



The Pendulum

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If it matters to you, it matters to The Pendulum.

Cronkite explains 'the way it is' and 'the way it was'

Mary-Hayden Britton

Copy Editor

Walter Cronkite, one of television's greatest newsmen, took a walk down memory lane Tuesday night as he reflected on his 19-year career with CBS. David Gergen, former adviser to four presidents, interviewed Cronkite in front of a packed Alumni Gym.

Interspersed with personal anecdotes and serious musings about current events, Cronkite's conversation lasted almost an hour and a half. Among his many topics were the war with Iraq, the evolution of television news and the future of America.

War and Its Consequences

Cronkite said he believes war with Iraq was not necessarily inevitable. In 1991, Cronkite said he felt the government did not pay careful enough attention to Saddam Hussein. He said he believes if American troops had given Kuwait help then, the United States could have avoided war with Iraq.

After viewing the initial results of the war, Cronkite says he still holds strong to his pre-war statements condemning United States involvement in Iraq. He said he believes it was inappropriate for America to start the war without first getting the United Nations' approval. Cronkite found it alarming that despite having support of 40 nations, military arms did not seem promising within those nations, apart from the United States' allies.

Cronkite found it personally arrogant that President George W. Bush asked permission of the United Nations to go to war, only to turn his back on the U.N.'s decision and say, "It doesn't matter, we're going to war anyway."

Although Cronkite is adamantly against war with Iraq, he made it known that Americans should show support for their troops. He expressed his appreciation for those who sacrifice their lives for the

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Acclaimed media veterans converse

Walter Cronkite, David Gergen discuss issues of past, present and future

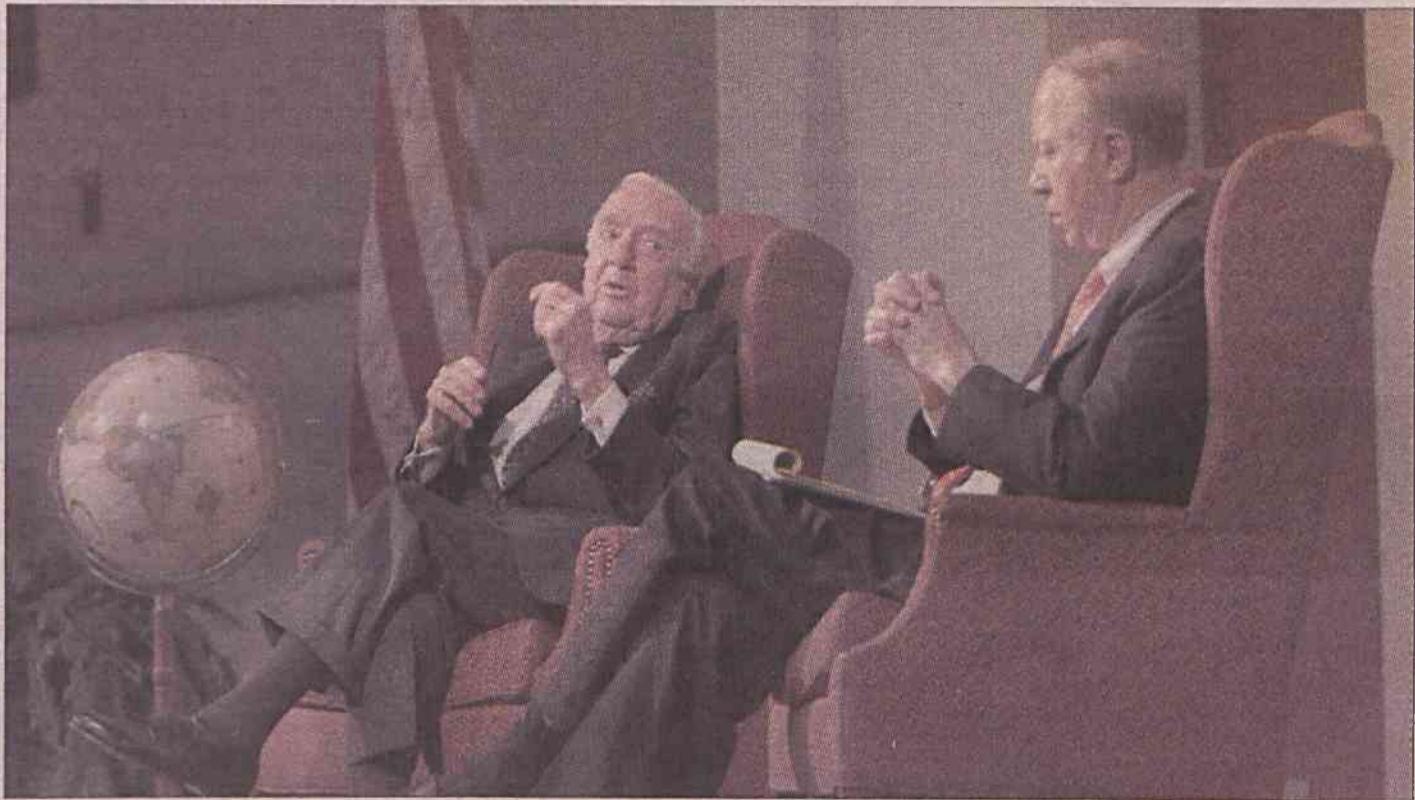


Photo courtesy of University Relations

Former Presidential adviser David Gergen posed questions for news veteran Walter Cronkite Tuesday to a crowded Alumni Gym. "Uncle Walter," as he was often referred to during his coverage of the Vietnam War, reflected on his life as a journalist and an American.

Community dollars raise questions of ethics, policy

Lauren Ethridge

Reporter

Though the community dollars initiative is fairly well-known, the community dollars account on faculty and staff Phoenix Cards is a point of confusion and controversy among members of the Elon community.

"The purpose of the community dollars initiative is to encourage social interaction and strong relationships among faculty, staff and students," said Elon President Leo Lambert.

Faculty and staff receive \$50 a semester to spend on snacks and treats for their students and colleagues. These dollars can be spent anywhere Phoenix cash is accepted. But the purpose of community dollars is

not clear to everyone, even to those who accept the dollars as a form of payment.

"I didn't know until a couple of weeks ago that faculty were supposed to use [community dollars] on students," said Pamela Sides of Acorn Coffee Shop.

The program, initiated in 2000 by Lambert, has been described by faculty and staff as "coffee money" for developing the community of fellow colleagues and students.

"I use [them] on occasions when I meet with people individually," said English professor Russell Gill.

Many students have met professors for coffee on occasion but still have reservations about using community dollars. "It was nice to spend time with [a professor], but it was awkward when she offered to pay

for something that was already covered on our meal plan," said Ashley, a sophomore who did not wish to disclose her last name.

Besides the occasional meetings with individual students, some faculty use community dollars for special purposes. Dan Wright reports spending his dollars on chips and salsa for El Centro de Español and on muffins for his physical chemistry class.

The computer science department pools all of the remaining dollars to treat its students to lunch on assessment day. "Assessment day is a great day for dialogue, and the lunch gives the students a chance to discuss informational items that were presented during the morning's activities," said

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