

## The Pendulum

Established 1974

### Sniper fears hit home

Several of our staff members grew up and have family members in the Virginia and Maryland areas attacked by the sniper. We have gotten into the habit of checking the news frequently to follow the attacks and subsequent press conferences.

Many students have been affected by the wave of sniper attacks. Some were afraid to drive home for fall break, others, once home, had to deal with living near where the sniper had struck. Students continue to worry about their family members who still live within the sniper's zone.

But, where is the sniper zone? Who knows where he could strike next?

The world is somewhat of a spider web. When one thread is pulled, things begin to unravel. The work of the sniper has caused many threads to snap under the pressure. It has affected the Washington, D.C. area in countless ways. Like we all witnessed after Sept. 11, one change can have a drastic effect on the economy, public morale and every aspect of day-to-day life.

The Washington area has lost millions of dollars in tourism during the last three weeks due to cancelled field trips, conventions and residents keeping their distance from shopping centers. Athletic events for local high schools have been canceled, leaving many students wondering if their shot at a college scholarship is lost forever. Extracurricular events have also been cancelled at many schools.

After a recent message from the sniper, "Your children are not safe," parents are frightened to let their children attend school, much less stay after for outside activities.

But with all this fear, are we letting the sniper win? The person or persons responsible for these shootings has succeeded in terrorizing several communities. If we lived in Israel, however, terrorism and living in fear would be a part of our everyday lives. We would have to stand tall and go on with our daily lives even though fear always looms over our heads.

We are fortunate enough to live in a society where terrorism, although increasingly frequent, is still considered a rarity. Even when faced with these seldom occurrences, Americans should stand with their heads held high.

## The Pendulum

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Letters to the editor and guest columns are welcome and should be typed, double-spaced, signed and include a telephone number for verification. Submissions are also accepted as Word documents on disk or by e-mail.

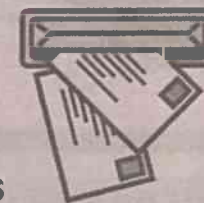
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Each individual is entitled to one free copy.

## MAILBOX

### Serve community businesses more and stop giving into Aramark's ways



When you are considering which meal plan to use for next semester, choose none of the above.

Put your money on the Phoenix card and use Phoenix cash to pay for your food. Not only can you pay for your food but you can also pay for haircuts, film, books, laundry, beer and cigarettes.

With money on your Phoenix card, you can support the businesses in Elon and Burlington so that they continue to stay open and serve the community.

So, if you like having a variety of places that accept Phoenix cash

like Sandy's, Sidetrack Grill, Subway, Cantina Roble and Domino's, support them with your business.

Your business is keeping them open.

Aramark, on the other hand, does not have to worry about making ends meet because they make money off of every collage student in the United States that buys school food.

My problem with that is that they still serve lame food and bad business.

With the money on your Phoenix card, you can still buy food from on campus facilities

but you won't have to follow the school's time frames for eating.

You don't waste your money if you are not hungry or if you don't want to eat on campus.

I feel bad for students who are living on campus because they have to buy some sort of meal plan.

I suggest buying the five-meal plan and putting the rest of your money on your Phoenix card.

If you feel the same way I do about the food service here at Elon then write letters to Aramark demanding better results.

- Ben Prichard

### Costello's column lacks rationale and logic

My name is Scott Miller and I served as the opinions editor of The Pendulum 1994-95.

During that time, I would use my space to rant and rave about the ineffectiveness of Bill Clinton as our commander-in-chief.

People often dismissed me on two counts. First, people just didn't care about the world because the president had singlehandedly gotten the economy rolling. Second one was that we were at peace at the time, so obviously he couldn't be doing such a terrible job.

Since Sept. 11, I have often wanted to write to y'all. Bin Laden did an interview with "Nightline" in 1995.

In it, he took essential credit for the World Trade Center bombing in 1993. Now, if that plan had worked the midday, immediate collapse of one of the towers would have resulted in a loss of life far greater than what happened on Sept. 11. Clinton did nothing. He treated it as if it were a simple murder case.

They arrested the people directly responsible for the bombing but did nothing to disrupt the network that was responsible. It wasn't until the bombings of the two embassies in Africa that

Clinton took a minimalist approach to throwing some Tomahawks at some camps in Afghanistan. Again, too little too late.

The No. 1 priority of any president is the safety and security of the American people. Clinton, by failing to act in any sort of responsible manner against those who sought to harm us, totally failed in that sacred duty.

Today's news that North Korea has taken our \$4 billion and continued its weapons of mass destruction program cinches the idea of Clinton as the failure.

The probability that North Korea has nuclear weapons with a ballistic missile capability of reaching the Aleutian islands is horrifying. We may have to stand by as Korea is unified under the despotism of Kim Jong. Millions will likely suffer.

Ryan Costello's column on Oct. 10 fails because it is illogical and irrational. It uses poor examples from history.

It is fortunate that his way of thought is not endemic across our great land. To compare this crisis with the Cuban Missile Crisis is silly.

President John F. Kennedy did not attack pre-emptively because

he had an embargo around Cuba that held Soviet ships off from bringing missiles to that communist nation. The Soviets blinked and decided to back down. That is the difference, the Soviets, although evil, were rational human beings who understood that power would not be gained in the confrontation with the west in that specific theater.

Saddam Hussein is not a rational human being. He has repeatedly stated he wants to be the modern day Nassar that unifies the Arab world.

He will use any means to achieve that goal. He is an evil man. He has used weapons of mass destruction in the past.

Unfortunately, I am writing you from Southwest Asia where I am serving in the United States Army.

I say unfortunate because there is a time limit on our computer resources and I would love to write more about the poor rationality used in Costello's column. I must go.

- Scott A. Miller  
Class of 1995  
United States Army