

Editorial

The Zone may not last much longer if students don't take the time to enjoy it

A wise man once said, you don't know what you've got until it's gone. Let us, for a moment imagine our school without The Zone.

No midnight meals on Thursdays when you're working on a huge project and your stomach is growling. No fresh-baked cookies and popcorn every afternoon between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

No Monday night football parties. No pool tables. No

video game competitions. No karaoke. Nowhere to go in Moseley center where you can eat, relax, watch TV and play games all in one room.

Maybe The Zone isn't somewhere most students frequent every day, but it is a place where we may have gathered freshman year when we weren't sure where we fit in, or when we were hungry and didn't have any cash left on our Phoenix cards.

It is a place where we can bring our younger siblings when they visit, a place we can always go, always sit, always listen to bands, always relax.

Like other sacred Elon traditions that have passed before it, The Zone is in jeopardy of becoming extinct. If students do not take advantage of this opportunity more often, they will no longer have this space to gather, eat and get away.

As students, we should support Elon's attempts to make us happy, feed us and bring together our community.

The Zone is a place where we can do these things. Let's not lose that place.

Blank walls inspire blank thoughts

Rady Large

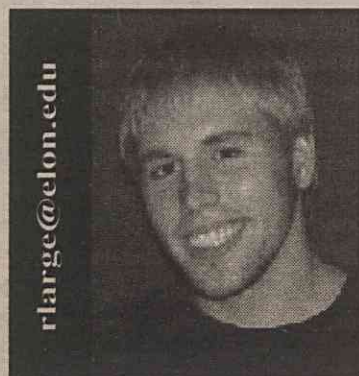
Columnist

For a long time I have noticed something about Elon that strikes me as strange.

Our university holds classes in rooms with painfully white walls that have no clocks. You don't even see a good classical print anywhere.

The classrooms at Elon are all state-of-the-art. They have nice desks, multimedia tools and other equipment. Of course, no classroom is without an honor code reminder, but heaven forbid if they have a picture on the wall!

For a long time, I hated the giant Elon cubicles. They were blank and had no character. As a freshman, I had been used to the expressive English teachers of my high school that



decorated their walls with pictures of Hemingway, Jack London and P. B. Shelly. Several of those teachers gave the walls to the students every year.

By the end of my first week at Elon, I thought I would never live through these walls that created an atmosphere of stale thought. Then I found the third floor of Carlton. If you have never been to Carlton 302

or 314, you haven't seen what a classroom could look like.

Granted that the pictures are not Rembrandts or anything, but still, they give off the vibe that education doesn't have to be boring, blank and regimented. Learning is the receiving of creativity and wonder. Knowledge should not be brought down to a sheet of paper with numbers, nor should our walls be treated as simple physical borders.

Think about it. We spend a lot of time in the classrooms. Of course, you wouldn't know that because there are no timepieces within a 50-yard radius. Every drop of time in this life is precious. It should be spent in the most pleasing surroundings possible. So why not help our environment of thought and take a little time to paint the darn things?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the artists of Elon got together to showcase their skill and at the same time enhance our learning facilities? Yes! The ability to create and channel energy is opened when the area around you is blessed with pieces of creation. After all, sometimes we need inspiration for those colorful closing comments.

If you are an artist or regular Joe who is interested in helping me rid our school of blank walls (and/or get some clocks in here) e-mail me at rlarge@elon.edu. If you disagree, have a different view or want to comment on anything, just write a letter to the editor.



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

LETTERS

Students for Peace and Justice attend D.C. protest

To the Editor:

I recently had one of the greatest experiences of my life. Myself and at least 20,000 people gathered together in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, Sept. 29. What was the reason? To protest military action in Afghanistan.

This was my first protest so I was not really sure what to expect. I showed up at 10 a.m. with three other students from Students For Peace and Justice: Nate, Lauren and her fiancé Ryan. We grabbed signs made by the group that organized the protest, International Answer, and found a spot on Freedom Plaza to sit, take in the scene and listen to the speakers they had asked to participate.

From 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., there was nothing but speakers discussing everything from the terrorist attacks to military action against the Taliban to the closing of the School of Americas to the reunification of North and South Korea.

There was such a diverse group of people as well. I saw younger kids around 12 or 13 all by themselves; I saw a lot of college students, and I saw people old enough to be my parents and grandparents. It was such a diverse atmosphere.

And then we marched. I cannot describe the feeling I had knowing that I was participating in an action

that could have such a significant impact on the lives of others. I cannot begin to tell you how good it felt to know that I was marching with others who shared the same feelings as I have over the war we will fight in the Middle East, especially considering that my parents and boyfriend think I am crazy for not wanting to "get that bastard bin Laden."

It was a peaceful action, but you wouldn't know that from the media coverage. All my boyfriend said he saw on the news was the fact that a couple of kids were arrested and tear-gassed. But those individuals were with another protest action with the Anti-Capitalists.

I bought the USA Today for Monday and there was only a blurb the size of the palm of my hand about the large gathering this weekend (and for those of you who don't know me, I'm a small person). It was disappointing to say the least.

While 20,000 may seem to be a small number compared to the millions of people who live in the United States and billions who live around the world, think about the fact that there have been protests in San Francisco, Seattle, Spain and Belgium as well.

The lack of representation for those who want peace in our government and governments around the world is disappointing to say the least.

Sarah Nicholls
Senior

THE PENDULUM

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