

## The Pendulum

Established 1974

### Are students being empowered?

There has been a sweeping change in leadership style. CEO's and athletic coaches practice it. They lead under the philosophy of empowerment. Essentially, the style implies that leaders can not only offer feedback to subordinates, but receive and thoughtfully consider it as well. It seems the administration did not fully adhere to the practice of empowerment when it came to the increase in tuition that was announced Wednesday.

President Leo Lambert said Gerald Whittington, vice president for business, finance and technology, did hold open budget forums that were principally attended by faculty and staff. But how open were the forums? We at The Pendulum did not receive a word about the forums, and perhaps had the forums been better publicized, they would have drawn students with legitimate concerns.

It would stand to prove that informing students of tuition plans and allowing an opportunity for feedback would serve not only to placate students' concerns, but also to give the administration an idea of what students are thinking.

Granted, the tuition hike for next semester is not drastic (it is the increased housing fees that have been substantially raised relative to past years), but don't Elon students have the right to know what plans are being made in regard to their future?

Obviously, the administration cannot be expected to inform and grant dialogue on every thing it does, but larger matters, such as tuition, deserve input from Elon students.

## 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.

## Broadway strike perfect example of American camaraderie and freedom

Tim Rosner

Photo Editor

Within the past month we have heard increasing talk of the United States going to war with Iraq. The United States has just introduced a resolution in the United Nations that would give Iraq a deadline of March 17 to disarm.

President George W. Bush has made it clear that he is willing to act unilaterally, should the United Nations Security Council veto any resolution for war.

It is clear that the president does not speak on the behalf of the American public. Millions all across the world have protested against any war. Such a war would be one of the biggest mistakes that Bush could make.

Not only would thousands of innocent civilians be killed, it would increase the likelihood of terrorism in the United States, ruin the economy further and discredit any moral authority that this country has left in the world.

Groups such as Human Rights Watch, Global Exchange and even the U.N. itself have made realistic estimates that as many as 80,000 innocent Iraqis would die in an invasion of Baghdad.

Such violent action would only increase the strong dislike of the United States that is already prevalent in a region of the world that contains some of the poorest people on earth.

Terrorism is an act of desperation by the powerless against the powerful. The United States is the most powerful influence in the Middle East as well as the greatest instigator of violence.

The United States has supported ruthless dictators (including Saddam Hussein himself), promoted state-sponsored terrorism, created corrupt regimes, refused to recognize the right of self determination of the Palestinian people and promoted oil-based economies in many, if not all, Middle Eastern countries.

If there is any country that can expect to be the target of violence from the peoples of the Middle

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East, it is the United States.

The theory is, that if the United States goes to war, the economy will improve, at least briefly, due to the increased need of the military industrial complex. But we have been at “war” in Afghanistan for nearly a year, and our economy has continued to decline and unemployment increase.

The military has all the funding it needs to sustain a military campaign for a considerable amount of time before it will need to call on the private sector to increase production of war-related materials. The cost of such a war will only ruin our economy further.

There have been protests world-wide by millions of people of all nationalities who oppose a war with Iraq. In fact, the majority of people in many of our “allied” countries oppose any military action.

The United States has not provided any real evidence for the need of a conflict to remove Hussein from power.

People have argued that Hussein has murdered thousands of his own people during the Iran-Iraq war, with chemical weapons.

The truth is that many of the innocent Iraqis that were killed were actually gassed by Iran. Tests have shown that the chemical weapons used were not ones that Iraq was known to have in its possession.

We have heard that if Saddam is not disarmed, he will use his weapons against the United States, or its allies. This is ridiculous.

Why would Saddam risk the loss of not only his life, but the destruction of his entire country by attacking the world's greatest nuclear power?

The argument that we are simply enforcing United Nations resolution 1441 is absurd. The

Security Council resolution does not have any provisions for military action.

It simply states that, upon receiving a report from the inspectors, the Security Council will decide the appropriate actions to take. This is not a blank check for the United States to enter the country and kill thousands, if not millions, of people.

It is clear that the United States has no case to justify entering Iraq. Bush knows this, which is why he has been so adamant in his critique of Iraq and Hussein.

If you believe everything Bush had said about Hussein, you would probably think he wasn't even born from a human mother.

Bush realizes the first step to gaining the support of the American people is to turn Hussein into a monster, not worthy of life, much less to be the ruler of a country.

As much as it may shock you, Hussein is actually a human.

Make no mistake, there is no justification for some of the acts that Hussein has committed, but he is not another species of being. Saddam cannot be dealt with by war. It will simply drag the world closer and closer to a violent era of destruction.

As a citizen of the world, it is your duty to inform our president that his course of action is wrong. Inform our government that it does not need to create more violence and bloodshed in the world to solve this problem.

Let us, as a nation, lash out not in violence, but with the offering of an olive branch. It is time to turn the other cheek and move the world closer to peace. It must start now, and it must start with us.

This is the only hope for the future of the world.

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