Opinions

The Pendulum
Established 1974

Home will forever remain the same

Just a few weeks ago, our parents dropped us off at Elon. They helped us carry boxes up several flights of stairs. They made sure our MicroFridges were stocked with the essential dorm room snacks. They hugged us goodbye, wiped the tears from their eyes and drove away.

As we wandered back to our dorms from the parking lot, we felt two contrasting emotions. On one hand, we wanted to pull the Macaulay Culkin "Home Alone" scream running through the dorm halls. But on the other hand, we realized how far we were from home and families.

In less than a month, we have adjusted to life at Elon. We've gotten used to collecting quarters to wash our clothes. We no longer have to clear our plans for the evening with our parents. Dinner at Harden isn't as bad as it was the first week.

This weekend, our world will be invaded. Hundreds of families will gather on campus for Family Weekend. We will introduce them to our friends and professors. We will show them where we eat, study and hang out with friends. We will take them to the football game and to our favorite place for dinner.

As our worlds collide for a weekend, we will realize once again how much our lives have changed. We will always be able to go home, but we are now visitors. Mom's home cooking never tasted better after dining hall food.

At some point in college, you transition to calling Elon home. After a weekend visiting your parents and sleeping in your old room, you slip and say you are going home. You see a tear begin to form in your mother's eye, because she knows you are right. At some point, Elon becomes your home. Sunday evening when you return to campus, you wander door to door through the dorm, stopping to share weekend stories with your new family.

Somewhere through this process, we realize that we will always be our parents' children, but we're growing up now. Time, distances and relationships change, but their love for us will never change.

The Pendulum

MAILBOX

Achieving peace means finding right definition

Like many of my fellow students and other members of our community, I attended the remembrance service on campus on Sept. 11.

I went prepared to honor those who gave and those who lost their lives a year ago today, in the terrorist's attacks on our country. I also went prepared to share my grief with others and to take the time to reflect on the pain and hurt of this past year.

But what I got was not what I expected.

To me, the 9/11 service was more about pushing a particular political belief than actually remembering those who died on that day.

Don't get me wrong, there were five minutes when we talked about the names on our bracelets and then said the names aloud, and the few moments when we were asked to remember one of our fellow students who lost his father in the attacks, but I did not feel that this was the focal point of the 45 minute service.

I was very upset with the way that certain speakers condemned our armed services for fighting in Afghanistan. I understand that violence and war are terrible things and it would be great if everything could be solved peacefully, but the sad fact is, there are some things that cannot be solved lightly.

The war in Afghanistan is about justice, not revenge. It is about receiving justice for those who died and punishing those responsible. I come from a family that has been in or involved with the military my entire life.

I was raised to respect those in the armed services and to understand that the freedom I have today exists because others fought for it!

My uncle fought in the war in Afghanistan. He left his family, his home and his wife-to-be, to fight for our freedom and security.

He left and did not think twice. He went to fight for me, my family and this country. Today I felt like my uncle was spit on because he fought, because he did what he was called to do.

My grandfather served in the Army for more than 20 years, and today was a repeat of what my granddaddy went through when he came home from Vietnam, being looked down upon and ridiculed by people who cannot fathom the things my grandfather witnessed and experienced.

It was like my grandfather's grave was spit on and his tombstone kicked over.
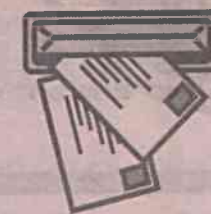
We had an opportunity to remember those who died, to remember the heroes of 9/11 and to remember the families, but instead, we let the opportunity pass and used the time to talk about how wrong we are to fight for justice for those who died.

It amazes me how quick we forget.

We pride ourselves at Elon on being accepting of all beliefs and not choosing any one belief to be the correct one, but today, that was not the case.

For the first time in my three years at Elon, I am disappointed and hurt by my college, and I can honestly say, that I cried about that fact. I lost some pride in this university today and it's going to be hard to get that back.

I do not want people to think that I am against peace, because I am not.

I want peace. But my definition of peace is different from the definition expressed today. Peace means not hating all Muslims or foreigners for what happened, and it means understanding that it was a small portion of a group of people who did this to us, not the entire group.

However, part of peace is also standing up and being willing to fight for what you believe. In this country we believe in freedom and being secure. On 9/11, that was threatened.

A fight for freedom was not looked down upon during the Revolutionary War or World War II after Pearl Harbor was attacked, so why is it wrong now? Why?

Lisa Taylor
Junior

Administrator apologies about e-mail failure

Last week The Pendulum ran an opinions piece in which a student commented that an e-mail should have been sent to all students after the attempted break-in at West End Apartments on Aug. 29.

The student is absolutely right. Notices of incidents do encourage students to follow good safety practices and be on the lookout for alleged suspects.

The Pendulum suggested that I advise students of the University's practice of notifying students of security incidents and what happened in this case. I am happy to do so.

An e-mail was sent to the allusers e-mail address on Friday, Aug. 30, the morning after the attempted break-in.

The e-mail was received by some but not all students, faculty and staff, as was intended.

I was not aware for several days that the email had not been received by everyone as I heard students, faculty and staff talking about the incident. I re-sent the Aug. 30 e-mail to the student body this past weekend.

The University has a long-standing practice of notifying students of security incidents and certainly will continue to do so.

The e-mail delivery problem was corrected the evening of Aug. 30 and no further delivery problems have been experienced.

Your comments on safety are welcome at any time so we can keep Elon as safe as possible.

Smith Jackson
Dean of Students