

Viewpoint

It amazes me that even when people are doing truly good things, bad things can happen. A group of students get together and travel to another country to see, feel, and experience wholly the joy and excitement of another culture, only they come back missing one of their own. How is it that we go, with such good intentions, only to be disappointed and shocked so unfortunately?

In the grieving process, it often seems, that very little good can come out of a horrible situation.

However it is in times of tragedy and misfortune that we must look inside ourselves and look to others for help and understanding. It is at times like these that we search for meaning.

When bad things happen to good people, we ask ourselves, God, sometimes whoever will listen, why? Why did it have to happen?

The answers- the satisfaction that we find is often bittersweet. Is there an ultimate destination? Are we here fulfilling some destiny or mission? And how do we know?

The questions are ones we must all find answers to for ourselves. No person can ultimately tell us who we are, where we came from, or how long we have. We must do our best in the time we spend together to live life to the fullest, to appreciate the time we do have, and to make the best of it.

In the wake of Megan Tripp's death, I urge you to spend your time here wisely. Look within yourself, your faith, your mentor or your family and friends to really understand and experience life. Because when it is over, and we are gone, our memories are what carry us. That, and love, are all that we really have.

Taresa LaRock
Editor-in-Chief

First 100 days of presidency anticipated

Erica Stanley
The Pendulum

While the presidencies of Franklin D. Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan may not seem to share many similarities, the first 100 days of their administrations all had major impacts on their presidency.

This was the focus of Elon's January 11 Winter Term Symposium, "Inaugurating the Millennium: The First 100 Days of the 21st Century Presidency."

Journalist Sander Vanocur moderated the symposium which showcased former presidential adviser David Gergen, as well as renowned political historians Michael Beschloss and William Leuchtenburg.

The event took place at 6:30 p.m. in the McCrary Theatre of the Faith Rockefeller Model Center for the Arts.

The symposium provided students, faculty and the Elon community with a humorous, yet factual, historical reflection of three past presidents' terms as well as

insight into the new Bush administration.

By comparing FDR's first 100 days in office to that of the Biblical creation story, Leuchtenburg affirmed that none of FDR's successors have come close to equaling his early successes. "There are things you can do in 100 days," Leuchtenburg said, "but re-inventing government isn't one of them."

Winner of both the Bancroft and Parkman prizes Leuchtenburg has written many highly acclaimed books including *Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1932-1940*. Leuchtenburg is currently a William Rand Kenan professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Beschloss talked about Kennedy's presidency and the significance of his first 100 days in office. "We really do tend to look at presidents according to the first 100 days," Beschloss said. "Kennedy was too spooked by the 100-day



Adam Waterson / Photography Editor

mark and the country paid for it during the next few years."

A regular commentator on the *PBS Newshour with Jim Lehrer*, Beschloss' latest book is the national bestseller *Taking Charge: The Johnson White House Tapes, 1963-1964*.

Gergen pointed out that significant victories in the polls, as well as having a mandate and coat tails, are significant conditions that proved helpful for Reagan's early days, as well as other presidents.

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The purpose of *The Pendulum* is to inform and entertain the Elon College community and provide a forum for ideas and opinions.

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The *Pendulum* is published each Thursday of the academic year. The advertising and editorial copy deadline is 5 p.m. the Monday before publication. Our offices are located on the northwest corner, second floor of Moseley Center. Send mail to: *The Pendulum*, Campus Box 2850, Elon College, N.C. 27244, or e-mail to pendulum@elon.edu.

Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed, double-spaced and signed with the author's name, year in school and phone number for verification. These submissions are also accepted as Word documents on disk or by e-mail. *The Pendulum* reserves the right to edit obscene or potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may have to be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of *The Pendulum* and will not be returned.

EYE ON ELON



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