

## Editorial

*Parents Weekend answers the question of what happens when two different worlds collide*

Going home is, for most of us, like entering a different world. Curfews, real dinners, laundry without quarters, explaining where you're going, who you're going with and what time you'll be home. To many of us, home is where the adolescence is. It always will be. We will always have to answer to mom, sit down for meals and keep our elbows off the table.

Elon, on the other hand, is our tree house. We make our own rules, eat what we want and never tell mom how late we stayed out the night before. We become our own

guardians, chefs and consciences.

And every October, they come. They come for three days of family fun, togetherness and Wal-mart trips. Our parents descend upon us. It is family weekend.

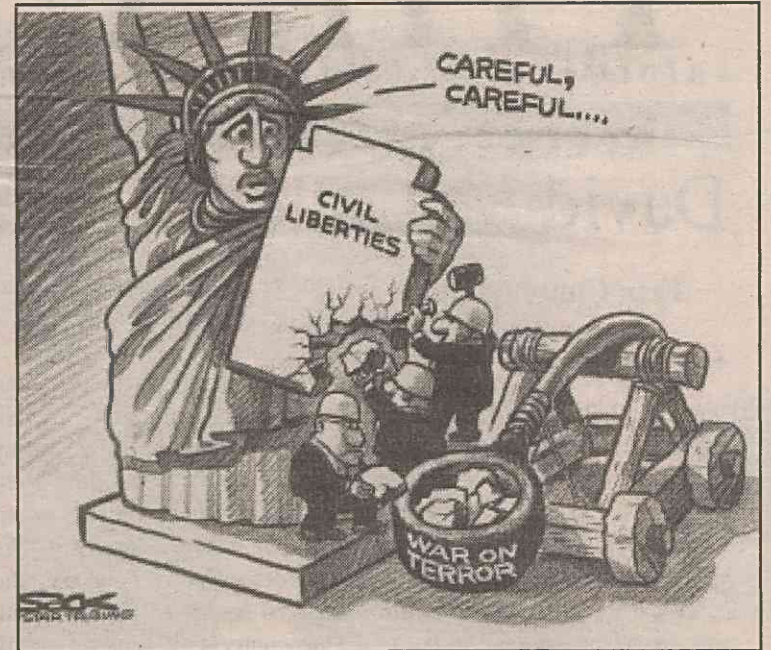
The merging of these two worlds, our Elon and our parents, can be stressful and weird at times. Do we show off our independent, grown-up behaviors, or do we give in to mom's kisses, groceries and requests to talk to our professors to make sure we're doing our homework?

It's a balance, really. There is an in-between we must capture and

cling to when our families take over our campus. We stop cussing, start shaving and wash our dishes. We become the adults our parents have always wanted us to be while remaining their little angels.

And while we stress over Mom or Dad finding out about our deepest, darkest, drunkest secrets, we somehow manage to enjoy their company. Maybe it's because they bring home-baked cookies. Maybe it's because Dad changes the oil in the car. Maybe it's because we can relax, have someone take care of us and remember what it is like to be children.

Or maybe it's because we know that in a few short days, they will kiss us goodbye, and we will return to our independent, grown up, parent-free lives. Only this time, with clean laundry and a casserole in the fridge.



*The views and ideas expressed in Opinions are not necessarily those of The Pendulum, its staff or Elon University.*

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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.

## The frightening creation of national identification cards may be probable

**Cameron DeJong**  
Columnist

Many of us have read or watched "1984", an Orwellian classic that depicts a one world order where we are all drones of the state (Big Brother). Many have argued over the past several years that his insights into the future have been coming true.

While I will not approach any truth in those arguments, I will suggest that we are coming dangerously close when a Republican administration is considering implementing a national identification system.

A White House aid, when asked about the subject of the National ID, said that "we must consider all options." Democratic leader Richard Gephardt believes that Congress should soon begin debate on security measures such as a National ID.

The CEO of Oracle, Larry Ellison, told government officials that his company would donate the technology and equipment necessary to put a national identification system into place. Ellison suggested that we have a National ID with our "photograph and thumbprint digitized and embedded in the

ID card."

In Britain, Prime Minister Tony Blair has approved "identity cards", which will initially be distributed on a voluntary basis. Given the history of governments, there are not many programs that remain voluntary. Of course the support in Britain is there for the id cards. 85% of Brits surveyed support the promotion and implementation of a system.

A study by the Pew Research Center reveals that seven in ten Americans favor some form of national identification system, with strong support coming from women. In another survey, 49% of

Americans believe that all Arab-Americans and Americans of Arab descent should be required to carry "special identification."

It is my belief that many Americans are unfortunately losing touch with the freedoms that we will soon have to say "we once had." Americans are too willing to give up liberty for security and to paraphrase Ben Franklin, if you're willing to give up liberty for security, you deserve neither.

In closing, it may only take a quote from a prominent Nazi to get those at the university who are in favor of national identification to think twice.

"We are recording the individual characteristics of every single member of the nation onto a little card... we are proud to be able to contribute to such a task, a task that makes available to the physician of our German body-social the material for his examination, so that our physician may determine whether, from the standpoint of the health of the nation, the results calculated in this manner stand in harmonious, healthy relation to one another, or whether unhealthy conditions must be cured by corrective interventions... we have firm trust in our physician and will follow his orders blindly, because we know he will lead our nation towards a great future."

**Willy Heidinger, 1934 President of Dehomag Industries speaking about production of the Holleriths, the world's first population control & surveillance computer in Berlin, Nazi Germany.**