great now if the ugly head of change hadn't shown its face.

Unfortunately life is about adaptation. If life hands you lemons, make lemonade.

If life smashes the glass of lemonade out of your hand with a pool cue, forget the lemons

and move on.

Sure the best time of your life was the way things used to be, but sorry tough guy, they aren't that way anymore.

So you've got one of two choices, sit in the corner and whine about how life isn't fair or you can stand up and be a man...or woman.

Class of 2000, if we keep our chin up and our eyes open and remember that as long as we're alive, things are good, then we are going to make it after all.



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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pendulum



EYE IN ELON

Deck the Halls



Christmas wreaths adorn the windows of Moseley Center. The campus is decorated in preparation for the Annual Holiday Lighting with luminaries, hosted by the Chaplain's office, which will be held tonight.

The Moravian Christmas Love Feast and Candle Service, another Elon holiday tradition, will be held Sunday, Dec. 5.

photo by Emily MacDonnell