

Viewpoint

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, *The Pendulum* landed on Jay Leno for a nice roasting of Crime Watch. "Someone stole something from the baseball field." Oh dear lord, all the things to get national attention for and it was that one little boo-boo. Eeek!

Every week *The Pendulum* picks up incident reports from the Elon College Campus and Town police. Thanks to the Freedom of Information Act, these records can be seen by anyone. Many times there are unclear charges and if checking with the police does not clarify what happened, we print the incident as recorded by the police. The incident that appeared on Leno would happen to be one of those cases.

We're not perfect. (And for those of you saying "No duh" right now, get a life.) We are just your average college students trying to take part in a valuable organization. If we make a mistake in YOUR paper, we truly regret it. When the paper looks good, there is no denying the pride we feel. We work hard, but mistakes do happen.

I've heard all the jokes that *Pendulum* staff members are locked up in the newspaper office for days and have no lives. Do any of you know staff members? Our staff is made of a diverse group who takes advantage of their time at Elon.

We have staff members that belong to SGA, BSU, InterVarsity, WSOE, ESTV, Honors Fellows, Lambda Pi Eta, Elon's swim team, Model U.N. and more. Many of us have other paying jobs and significant others that would definitely not put up with being ignored and neglected.

For those of you who think you can do better or improve the paper, I challenge you. DO IT, Take part in Elon's paper. Help us make *The Pendulum* what you would want it to be.

Show up to a Sunday night meeting. We meet every Sunday at 7 p.m. in Moseley 233. Writers, photographers and graphic designers would be welcomed with open arms. Show up on Tuesday nights, any time from 5-10 p.m., and do copy editing. Write a Letter to the Editor, express your opinion and let your community know what your thinking about. Letters can be sent to Campus Box 7012 or e-mailed to pendulum@elon.edu.

Lisa McChristian 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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A few good uhh... politicians

Kristine Calone
Contributing Columnist
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Have you ever felt that your opinion was being disregarded just because you were a young adult? Have you ever felt like government officials are making decisions that effect your life, but you have no say in what happens? Wouldn't it be nice to finally have a say in what happens in this state?

Seven times a year, some 60 college students gather to discuss the future of North Carolina in order to give us this opportunity. The North Carolina Student Legislature, or NCSL, is a statewide organization that meets monthly to debate issues concerning the state government, such as abolishing the death penalty, cohabitation, ballot access, and more. It's interesting the ideas a bunch of college students can come up with when given the chance to speak.

Two weeks ago our annual session was held in the state capitol of Raleigh. The legislation that we passed at this session will be compiled into a compendium, or bill book, and then presented to the NC General Assembly for consideration. It's reassuring to know that as a college student my opinions are

being heard.

NCSL is more than just a student legislative body. It is an opportunity to practice debating and public speaking. I know for myself that before NCSL I was deathly afraid to speak in front of a large group. However, by writing resolutions and going to the monthly sessions I have learned that for my opinion to be heard all I have to do is speak up.

NCSL is also a great way to meet other students from across the state, brush up on your public speaking skills, learn parliamentary procedure, and let your voice be heard.

Elon has been very successful this year as an NCSL delegation. Recently, two Elon members have been elected to the Board of Directors. Adam Wiggins is the new Secretary of State, and Travis Suber, winner of the best bill and best speaker awards in this year's Senate, is now Governor of NCSL.

Well, I guess as our delegate chairperson Kristine feels she has to speak positively about NCSL in order to promote it. I, Josh Davis, the Treasurer of NCSL, feel that the best part of this organization is the scandalous nature of our business, but that's just how I am. I'm a backstabbing politician at heart.

I've learned all about the processes of block voting, censure, and amending legislation. If it

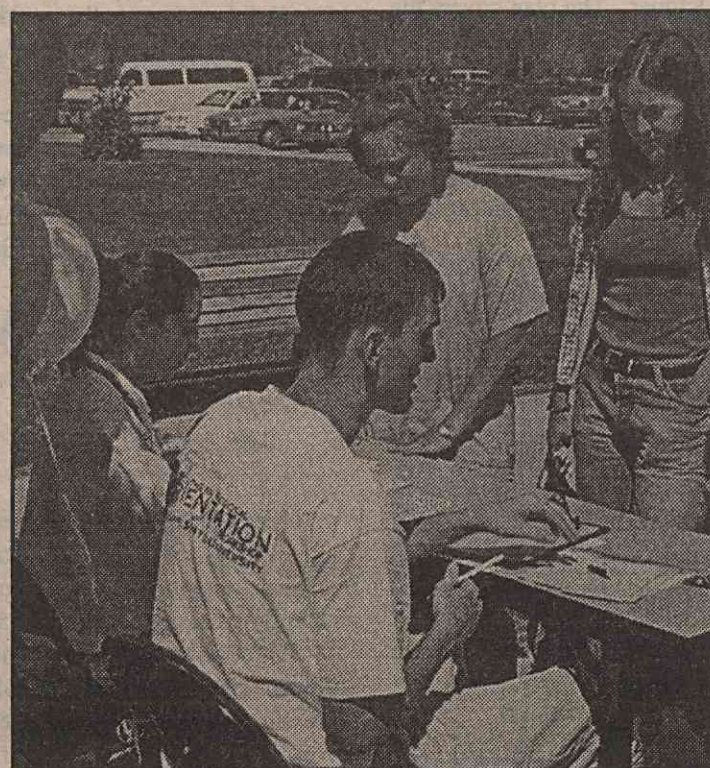
sounds like I'm speaking a foreign language, then you ought to come to our meetings and learn the lingo.

Their are currently only five schools holding a charter in NCSL. These five schools are Elon, UNC-Charlotte, Carolina, Campbell University, and Southwestern Community College. Over the past few years interest in NCSL has dwindled throughout the state, and we're hoping that in the coming year we'll see a growth in statewide membership.

The final statewide meeting for NCSL takes place next week, April 14-16 at the UNC-Charlotte Interim Council. IC's are always a great way to get away from the world for a while. If your tired of spending your weekend with the same old keg-hogging folks, then an Interim Council is exactly what you need. The term Interim Council may turn you off, but trust me, it's more like one big party.

The Elon chapter is always looking for students to add to our delegation. If you're even remotely interested in politics, or if you just want to meet folks from other schools in the state, then come to our weekly meetings and speak your mind. NCSL meets every Monday at 5pm in Powell 315. Questions about NCSL can be directed to any member of NCSL or our advisor, Chalmers Brumbaugh at X2577.

EYE ON ELON



Orientation leaders Ian Hendersen and Carrie Sage help possible freshman during last weekends Open House.

Lisa McChristian/*The Pendulum*