

# The Pendulum

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## Has The Pendulum become too liberal?

Recently, a former Elon student asserted The Pendulum has become too liberal. Claims such as these, while giving credence to the specious myth of a liberal media, have to be taken seriously. Every journalistic publication needs to do a careful self-assessment about its objectivity, especially in a time of war.

Since January, The Pendulum has only printed one editorial with a liberal slant. But the columns that run in the opinions section do tend to be more liberal-minded. The trouble that newspapers (and broadcasts for that matter) run into is a bias in news text. Journalists are bred to be sightseers, eyes for the world that *report* the news. Of course, this means reporters should have no point of view or ideological standing. The fact remains, though, that reporters are not robots, programmed to sleepwalk through the world without opinions.

Walter Cronkite is a perfect example. He has no qualms integrating opinion into reporting. He has strongly expressed his dissenting views on a war with Iraq. In the 1960s, he freely revealed his strong opinions of a war in Vietnam. Yet the question remains whether there is a place for opinion in news.

Publications make their own decisions on this matter. Some go so far as to endorse presidential candidates. At The Pendulum, though, we rarely, as a staff, publish articles with any sort of bias. We will continue to report with a fair and accurate eye for the news.

But maybe jumping to the all-media-is-liberal assertion is the chic thing to do?

## 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.

The Pendulum reserves the right to edit obscene or potentially libelous material. Lengthy letters or columns may have to be trimmed to fit. All submissions become the property of The Pendulum and will not be returned.

To reach The Pendulum at 233 Moseley Center, call 278-7247 or fax 278-7246. Contact The Pendulum by e-mail at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu). Visit our Web site at [www.elon.edu/pendulum](http://www.elon.edu/pendulum).

Each individual is entitled to one free copy.

## United Nations not aware that terrorists continue to plan attacks on humanity

**Luke Wake**  
Columnist

The morning after the coalition began their campaign in Iraq, my last article was published in The Pendulum.

I pointed out the ineffectiveness of the U.N., questioned its authority and criticized it for its failures.

In the April 3 issue of The Pendulum, Timothy Partelow called my article "absolutely absurd" and suggested that my disdain for the U.N. derives from some egotistical belief that the U.N. should be manipulated to serve U.S. interests.

That, of course, is a most twisted interpretation of my message and it warrants a rebuttal.

I explained that the U.N. has not only failed repeatedly to create world peace but has rather gone to magnify problems of the world.

This is, as one might expect, in direct opposition to liberals like Partelow who claims that, "The United Nations has been an effective body to maintain world peace since its inception."

I suppose Partelow believes that the U.N.'s failure to enforce its own mandates, all 16 of them and in particular 1441, has gone to bring world peace.

After all, encouraging mad men to develop chemical, biological and weapons of mass destruction is certainly a way to guarantee the security of the world community.

The U.N.'s failures to secure peace in the Middle East have clearly served as encouragement for others like Saddam Hussein. Kim Jong II would never have been so cavalier as to start up his nuclear weapons program and he would not be the threat he is today had he not seen these failures as an invitation.

It is the ineffectiveness of the U.N. that I am criticizing; there lies my qualms with the United Nations.

Partelow's statement that I am frustrated with the U.N. because, "the United States can't manipulate it any longer" is nothing more than an erroneous attempt to blanket-paint my statements as ethno-



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“ A country run by dictators or a communist regime cannot be included in any world democratic governing body, and no other form of a world government is acceptable. ”

centric.

This statement assumes that those who hold my opinion care nothing for the plight of the peoples of the world outside our borders and that we perceive the U.N. as a means to apply imperialistic grip over the world.

I hate to shatter the myth, which America-hating people seem to believe in, but the United States is not looking to control the world.

We are not an empire, we are not trying to control the people of the world and we are not liberating the people of Iraq from their oppressive regime in some corrupt right-wing conspiracy to control the world's oil supply. This, however, seems to be the assumption Partelow made in analyzing my previous article.

I was most disturbed when Partelow claimed the U.S. doesn't have a "democratic" vote, "When our nation's leader states that millions in our country and around the world don't matter when it comes to the war, I find it hard to believe that our country is anymore democratic than China or Iran."

Well, last I checked China is a communist state, Iran is a dictatorship and the U.S. is a democracy, the difference being great between the three. The citizens under communism and dictatorships are manipulated by the regime's propaganda and lack of fair elections.

Unlike those nations, the U.S. has fair elections where the majority of the public is heard. Our leaders do consider the voices of protesters, but Partelow fails to realize his faction is in the minority.

The majority of Americans do support military action in Iraq and the entire world community is not opposed to it, as liberals would want you to think.

The coalition is made up of 42 nations who do support the disarmament of Iraq. Partelow stated, "The world is against the United States." Clearly he is wrong, the entire world is not opposed to the U.S.

The U.S. does need to have good relations with the rest of the world but it is clear to me that the U.N. is not only an ineffective means of world diplomacy, but it is also an unjust form of government.

A country run by dictators or a communist regime cannot be included in any world democratic governing body and no other form of a world government is acceptable. Americans must not stand for a compromise of our democratic ideals in order to appease the world community.

Lastly, I must address Partelow's unwarranted accusation that my ideology will result in the creation of more terrorists. His statements can only be proven wrong with time but as of now I am concerned with the terrorists of this generation.

Unlike Partelow and those protesters of the war, I am not content to see our nation sit idly, twiddling our thumbs and running in circles with the U.N., while terrorists are preparing for their next strike against humanity.

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